

# the Messenger



July 2022  
Pentecost



Mask Optional

In accordance with the CDC guidelines, MASKS are now **OPTIONAL**.

To read the Messenger **online**, scan this code with your phone or visit [godslovenewtown.org/connect/newsletters](https://godslovenewtown.org/connect/newsletters). Find all the signups at [godslovenewtown.org/signups](https://godslovenewtown.org/signups).



## Pride Month Follow-up

As Pride Month observances conclude, all are encouraged to read and pray over our SEPA synod's "[Resolution on Welcome and Inclusion](#)" which was adopted at the 2022 synod assembly. This statement reflects our synod's commitment to Reconciling Works and our discipleship in becoming Reconciling in Christ by "providing a welcome rooted in God's welcome to all people and by advocating for the vulnerable."



May God continue to guide our footsteps as we learn to "Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God." Micah 6:8

## Trenton Thunder Outing

**Saturday August 13 • 6:30 start time**

Join us for a night of baseball when the **Trenton Thunder** takes on the **West Virginia Bears**. There will be fireworks after the game. **Tickets are \$8.00 per person** and will be given to you prior to the game so we can meet at the ballpark. To sign up [CLICK HERE](#), visit the **Signup Hub** or call the church office. Place your payment in the offering plate or mail it to the church **by July 31**. Please make your check payable to God's Love and mark it *Trenton Thunder*. Invite your friends and family...all are welcome.



**Questions?** Contact **Sandy Anthony**.

## The July 500 Canned Goods Challenge

**Feeling the pinch with inflation?**

So do people who are in need. The ERA Food Pantry is reporting an increase in the number of people they serve due to increased prices at the grocery store.



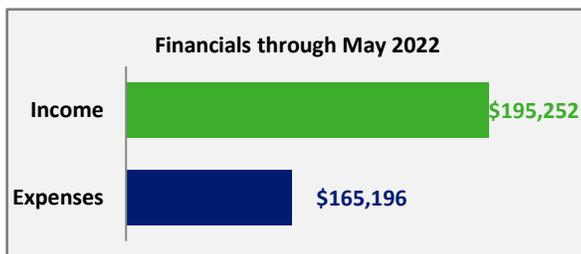
**Food Donations**

God's Love would like to step up our collection of non-perishable food items to help keep the food pantries stocked.

The goal is to **collect 500 items** during the month of July!

Drop off donations in the **Lobby of Love** ♥ anytime—it is open 24/7.

**Questions?** Contact **Janet and Eric Nordberg**.



Pastor Dan has updated the *Ministry Resource Table* for the months of July and August. On loan resources are available centering on the life, thought, and continuing relevance of Martin Luther's Christian witness.



*Ministry Resources*

Don't hesitate to borrow one of these resources as a travel companion to the mountains or the shore!

Scripture Readings  
July 10

Deuteronomy 30:9-14  
*God will delight in your fruitfulness*

Colossians 1:1-14  
*The gospel is growing*

Luke 10:25-37  
*The merciful Samaritan*



### Grapevine-of-Friends Luncheon

This past week 30 members of God’s Love gathered for a meal and to connect with one another in Christian fellowship. Ben’s Deli provided a delicious “picnic” meal of BBQ chicken and brisket with all the fixings. After the meal, plans were discussed for additional opportunities to connect this summer including possible visits to the Churchville Nature Center, Bristol Riverside Theatre and Carlucci’s Italian restaurant.

These outings and future Grapevine-of-Friends meals are open to anyone seeking connection within our faith community.

For more information or to join these discussions and participate, contact **Amy Carr**.



### God’s Caring Stitchers

**Fridays, July 15 and August 19**

**1:00pm – 3:00pm • Room A1**

In the summer, our group meets once a month. All are welcome to join us. We continue to create afghans, lap robes, baby blankets, prayer shawls, and more to give to our neighbors in need. We are working towards a blanket blessing in time for the holidays.



**Questions?** Contact **Cindy Sundstrom**.

### Red Cross Blood Drive

**Thursday, July 21 • 2pm – 7pm in the Mods**

The American Red Cross has declared a Blood Crisis in the United States as blood supplies are critically low. Please consider donating, and if you cannot make the blood drive at God’s Love, please sign up for another one in the area.



Schedule your appointment at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) or visit the **Signup Hub** in the Commons. Thank you for your life-giving donation!

### Get **IN**volved

All the signups in this edition of the Messenger are in one convenient place on the church website. Visit [GodsLoveNewtown.org/signups](https://www.GodsLoveNewtown.org/signups) to sign up for any (or all) of the

following, or sign up online right after church at the **Signup Hub** in the Commons.

- CAN2 Work Crews
- Altar Flower Dedications
- Worship Volunteers
- Blood Drive
- Meal Donations
- Good Neighbor Garden
- David Road Trip
- Trenton Thunder Outing

New signups are added as they arise, so check back frequently!

- **On June 20 we received a thank you letter from Bear Creek Camp.** “We deeply appreciate your generosity and partnership.” [On May 19, Church Council approved a donation of \$1,000 specifically to pay for meals of summer staff staying at the camp on weekends.]



- **The ELCA wrote:** “Thank you for your gift of \$7,544 to Lutheran Disaster Response.” This gift is designated for Eastern Europe Crisis Response (the war in Ukraine). [The congregation collected this money during Lent and Easter in 2022].

### HOPE • August

The number of people God’s Love feeds nightly under the bridge in Bristol is increasing each week. Normally we serve between 8 – 15 people nightly. That number has increased to 20 – 30 people nightly. We have not seen these numbers since the height of the pandemic.



Your help is needed now more than ever. Please use [THIS LINK](#), visit the **Signup Hub** in the Commons or visit [GodsLoveNewtown.org/signups](https://www.GodsLoveNewtown.org/signups) to help.

Place donations in the **Lobby of Love** ♥.

### HOPE Laundry Ministry

The launch of the *new* “HOPE Laundry Ministry” begins July 5.

The HOPE Laundry ministry is an exciting expansion to our efforts to provide clothing to those that are homeless. We have arrangements to meet those in need of laundry services at *Express Laundromat* in Bristol once each week. God’s Love will provide laundry detergent, dryer sheets and prepaid cards to run the machines. We will continue to provide used clothing in a more limited capacity since folks will now have a way of maintaining the clothes they have. We have partnered with *Good Stuff Thrift Store* in Fairless Hills to help distribute the used clothing. Donations will still be accepted in the **Lobby of Love** ♥ and *Good Stuff* will help manage the large quantities of clothing we bring in.



We are grateful for these community partnerships as well as the members of our congregation that have stepped up to volunteer as this ministry is launched: **Ammanuel Mehreteab, Eileen Bishop, Terri Smith, Allison Dunkerley, Gayle Gunnerson, Lary Whelan, Barbara Bischoff, Gegi English, Nancy Sueffert, Amy Carr, and Bob Smoose**. Watch for your opportunity to volunteer within the next few weeks. **Questions?** Contact **Sandy Anthony**.

## Good Neighbor Garden

This week's Garden Angel is **Sofia Kim**, a Council Rock student earning her "LINC's" community service hours by weeding the garden. Would you like to be a garden angel? There is work to do in the garden every week.

Visit the **SignUp Hub** in the commons or use [THIS LINK](#) to sign-up for a week that's convenient for you. Instructions will be provided.

On Sunday, June 26 we harvested **25 pounds of radishes** and donated them to the food pantries at ERA and Caring for Friends! The garden bed was then replanted with new radish seeds for a second harvest later this summer.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to our harvesting team: **Jayne Ortendahl, Ken Weisensale and Sandy Anthony.**

For questions or to get on the garden email list, contact **Sandy Anthony.** See you in the garden!



## CAN2 Update

Mural painting has just begun. The container will be decorated with a calla lily mural in a nod to Mexican flora and art. This beautiful flower has long been grown in the mountains above Mexico City, where the container will be installed, and the flower has been a favorite subject of noted Mexican artists such as Diego Rivera.

The first step in painting the mural was a black frame around the edges. Watch as the full design emerges in the weeks to come!

For more information on the inspiration behind the mural design, contact **Jill Halling.** To sign up for a volunteer work crew, visit the **SignUp Hub** in the commons or use [THIS LINK](#).

**Together we CAN2 make a difference!**



## JULY's Highlighted Collection: Christmas in July

This year we are celebrating Christmas in July by supporting several ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). These ministries include:

- World Hunger
- HIV & AIDS Ministry
- Lutheran Disaster Response
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
- ELCA Fund for Leaders
- Eastern Europe Crisis Response
- Global Mission
- International Women Leaders
- COVID-19 Response Fund
- AMMPARO (Support for migrant children)

You will find descriptions for each of these ministries on the kiosk in the lobby.



To participate in this collection, look for the Christmas tree in the **Lobby of Love** and choose a heart ornament corresponding to the ministry you would like to support. Make a donation by check [payable to God's Love] and place it in the offering plate or mail/deliver to the church office. *Please return the heart with your donation or write which ministry you are supporting in the memo portion of your check.* Any unmarked donations will be given to the ELCA for them to decide where they can be used best.

**Donations are due by July 31.**

If you prefer to donate online, go to [community.elca.org/givenow](http://community.elca.org/givenow) and click on the **red** plus sign that says "I would like to choose an area for this gift to support" (it's just below the monthly \$ amounts). There you will find the above list plus additional opportunities for giving directly to the ELCA.

**Questions?** Contact **Sandy Anthony.**



## AHTN's Next Shared Meal • July 30

We continue to provide "to-go" meals for AHTN (Advocates for the Homeless & Those in Need) on any month that has a 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday. That means July 30 is our next opportunity.

**WANT TO HELP?** [Sign up HERE](#) to bring beans, corn, dessert, water, or to make the taco casserole (recipe and directions are in the sign-up). **Questions?** Contact **Sandy Anthony.**



## Christian Symbol: FISH

The first letters in the Greek phrase "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior" spell ICHTHUS, or fish. Early Christians used the sign to convey their faith and avoid persecution. In the gospels, fish are part of several miracles. They also represent people who need to be "caught" for Christ. Today, a fish bumper sticker is a popular indicator of Christian faith.



## Summer Music Suggestion

The worship team is taking requests for hymns and praise songs you'd like to hear this summer. Fill out a suggestion card in the Commons and return it in the offering plate.



Summer Fun Camp 2022 was a big success with 20 children and 9 teachers participating over the course of two weeks. Each day was centered on a different theme with crafts, sensory activities, gross motor activities, and a special snack. Parents were invited to an Art Gallery Tour at the end to enjoy all the amazing projects.

There are still a few openings for the 2022 – 2023 school year. If you know of anyone who might be interested in the 2-by-2s, 3s T/Th or 4s classes, please tell them about us. **Have a wonderful summer!**



### Freedom

Each one of us is born most free  
And we alone can choose  
To do what God would have us do,  
To use what God would use.

Or we are also free to seek  
The proud and selfish way —  
A life where other gods come first  
To reign and hold full sway.

But when we follow where Christ leads,  
We find that freedom's place  
Is really in God's will for us,  
And we have chosen GRACE!

—Peggy Ferrell,  
*Prayers and Poems*

## JULY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Worship 9:30am	4  <b>Independence Day</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	5 Counters 9:30am	6	7	8	9 CAN2 workday 9am
10 Worship 9:30am	11 Counters 9:30am	12	13	14 COVID Team 7pm	15 Knit & Crochet 1pm	16 CAN2 workday 9am
17 Worship 9:30am	18 Counters 9:30am	19 Investment Comm 9:30	20	21 Blood Drive 2pm – 7pm Church Council 7pm	22	23 CAN2 workday 9am
24 Worship 9:30am	25 Counters 9:30am TLC Meeting 11am	26	27	28 Book Club 7pm	29	30 CAN2 workday 9am Shared Meal 3pm
31 Worship 9:30am	<p><b>“What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity.”</b> —Joseph Addison</p>					



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