



News Journal

Monthly Newsletter of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

February 2024

The Pastor's Pen

Lent begins on February 14 with Ash Wednesday. Just what is the meaning of this very important season of the church year? [Sola Publishing](#) gives this explanation: "Lent is a season well spent examining our connection to Christ and how our own need for him is a critical aspect of our lives. Times of solitude and meditation are encouraged during this season as we reflect on our own broken nature and what Christ accomplished on the cross of Calvary. The discipleship practices of prayer, generosity, worship, study, fasting, and service all can help us to focus on Jesus' sacrificial love." The number forty is an important number in Lent. Lent lasts for forty days, not counting Sundays, and is associated with Jesus' forty days in the desert prior to his temptation and with the forty years the children of Israel spent in the wilderness, becoming a period of preparation for every Christian. Our Sunday evening theme, this year, will be prayer, one of the discipleship practices mentioned above. Please do some extra things this year during Lent. Take time to worship more often, pray more often, and experience the fullness of a close relationship with Jesus Christ.

Together in ministry,

Pastor Cauble

Some Important things to do during Lent this year:

Ash Wednesday Service of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday, February 14

7:00 pm

The Prayer Vigils

Every Tuesday evening in the Sanctuary

5:00pm – 6:00 pm

Make this a part of your weekly schedule.

Lenten Services

(Holden Evening Prayer)

Every Sunday Evening

5:00 pm

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

February 13 – 6:30 pm – Fellowship Hall
(Pancakes, sausage, liver mush, bacon, etc.)

(Sponsored by the Youth and Lutheran Men)

COME JOIN US!

Bible Study



Tuesday mornings

10:00 am

The Gospel of Mark

Fellowship Hall

Tuesday evenings

6:00 pm

(Excluding February 13 – Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper)

The Apostles' Creed

Feb. 6 – Fellowship Hall

Feb. 20 and 27 - Gathering Room

Congregational Meeting



The Annual Congregational Meeting, for the sole purpose of receiving the 2023 reports and the 2024 yearbook will be held Sunday, February 11, 2024 during the 10:30 Service of Worship.

Altar Arrangements During Lent



During Lent, we will emphasize simplicity with the use of ferns and greenery rather than floral arrangements on the altar. Just as our liturgical music does not include the “Hymn of Praise” during Lent, the altar arrangements should also reflect the tone of the season. According to the National Altar Guild Association, “Along with the sacred music of the season, altar flowers provide a visual impression of the music, the church service, and a reminder of His suffering...”

Greenery is available at the church if you would like to use it. Please contact the church office for more information.

Thank You

Dear New Jerusalem Church Family,

Thank you all for the many cards, calls, and texts after Jim’s passing. Having such a loving church family is a blessing and a comfort to me. I also appreciate the delicious food that has been prepared for me. I would appreciate your continued prayers during this time.

Love,

Paulette Abernethy

Finance Committee



The Finance Committee will review all treasurers’ books Thursday, February 29 at 6:00 pm. Please bring your checkbook, ledgers, and records so we can review and balance. Thank you for your help concerning these matters.

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Senior Friends Highlights



NJLC Senior Friends meeting was held on Wednesday, Jan. 17th with **33 people present**. Teresa Vanderlinden had the devotions. (Our February devotions: Karen Teague). Welcomed two new members to Senior Friends: **Dwight & Pam Herman**. Our two guests, Howard & Reba Reinhardt from St. Martin's Lutheran Church, brought us a special treat: homemade ice cream to top off our covered dish meal. The vanilla and chocolate ice cream definitely hit the spot!



Seeking volunteers to do future devotions. Thanked the January hostesses, table decorators and recyclers. Thanks extended to Teresa Vanderlinden for our Card Ministry. It was noted that approximately 185 cards were sent during 2023 from Senior Friends. Recognized birthdays for January. There were no anniversaries. Following a meal prayer by Pastor Orovitz, those present enjoyed a delicious covered dish meal. A brief business meeting followed the meal and included the following: Minutes from our December 2023 meeting and Treasurer's Report. Collected offering. Noted that 15 people had traveled on December 7 to see the Christmas lights in McAdenville. Hostess Calendars were available for pick-up.

- February meeting will be a SOUP & SANDWICH Meal. The sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room.
- Polled the group to see how much interest there was to pursue various trips (by either church bus or motorcoach): Dinner theatre program later in the year—possibly booking a motorcoach. (Results: 17-18), Amish store (12), Waldensian Play in Valdese (13), and Mountain State Fair, near Fletcher (10-11). Also mentioned Asheville Farmer's Market and Waldensian Trail of Faith.
- Please share any suggestions for other possible trips.
- Betty Sheaves shared information about Corner Table's Frozen Meal program. Handouts were available for pick up. If you know someone who is homebound and needs meals, this program is available.
- Elaine Garner thanked the group again for their involvement in donating calendars to the Council on Aging. A total of 153 calendars had been shared.



Following the business, the group enjoyed several rounds of Bingo. Thanked everyone for providing the Bingo prizes.

(Hostesses for February: Paulette Abernethy, Janet Dameron and Carolyn Elliott.)

Next meeting is Wednesday, February 21st at 11:00.

SPECIAL NOTE: Following the close of the meeting, we became aware that our February Program/Speaker (Karen Teague) needed an earlier start time because of required court attendance—related to her job. Her program will come first and then we will enjoy our Soup & Sandwich meal. Thank you for your understanding of this necessary **change in time**.

LIFE TO LIFE DISCIPLESHIP

This month as we begin observing Lent, you are invited to participate in our congregation-wide Lenten discipline of returning to the Lord a portion of the precious gift of time that He daily gives to us.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14. A new session of *Life to Life Discipleship* begins the following Tuesday, February 20 at 6:00 PM in our Fellowship Hall. During the weeks of Lent, *Life to Life Discipleship* will guide you in study of the Scriptures, in personal devotional time with our Lord, and in Christian fellowship.

On the Sundays leading up to Lent, you will hear personal testimonies and will find an insert in your bulletin each week giving you specific information about *Life to Life Discipleship*.

If you are sensing that God might be calling you to participate in this Lenten discipline, come and see. Simply fill out a blue registration card found in the pew pockets and place it in the offering plate (or you can call the church office to register).

We look forward to seeing you on February 20.



Student and Family Ministries

Over the last several weeks the Learning, Youth and Family committee has met along with the YAM ministry to take a deep look into the vision and planning of Sunday School, Youth and Family Ministry here at New Jerusalem. Over the next few months the committee will share the vision, events, and ways people can get involved; even if you do not have children or students. We ask for continued prayers.

Ready...Set...Hut...Hut...Game Day!
5th grade through 12th Grade Students

Sunday, February 4th
12:30pm to 2:30pm Lunch Provided

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Fellowship, Games, and Devotion
Friends are welcome.

Please let Megan Gwaltney know if you are coming by February 1st.
Parents and Volunteers are needed.

Email njyouthandfamily@gmail.com or text/call 828-228-0542



Time to See Who Can Get a Strike!

6th through 12th grade Students
February 25th @ 1:30pm to 4pm

Location: Pinn Station in Newton
(Meeting at the Bowling Alley)

Cost: \$5.00

If a student is unable to come because of financial reasons please let Megan know, as all students are welcome.

Bring friends and money for snacks or Arcades if you wish.

Let Megan Know by February 21st if you are planning on coming to the event. Email: njyouthandfamily@gmail.com or 828-228-0542.



If you would like to help plan the Church/Family Easter event, please contact Megan Gwaltney as she will be setting up a meeting to kick off the planning in the next two weeks. This event will potentially include devotion, games, lunch, craft, and of course Easter Egg hunt. This is for all ages, and friends too. Email: njyouthandfamily@gmail.com or text/call 828-228-0542.



NALC Continental Youth Gathering

Dates: July 1st to 4th

St. John Lutheran Church in Boerne, Texas

Ages: 12 Years old (June) to 18 Years Old

The NALC Continental Youth Gathering (CYG) is a four-day event hosted by the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The mission of this event is to provide opportunities for Lutheran youth to not only grow in their faith, but to be encouraged by connecting with other believers throughout North America.

This is the first year we are hosting the CYG, and we are excited for all that's in store! Throughout the event, youth, leaders, and volunteers will join in corporate worship, study God's Word, engage in large and small group sessions, reach out to the community through mission events, and engage in fellowship and fun.

Commitment deadline is February 19th.

If you are interested in learning more information please contact Megan Gwaltney Email: njyouthandfamily@gmail.com or text/call 828-228-0542.

Annual Spring Retreat for Carolina Mission Region

Dates: Friday, March 15th at 7:30pm to Sunday, March 17th at 12pm

Location: Union Lutheran Church in Salisbury, NC

Grades: 6th Grade to 12th Grade

Cost: \$20.00 (Meals during travel) Registration cost is covered by Church

Sleeping: Fellowship Hall and Around the Church (will be a shower trailer)

Happening: Speakers, Breakout Sessions, and Service Projects

Deadline to let Megan know if you are attending is February 16th. If you have additional questions please contact Megan. Email: njyouthandfamily@gmail.com or text/call 828-228-0542.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

JANUARY 8, 2024

(Motions are in **BOLD** and Actions are *italicized*)

The January 2024 Church Council meeting was held January 8, 2024. All members of Church Council were in attendance except Rusty Lutz and Ken Temple. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Betty Scipione. Devotions were led by Jan Sorrells. Betty Scipione will lead the devotions in February. Dennis Bollinger was council designate in December. He is no longer on council, but it was reported that the ice maker is leaking but is still making ice. The minutes for the council meeting held December 11, 2023, were approved as written.

Treasurer Reports were received as information and show the following month end balances.

Current: \$75,369.70	Benevolence: \$4,754.74	Youth: \$2,405.85	Lutheran Men: \$731.62	Phillips Fund Checking: \$9,420.69
Available: \$56,629.42	Current CD: \$61,828.87	Women's: \$309.47	Mauser Fund CD: \$82,753.56	Phillips Fund CD: \$22,169.41
Building: \$57,747.53	Building CD: \$102,668.38	Cemetery Fund: \$7,567.33	Cemetery CD: \$15,964.10	

Pastor's Report (December 2023):

Pastoral Contacts – 55; including Home Visits – 20

Hospital Visits – 1

Nursing home visits – 5

Pastor's study – 5

Other – 24

Services of worship – 7

Meetings – 21

Classes taught – 5

One funeral service for Violet Joines (mother of Jennifer Bumgarner) at Greer-McElveen Funeral Home in Lenoir, NC – December 21, 2023

One funeral service for James Abernethy – New Jerusalem Lutheran Church – January 3, 2024

December saw the passing of James (Jim) Abernethy on Thursday, December 28. The funeral was held on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at the church. Jim's ashes were placed in the columbarium.

My appreciation to all who helped make the Advent and Christmas seasons very meaningful this year. We had a wonderful and very moving Christmas Eve Service.

Megan Gwaltney is certainly off to a great start. The youth event yesterday was great. We had good participation from both congregations. I can't wait to see what will unfold in 2024!

One of my major goals for 2024 is to encourage more of our inactive members to return to worship. Of course, this will be accomplished with the help of the Witness Committee, which really includes all our congregational members. This is difficult work that requires prayer, persistence, a consistent and joint effort. I would like to encourage the Witness Committee to meet at least monthly throughout the year.

Thank you for all that you do!

Together in ministry,

The Rev. Randall A. Cauble, Pastor

Congregational Suggestions/Concerns: None

Announcements/Petitions and Communications:

- Reminder: Please submit End-of-Year reports for the yearbook by Tuesday, January 9 (Treasurer's Reports by Monday, January 15).
- We received thank you notes from:
 - Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary (\$2,500 received June 30 and \$1,336 received August 25 which were matched for a total of \$7,672)
 - Word of Life Lutheran (\$330.00)
 - Safe Harbor (\$600.00)
 - Pregnancy Care Center (\$750.00)
 - Samaritan's Purse (\$1,370.00).

Old Business:

- Automatic Door Opener
 - Robert sent payment to Seven Oaks Doors. Materials should be coming mid-January. We will have a little bit of electrical work to do as well.
- Outdoor Worship Area Update
 - We are talking with the engineer. A civil contractor is coming to look at it.
 - The Scope of Work document will have to be redone because the format has changed.

New Business:

- Loose Offering
 - February 4 – Youth and Family Ministry
 - February 11 – Corner Table
 - Ash Wednesday (February 14) and Lenten Coin Folders – St. Jude
 - February 18 (morning and evening service) – Hickory Soup Kitchen
 - February 25 (morning and evening service) – Pregnancy Care Center
 - Maundy Thursday – Current Fund
 - Palm Sunday Healing Service (March 24) – St. Jude
 - Easter Sunrise – Current Fund
- **John Lutz made a motion to renew Shay Bollinger's 3-year term as a trustee of the Phillips Fund (current term ended December 2023).** Danny Sorrells seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Ministries: (Pastor is a member of all committees):

Cemetery Committee (John Lutz and Rusty Lutz)

- Billy Young has the plaques for Mike Lail and Reggie Abernethy.
- There was a request for an update on the number of niches left in the columbarium.

Property Committee (Danny Black and John Lutz)

- We had a great workday the second week in December. We had a great turnout, got lots of leaves up, and had new people to show up.

Fellowship Committee (Karen Teague) –

- Kristy is putting an announcement in the bulletin for anyone interested in helping with the Fellowship Committee to meet in the Adult Assembly Room Sunday, January 14 after worship.
- The next fellowship event will be the Shrove Tuesday meal (Tuesday, February 13).

Finance and Stewardship Committee (Deron Bumgarner)

- Giving statements were passed out Sunday, January 7. All remaining will be mailed.
- Meeting Sunday, January 21 after church.
- Kristy was asked to contact Alan Bolch and ask if CF Parks will perform an outside audit for the Current Fund. They may want to perform an audit as they begin their work with us.

Learning, Youth, and Family Committee (Lisa Cook, Robert Hoyle, and Jan Sorrells)

- Megan Gwaltney submitted a two-page council report stating what she has done in the past month and looking forward to events from January through March.
- She will alternate attendance of church services at New Jerusalem and St. Martin's. The schedule is subject to change, but for now her plan is to be at New Jerusalem January 14, February 4, February 25, March 3, and March 31.
- The Winter Games Event held at St. Martin's was successful with 28 people in attendance. The next event will be the Easter Egg Hunt. This will be a family event – not just an event for children.
- Megan will be meeting with the YAM Class during Sunday school to discuss, brainstorm and plan with them on Youth, Family, and YAM Ministry. All are welcome to come.
- Joint events with St. Martin's and splitting the cost:
 - Some St. Martin's congregation members donated food items and money, but this did not cover the full cost of the Winter Games Event. Megan recommended that we donate \$100 to St. Martin's to cover a portion of the event. **BJ Morgan made a motion to use \$100 out of the \$550 overage in the 2023 Benevolence Fund budget as a donation to St. Martin's to cover expenses for the Winter Games Event.** Lisa Cook seconded the motion. After some discussion about funding future joint events with money from loose offering, the Phillips Fund, the youth account, or possibly a love offering at these events, *the motion passed unanimously.*

Long Range Planning Committee (Rusty Lutz and Danny Sorrells) – No report.

Service Committee (BJ Morgan and Karen Teague)

- We donated 31 pounds of food this month.
- Meeting in February.
- Kay Weaver is leading our program to collect items for NALC Disaster Relief. Megan Gwaltney asked to connect with the Service Committee about getting the youth involved with this program.
- Future blood drives
 - We would like to continue quarterly blood drives in 2025.
 - We will need a new program leader (or leaders). Volunteers for segments of time during the blood drives would also be needed.

Witness Committee (Betty Scipione and Ken Temple)

- There have been 20 e-sign messages, 12 Facebook messages, 1 hospital visit, 8 home visits, 25 phone calls/texts, and 28 birthday and get-well cards sent during the month of December.

Worship Committee (Pastor Cauble and Betty Scipione)

- Will meet before the next council meeting to plan for the Lenten season.
- Pastor Cauble will be on vacation this weekend. Pastor Eddie Pless will preach and lead the service. Megan Gwaltney will do the children's sermon.

Next Council Meeting: Monday, February 12, 2024, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Ken Temple, President

Lisa Cook, Secretary

February Birthdays

1 – Charles Kiser
2 – Diane Owens
3 – Cody Lutz
5 – Kenneth Sigmon, Wayne Cashion, Cole Riggs
6 – Bob Bekemeier, Karen Teague, Jaxon Miller
7 – Rashunda Harrison
9 – Renee Raines
10 – Jimmy Purgeson, Jr.
12 – Mark Mitchell
14 – Aaron Weaver, Phil Myers, Lenka Robinson
19 – Meredith Lombardi
20 – Danny Southers
21 – Faith Kanipe
24 – Richard Huffman
25 – Frankie Fulbright
26 – Debbie McGee, Kirsten Johnson
28 – Nancy Brittain
29 – Lee Barger

Thank You for Serving in February...

New Jerusalem Lutheran Men Sunday, Feb. 4
Glenn Seitz Memorial Breakfast
Golden Corral - 8:00 am

New Jerusalem Lutheran Women

Group 1	Tuesday, Feb. 6 – 6:30 pm Gathering Room
Group 3	Monday, Feb. 5 – 2:00 pm Gathering Room Leader – Betty Orovitz
Group 4	Monday, Feb. 5 – 7:00 pm Gathering Room Hostess/Leader – Diane Owens

Council Designate Betty Scipione

Teller Committee *Betty Scipione
Danny Black
Jack Robinson

Altar Committee Betty Scipione, Chm.
Jennifer Bumgarner
Mike Scipione
Julie Temple

Pastor's Assistant Betty Scipione

Acolyte Lydia Lutz

Flowers in the Church

Feb. 4	Rusty and Cindy Lutz
Feb. 11	Dennis and Kay Weaver
Feb. 18	Open
Feb. 25	Frankie Fulbright

Ushers John Lutz, Chm.
Chip Canupp
Nick Helms
Paul Kurzyna

Tape Ministry

Feb. 4	Connie Bumgarner
Feb. 11	Robert Hoyle
Feb. 18	Robert Hoyle
Feb. 25	BJ Morgan

Senior Friends Meeting Time Change

Note: The February Senior Friends meeting will begin **promptly at 11:00 am** as the program presenter has job obligations and needs to leave earlier. **This change is for February only.**

Loose Offering in February



February 4

Youth and Family Ministry

February 11

Corner Table

Lenten Coin Folders

St. Jude Children's Hospital

Ash Wednesday (February 14)

St. Jude Children's Hospital

February 18 (morning and evening service)

Hickory Soup Kitchen

February 25 (morning and evening service)

Pregnancy Care Center

Looking Ahead

Solid Rock Day Camp

June 16-21, 2024



February 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4 8:00 am – Lutheran Men’s Breakfast at Golden Corral 9:30 am – Sunday school 10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion After worship: Birthday Celebration 12:30 – Youth Event 3:00 pm - Worship Committee Meeting	5 2:00 pm – Women’s Group 3 7:00 pm – Women’s Group 4	6 10 am – Bible Study 1 pm – Piece Makers 5 pm – Prayer Vigil 6 pm – Bible Study 6:30 pm – Women’s Group 1	7	8 6:00 pm – Bible Journaling Group	9	10
11 9:30 am – Sunday school 10:30 am – Service of Worship	12 6:00 pm – American Heritage Girls 6:30 pm – Church Council Meeting	13 10:00 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – Piece Makers 5 pm – Prayer Vigil 6:30 pm – Shrove Tuesday Supper	14 7:00 pm – Ash Wednesday Service	15	16	17
18 9:30 am – Sunday school 10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion 5:00 pm – Lenten Service	19	20 10 am – Bible Study 1 pm – Piece Makers 5 pm – Prayer Vigil 6 pm – Life-to-Life Discipleship 6 pm – Bible Study	21 11:00 am – Senior Friends	22	23	24
25 9:30 am – Sunday school 10:30 am – Service of Worship 5:00 pm – Lenten Service	26 6:00 pm – American Heritage Girls 6:00 pm – Bible Journaling Group	27 10 am – Bible Study 1 pm – Piece Makers 5 pm – Prayer Vigil 6 pm – Life-to-Life Discipleship 6 pm – Bible Study	28	29 6 pm – Finance Committee Meeting	Paraments 4 – Green 11 – White 14 – Purple 18 – Purple 25 – Purple	