

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

News Journal

Monthly Newsletter of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

January 2026

Kristy's Corner

Until we have a pastor or interim pastor to write a Pastor's Pen, I thought I would write a little something for this spot in the newsletter. Each month I will concentrate on highlighting a specific Bible verse. If you have a favorite verse you would like to write about, please send something and I will include it! So for January, here are my thoughts:

CATCHING FLIES

We've all heard the saying, "You catch more flies with honey," but I think the Bible says it best. Proverbs 15:1 says, "**A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.**" In a world where so much is spoken in anger, let us concentrate on speaking with love in 2026. Within the church body, Hebrews 10:24 tells us that we should spur one another toward love and good deeds, meeting together, and encouraging one another. With those who are not yet believers, Jesus calls His disciples to become fishers of men. Throughout the Bible, we are given instructions on how to do this. Ephesians 4:29 calls on us to only speak what is helpful in building others up so that it benefits those who hear what we say. In First Thessalonians chapter 5, Paul tells us to encourage one another and build each other up. For me, the first step in remembering these things is to remember Proverbs 15:1. Is my answer gentle or is it harsh? I have failed at remembering this verse more times than I can count, but fortunately for me, I constantly receive God's grace. Let us remember to extend that grace to others in 2026 and go catch some flies (or as Jesus said, be fishers of men if you'd rather catch those)!

Book Recommendation:
Phillip Yancey's Vanishing Grace

Bible Study in January



Great news! The Tuesday morning Bible Study is resuming! Pastor Terri Landers will lead the Bible study beginning Tuesday, January 13th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday mornings - 10:00 am
January 13, 20, 27

Tuesday evenings - 6:00 pm
January 6, 13, 20, 27

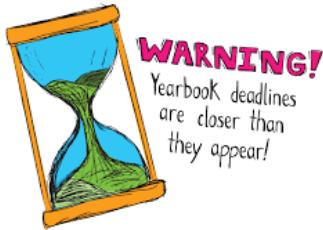
A WORD OF THANKS

Dear NJLC Family,

Thank you all so much for the generous gift cards you gave me for Christmas. The first thing I bought was a nicer watch. Mine was old and I didn't want to wear it to my daughter's wedding in June! I also want to thank the Chrismon Ministry for the beautiful Treble Clef Chrismon I received for Secretary Appreciation. You all sure do know how to make a girl feel special!

Sincerely,
Kristy

2026 Yearbook Reports



The deadline for turning in reports for the 2026 yearbook is Tuesday, January 6, 2026. The deadline for treasurers' reports will be Wednesday, January 14. Please leave a copy at the church office or email them to Kristy at secretary@njlchickory.com. Thank you!

UNDECK THE HALLS!

TAKING DOWN CHRISTMAS

DECORATIONS

*Asking for volunteers
to come help take down
and pack up*

Christmas decorations!

Tuesday, January 6th

6:30 pm

**Potluck on
Refreshments.
Please bring your favorite
snacks.*

Senior Friends Highlights



Wednesday, December 3, 2025 Annual Christmas Luncheon

Our NJLC Senior Friend's Annual Christmas Luncheon was held on Wed., Dec. 3 in the Fellowship Hall of NJLC. **Forty-four people were present** (33 members and 11 guests). Barbara Hamrick welcomed all members and guests. Sandra Bollinger shared a Christmas devotion. Barbara recognized and thanked several individuals: Glenda Shook, Debbie McGee and Paula White for preparing our candy treat cups, and table decorations provided by Kathe Canupp, Linda Lutz and Sandra Bollinger. She

also thanked Donald and Donna Barger for the beautiful lighted Christmas trees, and other festive decorations. Noted that the Executive Board Officers were hostesses for this month. The catered meal was provided by "Homeplace" in Lincolnton. Extra desserts were provided by Barbara, Sandra and Linda Lutz. YUMMY! Dec. birthdays & anniversaries were recognized. Prayer concerns were also shared. Pastor Orovitz provided the blessing for the meal.

- In lieu of passing around cards for individual signatures, the cards were signed with just our group's name.
- Matter of Information: The poinsettias used for altar flowers and the for the Hanging of the Greens Program on Sunday, November 30th were given by Senior Friends in honor of the faithful supporters of Senior Friends, past and present.
- **Bake and Craft sale netted \$3,204.** Our five recipients (Backpack Program, Corner Table, Council on Aging, Safe Harbor, and Samaritan's Purse) will each receive **\$640.00**. Barbara thanked everyone for their hard work and making this fund raiser so successful.
- Deadline for collection of 2026 calendars is our Jan. meeting (Wed., Jan. 21).
- **January will be our BINGO meeting with a regular covered dish meal.** Participants are asked to bring 2-3 wrapped gifts for Bingo prizes—value of each gift being \$5. Label gifts if it is appropriate for Male, Female or Either.
- The Freewill offering was collected.
- A playlist of Christmas music was provided throughout the meal—thanks to Dennis & Kay Weaver.



Following the catered meal, the group enjoyed singing Christmas carols and possibly winning a door prize (donated by the Executive Committee). Carolyn Miller played for us. The meeting closed with the singing of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and the Lord's Prayer.

Barbara Hamrick, Co-President

Sandra Bollinger, Secretary

LOOKING AHEAD: January devotions: Paul Kurzyna
Jan. Hostesses: Carolyn Elliott, Betty Scipione, Teresa Vanderlinden

January Program: Bingo

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 21st at 11:30

Start the new year off right—

Gather together with friends and enjoy some good food and fellowship.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

DECEMBER 8, 2025

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

The December Church Council meeting was held December 8, 2025. All members of the Church Council were in attendance except Robert Hoyle and Garret Turbyfill. The meeting was called to order by President Ken Temple. Cindy Coulter led devotions. Hans Robinson will lead the devotions in January. Ken Temple was council designate in November and said that it was a busy month with meetings and announcements, but all went well. The minutes for the council meeting held November 10, 2025, were approved as presented.

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

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| *Allocations: \$6796.24 | Benevolence: \$18,885.75 | *Youth: \$4,407.68 | Phillips Fund Checking: \$30,750.94 |
| Current Available: \$84,130.93 | Edward Jones Acct: \$64,457.54 | Women's: \$583.00 | Mauser Fund CD: \$89,789.38 |
| Current CD: \$50,011.40 | Cemetery Fund: \$11,067.32 | Cemetery CD: \$15,003.45 | Building: \$164,911.00 |

* Allocations include Youth Fund total as well.

Search for Interim Pastor and Pastor

- The Call Committee will have its first real meeting Saturday, January 17.

Congregation +/Δ:

- PROM members are taking communion to shut-ins.

Announcements/Petitions and Communications:

- Reminder: Please submit End-of-Year reports for the yearbook by Tuesday, January 6 (Treasurer's Reports by Wednesday, January 14).
- Thank you from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary for your gift of \$350.00.
- Thank you from Michael Megahan for your prayers and financial gifts (shared in December newsletter).

Old Business:

- Benevolence money for missionaries
 - Cindy contacted Ellis Goldstein with CRU. He said he would find a staff member or couple who currently serves on a campus in NC or a neighboring state.
- Updated Bus Driver List –
 - The insurance company needs Jan Sorrells' Motor Vehicle Record submitted in order to add her as the ninth driver.
- Noisy Offering for December will go to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

New Business:

- Elect 2025 Officers
 - **BJ Morgan made a motion for unanimous consent to elect Ken Temple as Council President and Robert Hoyle as Council Vice President in 2026.** Cindy Coulter seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*
 - **Rusty Lutz made a motion for unanimous consent to elect Jack Robinson as Council Secretary.** BJ Morgan seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*

- **Cindy Coulter made a motion for unanimous consent for Alan Bolch to remain as Current Treasurer, Danny Black to remain as Benevolence Treasurer, and Billy Young to remain as Building Fund Treasurer.** Jack Robinson seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*
- **Thad Scronce made a motion to renew Garret Turbyfill's term as Phillips Fund Trustee.** BJ Morgan seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*
- 2026 Council Designate months
 - January – Hans Robinson
 - February – Robert Hoyle
 - March - Alan Bolch
 - April – Jack Robinson
 - May – Garret Turbyfill
 - June – Callie Southers
 - July – Donald Barger
 - August – BJ Morgan
 - September – Thad Scronce
 - October – Rusty Lutz
 - November – Ken Temple
 - December – Cindy Coulter
- Sign up for committees (to report at Council)
 - Property – Thad/Donald
 - Cemetery - Rusty
 - Fellowship - Hans
 - Finance – Alan Bolch/Garret Turbyfill
 - Learning, Youth & Family
 - Long Range – Rusty Lutz
 - Service – BJ Morgan
 - Witness – Robert/Ken
 - Worship – Jack/Cindy

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

Cemetery Committee (Rusty Lutz):

- There has been a grave that has been unmarked for some time. A marker will cost approximately \$260. John will get it installed. **Rusty Lutz made a motion for the church to purchase the marker.** Cindy Coulter seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*
- Jerry Whitener called and requested that his family be allowed to spread the ashes of George Whitener over his son Terry's current gravesite. His wife's ashes are already spread there. They placed the marker on the gravesite. **A motion came from the Cemetery Committee to allow him to spread George's ashes on his son's current gravesite.** BJ Morgan seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Property Committee (Thad Scronce):

- A gentleman from the insurance company came to take pictures before our contract renewal. Everything was fine except that we have a person who has set up residence at the Outdoor Chapel. Insurance will not allow someone to live on the property. Thad is going to speak with him.
- The equipment used for the Lail property is in place. There was no impact to our property when they moved the equipment.

Fellowship Committee (Karen Teague):

- No meeting
- There will be a soup & sandwich meal after the Christmas play.

Finance and Stewardship Committee (Deron Bumgarner): No meeting.

Learning, Youth, and Family Committee (Lisa Cook and Callie Southers):

- We have been busy practicing for the Christmas play and preparing for the Happy Birthday Jesus party.

Long Range Planning Committee (Rusty Lutz and Danny Sorrells): No meeting.

Service Committee (BJ Morgan and Karen Teague):

- We donated 87 pounds of food this month.
- We provided 25 Thanksgiving box meals for families in need. BJ thanked Thad and Landon for their help.
- The Hickory Daily Record reported on our partnership with the Newton Elks Lodge to provide shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Ken and Robert were present to receive the check.
- The Angel Tree is now displayed in the Gathering Room. Please sponsor a child if you are able.

Witness Committee (Robert Hoyle and Ken Temple):

- No meeting.
- Ken asked council members who have participated in Life-to-Life Discipleship to attend the next Witness Committee meeting.

Worship Committee (Pastor Cauble, Cindy Coulter, and Jack Robinson):

- Met November 30 to discuss Lent and the final plans for Christmas.
- Reviewed last year's goals and looked into our 2026 goals.
- Another meeting is scheduled for January to discuss Lent.
- Connie, Carolyn, and Pastor Alle met to finalize plans for Christmas and Advent last Tuesday.

PROM

November Summary: Visits – 26; Cards – 76; Phone Calls – 46; Communion – 10; E-Sign Messages – 12; Facebook posts – 10

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

Ken Temple, President

Lisa Cook, Secretary

January Birthdays

- 1 – Matthew Barger, Charlie Hoyle
- 3 – Diane Lutz
- 4 – Cindy Lutz, Wade Mauser
- 5 – Alex Hayman
- 7 – Richard Arrowood
- 8 – Barbara Lael
- 11 – Kirsten Lutz
- 12 – Beth Brittain
- 13 – Chad Kanipe, Ronnie McGee
- 14 – Holli Abernethy
- 15 – Danny Black
- 16 – Gene Mauser, Bryan Poovey
- 17 – Dale Hefner, Richard Dameron
- 18 – Randy Bumgarner, Amy Mauser,
Brandy (Bumgarner) Cline
- 19 – Steve Johnson
- 23 – Elaine Garner
- 24 – Chance Carden, Memphis Elliott
- 25 – Matthew Martin
- 26 – Carolyn Robinson
- 27 – Angela Kanipe
- 30 – Rachel Hoyle
- 31 – Jonah Temple

Thank You for Serving in January...

New Jerusalem Lutheran Women

| | |
|---------|---|
| Group 1 | Tuesday, January 6 – 6:30 pm Gathering Room |
| Group 3 | Monday, January 5 – 2:00 pm Gathering Room Leader – Carolyn Robinson |
| Group 4 | Monday, January 5 – 7:00 pm Gathering Room Hostess/Leader – Trish Scronce |

Council Designate Hans Robinson

Teller Committee *Hans Robinson
John Lutz
Billy Young

Altar Committee

Dana Hoyle, Chm.
Jenny Morgan
Julie Temple

Pastor's Assistant

Betty Scipione

Acolyte

Liam Robinson and Kylee Queen

Flowers in the Church

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Jan. 4 | Rusty Lutz |
| Jan. 11 | Paulette Abernethy |
| Jan. 18 | Carolyn Robinson |
| Jan. 25 | Janet Dameron |

Ushers

Dennis Bollinger, Chm.
John Lutz
Garret Turbyfill
Thad Scronce

Tape Ministry

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| Jan. 4 | BJ Morgan |
| Jan. 11 | Connie Bumgarner |
| Jan. 18 | Connie Bumgarner |
| Jan. 25 | Robert Hoyle |

Looking Ahead

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Shrove Tuesday | Tuesday, February 17 |
| Ash Wednesday | Wednesday, February 18 |
| Easter Sunday | Sunday, April 5 |

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.
Colossians 3:16

January 2026

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|---|--|---|---|---|------|------|
| Paraments 4 – White 11 – White 18 – Green 25 – Green | | | | 1 New Year's Day * Church Office Closed | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9:30 am – Sunday school 10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion | 5 2:00 pm – Women's Group #3 7:00 pm – Women's Group #4 | 6 10:00 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – Piece Makers 6:00 pm – Bible Study (Scout Hut) 6:30 pm – Women's Group #1 Deadline for Yearbook Reports | 7 6:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm – Life-to-Life 7:00 pm – Handbell Choir Rehearsal | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9:30 am – Sunday school 10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion 12:15 pm – Confirmation (@NJLC) | 12 6:30 pm – Church Council Meeting | 13 10:00 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – Piece Makers 6:00 pm – Bible Study | 14 6:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm – Handbell Choir Rehearsal Deadline for Treasurers' Reports | 15 6:00 pm – AHG (Fellowship Hall) | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9:30 am – Sunday school 10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion | 19 | 20 10:00 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – Piece Makers 6:00 pm – Bible Study | 21 11:30 am – Senior Friends 6:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm – Life-to-Life 7:00 pm – Handbell Choir Rehearsal | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 9:30 am – Sunday school 10:30 am – Service of Worship 12:15 pm – Confirmation (@St. Martin's) 4:30 pm – Worship Committee Meeting | 26 | 27 10:00 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – Piece Makers 6:00 pm – Bible Study | 28 6:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm – Handbell Choir Rehearsal | 29 6:00 pm – AHG Awards (Sanctuary and Gathering Room) | 30 | 31 |

