

the Messenger



February 11, 2024

Transfiguration of Our Lord



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.

Welcome Guest Preacher, Rev. JJ Simpson-Keelan

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

February 11, we welcome **Pastor JJ Simpson-Keelan** to God's Love in a "Pulpit Swap" with *Living Waters Lutheran Church* in Ringoes, NJ. Pastor Brandi will be preaching at Living Waters. In addition to preaching and presiding at God's Love this week, Pastor JJ will lead a discussion during the Adult Faith & Life class on Reconciling Works, an affiliate of the ELCA, and what it means to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Pastor JJ has been privileged to serve at Living Waters since February 2022. She graduated from United Lutheran Seminary in May 2020 and did her internship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in East Windsor, NJ. She received a BS from Georgian Court College with a degree in Biology, an MBA from Georgian Court University, and is a certified Project Management Professional. This semester she will begin course work in pursuit of a Doctorate in Ministry. Her intended area of focus is developing resources to preach into communities where faith experience is limited or underdeveloped.

For more information on Pastor JJ and ministry at Living Waters, visit lwlc-flemington.org



Pr. JJ with her dog, *Rusty*, a trained therapy dog and partner in ministry.



February 14

Lent Begins Ash Wednesday

Worship at
12:00 Noon
and 7:30pm

Holy Communion with
Imposition of Ashes
at both services

"Soup-er" Bowl Food Drive

LAST CALL! Donations of soup and other non-perishable items due in the **Lobby of Love** or the Commons by **February 11**.

Questions? Contact **Janet Nordberg**.



Scripture Readings for February 18

Genesis 9:8-17

Rainbow, sign of God's covenant

1 Peter 3:18-22

Saved through water

Mark 1:9-15

Temptation of Jesus

Lenten Midweek Prayer Circle

Wednesdays during Lent

February 21 – March 20 • 12:00 Noon • the Café

Pastor Brandi will introduce various types of prayer and how to make prayer a part of daily spiritual practice. Each session will include guided prayer time, personal prayer requests, and practical prayer tools.



Lenten Dinner Church

Saturday, March 2 • 6:00pm • Fellowship Hall

Dinner Church can be described as "a dinner party with a spiritual twist" and is one of the fastest growing formats for Christian gatherings in North America. Our dinner church event is a little bit Fellowship Dinner and a little bit Midweek Worship, all at once. It includes a meal, engaging conversation, and Holy Communion, and is appropriate for members and friends of all ages. Mark your calendar and watch for an RSVP. **Questions?** Contact **Pastor Brandi**.



Women's Bible Study • Tuesdays • 6:30pm • the Lounge

Women of all ages are invited to gather weekly for this emerging small group ministry. The group uses devotional materials to spark questions, conversation, and prayer—no advance preparation is needed to attend. Current participants range in age from their 20s to their 70s and are actively discerning what format the group will take going forward. **Welcome! Questions?** Contact **Elizabeth Karagrigoriou**.



Lenten Devotional Booklets are available on the *Ministry Resource Table*. The book

includes a scripture passage, reflection, and prayer for each day in Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 14. The theme uses passages from 1 Corinthians focusing on unity amid diversity, through Christ. Please take one book per household. **Welcome!**



Garden Angels are volunteers that agree to maintain a specific landscaped area around the church throughout the growing season. Choose an available garden then stop by at your convenience to weed, prune, plant and maintain "your" garden.



Joyce and Don Ginelli will be in the Commons between services on **February 11 and 18** to talk to anyone who is interested in being a Garden Angel in 2024. We have a total of 26 gardens but some of our "2023 ANGELS" have already agreed to maintain the same garden!



Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday, March 1
12:00 NOON – 5:00pm
Fellowship Hall

Our first blood drive of 2024 is upon us. **PLEASE NOTE** the time change. Appointments at redcrossblood.org



Sundays in February and March
10:00am • Fellowship Hall
"The Priesthood of All Believers"

- **February 11: "Reconciling Works"** An introduction to the advocacy work of this Lutheran organization with **guest speaker, Rev. JJ Simpson-Keelan** of Living Waters Lutheran Church in Ringoes, NJ
- **February 18 to March 24: "Down & Out: Where Grace Takes You"** A video series for Lent on the life-changing reality of God's promises, and how to live as part of the priesthood of all believers.



HOPE Supporting Those in Need

Let's help the *Reach Out Center* give homeless folks a sense of hope by providing them a meal every week. God's Love delivers bagged lunches every Tuesday.



SIGNUP FOR MARCH, or visit the **SignUp Hub**, to provide an item(s) for the Tuesday bagged lunches. **NOTE:** There is bologna, pre-portioned, in the freezer in the church kitchen. Each bag includes enough lunch meat to make the 25 sandwiches needed. Help yourself. Donations due in the **Lobby of Love** **Tuesdays by 10:30am. Questions? Sandy Anthony.**

During February and throughout Lent, the "on-loan" materials on the *Ministry Resource Table* correspond to the Adult Faith & Life (AF&L) emphasis on the *Priesthood of All Believers*. Pastor Brandi and members of the AF&L planning team are contributing books that have been particularly significant in their faith formation and spiritual lives. Members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to add their own inspirational books to the table, and/or peruse the collection and borrow what looks interesting. Write your name inside any book(s) you contribute so they can be returned to you. **Welcome!**



Ways you can SERVE **Usher, Reader, Altar Guild, Acolyte, Communion Assistant, Basket Bearer**

There are many opportunities for adults and youth to assist during worship services. Any of these roles are wonderful opportunities to engage in service, meet new people, and deepen your own worship experience. FEBRUARY SIGNUP, MARCH/APRIL SIGNUP, or visit the **SignUp Hub** to choose weeks and roles convenient for you.

Highlighted Collection for February
Grocery Store Gift Cards

We are collecting grocery store gift cards to benefit *Manor Food Bank* located at Manor Elementary School in Levittown, PA which serves families identified by the Pennsbury School District as having food insecurities. Cards for any amount are acceptable, however smaller denominations are preferred.

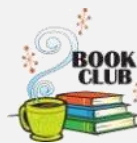


Consider these stores: **Acme, Aldi, Giant, Walmart, and ShopRite**. Please do NOT leave donated cards in the **Lobby of Love**.

1. Place in offering plate before or after worship
 2. Drop at church office (M – F, 9am – 2pm)
 3. Mail to the church: 791 Newtown Yardley Road, Newtown, PA 18940
- Donations **due February 29. Questions? Amy Carr.**



Men's Bible Study
Mondays, February 19
7:00pm • the Lounge
"The Gospel of Mark"



Gals' Book Club
Thursday, February 29
7:00pm • the Lounge
"Our Missing Hearts" by Celeste Ng



God's Caring Stitchers
Friday, February 16
1:00pm • Room A1/A2

Grapevine of Friends

Friday, March 8 • 11:30am • Fellowship Hall
 Open to anyone looking for small group fellowship and connection. **RSVP to the church office by March 4.**



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

Pastor Brandi Hebert
prbrandi@godslovenewtown.org

Kay Rozolis
admin@godslovenewtown.org

Susan McDonnell
info@godslovenewtown.org