

# the Messenger

CELEBRATING



YEARS of MINISTRY  
1971 – 2021

September 12, 2021  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



FACE MASK  
REQUIRED

**ALL PERSONS over the age of 2 are required to wear a mask AT ALL TIMES INDOORS.**

You are **not** required to wear a mask for outdoor ministries and activities.

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

**Next Sunday, September 19, is Rally Day**, the official beginning of our Christian education year. Much work has gone into the planning for this programming, and we are pleased that some new volunteers have answered the call to serve as teachers and helpers. We are excited for classes to begin.



I am also delighted to announce that this year we are relaunching a program for senior high youth. On

**September 19 at 10:00am in the lounge** we will hold an interest meeting for **High School students and their parents**. We will introduce plans for this ministry which will include components of education, conversation, fellowship, and service.



High School Fellowship

Our high school program will be coordinated by **Sarah Ludwig**. Sarah and her family recently joined God's Love.

Sarah is a wife, mom of two young girls, and an Art teacher who has taught all grade levels in her career. She has felt the call from God to use her teaching and mentoring abilities to accompany high schoolers in their faith journey and to use this important time in their lives to explore difficult questions about God, Jesus, and the Lutheran expression of the Christian faith. Sarah was raised and confirmed in a Lutheran congregation in her hometown of Rochester, NY. In college and the years following, she felt the need to explore other religious denominations including Quaker, Unitarian Universalist, and several others. Eventually, she felt drawn back home to her Lutheran faith. Sarah is excited to be working with this senior high ministry.

In the initial stages of this emerging ministry, I will be considerably involved with Sarah and our high school youth. We will also need additional caring adults to support this effort. I invite the congregation to pray that the Holy Spirit will be a stirring and sustaining presence in this strategic mission.

Sincerely, *Pastor Dan Whitener*

## Fall Festival is Only 2 Weeks Away!

**Saturday, September 25 • 4:00pm – 7:00pm**

We are expecting a good turnout at the Fall Festival. Join us for live music by the Joe Plush band, dancing and singing, a balloon artist, a bubble machine, inflatable slide, pumpkin painting, and lawn games. Delicious food will be available for discounted purchase from Sweet Lucy's Smokehouse, Dos Hermanos Taco truck, and Kona Water Ice truck. Information about our church ministries will be on display, and tours will be conducted of the church and preschool. The labyrinth will be open and personalized prayer will be offered in the prayer garden.



*Pick up this postcard in the Commons; hand out or mail to friends.*

**We need YOU** to help make this event a success. Plan to attend and join in the fun. Spread the word and invite your friends and family. Volunteer to help that day by signing up **ONLINE**, in the Commons or by contacting the church office. The following jobs are available:

- Setup (10am)
- Church promotion
- Food
- Clean up (7pm)
- Kids' activities

We're looking forward to this opportunity to connect with one another and the community. It will be a great evening!



For those who were hit particularly hard by **Hurricane Ida** and its aftermath, discrete assistance up to \$500 per household is available for God's Love members and their families through our *Angels Among Us* special fund. Please do not hesitate to contact **Pastor Dan Whitener** if you are in need of this kind of assistance. (See reverse for contact info.)

Scripture Readings  
for September 19

**Jeremiah 11:18-20**

*The prophet led like a lamb to slaughter*

**James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a**

*The wisdom from above*

**Mark 9:30-37**

*Prediction of the passion*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATES

**Sunday School Registration** is now DUE.

- Register [online here](#), or scan the QR code.
- Registration packets available in the church office.



**Rally Day** Sunday, September 19 • 10:00am

- **Sunday School:** Teacher meet and greet, music and curriculum kickoff in Fellowship Hall
- **Blessing of the Backpacks:** Young and old alike, bring your school/work bag to worship to receive a token of blessing for the year ahead.
- **NEW! High School Youth:** Interest meeting for high school youth and parents (see article on front page) in the Lounge

**Confirmation Orientation** (7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade)

**THIS SUNDAY** September 12 • 10:00am

Students and parents will learn about this year's program, curriculum, class format and schedule.

**Donuts for those attending!**



"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, & there was morning — the sixth day."  
Genesis 1:31

**Bible Book-of-the-Month**

*The Book of Genesis*

**September 27 at 7:00pm**

Read through at your own pace with the help of this [reading guide](#) during September and then join the **ZOOM** discussion led by **Pastor Dan**.

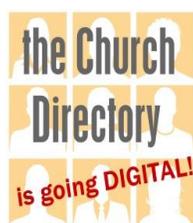
**Christmas in July Global Collection.** Many thanks to those who donated to ELCA Good Gifts. We raised **\$1,874**—enough for 7 pigs, 4 chicks, 2 roosters, 5 honeybee colonies, 5 goats, 1 pair of goats, 3 water filters, 2 latrines and 2 bibles. In addition, there were funds for 1 woman to receive a microloan, 6 refugee families to eat for a week, 100 people to eat at a soup kitchen and 6 girls to attend school with new uniforms and fees paid. **In the 4 years we've been doing this collection, this is the highest amount of money raised.** Thank you for sharing God's love with people in need around the world!



### New Locks and Security

We expect the final rekeying of our doors to be completed Tuesday of this week.

**Church volunteers** who require access to the building other than during normal office hours or Sunday mornings, please contact the church office immediately to discuss your specific needs. You will be asked to return your old key and leave a deposit for a new fob or access card if one is needed. Thank you for your patience during this transition.



Directory information will soon be at your fingertips in a secure, online format. This digital directory will be password protected and available for church member personal use only. As in our previous paper-only version, the digital directory will include name, address, phone number(s) and email address unless you ask for specific information to be "unlisted".

Please review your family's information and let the office know **by September 15** if any changes should be made. Draft paper copies for this review are available in the Commons after worship or in the church office M-F 9am – 2pm. Note: members that wish to continue to use paper directories may do so, though we encourage use of the digital version for the most up-to-date information.

### HOPE for OCTOBER

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

**CLOTHING!** Now collecting gently used **fall/winter clothing** (jeans, sweats, hoodies, sneakers, jackets,). No dress clothes or spring/summer.

Place your donation in the lobby. **Questions?** See Sandy Anthony.



The **Ministry Resource Table** in the Commons is stocked with books and resources available for loan.

The theme for September is the **Old Testament**—both an introduction to it and ways of understanding this portion of scripture.

**Welcome!**



### SEPTEMBER COLLECTION: Christmas-at-Sea

[Seafarers](#) face many dangers and spend long months at sea away from loved ones during the holidays. Port chaplains with the Christmas-at-Sea program deliver satchels of gifts to these hard-working people regardless of their faith or nationality.



Please pick up a satchel in the lobby and fill it with **each** of the following. Return it to the lobby by **Sunday, Sept 26**. Questions? Andy and Barb Senft or Sandy Anthony.

- Three Pairs of Socks (thermal or gym)
- One T-Shirt (size M-L-XL)
- One can of nuts, large bar of chocolate, or health snack bar
- A Holiday or Christmas card from YOU! (blank cards in lobby)
- **Optional:** One Sweatshirt—same size as the T-shirt

CELEBRATING

**50** God's love

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