

# the Messenger



May 2023  
Easter Season

*Easter Joy*



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 the **SignUp Hub** in the Commons or **online** at [godslovenewtown.org/signups](https://godslovenewtown.org/signups).

*To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ.*

Dear Friends in Christ,

The above statement comes from our congregation's constitution regarding the ministry of **evangelism**—that is, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. What should be one of the highest mandates for our congregation often gets put on the back burner. I won't go into all the reasons and rationalizations in this article. There are plenty floating around!

Our Congregation Council has designated 2023 as the year of hospitality. I am excited to ask you to carve out some time during the weekend of June 3 – 4 for a special evangelism emphasis on how to become a more welcoming and witnessing congregation. Please mark your calendars:

**Evangelism Event**  
Saturday, June 3, 9:00am to 12:00noon

Also, during our regular worship services on Sunday, June 4, we have invited a guest preacher who will bring a wonderful transformation story to us. Greater detail regarding these two events will be forthcoming.



In the meantime, I am working to assemble a team of folks who sense the call to advance this Welcome and Witness dimension of our congregation's mission. This is a wonderful opportunity for 5 – 7 persons from different ages and backgrounds to enthusiastically explore ways to improve our community outreach, hospitality and response to visitors, and discipling persons for the long haul. Please stay tuned or contact me for further information.

God's blessings, *Pastor Dan Whitener*



**THIS SUNDAY**  
April 30 at 10:00am  
Fellowship Hall



**Climate Change: Facts and Faith (part 3)**

We'll explore the LOCAL effects of climate change on agriculture, industry, infrastructure, and public health; along with practical tips for mitigation and adaptation; with guest **Dr. Janice McDonnell** from the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.

**Up Next in Adult Faith & Life**

**Feelings and Faith: Navigating Human Emotions in the Christian Life**  
May 7, 14, 21

Through the lens of faith we will explore the emotions of:

- **May 7:** ANXIETY
- **May 14:** ANGER
- **May 25:** JOY



**Red Cross Blood Drive •**  
Tuesday, May 9 • 2pm – 7pm  
Fellowship Hall

Appointments at [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) or by scanning this QR code.

**Questions?** Contact **Beth Meyers**.



**LAST CALL to RSVP for May's Fellowship Dinner**  
Saturday, May 6 • 5:30pm

*Outback Steakhouse • 650 Commerce Boulevard, Fairless Hills*

Monthly Fellowship Dinners are open to all in the congregation looking for a social outing. Participants meet at the restaurant and pay for their own meal.

**RSVP HERE** by May 3, visit the **SignUp Hub** in the Commons or call the church office.

**Questions?** Contact **Gayle Gunnerson**.



Scripture Readings  
for May 7

Acts 7:55-60  
*The martyrdom of Stephen*

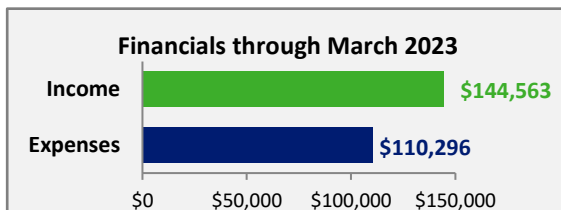
1 Peter 2:2-10  
*God's people chosen to proclaim*

John 14:1-14  
*Christ the way, truth, and life*



Our financial position early in the year is strong since several members gave their entire 2023 pledge in December and January.

**Questions?** Please contact **Bob Smoose**, Treasurer or **John Tidd**, Financial Secretary.



### LAST CALL! April Highlighted Collection:

#### Supporting Youth in Foster Care

This is the last call to support *Valley Youth House*, a foster care agency in Warminster that provides a home for vulnerable, abused and homeless youth in Bucks County. Please place your donations in the collection box in the **Lobby of Love** by **THIS SUNDAY, April 30**.

**Questions?** Contact **Allison Dunkerley** or **Sandy Anthony**.

### We are collecting **NEW**:

- Bath Towels
- Wash Cloths
- Deodorant (male/female)
- Body Wash (male/female)

### 2023 Altar Flower Dedications

The Altar Flowers can be dedicated on any Sunday in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a special occasion. The *requested donation* is **\$50** per dedication; payable to Lutheran Church of God's Love.

[CLICK HERE](#) or visit the **SignUp Hub** to select a week(s).



### Supporting Those in Need

God's Love provides lunches to the *Reach Out Foundation's* center for those in need in Pennel. **Want to help?** [SIGN UP HERE FOR MAY](#). [SIGN UP HERE FOR JUNE](#). Donations are due in the **Lobby of Love** by **10:30am on Tuesdays**.



### God's Caring Stitchers Fridays, May 5 and May 19 1:00pm – 3:00pm Room A1/A2

Our group loves to knit and crochet, and all the items we craft are donated to local charitable organizations. We create chemo hats, baby blankets, lap robes, prayer shawls, and afghans. We meet twice per month; provide yarn, instructions and support, as well as camaraderie and laughter. All are welcome!

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



Teaching Sunday School is a rewarding way to share God's word with the children of our congregation, and it reaps benefits for teachers and students alike. Our Sunday School program is expanding thanks to increased enrollment which means there are opportunities to serve on our team of Sunday School teachers.

**No teaching experience is needed!** Our curriculum provides all the resources needed to teach a class. To see just how easy and rewarding it can be, you are invited to **Come & See** our teachers in action during any Sunday School class **through May 14**.

**Questions?** Contact **Rebecca Wotherspoon**.



The Church Council held its monthly meeting on April 20. In addition to the review of regular monthly reports, the bulk of the

meeting agenda concerned updates with respect to ongoing property projects, Christian Education and other ministries. Plans for upcoming work in the *Good Neighbor Garden* and events for the *Welcome and Witness Ministry* were also discussed.

The next regular business meeting of the Council will be held on **Thursday, May 18 at 7:00pm in Room A1/A2**. **These meetings are open to the congregation.**

**Barbara Steen**, Council President

### SEPA Synod Assembly 2023

*Transformed to Serve in a "Where's the Faith?" World* is the theme for this year's Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly. Faith leaders and congregational representatives from across our region will gather for worship, inspiration, connection, and shared work as a synod.

The Assembly will be held Friday, May 5 (2pm – 6pm) and Saturday, May 6 (9am – 5pm) at Franconia Mennonite Church in Telford, PA. Pastor Dan, Pastor Brandi, and Larry and Carol Zetterberg will represent Lutheran Church of God's Love.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the Assembly meeting live online.

For more information, visit the synod website at [ministrylink.org/2023 Synod Assembly](http://ministrylink.org/2023%20Synod%20Assembly).



### SAVE THE DATE for a Women's Retreat

**Saturday, June 10 • 9:00am – 2:00pm • Lutheran Church of God's Love**

# Ways you can SERVE

Ushers, Readers, Communion Assistants, Altar Guild, Acolytes... many people working together for Sunday services.

[SIGN UP HERE FOR APRIL/MAY](#) to serve during worship. New volunteers always welcome. For more information call the church office.

The resource table in the Commons is there to provide meaningful and timely ministry tools that help connect faith with our daily lives. "On-loan" resources for May pertain to the relationship between faith and human emotions. They coincide with the adult faith and life focus for this month. **Welcome!**



The school year is coming to a close, but we have many activities to share before we leave for summer vacation.

Every year we look forward to the arrival of our caterpillars. They have just been delivered, and the preschoolers get to watch them eat and grow as they begin their metamorphosis. In just a few weeks it will be time to release the beautiful butterflies.

The 4s had a great time learning about farm life at Howell Living History Farm. Later this week, the 3s will take their trip to Tyler Park to learn about worms.

The Mother's Day Tea is one of the highlights of the year. The children are making crafts, learning songs and poems, and serving treats to lavish their Moms for Mother's Day.

Field Day is our final school-wide event of the year. The Parent Representatives from each class plan a game or activity and the children rotate through the stations. **Cherie Carcaci**, our gym teacher, runs an obstacle course and a dance party, and we end the day with a picnic lunch.



*4s on the playground*

This is a bittersweet time of year, as we prepare to say good-bye to the preschoolers who are going to kindergarten. *The growth and changes the teachers are blessed to witness are truly astounding.*

## Good Stuff Thrift Shop Collection

**SATURDAY MAY 6**

**9am – Noon**

The collection will take place in the parking lot between the church and the bank. It will be "drive-thru" style—look for the Good Stuff truck, canopies, and volunteers. Unloading assistance and a tax receipt will be available. This collection is open to the public so invite your friends and neighbors!



See the flier in the **Lobby of Love** for more information and a list of what items that will/will not be accepted.



## May's Highlighted Collection:

*Helping the HELP Center*

*with donations of cleaning products*

The HELP Center, a Healthy Eating and Living Partnership, is a collaboration between three nonprofit agencies: Bucks County Opportunity Council, St. Mary Medical Center, and United Way of Bucks County. Penn Community Bank provides generous support for the project. The center is located in Bristol, and fills the gap for local families in need by providing essentials like cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, and home goods—completely free of charge—through a dignified personal shopping experience. According to the HELP Center, **"Securing basic household supplies is often impossible for families who are barely making ends meet,"** and each month they serve hundreds of new people.

For the month of May, God's Love will support the HELP Center with donations of **cleaning products**.

Please place your donations in the **Lobby of Love** by **May 28**.

**Questions?** Contact **Robin Pecuch**.

God — my cup is truly overflowing and I am humbly grateful. Teach me to be willing to share with those who have so much less. Let today be my day to act in an unexpected, giving way. *Amen*



- **Womanspace CEO and President, Nathalie Nelson:** *Thank you for your donation of Easter eggs. We are thankful for your support of our mission to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking, and provide support services to victims and survivors.* [Nikki Hendricks delivered candy-filled eggs following the God's Love Easter Egg Scramble.]
- **Linda McGowan, President of the Emergency Relief Association:** *Thank you for your gift of 1,126 pounds of food during the first quarter of 2023 (January – March). Your generosity helps those in your community avoid hunger.*



- **Amanda White, ELCA Congregational Generosity Director:** *Thank you for your gift of \$230 to ELCA World Hunger. Through your gifts you join with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed.*



We plan to honor our **“CLASS OF 2023”** graduating seniors (high school, college, trade school, military, etc.) with a tribute in an upcoming Messenger and worship service. This will also include fall 2022 graduates. To include your student, please contact the office **by May 31** with your graduate’s name, graduation date, school name, degree/major, future plans and a graduation photo.



### Men's Bible Study

**Monday, May 8 at 7:00pm • Lounge**  
*Revelation*



### Gals' Book Club

**Thursday, May 25 at 7:00pm • Lounge**  
*“Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer*



### Bible Book-of-the-Month

*Song of Solomon*

**Monday, May 22**  
7:00pm on **ZOOM**

## MAY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Counters 9:30a	<b>2</b> Staff Mtg 11:15a Garden Team 7p Rejoice! 7:30p	<b>3</b> Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> Knit & Crochet 1p	<b>6</b> Good Stuff Thrift Collection 9a – Noon
					— SEPA Synod Assembly —	
<b>7</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Communion</b> Worship 8:45a & 11a Education 10a	<b>8</b> Counters 9:30a Men's Bible Study 7p	<b>9</b> Staff Mtg 11:15a Red Cross Blood Drive 2p – 7p Rejoice! 7:30p	<b>10</b> Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	<b>11</b> Exec Committee 7:30p	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Quilters 10a – 3p (Mods)
<b>14</b> <b>Happy Mother's Day</b> Worship 8:45a & 11a Education 10a Stewardship Mtg Noon	<b>15</b> Counters 9:30a	<b>16</b> Staff Mtg 11:15a Rejoice! 7:30p	<b>17</b> Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	<b>18</b> Church Council 7p	<b>19</b> Knit & Crochet 1p	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Worship 8:45a & 11a Education 10a <b>Sunday School Finale</b>	<b>22</b> Counters 9:30a Care Team 11a Bible Book of Month on <b>ZOOM</b> 7p	<b>23</b> Staff Mtg 11:15a Rejoice! 7:30p	<b>24</b> Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	<b>25</b> Adult Ed Team Meeting 1p Gals' Book Club 7p	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Pentecost</b> Worship 8:45a & 11a	<b>29</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>30</b> Counters 9:30a Staff Mtg 11:15a Mutual Min 7:30p Rejoice! 7:30p	<b>31</b> Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	God looks at the intention of the heart rather than the gifts He is offered. —Bishop Jean Pierre Camus		



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