

## **THE GOOD NEWSLETTER**

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church  
27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

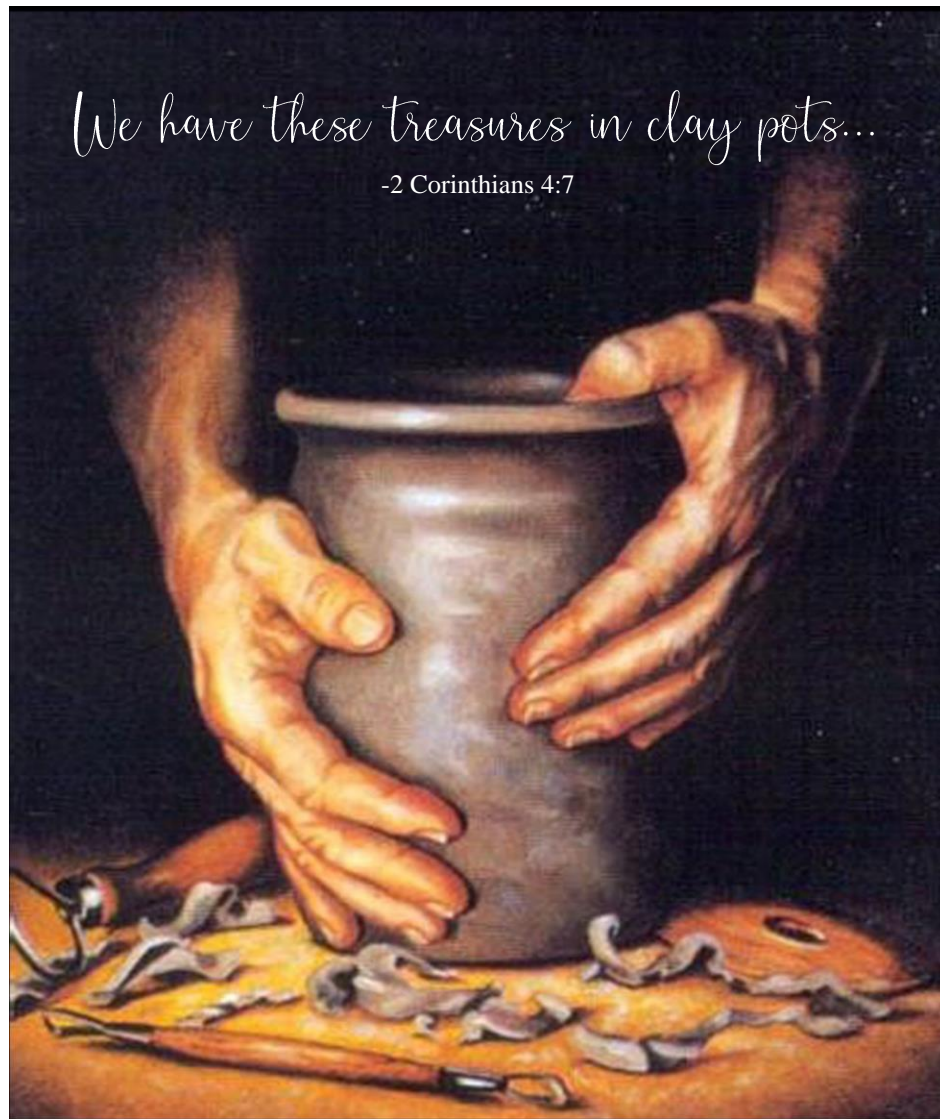
E-MAIL: [njelchurch@windstream.net](mailto:njelchurch@windstream.net)

WEBSITE: <https://NewJerusalemLutheran.weebly.com>

OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6064

SECRETARY HOURS:

Monday 7:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. (no office hours), Wednesday 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (in-office hours from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.), Thursday 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (no office hours)



**THE MISSION OF NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH:**

*We are a group of people who  
gather together in friendship and love  
to worship God, to spread God's Word,  
and to care for God's people.*





# NEWS & EVENTS

at New Jerusalem and in the community

## COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, April 8th:

- Council members reviewed the contract for the realtors and gave it to the realtor.
- The Rockland Township Zoning Board approved the annexation of the smaller cemetery to the larger cemetery.

Our next council meeting will be held on **Monday, May 13, at 7:00 p.m.**

**PASTOR RUTH** will be on a study tour exploring Christian, Jewish, and Muslim sites in Greece and Turkey from **Monday, May 20 until Friday, June 7**. This tour is put together by the Lutheran Theological Seminary Chicago and led by Professors Barbara Rossing and Esther Mann. Professor Rossing is the author of the exciting study of Revelation we took part in two years ago, so Pastor Ruth is especially excited to have her as a tour leader. A special highlight of the trip will be a visit to Patmos, the island where John the Elder had his visions which led to the book we know as *Revelation*.

Coverage will be provided by Pastor Martin Milne at 610.682.7664 from Monday, May 20 until Friday, May 31, and Pastor Jeremiah Sassaman at 610.657.0269 from Saturday, June 1 until Friday, June 7.

## MAY SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Altar Flower sponsors for May 5, 19, and 26, Bulletin sponsors for May 5, 12, 19, and 26, an Altar Guild volunteer, Communion Bread sponsors for May 19 and 26, and Communion Set-up volunteers for May 5, 19, and 26. Please sign up if you are able to sponsor or volunteer for any of these items.

## COLORING GROUP

The Coloring Group will be meeting on **Thursday, May 2, at 10:00 a.m.**

## BIBLE STUDY

Our Monday morning Bible Study will be held on **Mondays, May 6 and 13 at 1:00 p.m.** We will be studying the Book of Mark. New members welcome.

## BAPTISM – MAY 5th

On Sunday, May 5th, we will welcome Savannah Nicole Harnish into the family of faith through the sacrament of baptism. Savannah is the daughter of Jaclynn and Andrew Harnish, sister to Kaia, and granddaughter of Sherrie and Alan Carl.

## ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

Grace Lutheran Church at the Topton Home will be holding an Ascension Day worship service on Thursday, May 9, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to worship.

## MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

On Sunday, May 12, beginning at 8:30 a.m., we will celebrate Mom and all the special women in our lives with a delicious breakfast. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex if you are able to help with providing any food items for the breakfast.

## DAY OF PENTECOST

On Sunday, May 19th, we will be beautifying our sanctuary with red geraniums. The price is \$3.00 for a 4" pot. Orders are due by Sunday, May 7th. You can contact the church office at 610.682.6064 to place your order.

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Also on Sunday, May 19, having completed their confirmation journey, Carson and Logan Seip will be affirming the promises that their parents, sponsors, and congregation made for them at their baptism. Please join us on May 19th as we congratulate these young men as they become confirmed members of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church.

## COMPASSIONATE CRAFTERS

Want to crochet, knit, or sew to God's glory? Join Trinity's Compassionate Crafters. Meetings take place on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Sunday School room at Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton. We are in desperate need of sewers! We are working on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Our next meetings will be held on **Thursdays, May 9 and 23, from 9:30-11:00 a.m.** (worship)

## **HELPING HARVEST/TOPTON MOBILE MARKET**

The Helping Harvest food distribution will take place on **Tuesday, May 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the Brandywine Heights MS/IS.

## **JAMES MEN'S MINISTRY (JMM)**

Breakfast gatherings start at 8:00 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. Their next meeting will be held **Saturday, May 18**, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Tipton.

## **JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER**

The deadline for the May newsletter is **Sunday, May 19th**. Please have all articles and announcements submitted to the church office by this date. Thank you!

## **SPRING CLEANING FOR A CAUSE**

Longswamp UCC, Mertztown, is collecting lightly used or unused clothing for donation to the Hope Rescue Mission in Reading. Men's, women's and children's clothing in all sizes for all seasons. Running from May 1st through May 15th. Boxes are located in the Bell Room.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

- Sunday, May 12 – Mother's Day Breakfast
- Sunday, June 16 – Father's Day Breakfast
- Sunday, September 14 – Breakfast for Lyons Fire Co.
- Saturday, November 2 – Fall Campfire

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## **THIS TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS**

<sup>1-2</sup>Since God has so generously let us in on what he is doing, we're not about to throw up our hands and walk off the job just because we run into occasional hard times. We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don't maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes. And we don't twist God's Word to suit ourselves. Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open, the whole truth on display, so that those who want to can see and judge for themselves in the presence of God.

<sup>3-4</sup>If our Message is obscure to anyone, it's not because we're holding back in any way. No, it's because these other people are looking or going the wrong way and refuse to give it serious attention. All they have eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the dayspring

brightness of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get. <sup>5-6</sup>Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful.

<sup>7-12</sup>If you only look at us, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us. As it is, there's not much chance of that. You know for yourselves that we're not much to look at. We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken. What they did to Jesus, they do to us—trial and torture, mockery and murder; what Jesus did among them, he does in us—he lives! Our lives are at constant risk for Jesus' sake, which makes Jesus' life all the more evident in us. While we're going through the worst, you're getting in on the best!

<sup>13-15</sup>We're not keeping this quiet, not on your life. Just like the psalmist who wrote, "I believed it, so I said it," we say what we believe. And what we believe is that the One who raised up the Master Jesus will just as certainly raise us up with you, alive. Every detail works to your advantage and to God's glory: more and more grace, more and more people, more and more praise! <sup>16-18</sup>So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever. (2 Corinthians 4, *The Message*)

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True fact: Did you know that there is a lizard called the Jesus Christ Lizard? Why? Because it is able to walk on





- 5 Sara Jane Beshore
- 5 Justin Rahn
- 18 Jayna Howell
- 21 Annabell Keller
- 28 Amy Hahn
- 29 Daniel Moyer
- 30 Richard Carl



- 9 Tina and Jason Howell (13 years)
- 15 Alan and Sherrie Carl (35 years)
- 24 Randy and Tammy Cleaver (15 years)



**WORSHIP SPONSORS & ASSISTANTS**

**Altar Flower Sponsors:**

- May 5 – *sponsor needed*
- May 12 – Larry and Faye Dey
- May 19 – *sponsor needed*
- May 26 – *sponsor needed*

**Bulletin Sponsors:**

- May 5 – *sponsor needed*
- May 12 – *sponsor needed*
- May 19 – *sponsor needed*
- May 26 – *sponsor needed*

**Sanctuary Candle Sponsor:**

sponsored

**Altar Guild Volunteer(s):**

*volunteer needed*

**Communion Bread Sponsor:**

- May 5 – Gladys Kline
- May 19 – *sponsor needed*
- May 26 – *sponsor needed*

**Communion Set-up Volunteer:**

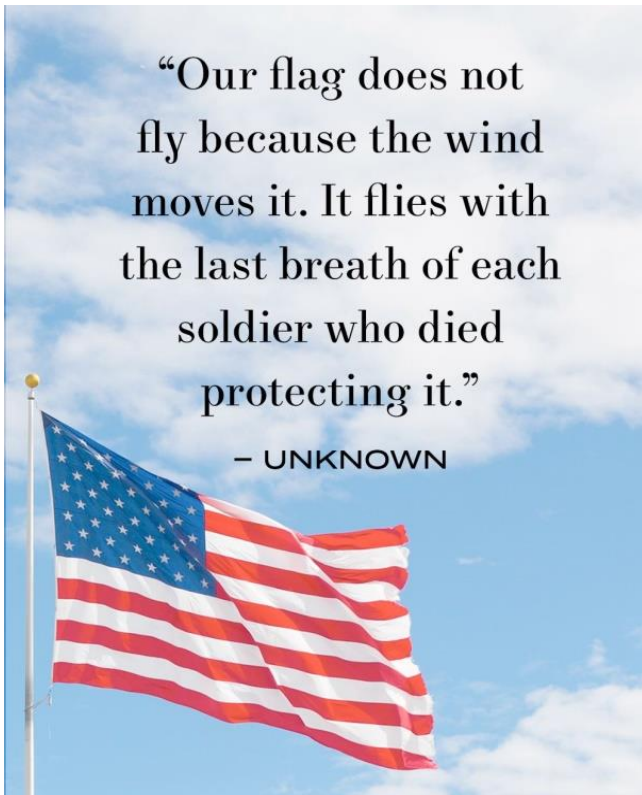
- May 5 – *volunteer needed*
- May 19 – *volunteer needed*
- May 26 – *volunteer needed*

**Readers:**

- May 5 – Cindy Rissmiller
- May 12 – Sara Jane Beshore
- May 19 – Gladys Kline
- May 26 – Kathy Bailey

**Councilperson(s) for the Month:**

Betty Eshbach



**Remember and honor our fallen heroes.  
MEMORIAL DAY – Monday, May 27, 2024**



**Sunday, May 12, 2024**

*This just in from Seafarer's International gives us an insight into the work of this ministry that we have been supporting.*

March 28, 2024

Dear Pastor Ruth,

In the wake of the heartbreaking news of the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse in Baltimore this morning, our hearts are heavy with sorrow for the lives lost and the families left reeling from this tragic event. We are called to embody Christ's love and compassion, particularly in times of crisis.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the seafarers and their families who have been profoundly impacted by this disaster. Many of these seafarers rely on the now-disrupted transportation routes to access essential services and provisions, facing uncertainty and hardship in the aftermath of the collapse.

We are grateful to have Rev. Vitalii Guz, our dedicated port chaplain in Baltimore, and Rev. Bob Schmitt, recently retired but still volunteering, who are on the ground, offering solace to those in need. They are helping us assess the situation, and plan the most effective ways we can be of service in the days, weeks and months to come.

This morning, Vitalii writes, **"We are now just working out what we can do for the sailors, we are collecting information and trying to find out how we can help."**

Your generous donations help us extend compassion by:

- 1. Through Pastors Guz and Schmitt, offering immediate assistant to seafarers stranded or impacted by the collapse.**
- 2. Providing essential supplies, including food, water, and medical aid, to those in distress.**
- 3. Facilitating transportation arrangements to ensure the safe passage of seafarers despite the disruption caused by the collapse.**

Your contributions will serve as a beacon of hope for those facing dark days ahead. Together, as a community united in faith, we can make a tangible difference in the lives of seafarers in need.

May God's grace and comfort surround all those impacted by this tragedy, and may our collective efforts bring Easter light in the midst of darkness.

*"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you." (Isaiah 43:2)*

With faith and gratitude,

*Pastor Marsh Luther Drege*

*New Jerusalem sends its donations of hats and cowls to the address below. If you want to make your own donations, make them to Seafarers House International, 123 East 15<sup>th</sup> Steet, New York, New York 10003 or go online at [www.sihnyc.org](http://www.sihnyc.org).*

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## CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD

*The following appeared in church bulletins or were announced.*

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery upstairs.

Potluck Supper Sunday at 5 p.m. — prayer and medication to follow.

## FROM MEMBERSHIP TO DISCIPLESHIP

*Then he said to them all, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it." – Luke 9:23-24*

We should not be surprised that Jesus' call to discipleship is challenging—our biblical counterparts also struggled to follow this life-changing, world-altering summons.

In recent months, I've been sharing my thoughts about the key "pivots" Luther Seminary is living into this year and beyond. Our third pivot is one of focus, from the idea that we simply need more members in our Christian congregations to the idea that thriving communities of faith are those that develop a culture of practices and relationships that connect people with the living God and faith to daily life.

Our inherited patterns of congregational life have often focused on membership as a measure of success. The problem is not with membership itself but rather when we assume that members know how to be disciples and that membership is a sign of vitality in the work of the Holy Spirit. In fact, we ought to assume that all Christians are struggling to be disciples, that we all experience challenges in our faith journeys, and that Christian communities are already empowered by the Holy Spirit to intentionally cultivate discipleship.

We trust in the Spirit to give us strength and wisdom as we find ourselves on this road of Christian faith. Our faith is strengthened when we receive God's promises in Word and Sacrament. We also know that Christ calls and claims followers outside of traditional contexts all the time.

... [i]n membership-based church models, we often think we alone have to find the money to keep the doors open, to maintain whatever it is we have done before. But the continuity of Christ's church isn't up to us—it's up to the Holy Spirit.

We need to tell each other this story of discipleship: That it's not about us but about Jesus. That we will lose our lives for the sake of the gospel and in losing our lives will gain everything we hope for. That the hope of the gospel is that we have a God who will not abandon us.

Our congregational life, the church doors we do or do not walk through each Sunday, are changing. But what it means to be a flawed, forgiven, faithful

disciple set into community has not changed since Jesus first called Simon, James, and John.

Peace and blessings,

*Robin Steinke*

President, Luther Seminary

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE for Those with Limited Mobility or in Care Facilities:** Anna Angstadt, Myles Angstadt, Shirley Hertzog, Gabriele Sanders, and Dorothy Turner.

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT: Members:** Holly Allen, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Brian Keller, Diane Keller, Rodney Keller, Forrest Merkel, Grace Miller, Linda Moyer, Lloyd Moyer, and Horace Rothermel.

**Friends of the congregation:** Brad Auge, Sr., Steve Beck, Sharon Bennett, Brendan Beshore, Jason Beshore, Darlene Bogert, Earl Derr, John Drumheller, Marge Drumheller, Jennifer Engle, Alice Epler, Dawson Freed (military), Judi Fuchs, Shirley Hahn, Debra Kenny, Kelly Kline, Cayden Kresge, Catherine Lenio, Julia Lombardo, Emma Loose, Joe M., Kaleb Pflieger, Vivian Reist, Arlan Schwoyer, Patricia Sigfried, Jean Smith, Carol Spiegelmeyer, Laverne Stevens, Robert Taylor, Johnathan Wagner, Tim Walck, Kurstin Warmkessel, Leticia Weaver, Bob Wegman, Leon Wegman, Richard Weller, Lauren Wilson and baby Dorothy Lou Wilson, Althea Young, Becky, Dawn, Jason, Kim, Lynn, and Tim.

**OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS:** We pray for: peace in the world, and particularly in the Ukraine and eastern Europe, Israel and Gaza; all seeking to respond responsibly to COVID-19, especially healthcare workers; those recovering from and responding to disasters, especially those in Puerto Rico; migrants and refugees; for our nation, including our president, congress, judicial system, and leaders of our communities; an end to the many ways prejudice and racism maintain inequality between people and injustice; an end to threats between nations; peace in the world; our military personnel serving around the world.

**LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST:** Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Amanda Herman, Johnson-Agiri Family, Ginny Jones, Andrew S., Tierney Schmeer, Donna Schwoyer, and Otis Spiegelmeyer.



## New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts

March 31, 2024

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 18,784.49
Thrivent	13,005.50
Checking	8,627.74
Youth	412.94
Fidelity	--
Cash Reserve	24,427.19
Mission Investment Fund	11,725.10
Local Care	<u>2,252.77</u>

Total: \$ 74,235.73

Total Balance of Asset Accounts  
from **March 31, 2023**                    \$ 115,845.89

### March 2024 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income

Income	Income	Actual	Difference
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,947.92	\$ 10,563.75	\$ 615.83

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2024  
Budget Passed by Congregation  
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

### **THE FOUNDATION OF STEWARDSHIP**

*“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it; the world, and those who live in it”. – Psalm 24:1*

The Bible consistently gives us a countercultural and counterintuitive understanding of the world and ourselves. It’s so radical that many of us can’t accept it.

The idea is that the world belongs to God, and so does everything *IN* the world. Even *US!* We, who proudly think of ourselves as autonomous, self-directed and self-made, actually belong to God. In other words, we don’t own ourselves. We are possessions of the Almighty.

Think about that for just a minute. We don’t own the earth, our houses, our cars, our possessions, our animals, our children, or even ourselves. It all belongs to God. We belong to God. We are humble servants, slaves, actually.

The reality that God owns everything, even us, forms the foundation for biblical stewardship. If God owns everything, including us, then we are responsible to God for our wisest and best use of the planet, our possessions, our talents and our lives.

Taking that responsibility seriously, God’s people will prayerfully make choices that are in accordance with God’s wishes. We will care for ourselves, our neighbors, and the earth. We will strive to love the Lord our God with all our being, and our neighbor as ourselves.

Prayerfully consider, how are you doing?

*--Rob Blezard*

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Pastor Blezard serves part-time as web editor for the  
Stewardship of Life Institute and full-time as pastor of St. Paul’s  
Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD.

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When the world pushes you to your knees,  
you’re in the perfect position to pray. - Rumi

# MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	2 10:00am-Coloring Group  <b>National Day of Prayer</b>	3 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton	4
5 <u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u> 10:15am-Worship with Holy Communion -Fellowship after worship -Pastor leads worship at Trinity, Topton	6 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  1:00pm-Bible Study	7	8 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	9 9:30-11:00am-Compassionate Crafters, Trinity Lutheran, Topton  7:00pm-Ascension Day service at Grace Lutheran Church, Topton Home  <b>Ascension Day</b>	10 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton	11
12 <u>Seventh Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30am-Mother's Day Breakfast 10:15am-Worship -Pastor leads worship at Trinity, Topton	13 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  1:00pm-Bible Study  7:00pm-Council Mtg.	14 11:00am-1:00pm-Helping Harvest Food Distribution at Brandywine Heights IS/MS	15 12:00pm-Fellowship Luncheon (location TBD)  12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	16	17 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton	18 8:00am-James Men's Ministry Breakfast, Trinity Lutheran, Topton  <b>Armed Forces Day</b>
19 <u>Day of Pentecost</u> 10:15am-Worship with Holy Communion -Confirmation Sunday	20 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Pastor Ruth – out of town until June 7	21  Pastor Ruth – out of town	22 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Pastor Ruth – out of town	23 9:30-11:00am-Compassionate Crafters, Trinity Lutheran, Topton  Pastor Ruth – out of town	24 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton  Pastor Ruth – out of town	25  Pastor Ruth – out of town
26 <u>The Holy Trinity</u> 10:15am-Worship with Holy Communion -Pastor Glenn Simmons supply  Pastor Ruth – out of town	27 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  <b>Memorial Day</b>  Pastor Ruth – out of town	28  Pastor Ruth – out of town	29 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  Pastor Ruth – out of town	30  Pastor Ruth – out of town	31 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  7:00pm-Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer BFC, Topton  Pastor Ruth – out of town	30  Pastor Ruth – out of town