



News Journal

Monthly Newsletter of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

July 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Galatians 5:1 and 13. For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

For freedom we are set free. Freedom from what? or for what? Freedom from the power of sin, freedom from fear of death, and freedom from the works of the devil. Freedom for works of grace and mercy in God's name, to love as we have been loved, to live for the sake of others.

In our country we sing of the "land of the free and the home of the brave." We wanted a say in the way we live our lives, the taxes we pay, the God we worship and the way we worship. We fought for those freedoms. However, it was Jesus who fought and won the victory for us over sin. He forgives and proclaims the good news that we are reconciled to God and are welcomed into his Kingdom.

His Kingdom is different than any country on earth, even Israel. His Kingdom is made of the people who trust him, obey him, and listen to him. His Kingdom covers the whole earth. When his people strive to live and love as He did, then God's Kingdom makes changes in the people of the world. We are in a battle against a worldview that is selfish and violent. Jesus calls us to turn the other cheek, love the sinner and hate the sin, not to repay evil with evil. He calls us to love as we have been loved.

I ask you to think about this Christian freedom we have in Christ. Consider the great need the world has for what we have to offer in Christ. Realize the pain and struggle the people of the world are in. Live your Christian freedom as a way to bless others.

In His service, I am
Pastor Dave

Early Services of Holy Communion in July



Sunday, July 12 – 8:30 am
Outdoor Chapel

Sunday, July 26 – 8:30 am
Outdoor Chapel

Thank You

Thank You!

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for partnering with us in our ministry to college students! God is using your generosity to bring students into His kingdom, transform lives, & bear fruit for generations to come. We're so grateful for your investment in this important work. Serving Christ with you, Kevin & Jen Williams

Love,
Connie Bumgarner

Noisy Offering in July



School Supply Drive

Thank You

Senior Friends would like to thank everyone (almost 90 people) who were able to join us at our congregational cookout on Sunday, May 31st. We received \$575.00 freewill donations, which will be donated to the NALC Disaster Fund (for Western NC). **Thank you for your strong support!** *Following our June Senior Friends meeting, it was decided to round the amount to \$600.00.* Again, thank you for joining us and supporting this cause!



We'd also like to thank those who participated in our **Patriotic Sing Along** celebrating **America's 250th Anniversary.**



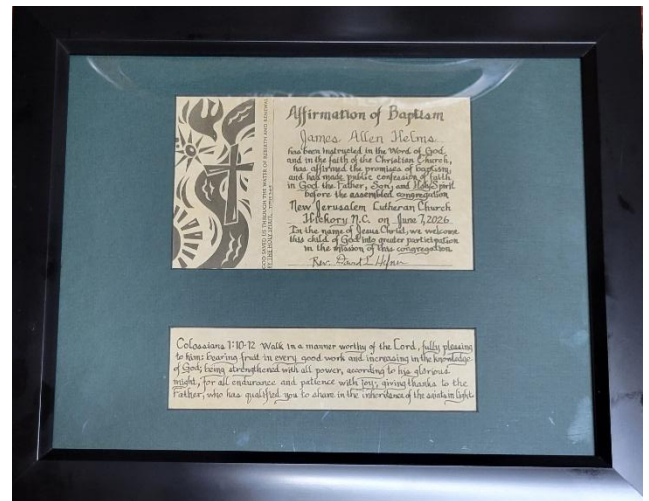
Ready and Waiting:
Congregational Cookout...
Fed at least 90 people and
enjoyed our Patriotic
Sing-Along afterwards.



Confirmation

On Sunday, June 7, six students from New Jerusalem Lutheran Church were confirmed. Following two years of catechism instruction, they made their public confession of faith and were welcomed into greater participation in the mission and ministry of this congregation. Those confirmed were Diana Bumgarner, James Helms, Lydia Lutz, Kylee Queen, Liam Robinson, and Maggie Weaver.

In recognition of their confirmation, each confirmand received several gifts: a Confirmation Chrismon from the Chrismon Ministry, along with an explanation of its symbolism; a Jerusalem Cross, carved from wood from our 1948 church altar by Dave Gaston of St. Martin's and bearing the Luther Rose symbol; and a wall hanging displaying their Affirmation of Baptism certificate and individually selected Bible passage in calligraphy by Rev. David Hefner. Following the worship service, a reception was held in honor of the confirmands.



Senior Friends Highlights

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

NJLC Senior Friends gathered on **June 17th** with **30 people present** (26 members, 3 adult guests-including Pastor Don Bledsoe & his wife) and one child. Greetings were extended to all by Barbara Hamrick. Recognized Emma Davis (now residing in Florida) as our only June Birthday. She also recognized our June anniversaries. Prayer concerns were shared. Betty Scipione shared the devotions and Pastor Dave gave the meal prayer.

Following our meal, everyone enjoyed the program provided by Pastor Don & Helen Bledsoe. They provided us with a program of music and singing, which everyone enjoyed and sang along. Don gave us a devotional on Father's Day, specifically our Heavenly Father. Helen led us in the Lord's Prayer. Don had a prayer and thanked us for having them.



The business session included the following:

- Reports: Highlights from our May meeting were read by Barbara Hamrick. Glenda Shook shared the treasurer's report. Offering was collected. It was noted that the congregational cookout meat, chili and buns totaled \$249.70 and was paid from the Senior Friends treasury. A memorial donation had been given to NJLC in memory of Arlene Machamer. The **freewill devotion** collected for the Congregation Cookout meal totaled **\$575.00**. It was agreed to round it to \$600.00 and it's to go to the NALC Disaster Relief for Western NC.
- Expressed our thanks to today's hostesses: Elaine Garner, Carolyn Elliott, and Paula White. She also thanked Teresa Vanderlinden for taking care of our monthly cards and Linda Lutz & Kathe Canupp for set-up and table decorations.
- Barbara noted that Teresa is needing to retire from her Card Ministry position. Doris Lutz volunteered to send our shut-in cards each month.
- Thanks expressed to all who helped in any way (decorating, cooking or clean up) with the Congregational Cookout on Sunday, May 31. It was attended by at least 87 people and approximately 93 people enjoyed the meal. The leftover meat & buns were taken to Corner Table by Betty Sheaves. Thanks to all who stayed for the Patriotic sing along and to Carolyn Miller for playing and Connie Bumgarner for leading.
- Betty Sheaves reported that the Corner Table had received our gift cards for the Feed the Flock Gala and the entire event raised \$135,000. Betty asked if we would be willing to serve on a Tuesday at the Corner Table as a group. Individually, if anyone is willing to help, please contact Betty.
- On Friday, June 5, 13 of our members enjoyed a large Daniel Boone Inn breakfast, followed by several other stops. Thanked Chip Canupp for being our driver and expressed thanks to he and Kathe for cleaning and detailing the church bus prior to the trip.
- In July we are to elect officers for a 2-year term. Please prayerfully consider those who might be willing to serve or if you are willing. We have Co-presidents; however, Evelyn Ferguson is not able to continue in that position. We will also elect Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Next month (July 15) we will enjoy our Summer Bingo. Please bring several \$5 gifts for prizes. These should be wrapped and labeled male, female or either. We will do our usual covered dish meal.



The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Barbara Hamrick, Co-President

Debbie McGee, Acting Secretary

LOOKING AHEAD: July devotions: Elaine Garner
July Hostesses: Kathy Lail, Betty Ororvitz, Audrey Rozelle
July Program: Summer Bingo & Election of Officers
Next meeting is Wed., July 15th at 11:30



Elementary School

- 1- Backpack
- 2 packs #2 pencils
- 1- Pencil pouch
- 3 marble composition books
(not spiral bound)
- 1 pack Washable markers
- 1 - 24 count box of crayons
- 1 - 12 pack colored pencils

Middle School

- 1- Backpack
- 2 packs #2 pencils
(or lead pencils with lead refills)
- 1- pencil case
- 2 packs wide rule notebook paper
- 2 – 2” binders
- 2 packs divider tabs
- 3 – 3 prong folders with pockets
- 4 – 1 subject notebooks (spiral
bound)
- 1 pack highlighters
- 1 – 12 pack colored pencils

Church Council Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2026

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

The May Church Council meeting was held May 11, 2026. All members attended with the exception of those excused: Donald Barger, Thad Scronce, and BJ Morgan. The meeting was called to order by Council President Ken Temple. Garret Turbyfill led devotions. Due to vacations, the June meeting was canceled. Donald Barger will lead devotions in July. Jack Robinson was council designate in April; everything went well. The minutes for the April 13, 2026 council meeting were approved.

Treasury Reports:

Treasury reports were approved as presented.

Pastor's Report:

Visits—13

Bible Study—4

Meetings: Senior Friends, Witness Committee, Member Review

Confirmation Class—1

Pastors' support and study—4

Sunday School Classes

PCAT Workshop at St. Luke's Monroe

Kairos Weekend

Kairos Reunion

National Day of Prayer Service Bethlehem

Carolinas Mission Region Convocation

Upcoming time away: May 18—May 25 (Monday to Monday) Rev. Henry Pawluk will supply on May 24, Pentecost Day with Communion.

Congregation +/-:

- Choir Members would like yellowed banners dry cleaned. (Delegate to Worship Committee)
- Suggest another lighting shield at choir light to make the stained glass light of Jesus stand out better. (Delegate to Property Committee).

Announcements/Petitions and Communications: None were noted.

Old Business:

- Noisy Offering May/June/July: Pregnancy Care Center, Haiti Meals, School Supply Drive
 - Concerns were raised that giving is declining; additional reminders may be needed.
- CCC/Cemetery plots/offering envelopes reconciliation: Kristy provided listing, Rusty provided cemetery plot list. Pastor Hefner, Robert, Ken, & Jack reviewed April 30 7pm. Notes were made of people to contact. There is more work to do.
- Screens in the Sanctuary. Rusty Lutz will be organizing a visit to Mt. Olive in Viewmont see their system.

- Brian and Allie McClure are no longer in Prague. **Hans Robinson made a motion to stop the funds NJLC was providing to their former ministry.** Alan Bolch seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*
- Council will ask Nate Waters (Navigators) for a newsletter update.
- CRU – Kevin Williams at UNCC was invited to and attended Council on April 13, 6:30p. **Robert Hoyle made a motion to donate \$2475 annually to Kevin’s ministry with CRU.** Cindy Coulter seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.* Periodic updates will be requested.

New Business:

- Donald Barger has more ideas about the Fellowship Hall cleanup. More information to follow.
- Support for HMI Haiti, an NALC partner mission. They are planning 100,000 meals (\$0.60 per meal) in November. NJLC will direct funds from the June noisy offering and match funds from Benevolence Fund up to \$1000 max. for these meals. Information can be found at <https://lifeline.org/meal-pack-landing-page>.

Ministries:

Long Range Planning (Rusty Lutz):

- Quarterly check-in will be 3rd Sunday in June (6/21/2026) at 8:30 AM.

Cemetery Committee (Rusty Lutz): Not met.

Property Committee (Thad Scronce/Donald Barger):

- Small bathroom next to nursery will not flush.
- Sunday School hallway light is out.
- Check toilet in Fellowship Hall Ladies Room (can hear it running).

Fellowship Committee (Hans Robinson):

- Met on May 3, 2026.
- Mother’s Day pins have been acquired.
- Gift Cards to be picked up.
- Providing Confirmation Class meal on May 17.
- Planning Graduation & Confirmation Reception for June 7.
- Planning Graduation gifts.
- Asking for gift suggestions for Father’s Day (June 21).

Finance & Stewardship Committee (Alan Bolch/Garret Turbyfill): Nothing to Report

Learning, Youth, & Family (Callie Southers):

- First Communion Instruction class for children ages 3 and up to be held May 17 during Sunday School hour.
- 13 students are to be confirmed this year. St. Martin’s confirmation will be May 31. New Jerusalem’s confirmation will be June 7.
- VBS at St. Martin’s: June 8 through June 11. Volunteers are needed.
- Mission Trip to Loris, SC: June 22 through June 28. (Graduating 5th grade through HS graduates).
- NALC Continental Youth Gathering: July 7 through July 10 in Roanoke, Va. (An adult coordinator is needed).
- VBS at New Jerusalem: July 14 through July 16. Volunteers are needed.
- Local Mission & Lunch Week: July 27 through July 31. Rising 4th graders through HS graduates. Parent and adult volunteer support is essential. Sign up for 1 day or all 5.

- Sunday School for Summer: Due to lack of volunteers Sunday School will drop to twice a month. Volunteers are needed!
- Church Wide Serve Day at St. Martin's: We are looking at organizing a church wide service day in October for families and congregation members. The goal is to have 4 or 5 designated non-profit groups to go and serve; then come back and have a meal together.
- Other Upcoming Events:
 - Back to School Bash: September 13 at NJLC (Community and District Wide)
 - Fall Festival: November 3.
 - Christ the King Bonfire: November 21.

Service Committee (BJ Morgan): No Report

Witness Committee (Robert Hoyle/Ken Temple):

- Met April 21.
- Shared inactive member's list with Life to Life for visitation.
- "The Reason for Our Hope is in You:" 2 3-hour Saturday morning training sessions with Pastor Hefner.

Worship Committee (Cindy Coulter/Jack Robinson):

- Met May 7.
- Reviewed wedding guidelines, made some updates and provided a copy to discuss at Council. Council approved the guidelines with 2 suggested changes:
 - Create separate copies of the guidelines for members and non-members.
 - Add audio/sound operator charge of \$30/hour to the fees list.
- Worship brought a motion to the council: **Ask Property Committee to investigate and purchase 2 additional tables to use during Communion that match the woodwork in the Sanctuary.** Robert Hoyle seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*
- Worship Committee will ask Pastor Cauble to lead homecoming service on September 20.
- Council asks Worship Committee to look into cleaning the dirty banners in the front of the Sanctuary.

Call Committee (Callie Southers):

- Currently, work continues on the Congregational Profile Video.

Next Council Meeting: Monday July 13, 2026 upstairs above the Church offices.

Ken Temple, President

Jack Robinson, Secretary



July 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Paraments 5 – Green 12 – Green 19 – Green 26 – Green			1 10:00 am – Bible Study	2 6:30 pm – Bible Study	3	4
5 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion	6 Women’s Group #3 – Out to Eat	7 10:00 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – Piece Makers 6:00 pm – Bible Study	8 10:00 am – Bible Study	9 6:30 pm – Bible Study	10	11
12 8:30 am – Early Service 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Service of Worship	13 6:30 pm – Church Council Meeting	14 10:00 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – Piece Makers 1:00 pm – Bible Journaling Group (Scout Hut) 5:45 – 8:30 pm – VBS	15 11:30 am – Senior Friends 5:45 – 8:30 pm – VBS	16 5:45 – 8:30 pm – VBS	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	23 9:30 am – Chrismon Ministry 6:30 pm – Bible Study	24	25
26 8:30 am – Early Service 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Service of Worship	27	28 10:00 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – Piece Makers 1:00 pm – Bible Journaling Group (Scout Hut) 6:00 pm – Bible Study	29 10:00 am – Bible Study	30	31	