

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
2 Cor. 5:17

News Journal

Monthly Newsletter of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

April 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

The resurrection of our Lord Jesus is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. If anyone disproves the Resurrection our whole religion goes down the tubes. Many have tried and have failed. The question is: What does the Resurrection of Jesus mean for all of us and for each and every one of us? What does it mean that Jesus lives?

Think about it this way. What can living people do that dead people can't? "Lots of things," you might say. One thing is critical. Living people keep promises. Dead people don't. If Jesus is alive then he can and will keep all his promises. Our future is in his hands.

Jesus has defeated the powers of death, and he declares that we will have eternal life in His name. Our sins are forgiven by his blood shed on the cross and we stand justified and righteous before God our Father. Our hope is in the Word of God, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

The power that raised Jesus will raise us up on the Last Day. But in the meantime we live for the one who gives life. We speak God's truth in love to free people from the darkness and death that fills this world. We bring life and hope in Jesus' name.

We bring hope when we bring God into our conversations. The good news, the Gospel, brings hope because the One who lives still acts and keeps promises. He works through his people to walk along side our friends and neighbors, co-workers and strangers who need the knowledge that God is at work to heal and give us hope for our future. Not

just when He returns, but today and every day following.

In His service, I am
Pastor Dave

Bible Study in April



Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am
Fellowship Hall
April 7, 14, 21, and 28

Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm
April 7 – Fellowship Hall
April 14, 21, 28 – Gathering Room

Pastor's Bible study: Begins April 8th.

"Living Discipleship" or "Basic Christianity": an adult level catechism and deep-dive into the scriptures to reveal the truths behind the Creeds, how Jesus' death and resurrection gives us forgiveness, justification, salvation, righteousness, reconciliation, and eternal life.

Wednesday mornings
10:00 – 11:15 am
(Fellowship Hall)
Evening TBD
6:30-7:45 pm

Early Service at the Outdoor Chapel



The Early Service of Holy Communion will begin on Sunday, May 10 at the Outdoor Chapel at 8:30 am. It will continue on the second and fourth Sundays of each month through October.

Noisy Offering



April – Meals on Wheels
May – Pregnancy Care Center
June – Habitat for Humanity

Thank You

Dear Church Family,



Richard and I feel so blessed to have such a caring church family. Thank you for all your prayers during my recent health crisis and for all the beautiful cards with so many uplifting personal messages inside. We'll always remember and be thankful for your concerns and prayers.

With love,
Janet Dameron

Maundy Thursday

April 2
7:00 pm
Seder Meal (Fellowship Hall)

Good Friday

Good Friday Tenebrae Service
April 3
7:00 pm

Easter Sunday Schedule

April 5

7:00 am
Sunrise Service
(meet first outside near the cemetery)

8:00 am
Easter Breakfast

9:30 am
Sunday school

10:30 am
Festive Service of Holy Communion

Kairos Prison Ministry at Foothills CI

Thank you for your prayers for the Weekend. Through your prayers and contributions, you are doing prison ministry. Your prayers are most important to the “success” of our time in prison.

However, since we can't take in home-baked cookies or do our own catering, the cost of a 4-day Weekend is about \$20,000. That covers team members' stay at the local Comfort Inn, cookies for everyone in the prison for three days, 2 meals catered by a local restaurant each day for the 30 participants (inmates) and 30 team members, poster supplies and composition books for every participant to take notes on the talks.

MOTHER'S DAY BANQUET

TRADITIONS CONTINUE...

It is time for our annual Mother's Day Banquet! As always, we encourage you to join us and bring your mother, daughter, sister, or best friend - just come! There will be good food (spaghetti and salad, along with some scrumptious desserts), good fellowship, and a program that we hope you will enjoy!



The celebration will be on

**Monday, May 11, beginning at 6:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall.**

**The reservation form (shown below) and money should be given to
Glenda Shook on or before Sunday, May 3rd.**

Make checks payable to NJLC Luth. Women.

**Please reserve a seat for us at the Mother's Day
Banquet! Return this form and payment to
Glenda Shook no later than Sunday, May 3rd
Make checks payable to NJLC Luth. Women.**

Your Name _____

• Ages 9– Adult: (# _____) x \$10.00 = \$ _____

• Children Ages 4 to 8: (# _____) x \$5.00 = \$ _____

• Children 3 and under: (# _____) x Free = \$ - 0 -

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____

Senior Friends



Highlights

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

NJLC Senior Friends gathered on **March 18th** with **31 people present**. Greetings were extended by Barbara Hamrick. She thanked today's hostesses and recognized our March Birthdays and Anniversaries. Prayer concerns were shared and included: Gerald & Evelyn Ferguson, family of Glenda Mitchell, Pastor & Vicki Cauble, Libby & Jim Mauney, Kristy Painter, Paulette Abernethy, Debbie McGee, Jackie Dunlap (neighbor to the Scipiones), Betty Orovitz's brother, and Dale Hollar. Paula White presented the devotions and the meal prayer was given by Pastor Orovitz.

Following our meal, Sandra Bollinger presented a brief program centered around 25 Easter Trivia Questions. Since there is no planned program for April, consensus was to make it a Fellowship Meeting. We still need to fill the June and August program list.

Business:

- Reports: Sandra Bollinger reviewed highlights from our February meeting. Glenda Shook shared the treasurer's report. Offering was collected.
- Recognized and thanked our hostesses and table decorators.
- Thanked Teresa Vanderlinden for taking care of our monthly card ministry. By a unanimous vote it was decided for future cards, we will just sign our group name instead of individually signing each card.
- Update on trip to the Amish Store (Northern Iredell Co.). The trip is scheduled for Thursday, March 26.
- **Our trip to Riverbend Creamery in Lincoln County is scheduled for Friday, April 24—leaving NJLC at 1:00 PM. Our mountain trip and breakfast at Daniel Boone Inn is set for Friday, June 5 with departure at 7:00. Sign-ups can now begin. More information to come in April Newsletter.**
- Distributed a reminder card (as shown below) of upcoming events.

SENIOR FRIENDS TRIPS for 2026 (Dates subject to change)

- Thurs., March 26: Amish Store
- Fri., April 24: Riverbend Creamery
- Sun., May 31: Congregation Cookout
- Fri., June 5: Daniel Boone Inn
- (MOI: Sun., June 7: Luth. Men's Fishing)
- Wed., July 15: Election of Officers
- Wed., Sept. 16: Annual Sr. Fr. Cookout
- Sat., Nov. 21: Bake & Craft Sale
- Nov.-Dec.: Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater:
An Appalachian Christmas
- Wed., Dec. 2: Christmas Luncheon

- **May 31:** Following worship service, Senior Friends is hosting a **Cookout for the Congregation** with hamburgers & hotdogs and all the fixings. We will do sign-ups for food at our April and May meetings. Freewill donations will be accepted and will go to the NALC Disaster Relief for Western NC.
- Reminder that we have Maundy Thursday Services on April 2nd. The service is at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. In addition to communion,

- BJ Sheaves shared information on the May 15th *Feed The Flock Gala* (benefitting The Corner Table) and encouraged our support. Donation of gift cards (\$20-\$25 value) will be collected again at our April meeting. They are also seeking people to make SPECIALTY Cakes for their Bake Sale. Other donations have an April 24th deadline.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Barbara Hamrick, Co-President Sandra Bollinger, Secretary

LOOKING AHEAD: April devotions: Kay Weaver
April Hostesses: Sandra Bollinger, Janet Dameron, and Irene Punch
April Program: Fellowship Opportunity
Next meeting is Wednesday, April 15th at 11:30

Upcoming Trip with Senior Friends

Are the mountains calling your name?

***Does breakfast at Daniel Boone Inn
in Boone sound appealing?***



...and we know you'd probably love to spend some time touring the mountains. We're discussing several additional stops, so be prepared for a full day.

WHO: Senior Friends and Guests

(Translated: We're open to everybody that can go.)

When: Fri., June 5, 2026. Depart from NJLC @ **7:00 AM!**

Cost: Daniel Boone Inn (\$16.95 (?) cost of meal+ tax & tip—pay there!)

Suggestion: You might want to bring cash or a check.

Their website says they don't accept debit or credit cards.

How: We will be using the **church bus** (Those riding on the bus will be asked to help pay for gas fill-up.) We'll have some driving their **personal vehicles**.

Reservation Deadline: If you want on the list to go, we need your name by our Wednesday, May 20th Senior Friends Meeting—so we can make reservations for the Daniel Boone Inn in Boone. Please notify Sandra Bollinger if you'd like your name on the Reservation List—whether you plan to ride on the bus or in a car.

IT'S ALMOST HERE!

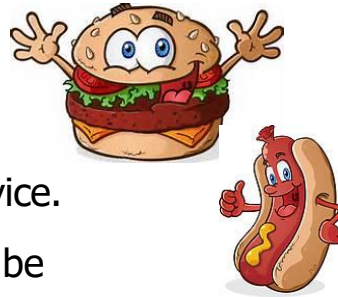


*Mark Your
Calendar*

Members and Friends of New Jerusalem

You are invited to join us on
Sunday, May 31st for a...

Hamburger/Hotdog Cookout with all the trimmings. Hosted by the *NJLC Senior Friends*. Join us in the Fellowship Hall, following the 10:30 Worship/Communion Service.



A **freewill donation** will be collected and donated to ...

NALC Disaster Fund (for Western NC)

According to a recent handout from Mary Bates (Director of Disaster Response for NALC), "On Sept. 26, 2024, Hurricane Helene devastated western North Carolina, destroying over 282,000 homes and the lives of so many people. NALC Disaster Response has already repaired and rebuilt over 40 homes for families in Yancey County. We will continue rebuilding for the next 5 years in western North Carolina."

You don't want to miss this good food, fellowship, and Mission-Driven event!

Chrismon Ministry



Our Chrismon Ministry Team is sponsoring a Make-and-Take Chrismon Workshop on Thursday, May 14 at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to come and make your own "Pure Heart" Chrismon, which is yours to keep. Please bring a hand towel to put your beads on. Cost is \$5.00 per person (pay when you arrive) and refreshments will be served. Please let Kathe Canupp or Sandra Bollinger know on or before Sunday, May 10th if you plan to attend. We will then know how many kits to prepare.

WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!



Want to get together with some of your friends and head to the **Riverbend Creamery on Friday, April 24?** (Of course, we're going Dutch!) Senior Friends and guests will be gathering at **NJLC at 1:00 pm** on that Friday to head to their Ice Cream Shop. We plan on driving the church bus and I'm sure there will be some driving their own vehicles. If you'd like to ride the church bus, please let Sandra Bollinger know. Even if you plan on driving yourself, we'd like a headcount so we can notify them of the approximate number to expect.

YUM! YUM!
I CAN'T WAIT.

(Riverbend Creamery is located at 4391 Ritchie Rd, Lincolnton.)



Church Council Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2026

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

The March Church Council meeting was held March 9, 2026. All members of the Church Council were in attendance except Hans Robinson. The meeting was called to order by President Ken Temple. Alan Bolch led devotions. Jack Robinson will lead the devotions in April. Robert Hoyle was council designate in February and said everything went smoothly. The minutes for the council meeting held February 9, 2026 were approved. Treasurer Reports were received as information and show the following month end balances.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor David Hefner started Ash Wednesday (February 18).
- He provided a summary of meetings and activities in which he has and will be participating.
- He asked for 2 volunteers to go to the CMR Convocation at Christiana, Granite Quarry on May 1 & 2. We will ask for volunteers from the congregation and place a request in the bulletin.
- Planned time away:
 - Kairos Weekend: April 23 – 26
 - Vacation:
 - May 18 – 25
 - July 31 – August 3 (Family Wedding)
 - October 8 – 13 (Hot air ballon festival in Albuquerque, NM)
 - Kairos Weekend: October 22 – 25 or November 5 – 8

Congregation +/-:

- An awning over the front entrance to help protect people from bad weather was requested.

Announcements/Petitions and Communications:

- Arrangements for Glenda Mitchell: Wednesday, March, 11 at 10 am receiving and 11 am funeral at NJLC.
- Linda and Mark Church request the opportunity to meet Council to discuss The Rose TLC Community Outreach, "Come to the Table" program for widows and widowers.
- "Thank you for all you do" to the Council from Linda Lutz.
- Thank you letter from Lutheran Bible Translators (JoAnn Megahan)

Old Business:

- Noisy Offering April/May/June: Meals on Wheels, Pregnancy Care Center, Habitat for Humanity
- McClure family update: Will check with Wayne Yount
- Baby Bells/Handbells Workshop planned for this summer (Helen Barba and Megan Gwaltney)
- Church Envelopes: Kristy provided a list and Rusty provided a cemetery plot list
 - Next step: Review by Ken, Robert & Jack sometime in April
- Robert and Ken help Pastor Cauble clean out his office on February 14.

- Screens in the Sanctuary: Getting recommendations for churches to visit. Is someone willing to manage them each week?

New Business:

- CRU: Kevin & Jennifer Williams at UNCC are invited to attend Council Meeting April 13.
- May Convocation designate (Dennis Bollinger may attend the second day)
- Senior Friends asked to sponsor a meal (hotdogs or hamburgers) for the congregation on Sunday, May 31 following the 1030 Worship Service. The Freewill Offering at the meal will go to the NALC Disaster Fund for Western NC. **BJ made a motion to approve.** Rusty seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*

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

Long Range Planning (Rusty Lutz):

- Quarterly Check in to be held at 8:30 am on Sunday, March 15.

Cemetery Committee (Rusty Lutz):

- Glenda Mitchell's plot has been marked off
- Jean Huffman's husband asked to place her ashes over the grave of her mother Beulah Huffman. (Their family is all in agreement). **Rusty made a motion to approve.** Don seconded. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Property Committee (Thad Scronce/Donald Barger):

- Church Grounds Workday Saturday, March 14.
- New sound panels installed in the Fellowship Building.
- Possible light out in the Sunday School Hallway.

Fellowship Committee (Hans Robinson):

- Met Sunday, February 15.
- Hot chocolate social February 22.
- Easter egg hunt March 21 from 10:00 am to Noon.

Finance and Stewardship Committee (Alan Bolch/Garret Turbyfill):

- Books were audited on Tuesday, February 24. All were good.
- Financials were posted in the newsletter on njlchickory.com. Asked to remove the financials from the website.
- YTD budgeted/deviation in the bulletin.
- Suggest moving the Mauser Fund to Edward Jones account. (it is currently at People's Bank)

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

- Met February 23
- Easter egg hunt: March 21 (10 – 12)
- Mission District Spring Retreat: April 17 – 19
- Roanoke National Youth Gathering: July 7 – 10
- VBS: July 14 – 16 (We will have adult classes this year led by Pastor Hefner)

- Other activities (dates not yet set):
 - Youth Mission Trip to Loris, SC (narrowed down to 2 weeks, checking on availability)
 - End of Summer Bash
 - Fall Fest

Service Committee (BJ Morgan):

- Have not met.
- We donated 50 pounds of food this month. Thanks to Glenda Shook.

Witness Committee (Robert Hoyle and Ken Temple):

- Planning a meeting with Life to Life outside of the April 30 meeting to brainstorm witness actions.
- Will coordinate dates to meet with Candace.

Worship Committee (Cindy Coulter/Jack Robinson):

- Next meeting scheduled for March 10 at 6:30 pm.
- Planning for Maundy Thursday Seder meal and the rest of the Easter Season.

Call Committee

- Set a time for Pastor Hefner to install Call committee.
- March 16 (5:30 pm) meeting with Shelly Schulz in Gathering Room.
- Regular meetings on the 1st & 3rd Sunday at 9 am in the Scout Hut.

Next Council Meeting: Monday, April 13, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Ken Temple, President

Jack Robinson, Secretary

Congregational Meeting February 15, 2026

- A congregational meeting was held to approve the 2026 yearbook.
- The meeting was called to order by Council president Ken Temple.
- **Dennis Bollinger made a motion to approve the yearbook.** Dale Weaver seconded the motion.
- No discussion.
- *The congregation passed the motion unanimously.*



April 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Paraments			1 6:30 pm – Life-to-Life Discipleship	2 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday (Seder Meal in Fellowship Hall)	3 7:00 pm – Good Friday Service	4
April 2 – White April 3 – Black April 5 – White April 12 – Black	April 19 – White April 26 – White					
5 7:00 am – Sunrise Service 8:00 am – Easter Breakfast 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion	6	7 10:00 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – Piece Makers 6:00 pm – Bible Study 6:30 pm – Women’s Group 1	8 10:00 am – Bible Study 6:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm – Life-to-Life Discipleship 7:00 pm – Hand bell Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11
12 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion	13 7:15 pm – Women’s Group 4 (Gathering Room) 6:30 pm – Church Council	14 10:00 am – Bible Study 12:30 pm – Bible Journaling 1:00 pm – Piece Makers 6:00 pm – Bible Study	15 10:00 am – Bible Study 11:30 am – Senior Friends 6:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm – Hand bell Choir Rehearsal	16 9:30 am – Chrismon Ministry	17	18
19 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion	20	21 10:00 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – Piece Makers 6:00 pm – Bible Study	22 10:00 am – Bible Study 6:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm – Hand bell Choir Rehearsal	23 9:30 am – Chrismon Ministry	24 Senior Friends Trip to Riverbend Creamery	25
26 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion 12:15 pm - Confirmation	27	28 10:00 am – Bible Study 12:30 pm – Bible Journaling 1:00 pm – Piece Makers 6:00 pm – Bible Study	29 10:00 am – Bible Study 6:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm – Hand bell Choir Rehearsal	30 6:00 pm - AHG		