

the Messenger



August 2023

Time after Pentecost



To read the Messenger [online](#), scan this code with your phone or visit godslovenewtown.org/connect/newsletters.



Find all the signups at the [SignUp Hub](#) in the Commons or [online](#) at godslovenewtown.org/signups.



The Community of Forgiveness

Dear Members and Friends of God's Love,

There is no more important theological topic than the perpetual need for divine and human forgiveness. In Jesus, God moves into the messes we have made. God's love initiates and closes the distance between us and God—and between us and other people, including those who are near and dear to us. God fills that space with the word of forgiveness.

Lutheran Christians tout God's forgiveness to be the force that frees us from terrified and conflicted consciences. God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ also saturates us enough with love to enable us to offer and receive human forgiveness.

I'm still old-fashioned when it comes to beginning most Sunday liturgies with an order for confession and forgiveness. Before we begin to sing God's praises, we start worship with a clean slate and a clear conscience. It's also important to observe enough silence within that rite for self-examination. Many worshippers turn toward the baptismal font during this part of the service as a reminder that our lives begin and end bathed in God's grace.

We live in perilous and often provocative times. Even those who are seasoned in the Christian way of life rub elbows and butt heads with family members and fellow parishioners. Sin and separation persist. But God's forgiveness continues to fill the contentious spaces within human relationships with reconciliation, peace, and a fresh future.

Your partner in the community of forgiveness, *Pastor Dan Whitener*

Sunday School Registration Now Open



Rally Day is Sunday, September 10.

This is the beginning of Sunday School classes for children ages 4 through 6th grade (see below if your children older or younger).

Sunday School Registration is now open. Four classes are offered on

Sunday mornings at 10:00am: 4yrs/Kindergarten; 1st/2nd grade; 3rd/4th grade; and 5th/6th grade. Registration packets were sent by mail, or you can register online by visiting GodsLoveNewtown.org/signups or clicking [THIS LINK](#). Extra registration packets are available on the kiosk in the Commons.

Opportunities for other ages during the education hour:

Children ages 3 and under are welcome in our newly updated and staffed church nursery.

Children in grades 7 - 12 are invited to participate in Confirmation and our new Youth Ministry activities.

Adults can attend the Adult Faith & Life class or Young Adults Ministry activities.

Questions? Contact **Pastor Brandi** in the church office.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



"Gods Work, Our Hands" Sunday - September 10

"God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday is a nationwide day of service throughout the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). 2023 is the 10th anniversary of this initiative, and this year it happens to coincide with our congregation's Rally Day Sunday School opening.

The **entire God's Love congregation** is invited to participate in one of two service projects on September 10 at 10am:

- **Good Neighbor Garden Harvest** – All are welcome to help harvest carrots, potatoes, and onions to be donated to local food pantries. Sunday school children and their teachers and families will join this project after a brief Rally Day opening program.
- **Meal Packing Event** – all ages are invited to Fellowship Hall to pack meals for those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity.

Stay tuned for more information.

August Highlighted Collection:

God's Love Annual Back-to-School Supplies Drive

During the month of August we will be collecting school supplies for local education programs and schools that serve children in need. For this collection, YOU get to decide what items to donate, so watch for those inevitable back-to-school sales! We will happily accept all new school supplies including notebooks, binders, folders, paper, pens, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, erasers, markers, pencil cases, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, and backpacks.

Donations will be collected in the **Lobby of Love** through the end of August, but we would appreciate them **by August 21** to enable distribution prior to the start of the school year.

Questions? Contact the **Webber family**.



Good Neighbor Garden

If you're looking for an opportunity to serve outdoors in God's beautiful creation, please consider signing up to pull weeds in the *Good Neighbor Garden*.

[CLICK HERE](#) or visit the **SignUp Hub** to choose a week that fits your schedule (Sunday – Saturday). Come at your own convenience during that week. Gardening supplies, if needed, are stored in the shed. All produce from the garden will be donated to local food pantries.

Every Dollar Counts

The church recently received an anonymous donation in the mail, along with a handwritten note and sketch.

Thank you to whoever made this gift – every dollar is appreciated!



HOPE Supporting Those in Need

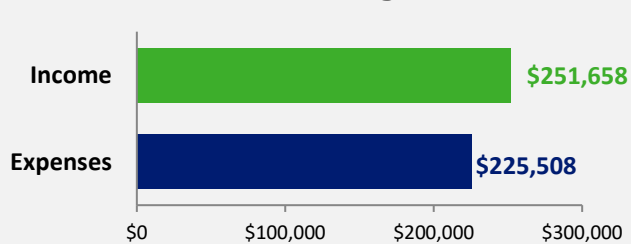
Summer is often the hardest time of the year to feed people who are homeless. God's Love continues to provide weekly lunches to the *Reach Out Foundation's Homeless Drop-in Center* in Pennel. Donations of lunch items are collected each week in the Lobby of Love, then meals are assembled and delivered by congregation volunteers.

Want to help? [SIGN UP HERE FOR AUGUST](#) or visit the **SignUp Hub**.

Donations are due in the **Lobby of Love** by **10:30am on Tuesdays**.

Questions? Contact **Sandy Anthony**.

Financials through June 2023



The resource table in the Commons is there to provide meaningful and timely ministry tools that help connect faith with our daily lives.

The "on-loan" resources for the summer include manageable collections of writings from a variety of Christian spiritual thinkers. No problem if you would like to take them to the pool or beach. Sand within the pages is to be expected. **Welcome!**



DIRECTORY PHOTOS • Sundays in July

LAST CALL! Stop by the display in the Commons after worship on Sunday, July 30, so council member and photographer **Lary Whelan** can take your photo for inclusion in the church directory. If you're not available on Sunday, you can also email your own photo to the church office. These photos will help make our directory a more valuable resource.

The church directory is available online at servantkeeper.com/directory/lutheranCOGL (contact the church office for the password).

Thank you for submitting your family photo.



There are a few spots available for the 2023 – 2024 school year. For more information or to schedule a tour, contact director, **Nikki Hendricks**, at preschool@godslovenewtown.org or 215-497-0506.

Scripture Readings
for August 6

Isaiah 55:1-5
Eat and drink what truly satisfies

Romans 9:1-5
The glory of God's people Israel

Matthew 14:13-21
Christ feeding 5,000

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Trenton Thunder versus State College Spikes

Tuesday, August 15 • 7:00pm (doors open at 6:00pm)

\$8 per ticket; **DUE Sunday, July 30**



Join us for a night of baseball at the **Trenton Thunder Ballpark**. It's "Dollar Dog Night"—hotdogs are just \$1; kids 12 and under get a free hotdog, snack and water. [RSVP HERE](#) or at the **SignUp Hub**. Place payment in the box at the kiosk in the Commons or deliver to the church office.

Tickets will be given to you prior to the game so we can meet at the ballpark. Friends and family are welcome, too.

Questions? Contact **Sandy Anthony**.



Young Adults Night Out

Saturday, August 19 • 6:00pm

Newtown Brewing Company
103 Penns Trail, Newtown

Open to all young adults in the congregation - singles, couples, parents - looking for connection. The group will meet at Newtown Brewing Company, just a few blocks from the church. Childcare will be provided free of charge at the church, with dropoff beginning at 5:30pm. [RSVP HERE](#) by **August 14**.

Questions? Contact **Pastor Brandi**

Thank you received in July:

ELCA World Hunger Thank you for your gift of \$510. Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger in over 60 countries, including the US. It provides access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and justice. [This amount represents offering designated for World Hunger collected from congregation members in the 2nd quarter 2023.]



Emergency Relief Association of Lower Bucks Thank you for your gift of 599 pounds of food during the 2nd quarter of 2023. Your generosity helps those in our community to avoid hunger. [Donations of nonperishable foods are placed in Lobby of Love and delivered weekly to ERA by the Nordbergs.]

Family Service Association of Bucks County Thank you so much for your donation of a variety of personal care and medical items to our Street Medicine Program. This is a mobile unit that is staffed by a registered nurse and case manager providing onsite medical care and distribution of essential items to about 100 individuals and families living with shelter in our county.



Usher, Reader, Communion Assistant, Altar Guild, Acolyte

There are many opportunities for members of the congregation (adults and youth) to assist during our worship services. Any of these roles are wonderful opportunities to engage in service, meet new people, and deepen your own worship experience.

[SIGN UP HERE FOR AUGUST](#) or [SIGN UP HERE FOR SEPT/OCT](#) or visit the **SignUp Hub** to choose weeks and roles convenient for you. New volunteers are encouraged! Instructions will be provided if needed.



To dedicate altar flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion, visit the **SignUp Hub** or [CLICK HERE](#) to choose a week and text for the bulletin. A \$50 donation is requested to offset the cost of the flower delivery.

Questions? Contact the church office.

Puzzle!

Fill in the blanks with the correct words. Then transfer the letters to the numbered boxes below to complete Psalm 107:1, NIV.

Shape that symbolizes love
31 15 7 18 5

Part of a stove used for baking
12 3 24 39

Color made by red and yellow
28 42 7 8 27 37

A present
1 32 20 11

Clothing a girl wears
19 22 43 44 33

Something you open to go into a room
40 29 17 47

Opposite of soft (sound)
34 17 41 30

To take a long walk
14 2 9 38

A high body temperature
45 50 49 48 42

Items used to build or fix things
13 35 21 16 26

Edge of the sea
10 23 46 51 4

Home for a bee
6 25 36 4

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | |
| | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | |
| 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 |
| 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 |

Answer: heart, oven, orange, gift, dress, door, loud, hike, lever, tools, shore, hive; Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1, NIV



God's Caring Stitchers

Friday, August 4
1:00pm • Room A1/A2
Newcomers welcome.

Fellowship Dinner

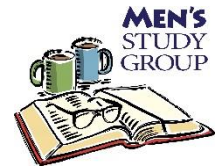


August Fellowship Dinner

Saturday, August 5 • 6:30pm
Villa Rosa Restaurant
661 Heacock Road, Yardley • **BYOB**

This popular monthly dine-out event is open to all in the congregation. The group meets at the restaurant and each person/family pays for their own meal.

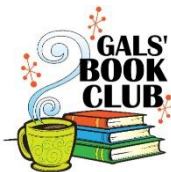
[RSVP HERE](#) by **Aug 2**, call the office, or visit the **SignUp Hub**. **Questions?** Contact **Jim or Carol Sottile**.



MEN'S STUDY GROUP

Monday, August 14
7:00pm • Lounge

A continuing study of the book of Revelation.



GALS' BOOK CLUB

Thursday, August 31
7:00pm • Lounge
"Black Cake"
by Charmaine Wilkerson



Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, September 7
2pm – 7pm • Fellowship Hall

Our third blood drive of the year will be held in our spacious and now-air-conditioned Fellowship Hall. Appointments are available at redcrossblood.org.

Questions? Contact **Beth Meyers**



Continues through SEPTEMBER 3
with one combined worship service at 9:30am.

AUGUST 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| God — When I reach out to You and find You, I am strengthened. Hold my hand and walk with me today. <i>Amen</i> | | 1 Mutual Min 7:30p Rejoice! 7:30p | 2 | 3 Property Team 11a Adult Ed Mtg 1p | 4 Knit & Crochet 1p | 5 Fellowship Dinner 6:30p |
| 6 Worship 9:30a | 7 Counters 9:30a | 8 Rejoice! 7:30p | 9 <i>Office Staff away</i> | 10 Exec Comm 7:30p | 11 | 12 Quilters 10a – 3p |
| 13 Worship 9:30a Worship Min 10:45a | 14 Counters 9:30a Men's Study 7p | 15 Trenton Thunder 7p Rejoice! 7:30p | 16 | 17 Church Council 7p | 18 | 19 Young Adults Night Out w/childcare 6p |
| 20 Worship 9:30a | 21 Counters 9:30a | 22 Rejoice! 7:30p | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Worship 9:30a | 28 Counters 9:30a TLC Meeting 11a | 29 Rejoice! 7:30p | 30 | 31 Gals' Book Club 7p | "Great things are done by a series of small things brought together." —attributed to Vincent van Gogh | |



Lutheran Church of God's Love
791 Newtown Yardley Road
Newtown, PA 18940
215.968.4335 • godslovenewtown.org

Pastor Dan Whitener
prdan@godslovenewtown.org

Pastor Brandi Hebert
prbrandi@godslovenewtown.org

Kay Rozolis
admin@godslovenewtown.org

Susan McDonnell
info@godslovenewtown.org