

the Messenger



October 2022
Pentecost



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.



To the Blessed Community: **Thank you!**

I am writing to express my sincerest gratitude to the congregation of God's Love for all the time, talent and resources that went into my ordination and installation service on September 17. I am truly humbled by the abundant blessings of this congregation and the kindness and generosity that was expressed that day. Thank you for your warm hospitality towards my family and out-of-town guests. They felt genuinely welcomed by God's Love. In fact, all the clergy that participated including my ecumenical and interfaith partners in ministry commented how welcomed and included they felt in this special celebration. "Joyful," "Beautiful," "Collaborative" and "Blessed" were some of the adjectives they used to describe their experience to me. Words fail to express the extent of my gratitude. I would like to offer a special thank you to Cheri Tigh and Bill Lafty for their collaboration and musical gifts they brought to the service and thank the choir and the Rejoice band for contributing their beautiful voices. I would be remiss not to thank Karen Hoch, Donna Picciano and Patti Levenberg for preparing the sanctuary with the beautiful new paraments and coordinating the communion and other worship details. A sincere thank you to Lary Whelan for serving as photographer and the lovely pictures that captured the spirit of the service and those who attended.



I am sincerely indebted to Amy Carr for her leadership in coordinating the catering and more in the fellowship hall for the reception including her entire team: Drew Covington, Carrie Cummons, Jim and Gayle Gunnerson, Karen Hoch, Jane Landgraf, Karen Orr, Ammanuel and Tsega Mehreteab; Jay and Barb Roth, John & Kay Rozolis, Bob and Nancy Smoose, Sharon Sottung, and Ken Weisensale. Thank you!

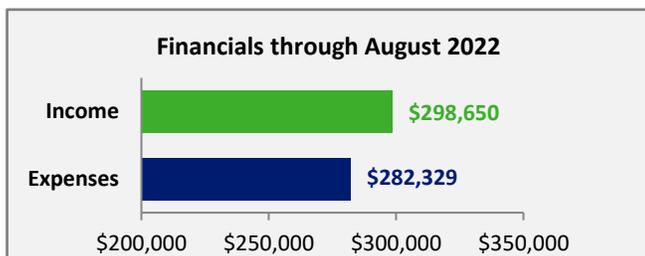
I am truly beholden to the office staff, Kay Rozolis for coordinating an infinite number of details for the day and Susan McDonnell for her hard work and dedication creating the worship bulletin, coordinating table centerpieces and hanging the artwork for the reception.

Last, but not least, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Pastor Dan Whitener for his guidance and mentoring throughout my internship at God's Love leading through the latter part of the ordination process. I have been truly blessed by Pastor Dan's leadership and spiritual counsel.

To the entire congregation: Thank you! I am truly grateful for the beautiful red stole, the gifts, cards and words of encouragement as we begin this new journey together.

When I began my pastoral internship in August of 2020, I could not yet envision where God might call me to serve. As a congregation, we have navigated two years of ministry together through an unprecedented pandemic and all the challenges therein. I am very humbled and simply privileged to serve you as your Associate Pastor moving forward. I look forward to continuing growing together in Word and ministry as God's blessed community.

In Christ, *Pastor Brandi*



Adult Faith and Life Class "Texts of Terror" Sundays, October 2 - 23 • 10:00am Fellowship Hall

There are some scary passages in the Bible that pose distinct challenges for our interpretation of scripture. We'll explore a different passage each week; exploring its biblical context as well as its use and misuse as a lens into modern-day issues. Pastor Dan will lead the discussions.



Scripture Readings
October 9

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15
Naaman is cleansed

2 Timothy 2:8-15
Die with Christ, live with Christ

Luke 17:11-19
Lepers give thanks to God

Meet the Confirmation Class of 2022

Confirmation Service: October 30 at 9:30am



I first met these students in January 2021. Confirmation studies had been delayed by more than six months because of the Covid-19 pandemic. During that uncertain winter of 2021, before vaccines were available, this class met diligently every Sunday evening on Zoom. Together we explored the Old Testament texts and were reminded of God's call to us, "Do not be afraid." In May of that year as we concluded for summer break, the students joyfully unmuted themselves to tell me that they had received the vaccine and were excited to return to in-person confirmation in the fall.

In the Fall of 2021, we met outdoors and indoors with masks to explore our New Testament texts. We were again reminded that God incarnate Jesus Christ encourages us to not be afraid and sends us forth into the world to share the Good News because we are a resurrection people secured by the grace of a loving, merciful God. Throughout the remainder of their studies, this class remained steadfast, regularly attending in-person, indoor classes, and growing in confidence of their biblical knowledge and Lutheran catechism.

I could not be prouder of this Confirmation Class. These young people navigated the challenges of the pandemic with flexibility, humor, and grace. They never wavered in their commitment to complete their confirmation studies.

They have genuine compassion for one another, me, our confirmation lay leaders and this congregational community.

I am confident that these young people are prepared to make confirmation of their faith and will rise to meet life's challenges trusting that Christ walks with them every step of the way. I have truly been blessed to be their pastor and look forward to watching them continue to grow in faith formation as confirmed members of our congregation. I encourage you to welcome them into the ministries of this church and honor them for their dedication to their studies. ~ In Christ, Pastor Brandi



Amber Cummons is a freshman at Bucks County Technical High School. She is aspiring to study in the school's dentistry program. Amber has been an avid dancer since taking her first ballet class at age three. Amber was a Girl Scout for five years and earned a Bronze Award as a Cadet. In her free time, Amber enjoys spending time with friends and has a knack for interior home decor.



Addison Deppi is a kind, caring and beautiful soul. She loves to hang out with friends and play lacrosse and field hockey. She wants to attend college and start a career as a pediatrician.



I am **Jake Young**, and I am 14 years old. I am a freshman at Council Rock High School North. Some after school activities I participate in are football and wrestling, and a community service club called SHARE. One of my hobbies is collecting baseball cards. My interests are sports and history.



We're Hiring! God's Love is seeking an Audio-Visual Technician 5 hours per week to support Sunday worship and Christian education activities. Tasks will include set up of sound and video equipment, production of weekly online worship videos, operation of the Rejoice! soundboard and projection screen, maintenance of AV equipment, and other related tasks. A full job description can be found [HERE](#). Interested persons may contact Pastor Dan at the church office.



Grapevine of Friends
Tuesday, October 18 • 11:30am
Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
RSVP to Amy Carr or office



Thank you, **Pastor Dan** and **Pastor Brandi**, for helping our faith grow.



Youth Spirituality Program
Sundays through Nov 13 at 5:00pm
[Register HERE](#)

Service Ministry Meeting
Monday, October 24 • 7:00pm

The Service Ministry Team will meet to plan the 2023 collections. **NEW MEMBERS** welcome!

Questions? **Contact Sandy Anthony**



Ministry Resource Table

October's selection of on-loan resources goes hand in hand with the Adult Faith and Life series titled "Texts of Terror." All selections on the table are helps in faithful interpretation of difficult and scary texts in Holy Scripture. **Welcome!**



October Highlighted Collection: "SOCK-tober"

This month we are collecting new socks for both men and women. This benefits HOPE, serving our homeless friends in Bristol.



Socks are something most of us take for granted, but a necessity for the homeless. Requested are warm black and/or white over-the-calf socks. No dress socks please. Place your donation in the **Lobby of Love** by **October 31**. Let's help keep some feet warm this winter!

Questions? Contact **Sandy Anthony**.

AHTN's Next Shared Meal • October 29

Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need (AHTN) provides hot meals every day to those in need. Our very own HOPE program arose from our partnership with this organization. We continue to work with them to provide a "Shared Meal" every month with a 5th Saturday.



WANT TO HELP? [Sign up here](#) to prepare a casserole and/or donate a menu item (details are in the sign up form).

Questions? Contact **Sandy Anthony**.

God's Caring Stitchers • *Fridays, October 7 and 21*

1:00pm – 3:00pm • Room A1

Our knit and crochet group made 22 hats, 5 scarves, and 3 hat/scarf sets for the September collection benefiting the Seafarers International Christmas-at-Sea program.



We are very busy finishing up items for our November presentation. Deliveries to our community will take place just in time for Christmas. All are welcome. Can't knit? We'll teach you!

Questions? Contact **Cindy Sundstrom**.

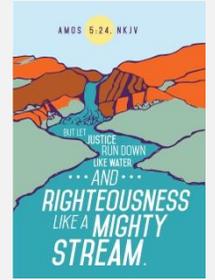
Bible Book of the Month

The Book of Amos

Monday, October 24 • 7:00pm

Read through at your own pace, and then join the **ZOOM** discussion led by Pastor Dan.

The Reader's Guide will be available soon and the ZOOM link will be emailed the day before.



September flew by quickly! The 2s are so proud to come to school with their adult helpers. The 3s are becoming pros at the class routine, and have been having lots of fun learning about, painting, and tasting apples. The 4s have begun their alphabet adventures. Lunch Bunch, Science Enrichment, Christian Lessons, and Chapel Time have begun.

Music and Gym classes will begin this month. The 3s and 4s classes will take a trip to Styer Orchard where they learn about apples and pumpkins and get to pick their own. A highlight of October is Pumpkin Night, when the children come to school with their dads (or another family member), to decorate the pumpkins they picked at Styer Orchard. We also look forward to a visit from the Newtown Fire Department when the children learn about fire safety and see a fire truck. At the end of the month, the classes have Halloween parties and parades. What could be sweeter!

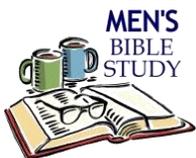


CAN2 Open House and Picnic Lunch • Sunday, October 23 • 9:30am – 1:00pm



The major work is complete, and the finishing work has begun—cabinets, vanities, windows, doors, etc. Plan to stop by the open house to see the amazing transformation from old, rusty container to new, beautiful medical clinic. The open house will include a picnic lunch and the opportunity to add your handprint to the mural.

We are in preliminary conversations with a new organization in Central America that will be receiving this container. Watch for more information and your opportunity to contribute to the effort to ship the container this fall. **A huge thank you to First National Bank of Newtown** for kicking off this fundraising effort with a donation of \$1,000! Work crews continue to meet each Saturday. [SIGNUP HERE](#) or visit the **Signup Hub**. View our progress at GodsLoveNewtown.org/CAN2. **Together we CAN2 make a difference!**



Monday, October 10
7:00pm

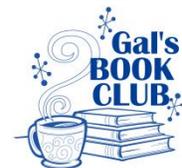
Study of the book
of **Revelation**

Walk the Interfaith Talk
Saturday, October 15 • 2:00pm
Mercer County Park, West Windsor, NJ
sponsored by



the Coalition for Peace Action's "TOGETHER" project encouraging interfaith dialogue and community.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information or see the flier on the kiosk in the **Lobby of Love**.



Thursday, October 27
7:00pm

"The Girls Who Went Away"
by Ann Fessler

HOPE Laundry Ministry

The pilot program of the laundry ministry has been *extended through December!* We head to the Express Laundry Center in Bristol every Tuesday evening and provide detergent, dryer sheets, money for the machines and caring conversation for those in need. We are always looking for helpers.

Use [THIS LINK](#) to volunteer or visit the **Signup Hub**. Feel free to share this signup with others in the community.

Questions? Contact **Sandy Anthony**.



HOPE • November

As the weather cools down, the need for food heats up. Please consider contributing to the meals that the HOPE program provides to those that are homeless. To help, [CLICK HERE](#) or visit the **Signup Hub** in the commons.



Questions? Contact **Sandy Anthony**.

- **ELCA in Chicago:** Thank you for a gift of \$1,000 to Lutheran Disaster Response (flooding in the USA); a gift of \$750 to Welcome Church in Philadelphia; a gift of \$1,000 to World Hunger and a gift of \$1,225 to Lutheran Disaster Response (Ukraine Crisis Response). With your gifts, you are putting God's love into action.
- **Caring for Friends in Northeast Philadelphia:** Thank you for your support of \$1,000. With your help we can serve over 1.5 million meals and many hours of friendship throughout our 5-county area.
- **Bucks County Housing Group:** Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,100. Your donation plays a pivotal role in ensuring that our housing and food services are accessible in Bucks County.



- **Lutheran World Relief:** Thank you for your congregation's recent gift of \$1,000. Your generous gift helps families who are hungry today.
- **Redeemer Lutheran Church in Pennel:** Thank you once again for your donation of \$250 for our food pantry. We will use it to purchase meat and eggs to feed our neighbors in need.
- **United Lutheran Seminary:** Thank you for your gift of \$1,000. Your support of theological education is the foundation for the future leaders of our church.

October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 CAN2 work 9a	
2 Worship 8:45a & 11a Education Hour 10a Teen Thrive 5p	3 Counters 9:30a	4 Rejoice! 7:30p	5 Christian Ed Mtg 6:30p Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	6 Property Team 11a	7 Knit & Crochet 1p	8 CAN2 work 9a Quilters 10a-3p "David" show in Lancaster	
9 Worship 8:45a & 11a Education Hour 10a Teen Thrive 5p	10 Men's Bible Study 7p	11 Counters 9:30a Rejoice! 7:30p	12 Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	13	14	15 CAN2 work 9a	
16 Worship 8:45a & 11a Education Hour 10a Worship Mtg 12:15p Teen Thrive 5p	17 Counters 9:30a	18 Invest Comm 9:30a Grapevine Lunch 11:30a Rejoice! 7:30p	19 Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	20 Church Council 7p	21 Knit & Crochet 1p	22 CAN2 work 9a	
23 Worship 8:45a & 11a Education Hour 10a CAN2 Open House 9:30a-1p Teen Thrive 5p	24 Counters 9:30a Care Team 11a BibleBookMonth 7p Service Team 7p	25 Rejoice! 7:30p Mutual Min 7:30p	26 Adult Ed Mtg Noon Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	27 Preschool Pumpkin Night 6p Gals' Book Club 7p	28	29 CAN2 work 9a Shared Meal 4p	
30 Reformation Sunday ONE Worship 9:30a with Confirmation Teen Thrive 5p	31 HALLOWEEN Counters 9:30a 					<i>The Worship of God is not a Rule of Safety— it is an Adventure of the Spirit.</i> —Alfred North Whitehead	



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