



News Journal

Monthly Newsletter of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

August 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Ephesians 2:8-9: For by GRACE you have been saved through FAITH.

And this is NOT YOUR OWN DOING,
IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD
NOT a result of WORKS lest anyone should
BOAST.

Grace is God's undeserved love and favor which is received by faith. The first thing faith says is "Thank you." God comes to us first in our baptism, the water and word by which he adopts us as his children. We say, "Thank you for making me a member of your family." He regularly forgives us (another undeserved gift) by his word, through bread and wine, his body and blood. We say, "Thank you for still loving me even when I disobey."

We cannot do enough to make God love us. We cannot do enough to make up for all the sins we commit. We need his gift of love and acceptance. Gifts cost us nothing to receive. They are given by the giver because the giver wants to. We receive by taking the gift and saying, "Thank you."

Another gift is prayer -- the privilege of having a dialogue, a two-way conversation with our Heavenly Father. He loves to listen to our concerns. He cares about everything we care about. And he places us in the family of God so we do not have to carry burdens alone. The Christian life is lived in community, in the church. It is not "Me and Jesus." It is "Us and Jesus." Sinner with sinner. Saint with saint.

We share God's love (evangelism) when we help others through their struggles by telling them how

God can help. Then we go with them on their journey. They are not alone.

We thank God for adopting Fallon Bo Hix into His family when we celebrate his baptism Sunday, August 9.

In His service, I am Pastor Dave

Outdoor Worship in August



Sunday, August 9

8:30 am
Outdoor Chapel

Sunday, August 23

8:30 am
Outdoor Chapel

**If the weather does not permit us to
worship outside, we will worship in the
Adult Assembly Room.**

**Remember to invite others to come and
worship with us.**

Noisy Offering for August



Meals for Haiti

Thank You



Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for all the cards, texts, phone calls, and prayers over the past several weeks after my fall. I am grateful for all of your love and support.

Love,
Linda Lutz

Back-to-School Bash

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!

FUN! FRIENDS! FAITH!

SEPTEMBER 13
2:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
2120 STARTOWN RD.
HICKORY, NC

BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS!
Help us welcome families from our community as we kick off the new school year with an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and sharing Christ's love!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH:

- SET UP
- WELCOME TABLE
- INFLATABLES
- GAMES
- PRAYER TEAM
- WITNESSING & HOSPITALITY
- CLEAN UP

EVENT FEATURES

- FOOD TRUCK
- INFLATABLES
- MUSIC
- PRIZES
- GAMES
- FAMILY FUN

MANY HANDS. ONE PURPOSE.
LET'S MAKE AN IMPACT TOGETHER!

SIGN UP IN THE GATHERING AREA TODAY!

NALC Disaster Response Kits

NALC Disaster Response Kits...



Please note: The Disaster Response Packing Lists found on pages 52–53 of the 2026 NJLC Yearbook and pages 8–9 of the Lutheran Women's Yearbook were revised in March 2026. An updated packing list is posted on the bulletin boards in the Adult Assembly Room and in the Gathering Room. **We are now being asked to include a pocket-sized devotional in each type of kit. If you finish using your devotional or have extra pocket-sized devotionals you'd like to donate for future kits, please see Sandra Bollinger, Lutheran Women's President. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!**

Life to Life Discipleship – Let's Power Up!

Because “of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God’s people,” may you receive “spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God . . . flooded with light” that you may “understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him.”

(adapted from Ephesians 1:15-20)

In October of 2022, Catawba Valley Mission District’s first *Life to Life Discipleship* group began right here at NJLC. Currently thirty individuals from four congregations in our mission district make up this growing number of everyday people who have chosen to respond to Jesus’ amazing gift of love by moving beyond intellectual learning and coursework into making the commitment Jesus requires of His disciples.

Now in September of 2026, you are invited to participate in the adventure of becoming a disciple of Jesus. This invitation is open to everyone. No one is excluded.

The commitment required to adopt a lifestyle of discipleship is demanding and only possible through God’s strength and guidance. Indeed, life as a disciple of Jesus requires that we PWR ↑P . . . looking upward, receiving and relying on God’s power.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Sunday, August 30 Last day to register
- Sunday, August 30 Brief meeting after worship in the front of the sanctuary for all who are registered. Purpose is to choose a day and time for class meetings.
- Week of September 13 – week of October 25 Part 1 (every week)
- Week of November 1 and week of Nov 8 Break
- Week of November 15 – week of January 24 Part 2 (every other week)

For more specifics, check out the *Life to Life Discipleship* TIMELINE POSTER in Gathering Room

THINGS TO LOOK FOR THIS MONTH

- Life to Life Discipleship Registration forms in the pew pockets
- Flyers throughout the building
- Posters (Timeline, History, Testimonies)
- Bulletin announcements and updates
- People wearing “Ask Me” nametags
- “L2L Minute” on 8/16, 8/23, and 8/30

Altar Guild



Do you like to serve God and His people? Then please consider being a part of the Altar Guild Ministry. From the Occasional Services book: “Baptized into the priesthood of Christ, we are called to offer ourselves to the Lord of the Church for what he has done and continues to do for us.” These words point to our motivation for serving in the guild. Members of the Altar Guild are grateful servants: servants of God, servants of God’s people, servants of the liturgy, and servants of the worship space.



The Worship Committee has decided to offer a “refresher course”, led by Pastor Dave and Kathy Hefner, **for those serving in this ministry as well as for any new people that would like to become involved.** We hope to educate you and help you see this as a true ministry for God and His people, not just a chore that needs done.

If you have never served, please pray about offering your service. The more people we have the less often your name will be listed on the schedule ☺. Many of our members are getting older and cannot safely transport many of the items or walk up and down the necessary steps.

Even if you don’t want to commit, come to the training session to see what it is all about. We are praying for a great turnout for this session.

**Training &
Education
to take place on
Saturday, August 22
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

Pentecost Banners

PENTECOST BANNERS



There are two new banners displayed at the front of the sanctuary for the Season after Pentecost. This season is often referred to as Ordinary Time, and its liturgical color is green, symbolizing spiritual growth and new life. Throughout the season, we hear stories of Jesus’ life and ministry. Ordinary Time is the longest season of the Church Year, lasting approximately twenty-seven weeks and runs from late spring until the start of Advent.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the combined efforts of the Chrismon Ministry and the Piece Makers for preparing these banners. We are also grateful to an anonymous donor whose generous gift covered the cost of the materials.

A bit of history: The fish enclosed in the eternal circle was handcrafted in the early 1970s by Dorothy Barger Mauser, the mother of Betty Scipione. The descending dove enclosed in the eternal circle was created by David Hefner during the early years of our current Chrismon Ministry Committee. We are thankful for these meaningful symbols of faith that continue to enrich our worship area.

Senior Friends Highlights

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

NJLC Senior Friends gathered on **July 15th** with **30 people present**. Greetings were extended to all by Barbara Hamrick. **Welcomed our two newest members: Steve and Brenda McConnell**. Had sign-up sheet passed around for our Annual September Cookout. It will be reviewed at our August meeting then posted in the Gathering Room. Recognized our only July birthday, Audrey Rozelle. Our July anniversaries included Barbara & Aaron Hamrick, Ron & Betty Orovitz, Harwood & Barbara

Smith, and Steve and Brenda McConnell. Expressed our thanks to today's hostesses: Kathy Lail, Betty Orovitz, and Audrey Rozelle. She also thanked Teresa Vanderlinden for taking care of our monthly cards over the past few years and Doris Lutz for volunteering to assume the job, beginning in August. Thanked Kathe Canupp & VBS Staff for table set-up and decorations. Kathy Hefner shared a brief, but entertaining, excerpt from the movie *The Sheep Detectives* and their description of God. Elaine Garner shared the devotions. Prayer concerns were shared and included Evelyn & Gerald Ferguson, Randall & Vicki Cauble, Jim & Libby Mauney, Bob Bekemeier, Linda Lutz, Terry & Becky McNeely, Etta Mae Bollinger (now at *The Greens* on Tate Boulevard), Richard (now home from the hospital) and Donna Bunton. Also asked for prayers for friend Lorene Heavner as she celebrates her 90th birthday (Brenda McConnell's mom), and prayers for Gail Carpenter (in the hospital). Pastor Orovitz gave the meal prayer.

Following our meal, a brief business session was held.

- **Reports:** Sandra Bollinger shared highlights of the June meeting and announced Glenda Shook's treasury balance. The offering was collected.
- **Election of Officers:** Our duly elected officers for July 2026-July 2028 include: Co-Presidents Barbara Hamrick and Wayne Cashion, Vice President-Paula White, Secretary-Sandra Bollinger, and Treasurer-Glenda Shook.
- **Executive Meeting:** To be held in August. Date to be determined.
- **August Senior Friends Meeting:** Pastor Dave Hefner has the program and he shared it would be on juggling and learning to do calligraphy.
- **Bingo:** Everyone enjoyed several rounds of Bingo. Kathe Canupp and Debbie McGee coordinated the games. Barbara thanked everyone for the Bingo prizes they provided.



The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Barbara Hamrick, Co-President

Sandra Bollinger, Secretary

LOOKING AHEAD: Aug. devotions: Paul Kurzyna
Aug. Hostesses: Kristy Painter, Teresa Phillips, Carolyn Robinson
Aug. Program: Pastor Dave Hefner
Next meeting is Wed., Aug. 19th at 11:30



Church Council Meeting

July 13, 2026

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

The July Church Council meeting was held July 13, 2026. All members attended with the exception of those excused: BJ Morgan and Callie Southers. The meeting was called to order by Council President Ken Temple. Donald Barger led devotions. BJ Morgan will lead devotions in August. Callie Southers was council designate in June; everything went well. The minutes for the May 11, 2026 council meeting were approved as amended to remove "Shared inactive member's list with Life to Life for visitation."

Treasury Reports:

Expenses more than budget, offering less than budget.

*Youth Fund included in Restricted Funds

Pastor's Report (May 12 – July 13):

Visits: 20

Meetings: 12

Confirmation: 3

Bible Studies: 13

Other Activities:

- We commissioned the Disaster Response team to W. NC on May 17.
- Had my 90-day review on May 29
- Attended the Patriotic Luncheon May 31
- Sr. Friend's trip to Boone
- Kairos Reunion at Foothills CI June 8 and July 13
- Attended VBS at St. Martin's for Andrew Weisners class on early Church Fathers
- Sr. Friend's June 17
- Video interview with Charlie on June 14
- Met with Candice Johnson on July 2 re: L2L recruiting for the fall
- Choir practices

Vacation Time: May 18-25, Monday through Monday

Congregation +/-:

- Fellowship Hall
 - Continued discussion about the cleanliness and organization of the Fellowship Hall.
 - Multiple people organized and cleaned in April. Within a week, there were items on the countertops again.
 - Discussed storage solutions and other ways to keep the kitchen neat and organized (e.g. venting the ice maker would allow us to close the accordion doors).
 - Items such as the punch bowl that have a history with the church need to be kept. Will discuss with Senior Friends and Women's Groups about keeping stored the way it is or displaying it in some way.
 - It was suggested that we start using a checklist of guidelines and a sign-in sheet so that groups are responsible for cleaning the Fellowship Hall properly after each use.
- Banners hanging in the Chancel
 - It possibly has glue on them. They are being taken to Quality Cleaners.

Announcements/Petitions and Communications:

- 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 (Cru Campus Ministry).
- Thank you from Advent Lutheran for donation to their Disaster Response Warehouse.

Old Business:

- Noisy Offering July/August/September: School Supply Drive, Haiti meals, Backpack program at Corner Table
- CCC/Cemetery plots/offering envelopes reconcile:
 - Jack, Robert, Ken, Pastor met April 30. Need to set a follow up discussion (Ken)
 - Made notes and will have one on ones with people.
- TV/Projection Screens in the Sanctuary
 - Rusty has called and left several messages at Mt. Olive in Viewmont. They have not responded.
 - Now contacting Tabernacle AME Zion Church to go see theirs.
- Name new current treasurer for training in 2027, starting in 2028 (up to 7-year term)
 - Wayne is asking a few people.
- Wedding Guidelines final approval.
 - Basic Wedding Guidelines have already been approved. Council just needs to see the separate final drafts for members and non-members. Kristy will email them to council members.

New Business:

- Nomination of 2 lay delegates for the virtual 2026 NALC Mission Convocation Friday August 7, 7-10pm
 - **Robert made a motion to nominate Dennis and Kay Weaver to be the lay delegates for the 2026 NALC Mission Convocation pending their agreement.** Garret seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*
 - Need to put how we select convocation delegates into the bylaws.
- \$208.38 Portals of Prayer increase requested.
 - The women's groups would like to order only the digest size of Portals of Prayer. The large print and small print orders would be canceled and 65 digest size would be ordered. This would result in an increase of \$208.38.
 - Council approved.
- Homecoming will be held September 20 this year.
- Fallon Hix will be baptized August 9.
- Life-to-Life Discipleship
 - Life-to-Life wants to do a recruiting campaign for the fall. They don't have a line item in the budget. Is there a way for them to purchase items for the campaign (e.g. posters)?
 - These items can be put under general supplies or administrative expenditures.
 - If the cost is more than \$500, non-budgeted items must be approved by council.

Ministries:

Long Range Planning (Rusty Lutz):

- Quarterly Check-In Meeting:
 - The quarterly check-in was held July 5th. Attendance was down probably due to the July 4th holiday. The following items were discussed:
 - Everyone thought the temple talks describing each committee were helpful. It was suggested that we hold these again in October and have Time and Talent sheets completed by mid-November.

- Parsonage
 - Dale said parsonage was in great condition after renters left.
 - The Door to bathroom is extremely narrow and not ADA compliant. It needs to be expanded. It was suggested that we go ahead and do it now while it is not occupied.
- Church Bus
 - There are issues with the air conditioning in the church bus.
 - The Church Property Committee will speak with Deron to find out what all the problems are and get a recommendation about what can be fixed.
 - Rusty researched used buses. Everything he could find was 10-12 years old and have the same issues.
 - Wayne checked on new ones. They were \$130-\$150,000.
 - Renting would be difficult because passenger vans are not as good as the bus.
 - Megan mentioned needing younger people who go to the youth beach trips on the list of insured bus drivers.
- Annual planning session lunch on 3rd Sunday of August.

Cemetery Committee (Rusty Lutz): No report

Property Committee (Thad Scronce/Donald Barger):

- Shield choir light for Jesus window
 - A shield was put in front of the light for the congregation. It was suggested to put another one behind the light to shield the choir.
 - Thad will mention to John.
- Air conditioning in the Fellowship Hall is not working. Dale came and fixed it today, but it may need to be replaced.

Fellowship Committee (Hans Robinson):

- Recent Activities
 - June 7 – Reception for Confirmands and graduates.
 - June 21 – Gave out Father's Day bookmarks.
 - July 5 – Hosted the Birthday Celebration
- Upcoming Activities
 - July 26 or August 16 – Cookies and Lemonade on the lawn

Finance & Stewardship Committee (Alan Bolch/Garret Turbyfill): No report

Learning, Youth, & Family (Callie Southers):

- Callie and Megan were not in attendance to submit a report because they were setting up for VBS.
- The youth did go on a mission trip and will have another mission trip soon (for local missions).
- VBS starts tomorrow, July 14.

Service Committee (BJ Morgan):

- We donated 115 pounds of food in June/July to Ashure Ministries.

Witness Committee (Robert Hoyle/Ken Temple):

- Set two 3hr training sessions for two Saturdays with Pastor Hefner. Aiming for August.

Worship Committee (Cindy Coulter/Jack Robinson):

- No meeting. Next meeting Sept. 3rd.

Call Committee (Callie Southers):

- Charlie Hoyle shared the video he created for the Congregational Profile.
- Congregational profile hopefully to be out by the end of July.
- It was suggested to mention the parsonage in the congregational profile.

Next Council Meeting: Monday August 10, 2026 in the Fellowship Hall.

Ken Temple, President

Jack Robinson, Council Secretary

Kristy Painter, Recording Secretary

August Birthdays

1 – Jeffery Cline, Donna Yount, Megan Turbyfill
 2 – Regina Goins
 5 – Dana Hoyle
 6 – Della Lamberth, Dale Weaver, Evelyn Ferguson
 7 – Sandy Bumgarner, Rebekah Riggs, Ron Orovitz
 8 – Perry Kiser, Faith Barba
 12 – Robyn Christie
 14 – Norman Bumgarner
 15 – Robert Spinks
 17 – Cindy Coulter, Harrison Shannon, Charles Causey Canupp
 18 – Ron Sigmon
 20 – Richard Bunton
 21 – Brenda Gregg
 22 – Dale Lutz
 23 – Phyllis Seitz, Sadie Southers
 26 – Susan Huffman
 28 – Jasper Southers
 30 – Jennifer Evans

Thank You for Serving in August

Lutheran Women

Women's Group #1	August 4, 6:30 pm Gathering Room
Women's Group #3	August 3, 2:00 pm Leader – Evelyn Ferguson
Women's Group #4	August 4, 7:15 pm Hostess/Leader – Pat Bolch

Council Designate BJ Morgan

Teller Committee *BJ Morgan
 Danny Black
 Wayne Cashion

Altar Committee Carolyn Robinson, Chm.
 Jennifer Bumgarner

Pastor's Assistant Jenny Morgan

Acolyte Cindy Coulter

Flowers in the Church

August 2	James & Jenny Morgan
August 9	Dennis & Kay Weaver
August 16	Open
August 23	Paula White
August 30	Open

Ushers

Danny Sorrells, Chm.
 Garret Turbyfill
 James Morgan
 Ken Temple

Tape Ministry

August 2	BJ Morgan
August 9	Connie Bumgarner
August 16	Connie Bumgarner
August 23	Robert Hoyle
August 30	Robert Hoyle

Yard Maintenance & Mowing

August 2	Thad Scronce, Rusty Lutz
August 9	Ken Temple, Paul Kurzyna
August 16	Southers Family
August 23	Justin Shannon, John Lutz
August 30	Danny Sorrells, Dale Lutz

Looking Ahead

Back-to-School Bash September 13

Homecoming September 20

From the rising of the sun
to its setting, the name of
the Lord is to be praised!

Psalms 113:3

August 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion Birthday Celebration	3 2:00 pm – Women's Group #3 7:15 pm – Women's Group #4	4 10:00 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – Piece Makers Meet 6:00 pm – Bible Study 6:30 pm – Women's Group #1	5 10:00 am – Bible Study	6 6:30 pm – Bible Study	7	8
9 8:30 am – Early Service 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Service of Worship/Holy Baptism	10 6:30 pm – Church Council Meeting	11 10:00 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – Piece Makers Meet 1:00 pm – Bible Journaling Group (Scout Hut) 6:00 pm – Bible Study	12 10:00 am – Bible Study	13 6:30 pm – Bible Study	14	15
16 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion Cookies & Lemonade on the Lawn	17	18 10:00 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – Piece Makers Meet 6:00 pm – Bible Study	19 11:30 am – Senior Friends 6:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 5:30–8:30 pm – AHG 6:30 pm – Bible Study	21 AHG Lock-in (Fellowship Hall)	22 9:00 am – Altar Guild Training 11:30 am – AHG Lock-in Ends
23 8:30 am – Early Service 9:30 am – Sunday school 10:30 am – Service of Worship	24	25 10:00 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – Piece Makers Meet 1:00 pm – Bible Journaling Group (Scout Hut) 6:00 pm – Bible Study	26 10:00 am – Bible Study 6:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm – Handbell Choir Rehearsal	27 6:30 pm – Bible Study	28	29
30 9:30 am – Sunday school 10:30 am – Service of Worship	31				Paraments 2 – Green 9 – Green 16 – Green 23 – Green 30 – Green	