

the Messenger



September 2022
Pentecost



Optional
Indoors

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. Find all the signups at godslovenewtown.org/signups.



Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the most sacred things we do as Christians is to contemplate and then decide how to use our time, talent, and energies to glorify God. There is no way we as human beings can calculate the individual and cumulative spiritual gifts entrusted with God's people. St. Paul is especially adept at promoting the deployment of spiritual gifts for the advancement of God's kingdom and for the building up of the body of Christ.

During the past few years, I have been blessed to have engaged in deep and meaningful conversations with scores of our parishioners regarding how COVID-19 and its effects have precipitated soul-searching in this matter of how we use our spiritual gifts. It often saddens me to see persons pigeon-holed in certain roles or tasks in the congregation's ministries. It gladdens me when we recognize that change is necessary and certain spiritual gifts formerly swept under the rug can be used once again with vigorous creativity.



So, I'm going to attempt to walk my talk!

Beginning sometime in September, I plan to join the adult choir on a regular basis. It has been too long since I have sung in a disciplined way with a choral ensemble. My lungs and diaphragm will need serious gymnastics! I will be joining as a baptized child of God who wishes to make a joyful noise. I will not be there to be a critic. I will participate in order to praise God's holy name and support this particular dimension of our music ministries.

I encourage you to pray about how you plan to use your unique spiritual gifts for the praise of God and the betterment of your neighbor. Then, pick a new ministry and delve into it with your whole being!

Yours in God's Spirit, *Pastor Dan Whitener*



- **August 28 & September 4:** One Service at 9:30am
- **September 11:** Regular Worship resumes (8:45am & 11:00am)

Sunday School Starts
September 18 • 10:00am

Register your child for Sunday School **HERE** or visit the **Signup Hub**.

Copies of the registration forms are available on the table by the office.



Grapevine of Friends
(open to all looking for connection and fellowship)

Tuesday, October 18 • 11:30am
Luncheon in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 13 • 2:00pm
Cookies and Coffee

RSVP: Amy Carr or church office.

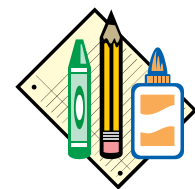
Financials through July 2022



August Back-to-School Supplies Drive **LAST CALL**

The school supply collection wraps up this week and deliveries are being prepared for local school programs. Please place any remaining donations in the basket in the **Lobby of Love** by **August 31**.

Questions? Contact the **Webber family** or the church office.



Sight and Sound Theater "David" • Saturday, October 8 • 11:00am

LAST CALL for tickets and payment: September 4, 2022

\$84.55 adult, \$39 children 3 – 12. [CLICK HERE](#) or visit the **SignUp Hub**. **Questions?** Sandy Anthony.

Scripture Readings
September 4

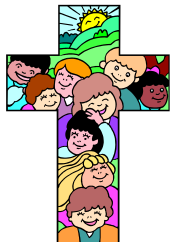
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Hold fast to God

Philemon 1-21
Receive a coworker

Luke 14:25-33
Give up your possessions

Answering God's Call—the Sunday School Team

God is at work in and through the lives of our entire Sunday school team. We are happy to announce that **Rebecca Wotherspoon** has responded to God's call to serve as our new **Sunday School Superintendent**. Rebecca began worshipping at God's Love during COVID. She discovered our congregation through our Lobby of Love and sensed the Holy Spirit's encouragement to participate in our congregational life. Last fall, Rebecca served on our Fall Festival committee and when asked to serve as Sunday school superintendent this year said, "It would be an honor and a privilege." She has been busy this summer coordinating curriculum materials, ordering new Bibles and preparing registration packets. Thank you, Rebecca!



Additionally, **Sandy Anthony** has agreed to serve as coordinator of our intergenerational events, including Hanging of the Greens, the MLK Service Project, and others. These events will be included in the 2022 – 2023 Sunday school calendar. Thank you, Sandy!

This year we warmly welcome two new teachers. **John Connors** and **Rebecca Blank** responded to God's call to teach our 4th–6th grade and PreK – K classes respectively. They join our returning teachers: **Sandy Anthony** and **Allison Dunkerley** (PreK – K); **Ingrid Johnson**, **Nancy Smoose**, and **Rebecca Wotherspoon** (1st – 3rd); **Nancy Maguire** and **Glen McDonnell** (4th – 6th); and our substitute teachers: **Samantha Orr**, **Chris Tidd**, and **Nate Webber**. Thank you, everyone!

How are you spiritually fulfilled by your involvement at God's Love?

From Nancy Maguire:

"Teaching Sunday School fills my soul because I love to touch the hearts and minds of children. It is the subject matter—God's Love is unfailing and all-encompassing, and He gave us His son, Jesus, to show us the way to eternal life and forgiveness. That makes it fulfilling.



Watching the children learn about Jesus and God and their roles in our lives and in Biblical times is a joy that is impossible to explain. It has been loads of fun following children from 1st to 6th grade—seeing their faith grow and develop. **But ultimately, it has been and remains about the Lord's way** of teaching the children, through all of us teachers.

I adore being *His* link."

Vicar Brandi's Ordination and Installation • Saturday, September 17 • 10:00am

Brunch Reception with Potluck Dessert Buffet will follow in Fellowship Hall

The entire congregation is invited to attend this joyous occasion in our church life. **Vicar Brandi** will be ordained and installed as our Associate Pastor. **Bishop Patricia Davenport** will preside, and numerous visiting clergy and congregation members will participate at various points in the celebratory service. The color of the day will be **RED**.



The congregation is also invited to contribute to the dessert buffet in classic Lutheran potluck tradition! Vicar Brandi requests that you please bring a *favorite family dessert* or a *dessert that represents your cultural heritage*.

September Collection: Christmas-at-Sea

Our highlighted collection for September will benefit [Seafarers International House](#) in support of their Christmas-at-Sea project. Many Seafarers spend long months at sea, often away from home and loved ones. This project provides satchels of gifts delivered to ships by port chaplains. All seafarers on the ship receive the same gift regardless of faith or nationality.



To participate, pick up a satchel in the **Lobby of Love** (beginning September 4). Fill your satchel with **each** of the following items:

- Three Pairs of Socks—thermal or athletic
 - One T-Shirt (size M-L-XL)*
 - One Sweatshirt—hooded or unhooded (size M-L-XL)*
 - One can of nuts, large bar of chocolate, or health snack bar
 - A Holiday or Christmas card from YOU! (blank cards available in the **Lobby of Love**)
 - One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
- *Please be sure the size of the t-shirt and the sweatshirt are the same.

Place your filled satchel in the **Lobby of Love** by the end of **September**. **Questions?** Contact **Sandy Anthony**.

God's Caring Stitchers • Fridays, September 9 and 23

1:00pm – 3:00pm • Room A1

Starting in September, the group will meet twice a month to continue creating afghans, lap robes, baby blankets, prayer shawls, and more for those in need. This is a wonderfully busy time for the group, working towards a holiday blanket blessing. All are welcome. Instruction, supplies and warm fellowship are always available. **Questions?** Contact **Cindy Sundstrom**.



The resource table in the Commons is back. On loan resources for September pertain to the topic of *faith and mental health*. Some of the resources contain personal narratives of persons suffering from various mental illnesses. Other resources promote care and promotion of mental health from the perspective of faith. **Welcome!**



HOPE Laundry Ministry

Each Tuesday evening our volunteers go to *Express Laundry Center* in Bristol to meet those in need of laundry services.

There are volunteer opportunities open in August and September. Use [THIS LINK](#) or visit the [Signup Hub](#) to serve.

Questions? Contact **Sandy Anthony**.



HOPE • September and October

"If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday" Isaiah 58:10

HOPE provides 25 bagged meals each Wednesday and a hot supper each Sunday for people experiencing homelessness.

To help in **September** [CLICK HERE](#); in **October** [CLICK HERE](#), or visit the [Signup Hub](#). Place donations in the **Lobby of Love** ♥.

Questions? Contact **Sandy Anthony**.



Teen Thrive: Youth Spirituality Sundays, September 11 – November 13 5:00pm to 6:30pm in the Commons

This 10-week interactive program focused on youth spirituality offers a positive framework for young people to develop healthy strategies to manage stress and anxiety.

Sessions will be led by **Cheri Tigh** with support from **Vicar Brandi** and a *caring team of professionals*. Free and open to all, regardless of faith tradition. Info and register [HERE](#).

WANTED: Garden Angels

Thank you to last week's Garden Angels: **Robin and Jim Pecuch** and **Carrie Cummons**, who picked a nice harvest for Caring for Friends.

Would you like to be a garden angel? [CLICK HERE](#) or visit the [SignUp Hub](#) to select a week that best fits your schedule.



All-Hands-Harvest Sunday, September 11

September 11 is the ELCA's designated day of service entitled "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday. In honor of this, we will host a garden harvest event **after both worship services**. All root vegetables will be harvested, weighed, boxed and delivered to local food pantries. **All ages are welcome.**



Monthly Collection Results

- **May:** Diapers and feminine hygiene products—852 diapers, 387 sanitary pads and 86 tampons were delivered to Philadelphia Diaper Bank
- **June:** Laundry supplies—19 containers of detergent pods and 8 boxes of dryer sheets were donated to the HOPE Laundry ministry
- **July:** Christmas in July—a total of \$1,245 was donated to the outreach ministries of the ELCA including Lutheran Disaster Response, World Hunger, Eastern Europe/Ukraine Crisis Response, International Women Leaders, and AMMPARO
- **July 500 Challenge:** We made 99+% of our goal to collect 500 items of non-perishable food in one month. We delivered 497 items to the local pantries during July! Thank you for your generosity.



Do you know of an organization that would benefit from one of the God's Love monthly collections? Do you feel called to organize such a collection?

The Service Ministry Team is welcoming NEW MEMBERS. The team will meet in October to plan the 2023 collections.

For more information or to join the team, contact **Sandy Anthony** or the church office.



All of us at the preschool have enjoyed the summer and are eagerly gearing up for the new school year. The beginning of the school year is an exciting time to welcome old friends and make new. In just a couple of weeks we will open our doors for our **24th year!** There are 39

children enrolled so far this year.

In addition to our regular classroom experience, we offer Lunch Bunch four days a week, and Enrichment classes (Science and Traveling Around the World) on Tuesday afternoons.

There are still a few openings for fall registration. If you or someone you know might be interested in enrolling, please contact the Preschool at glcps@verizon.net or 215-497-0506.

We welcome two new staff members, **Marylynn Eschliman** and **Holly Kostrzewski**, both of whom are parents of former preschool students.

The Preschool Staff:

- **Director:** Nikki Hendricks
- **2-By-2s teacher:** Beth Garrison
- **Young 3s:** Nicky Hinderberger and Marylynn Eschliman
- **3-Day 3s:** Caryn Gargalovic and Beth Garrison
- **AM 4s:** Alison Holder and Deena Weitzel
- **PM 4s:** Lauren Alexander and Nicky Hinderberger
- **Office staff:** Holly Kostrzewski and Marylynn Eschliman

- **ELCA World Hunger:** *“Thank you for your gift of \$595. Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the US. It provides access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, peace and justice.”*



—Rev. Daniel Rift, Director of Mission Funding

- **[Executive Committee approved scholarship money for one of our members to attend a week at Bear Creek Camp in the Poconos.]** *“Thank you for helping me go to Bear Creek. I was able to meet new people and create lots of memories. I learned that “God is always with me”. I’m looking forward to returning to camp next year.”*

CAN2 Update

Interior walls are being built, drywall spackling has begun, and mural painting continues. Crews will not meet on Labor Day weekend, but workdays are planned now through the end of October.

[SIGN UP HERE](#) for a volunteer work crew or visit the **Signup Hub** in the Commons. Friends and family are welcome!

Follow our progress at GodsLoveNewtown.org/CAN2.

Thank you for your continued support of this project.

Together we CAN2 make a difference!



Congregation members and friends can dedicate **Altar Flowers** in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person or occasion on any Sunday of the church year. Visit godslovenewtown.org/signups or [CLICK HERE](#) to select your desired Sunday and indicate your dedication text.

Please send a **donation of \$40 for each week** you select. Place a check, payable to God’s Love with “Altar Flowers” in the memo line, in the offering plate, mail or drop off at the church office. You can also pay online at godslovenewtown.org by clicking on the “Donate” button.



September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Worship 9:30a	5 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	6 Counters 9:30a	7 Sunday School Team Meeting 6:30p	8 Preschool Starts Property Team 11a Exec Committee 7p	9 Knit & Crochet 1p	10 CAN Work 9a-Noon Property Cleanup 9a-Noon Quilters 10a-3p
11 Patriot DAY Worship 8:45a & 11a Confirmation 10a Teen Thrive 5p	12 Counters 9:30a Men’s Bible Study 7p	13 Rejoice! 7:30p	14 Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	15 Church Council 7p	16	17 Vicar Brandi’s Ordination & Installation 10a CAN Work 1p-4p
18 RALLY DAY! Worship 8:45a & 11a Sunday School 10a Confirmation 10a Teen Thrive 5p	19 Counters 9:30a	20 Rejoice! 7:30p	21 Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	22 Fall Begins 	23 Knit & Crochet 1p	24 CAN Work 9am-Noon
25 Worship 8:45a & 11a Adult Ed 10a Sunday School 10a Confirmation 10a Teen Thrive 5p	26 Counters 9:30a Care Team TLC 11a Bible Book of Month On ZOOM Only 7p	27 Mutual Min 7:30p Rejoice! 7:30p	28 Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	29 Gals’ Book Club 7p	30	



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