

the Messenger

CELEBRATING



YEARS of MINISTRY
1971 – 2021

July 18, 2021

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Protocols for Indoor Worship

- *Not fully vaccinated?* Mask required
- *Fully vaccinated?* Mask optional



Read the Messenger **online** at godslovenewtown.org (click "Read the latest newsletter") or scan this code with your phone.



Dear Friends in Christ,

I am pleased to report that we have a Christian education team doing thorough and faithful work to revamp our fall Sunday morning education programs. Key components of our mission are as follows:

1. New curriculum approach that provides a better overview of the biblical witness
2. On boarding new teachers and volunteers
3. Making the transition from hybrid approaches to in-person yet safe classroom experiences
4. Resuming a faith-based senior high group whose activities will spring from Sunday morning gatherings.

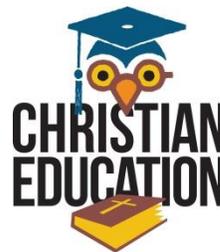
A critical component of any Christian education program is a **staff of teachers and helpers** for the respective age groups. Below are the current volunteer positions needed to support a full and vibrant program:

- 1 teacher for grades 1 – 2
- 1 teacher for grades 3 – 4
- 1 teacher for grades 5 – 6
- 1 confirmation teaching assistant
- 1 person to assist with the senior high school group

Please consider making a commitment to our Christian education ministries. We are asking for a 1-year commitment that involves about an hour on Sunday mornings and an hour of class preparation time prior to Sunday.

Speak to Vicar Brandi or myself as you sense the Spirit moving you to serve the Lord in this important way.

Pastor Dan Whitener



Quarterly giving statements have been placed in your church mailbox. This is the first set of statements generated through our new accounting software, so I ask that you pay close attention the recorded amounts. Please let me know if you find any issues, or if you did not receive a statement and feel you should have. If you do not have a church mailbox, your statement will be mailed.

Thank you to everyone who has been able to contribute, even when services were not in person. The good news is that at the half way point of the year, our income is ahead of projections.

Thanks again for your diligence.

John Tidd
Financial Secretary

Join your church family for a



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIAL



Sunday Aug 15, 10AM
Room A1/A2

Monday, July 26 at 7:00pm

Bible Book-of-the-Month
The Book of James

Read through this book with the help of [this Reading Guide](#).

Join the **ZOOM** discussion, led by **Pastor Dan**.



Birth Announcement

Congratulations to **Chrissy and Matt Thiemen** on the birth of their daughter, **Elizabeth Ann**, on Sunday, July 11, weighing in at 8lb 5oz and measuring 21 inches. Baby, parents (and new grandparents **Scott and Debbie Reddy**) are all doing well. God's blessings on this growing family.



Scripture Readings
for July 25

2 Kings 4:42-44
Elisha feeding the people

Ephesians 3:14-21
Prayer for Christ's indwelling

John 6:1-21
Feeding the five thousand



Celebrating 50 Years of God's Love
Saturday, September 25 (rain date 9/26)
4:00pm – 7:00pm

This community event will offer food trucks, live music, children's activities, information about our church, faith, and preschool, and interactive tours of the building. There will be a lot of opportunities to help and participate that day so please mark your calendars and watch for more information to come.



We are looking for someone comfortable with a video camera and video editing that is available **to help produce the online worship videos periodically**, beginning in August.



For more information, please contact **Susan** in the church office.



HOPE Meals for **AUGUST**

[Sign up here for August](#) to donate food for our Wednesday bagged meals or provide a hot or cold meal for 20 people for a Sunday Supper.



AHTN Shared Meal • July 31

[Sign up here to donate food](#). Our service team will assemble "to-go" meals and AHTN will deliver them to those in need.

Need clickable links to signup sheets? An electronic copy of the newsletter can be found on our website GodsLoveNewtown.org, or by scanning the code on page 1 of this issue. **Questions?** Call the church office.



Our Christmas-in-July project benefits ELCA Good Gifts global mission. The wish list is in the form of ornaments. Take an ornament corresponding to your desired gift amount from the Christmas tree in the lobby. Return the ornament with your gift to the church office either by mail or in person **by July 31**; checks payable to God's Love. Write the item you purchased in the memo portion of the check.

Want to participate without picking an ornament? Send in a donation with *ELCA Good Gifts* in the memo line.

We are partnering with **Adopt-A-Platoon** to send Christmas cards to deployed soldiers. To participate, pick up a pack of Christmas cards in the lobby.



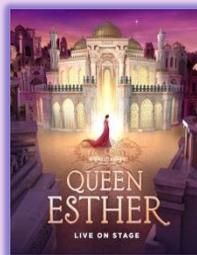
Write a positive, uplifting note; sign **ONLY** your first name; **DO NOT** seal the envelope; place cards in collection box in the lobby. Let's brighten the day of our country's soldiers this Christmas!

"Queen Esther" • Saturday, September 18, 11:00am

Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA

[Sign up here](#) for tickets to attend this amazing performance of Queen Esther and to RSVP for lunch. You can also sign up in the Commons after worship on Sunday, or by calling the church office.

Transportation is on your own, but if you would like a ride or can carpool, indicate that on the signup. For those interested, we will have lunch together after the performance at the Hershey Farm Restaurant located next to the theater.



Discounted group tickets:

- \$79.40 adult
- \$34.00 children ages 3 – 12

Full payment due to the church **by August 8**; make checks payable to God's Love.

Only 40 tickets have been reserved. Friends and family are welcome.

Challenges Facing "The Good Neighbor Garden"

The first year for any garden is the toughest and this year the weather has been unfavorable for new gardens. If it's not scorching hot, it's raining. Our garden is not thriving as much as we hoped and we suspect it is due to a lack of sufficient nitrogen in the soil. This past week most plants were given a high dose of liquid nitrogen fertilizer. There should be improvement in plant growth within two weeks. If not, additional plants will be added for a later harvest.



Gardening Fun Fact

Legumes (including peas, beans and a few other plants) can "fix" nitrogen in the soil. The plants work together with bacteria called rhizobia that are present in the soil to convert nitrogen from the air into a form of nitrogen that is usable by plants. This symbiotic relationship between legume plants and nitrogen-fixing bacteria occurs because the rhizobia live in nodules on the plant's roots. The plant can look after its own nitrogen needs and nitrogen fertilizer is not required.



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