**WELCOME TO HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, New Jersey Synod

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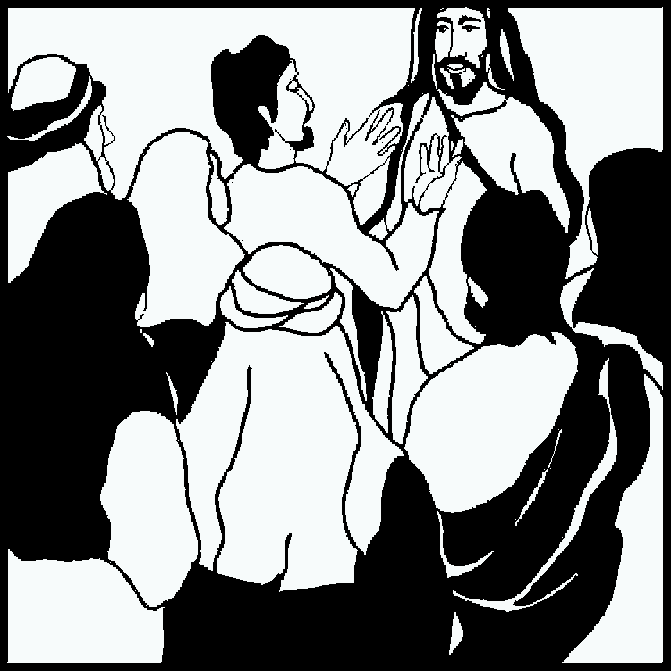
Vicar Vince Piekarski can be contacted at any time through call or text at

412-225-0287 or through email at vpie8282@gmail.com.

**17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2024**

**10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**



**MISSION STATEMENT**

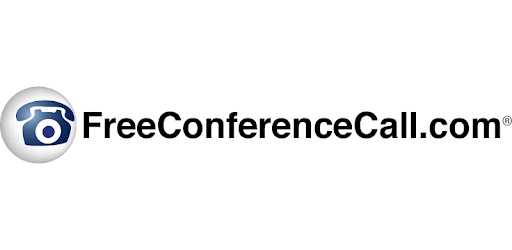
We, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, are People of God, who

are called by the Holy Spirit to pray, worship, joyfully proclaim Jesus Christ,

and compassionately witness and serve others in Christian Love.

**AN ESPECIALLY WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

We are glad that you joined us for Worship today! Thank you for enriching our time together! We would like to get to know you better, and we would like for you to get to know us better too. Brochures, welcome gifts, prayer shawls, Bibles, and other items are available at our welcome areas. Church members are happy to show you around and share about our ministries. Please don’t hesitate to speak up and ask questions. Please make sure you sign-in on our clipboard on the podium in the lobby.



**CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION**

We continue conducting our Worship Services in coordination with our Conference Call. Join us at our # 657-390-7423. If that does not allow you to gain access, please utilize our other # 701-802-5170 and access code 8221190, then hit the # key. You may need to dial 1 first, depending on your phone plan. After you log-in, please announce your name. Feel free to talk with others until we start our service.



**SANCTUARY CANDLE**

The month of September’s is given to the Glory of God & in memory of

PHILIP ZIMMERMAN, JR. by Jean, Phil, & Bob Zimmerman.

**ALTAR CANDLES**

The month of September’s are given to the Glory of God & in memory of

MARGE ELLIOTT & JIM by Leon M. Stitt.

Candles cost $10 each, and can be dedicated in memory of someone.

The Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board between the church offices.

Please feel free to see Vicar Vince with any questions.

**CONFERENCE CALL CHECK-IN**

(Roll Call and Attendance)

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Offered by Vicar, Assistant, and Congregation.)

**INTRODUCTION**

A. Three weeks ago we heard Peter’s confession of faith as told in John’s gospel.

This week we hear Mark’s version, when Peter says, “You are the Messiah.” In

John, the stumbling block is Jesus’ invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of

the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus’ words about his own

coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus’ words. But Jesus is

anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3);

so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

**PRELUDE**

(Music offered by our Organist before the start of our Worship Service.)

**Like A River Glorious**

**CHIMES**

(Music offered by our Organist before the start of our Worship Service.)

**What A Friend We Have in Jesus**

V. We invite you to stand if you are able.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

(as the presiding minister begins.)

V. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who forgives all our sin,

whose mercy endures forever.

**C. Amen.**

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.)

V. Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

V. Gracious God,

**C. have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,**

**but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us**

**cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first**

**we make distinctions among ourselves.**

**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,**

**and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,**

**our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

V. God promises to forgive our iniquity

and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ,

the source of eternal healing,

your sins are forgiven.

**C. Amen.**

(We invite you to remain standing if you are able.)

**GATHERING HYMN**

(We invite you to sing along with the music offered by our Organist.)

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Book

**504—O God, My Faithful God**



**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

V. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C. And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

V. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

V. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

V. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

V. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

V. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C. Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

V. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

V. Let us pray,

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the

glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we

may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus

Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C. Amen.**

V. We invite you to be seated for our Readings and Psalm.

**FIRST READING**

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of

Isaiah. Today’s reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early

Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at

his detractors but trusts in God’s steadfast love.

R. Our First Reading is from the 50th Chapter of Isaiah (Verses 4-9a).

R. 4The Lord God has given me

   the tongue of a teacher,

  that I may know how to sustain

   the weary with a word.

  Morning by morning he wakens—

   wakens my ear

   to listen as those who are taught.

  5The Lord God has opened my ear,

   and I was not rebellious,

   I did not turn backward.

  6I gave my back to those who struck me,

   and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

  I did not hide my face

   from insult and spitting.

  7The Lord God helps me;

   therefore I have not been disgraced;

  therefore I have set my face like flint,

   and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

   8he who vindicates me is near.

  Who will contend with me?

  Let us stand up together.

 Who are my adversaries?

  Let them confront me.

 9aIt is the Lord God who helps me;

   who will declare me guilty?

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

R. Our Responsorial Psalm is from the 116th Psalm (Verses 1-9).

**C.** **I will walk in the presence of the Lord.** (Ps. 116:9)

R. 1I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,

   and listened to my supplication,

  2for the Lord has given ear to me

   whenever I called.

  3The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;

   I came to grief and sorrow.

  4Then I called upon the name of the Lord:

   “O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”

**C. I will walk in the presence of the Lord.** (Ps. 116:9)

R. 5Gracious is the Lord and righteous;

   our God is full of compassion.

  6The Lord watches over the innocent;

   I was brought low, and God saved me.

  7Turn again to your rest, O my soul.

   for the Lord has dealt well with you.

  8For you have rescued my life from death,

   my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;

  9I will walk in the presence of the Lord

   in the land of the living.

**C. I will walk in the presence of the Lord.** (Ps. 116:9)

**SECOND READING**

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we

speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but

what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

R. Our Second Reading is from the 3rd Chapter of James (Verses 1-12).

R. 1Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know

that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2For all of us make

many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to

keep the whole body in check with a bridle. 3If we put bits into the mouths of

horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4Or look at ships:

though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are

guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5So also the

tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! 6And the tongue is a fire. The

tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole

body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7For every

species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has

been tamed by the human species, 8but no one can tame the tongue—a restless

evil, full of deadly poison. 9With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we

curse those who are made in the likeness of God. 10From the same mouth come

blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. 11Does a

spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? 12Can a

fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can

salt water yield fresh.

R. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

V. We invite you to stand if you are able, and I invite you to announce the Gospel

Acclamation with me.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**C. Alleluia. Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the**

**unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. Alleluia.** (1 Pet. 3:18)

**GOSPEL READING**

This story provides the turning point in Mark’s gospel. Peter is the first human

being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot

accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a

strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

V. The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark, the 8th Chapter (Verses 27-38).

**C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

V. 27Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the

way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” 28And they

answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the

prophets.” 29He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered

him, “You are the Messiah.” 30And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone

about him.

31Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great

suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be

killed, and after three days rise again. 32He said all this quite openly. And Peter

took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his

disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting

your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to

become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and

follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose

their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36For what will it

profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they

give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in

this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be

ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

V. This is the Gospel of the Lord,

**C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

(We invite you to be seated.)

**SERMON**

(Delivered by Vicar Vince.)

(We invite you to stand if you are able.)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

(We invite you to sing along with the music offered by our Organist.)

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Book

**377—Lift High the Cross**

**(4 Verses)**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

V. God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in

trust and hope let us confess our faith together using the Apostles’ Creed.

**C. I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

(The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion.)

V. Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the

church, God’s good creation, and all who are in need.

(A brief silence.)

A. We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of

forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new

relationships, and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar.

Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A. We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and

heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us

in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A. We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries

of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and

well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O

God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A. We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve;

especially:

Betty Lang (Church Member)

BettyAnn Rich-White (Church Member)

Chip Hand (Church Member)

Del McKenna (Church Member)

Evie Coyle (Church Member)

Lynn Bargstadt (Church Member)

Frank Brunner (Church Member)

Audrey Kinka (Church Member)

Sharon Ford (Church Member)

Carol Amundsen (Church Family)

Kim McGinley (Church Family)

Joan Sommerman (Church Family)

Gary Waltz (Church Family)

Megan Pratz (Betty Lang’s Friend)

Patty Cioce (Betty Lang’s Friend)

Carla Wagner (Betty Lang’s Family)

Tom McNamara (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

Beth & Bill Knapp (Betty Lang’s Family)

Bill Kanass (Betty Lang's Family)

Ed Borse (Betty Lang’s Friend)

James Kershaw (Audrey Kinka’s Friend)

Kali Poe (Betty Lang's Family)

Linda Dressic (Carol Detweiler's Family)

Suzie Clark (Rose Lang's Friend)

Evy (Betty Lang's Friend)

Amelia Skyrm (Audrey Kinka's Family)

Cindy Irana (Betty Lang’s Friend)

Ed Watson (Betty Lang's Friend)

Francis Clock (Dianna DeNote’s Family)

Andrew Hudak (Rose Lang’s Friend)

Fred Lang (Betty Lang’s Family)

Viena Murtha (Bob Fritsch’s Friend)

Christine Schneider (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

Jackie Churchman (Audrey Kinka’s Family)

Sharon Waicus (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)

Karen O'Brien (Paul Bowker's Friend)

Dustin Irizzary (Mary Melnicoff's Family)

Linda Smith (Rose Lang's Friend)

Joan Brown (Betty Lang's Friend)

Donna Bradley (Betty Lang's Friend)

Theresa Marioti (Betty Lang's Friend)

The Bryan Family (Wanda Bryan's Family)

Ernie Kinzler (Marie Hand & Doreen Kinzler’s Family)

Craig Brearey (Judy Brannan & Mary Melnicoff's Friend)

Sarah Dutton (Frank & Sharon Ford's Family)

Christina McNasby (Fran Green’s Family)

The Kinkson Family (Judy Brannan's Friends)

Mark Stephen Dennis (Diana DeNote's Family)

Cathy Snyder (Audrey Kinka's Family)

Dellie Valcourt (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Family)

Joyce (Betty Lang's Family)

Hannah (Betty Lang's Family)

Donna Lee (Betty Lang's Friend)

Bill Lodge (Skip & Bonnie Millard's Friend)

Patrick & Denise Brannan (Judy Brannan's Family)

Joseph Sheretta (Fran Green's Friend)

Ernie Rink (Fran Green's Friend)

Ron Anderson (Bill Kelly's Friend)

Jerry P (Wanda Bryan's Friend)

Pat Labrae (Kathy Poehler's Friend)

Bud Brearey (Judy Brannan & Mary Melnicoff's Friend)

Mary Skain (Kathy Poehler's Friend)

Jorge Martin (Kathy Poehler's Family)

Bill Rand (Wayne & Eleanor Rand's Family)

Rosemarie (Carol Amundsen’s Friend)

Thomas Mieluchowski (Philomena Noak's Family)

Reverend Maria Brooks (TDPWC Church Family)

Harold Snell (Fran Green's Friend)

Frances Woolbert (Heather Piekarski"s Friend)

Kevin Naylor (Vicki Rinier's Friend)

Robert Chaplin (Mary Melnicoff's Friend)

Joseph C (Mary Melnicoff's Friend)

Marie Hand (Church Member)

Eric Dishman (Church Family)

Frank Ford (Church Member)

Chris & Jen Bowers (Vince Piekarski's Friends)

Pam Fulk (Carol Amundsen's Family)

Rob Fox (Carol Amundsen's Family)

Nicole Kinzler (Doreen Kinzler & Marie Hand’s Family)

(Additional Names Added Prior to the Worship Service.)

A. Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love.

Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A. We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all

who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning

communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in

their learning. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A. We remember our beloved dead who with the great cloud of witnesses bear

witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we

too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

V. Watch over all of us who are worried and suffering, and especially those whose

names we now say aloud or within our hearts (extended pause). Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

V. We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your

beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C. Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

V. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C. And also with you.**

V. Let us share God’s Peace with one another.

(Please remain in your pews and offer the sign of peace with a peace sign or wave.)

V. We invite you to be seated.

**ANTHEM**

(Special Music for Everyone to Enjoy.)

**Blessed Assurance**

**OFFERING**

V. We now worship God with our tithes and offerings, wine and bread for use in holy

communion, and monetary gifts to support our ministry for service in God’s name.

Our Ushers will be around to your pews to pass the Offering Plates.

(Ushers come forward to get the Offering Plates from the Assistant.)

(Vicar and Assistant prepare the Altar for Communion.)

**OFFERING SONG**

(We invite you to sing along with the music offered by our Organist.)

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(Usher(s) brings the Tithes and Offerings up front to the Assistant.)

V. We invite you to stand if you are able.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

V. Let us pray,

Blessed are you, O God,

source of every gift of your creation.

By these gifts and with our lives,

help us to serve one another and all in need,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

V. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

V. Lift up your hearts.

**C. We lift them to the Lord.**

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C. It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

V. It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer

thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who rose

beyond the bounds of death and, as he promised, poured out your Spirit of life

and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exults in boundless

joy. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your

name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS**



**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

V. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, in mercy for our fallen world you gave

your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have

eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us

through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may

receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

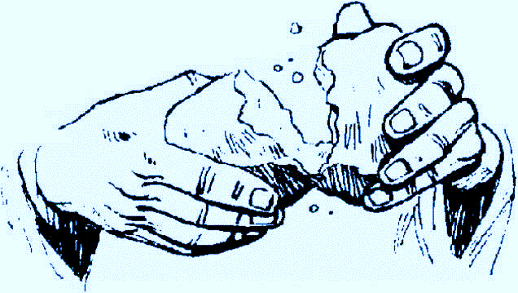
**C. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

V. In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread,

he gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

*Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.*

*Do this for the remembrance of me.*



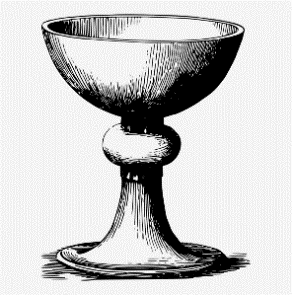
V. Again, after supper, He took the cup, he gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood,*

*shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.*

*Do this for the remembrance of me.*



**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

(We ring the bell throughout the Lord’s Prayer at all services to

invite those in the community to join in praying the Lord’s Prayer.)

V. May we now join with one another and pray together as Jesus has taught us.

**C. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily**

**bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass**

**against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For**

**thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

**C:\Users\Vince and Heather\Downloads\Lamb of God, ELW Setting Four (Melody).tif**

V. We invite you to be seated.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

V. All who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome at this very table. We utilize bread or

wafers, and we also have the option of individually wrapped gluten free wafers.

We have pre-filled red wine or white grape juice cups in the Communion Tray to

choose from.

The Usher will offer the option to leave your pew, and you can proceed forward

on the right side of the aisle to the steps between the Communion Rail. Following

Communion, please process back on the left side of the aisle and place your

empty cups in the basket before returning to your pew. Children who have not

had their First Communion instruction and adults who do not wish to receive

Communion, are welcome to come forward for a special blessing.

If you are unable to leave your pew for health or other related reasons, please

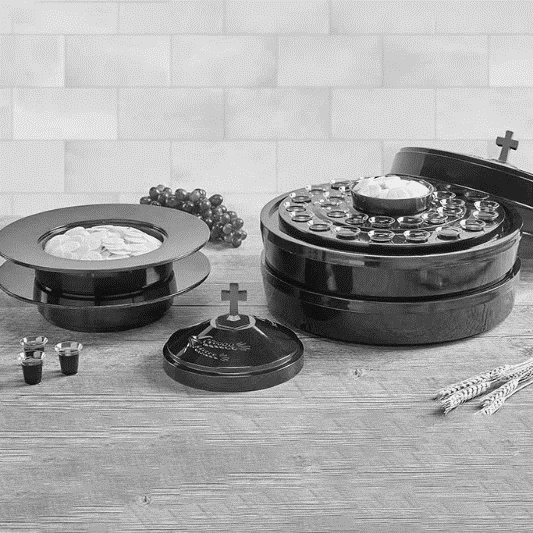
inform the Usher of your desire to remain in your pew and have us come to you.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

V. Jesus welcomes you to this table.

Come, here is your God.

**C. Amen.**



(Distribution of Holy Communion)

**COMMUNION HYMN**

(Please enjoy music offered by our Organist.)

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Book

**454—If God Himself Be for Me**

(Vicar and Assistant remove Communion Vessels from the Altar.)

V. Let us stand as we are able.

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

V. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us

always in His grace.

**C. Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**





**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A. Let us pray,

Holy God,

you have welcomed us to this meal

and fed us with dignity at your table.

Send us now to welcome others

and to be at peace with one another,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

V. God all mighty,

God most merciful

☩ bless you, keep you,

and give you peace.

**C. Amen.**

(We invite you to remain standing if you are able.)

**SENDING HYMN**

(We invite you to sing along with the music offered by our Organist.)

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Book

**503—O Jesus, I Have Promised**

(Assistant extinguishes the Altar Candles half way through the Sending Hymn.)

(Vicar processes out once the Altar Candles have been extinguished.)

(We invite you to be seated.)

**BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Offered by Assistant and Congregation.)

**BIRTHDAYS**

15th Skip Millard

21st Eleanor Rand

**ANNIVERSARY**

15th Scott & Kristina Crull

**DISMISSAL**

A. Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

(Music offered by our Organist as we depart following our Worship Service.)

**With Faith Transcending**

**LICENSES & EXPIRATION DATES**

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**WORSHIP MINISTRY**

The most important thing we do each week is gather together as God's people to worship. God is the center and focus of everything we do. Participating in worship is active. Liturgy means the work and actions of the people gathered. Everything we do during the week to prepare for worship, and everything we do as we assist in leading worship is important. We are thankful for all the wonderful work being done. If you are interested in any position let Vicar Vince know so a training can be set-up.

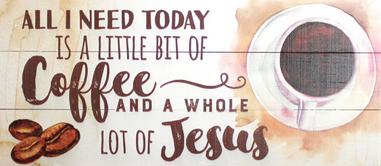
Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board between the church offices.



**NEWSLETTER**

We will continue on with our seasonal publications. Information, stories, pictures, and committee reports can be submitted to Vicar Vince in-person or via email at vpie8282@gmail.com. Everything needs to be submitted no later than **TODAY**

to be included in the Fall 2024 Publication.



**COFFEE HOUR**

The Women of the Church will be hosting our monthly Coffee Hour **TODAY**, following our Worship Service. See Judy or Kathy for more information.



**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Share your comments, concerns, questions, or joys with one of our Church Council Members who can bring them back to our meetings. Visitors are always welcome to attend and listen to what is going on in and around the church. Join us In- Person or on our Conference Call at our next Meeting on **Tuesday, September 17th, at 6PM**.

**VICE PASTOR UPDATE**

Pastor William Hodgetts has stepped into the Vice Pastor Role for our Congregation, and will also be supervising Vicar Vince. We look forward to welcoming Pastor William at our next Church Council Meeting, as well as scheduling a meet and greet for the congregation on another date to be scheduled in the future. Stay Posted.

**FOOD PANTRY & COMMUNITY DELIVERIES**

**Open every Thursday, and the last Saturday of every month, from 10AM**

**to 1PM**. 67 people were served in August. 775 people have been served in 2024. Donations can be dropped in the basket in the Narthex, placed in the outdoor drop-box by the Church Office door, placed in the money jug in the back of the Church, mailed into the Church Office, or placed in the Offering Plate. Volunteers are needed each week. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board between the church offices. If you have questions or need training see Heather, Vicar Vince, or Bonnie.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Thursday, 9/19** | **Thursday, 9/26** | **Saturday, 9/28** |
| Garnet & Tori | Garnet & Cathie | Skip & Bonnie |

Our local North Cape May Acme & Big Lots provide us with Expiring Soon, Recently Expired, and Slightly Damaged Foods & Items weekly. Kathy helps those in need by delivering items each Saturday in the community. Kathy then brings leftover items to the Church for church members in need, and those who visit the food pantry during the week. Additional items are then taken over to the Branches Outreach in Rio Grande. A special thanks to all who donate, pray, & help in any way!

**BULLETIN ENTRY DEADLINE**

The Bulletin is Printed on **Thursdays** during Church Office Hours. Changes need to be submitted to Vicar Vince or Heather no later than **Thursdays at 4PM**. Thanks!

**CHURCH OFFICE**

Open **Thursdays from 6PM to 8PM** to serve the Congregation, the Community,

and to continue handling the business of the Church. Feel free to stop in to talk, pick-up or drop off something, pray in the Sanctuary, or for whatever reason.



**S’MORES & SCRIPTURES**

Did you ever look forward to sitting around a fire in the church yard hanging out with some church friends and other folks, enjoying s’mores, and studying scriptures?

We look forward to starting this monthly fellowship and study time on **Saturday,** **September 21st, at 7PM**. Please ask Heather or Vicar Vince for more information.

**BIBLE STUDY & FAITH DISCUSSIONS**

​​​​​Bible Study & Faith Discussions was started in order to focus on various readings, books, verses, people of faith, and other general topics. Group Members offer various points of view while reviewing the Bible and various aspects of faith while being respectful and supportive of each other. We are closing out our studies on Lutheranism 101 and transitioning to a few new things on our way to our new curriculum called by heart. Come check things out for the first time or come back and rejoin us **next Tuesday, September 24th, at 7PM**.

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A NEW MEMBER**

Have you been attending our church for a while? Have you just recently returned to church after being away for a bit? Maybe you transitioned from another church,

or just started to recently attend our church. We are glad to have you, and would love to have you as a member of our Congregation. Our next class will be on **Wednesday, September 25th, at 6PM**. Please see Vicar Vince any questions,

and for more information about becoming a member.

**UPCOMING THRIVENT SPONSORED EVENTS**

**September 25th**: “A Lifetime Gift” presentation at Pelican Pointe in North Cape May

**October 26th**: Walk to End Alzheimer’s on the Ocean City Boardwalk

If you are interested, please reach out to Glen Stewart, BFA, member of St. John Lutheran Church, Ocean City, NJ, and Thrivent Financial Advisor, glen.stewart@thrivent.com, Office 609-736-0006, Text 609-454-6194.

**PREACHING AT BROOKDALE**

Vicar Vince will be helping out by covering and preaching at Brookdale

Senior Living in Cape May Court House on **Sunday, September 29th, at 1PM**.

**DONATION STATION**

Get on the train and place all purchased items in the specified project donation bins located on the counter by the front doors. See Heather for more information.



**WOMEN OF THE CHURCH**

The next monthly meeting will be held on **Monday, October 7th, at 6PM**.

New members are always welcome to attend! Contact Judy for more information.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School is currently on Summer Break. Children of all ages will be welcome to attend when classes resume in the middle of **October 2024** on Sundays from 9-10AM. Children learn through Scriptures, Crafts, Games, Videos, and Activities. We will be exploring Confirmation Classes starting this year from “Here We Stand”. See Heather, Bonnie, & Vicar Vince for more information and volunteer opportunities.

**TRUNK OR TREAT AND MOVIE**

True Deliverance Praise & Worship Center and Holy Spirit Lutheran Church invite you to join us for some family fun on **Saturday, October 26th, starting at 3PM**. Come get your candy and treats, enjoy Inside Out 2, and enjoy time with everyone! To participate, or for more information, call 609-741-8009.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

The Sunday School Students will once again be collecting items to pack in the Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child in **November**. They will be collecting the following items: coloring books, crayons, markers, colored pencils, small toys, washcloths, individually wrapped bars of soap, toothbrushes, combs, socks, small craft projects, and small stuffed animals. Please no liquid or food items!!!

**FAVORITE HYMNS**

Carol is willing to play some of your favorite hymns for the Prelude & Postlude each Sunday during our Worship Service. Feel free to let her know of your suggestions.

**SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE**

Oliver Phillips at Not the DJ, LLC confirmed he was able to locate a 16-channel mixer and 4 new speakers. Oliver told the former owner who upgraded their systems that he could refurbish these items and use them at our church. As a result, they decided to donate them instead of selling them. Following his time checking them over and refurbishing them he is now ready to install everything. He was able to determine how much wire and other supplies he would need. Oliver provided an estimate for the amount of time it would take to rewire the church and set-up, at a cost of $2,200. We budgeted $5,000 for this, and could not have gotten any luckier that things lined up with these items and getting them donated. To God be the Glory! The $1,100 deposit has been paid and work will be scheduled in the near future.



**TAKING FAITH HOME**

Vicar Vince was introduced to Milestones Ministries weekly guides for faith-filled studies and conversations through a Seminary class. A decision was made to pass these along to you. If you missed a week, or lost your insert, check our website for past issues. Feel free to ask questions and provide feedback to Vicar Vince.

**OUR LIBRARY**

New books are added to our library from time to time. Several are borrowed and read and exchanged. Who knows, you might find one particularly interesting and share that with someone as well. Reading is a great way to pass spare time, learn, and explore. You may find some fresh ideas for prayer, ways to grow more spiritually, ways to grow closer to God, or some opportunities to understand our faith more. Visit the library between the church offices and see what books are there!

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Prayer Shawls, Lap Quilts, Scarves, and other items have been made with love for those in need. Blessed items are located in the Narthex, and are free for anyone. Members of the group continue working at home on new stitches and patterns. We are blessed to be able to continue collecting newly made items. We currently have a donation station of yarn and other items located in the Narthex. Make sure you check it out and find some new supplies for your next creation!



**HOME COMMUNION MINISTRY**

A Minister is available if you have a loved one, or if you desire services. We look forward in sharing the Word and Holy Communion! Please inform Vicar Vince, Kathy, or the Church Office so plans can be made for visits.

**BAPTISM**

We are a church whose unity is in Jesus Christ, who gathers us around word and water, wine and bread. Baptism is a significant part of our faith journey as we come from the baptismal waters to live a new life as children of God. Our baptism sets us out on a lifelong journey that is characterized by our relationship to God, our relationship to our faith community, our relationships in our community and the wider world. Living our baptismal covenant means living a life of growth in the faith practices of discipleship. Please see Vicar Vince for more information.

**FIRST COMMUNION**

Although no particular age for first communion is prescribed by The Use of the Means of Grace, one guideline is offered. Because admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord to the baptized, "baptized children begin to commune on a regular basis at a time determined through mutual conversation that includes the pastor/vicar, the child, and the parents or sponsors involved, within the accepted practices of the congregation.” Each congregation is encouraged to ask the question of readiness for first communion, establish their own policies regarding age and practice, and accompany that practice with catechesis appropriate to the age of the communicant. If anyone has questions, please see Vicar Vince.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

You can pick up a copy of your 2024 Church Directory by the Church Office on the bookshelves. We continue to keep it updated throughout the year. Undoubtedly, we probably missed a few changes, and have made a few errors. The printed church directories have spaces for changes in people’s information, new people’s information, notes, and your favorite Bible verses. If you have any changes or updates, please make it a point to inform the Church Office to keep us most up to date and current with all of your information.



**PRAYER LIST**

Our Prayer List continues to lengthen and we realize the important need for prayers and healing. Sometimes the unfortunate result is that someone has passed away, and the words “The Family & Friends of” appear before someone’s name. However, sometimes we forget names are still on the list and their health has improved or the they are no longer struggling, and they can be removed. Please share the good and bad stories as we continue to pray for strength and healing. Names can be added or removed from the list on the clipboard in the Narthex prior to the Worship Service, by calling the church office, or addressing it on the Conference Call. Please let us know the relation to the person(s) you listed so we can be more mindful with our prayers. Names will stay on the list until removed by the person(s) who requested prayer.

**TITHES, OFFERINGS, & ENVELOPES**

Envelopes are available in your mailbox in the back of the church, or from the Church Office. We do indeed worship God with our tithes and offerings. We hear this in scripture, “Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7) Feel free to drop your envelopes in the offering plate, mail them to the church, or drop them off in the locked mailbox. We thank you for all of your continued support in the mission of our church, its ministries, the New Jersey Synod, and various other needs!

**ED GREEN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND**

We continue raising money for unforeseen costs or repairs.Kathy sells Wawa Tickets for $6, the donation bin is in the back of the church, and we have our Annual Church Rummage Sale. Thanks for your continued donations, prayers, and support!

**HALL RENTAL**

​​​​​Do you know anyone interested in renting our Fellowship Hall for a Party or Event?

It is $250 for hall and kitchen use, and a $50 refundable security deposit. There is no alcohol permitted due to ELCA policy. Please contact Vicar Vince or the Church Office with questions, for information, or to reserve a date and time.

**JERSEY JOTTINGS**

Jersey Jottings is a weekly e-newsletter that connects our synod together with weekly prayer, upcoming events, synod and churchwide activities, mission stories, congregational activities, and more. You can also sign up by going to https://www.njsynod.org/stay-connected and filling out the form! You can also get the app on your smartphone in the Apple App Store or on Google Play on your android.



**TRUE DELIVERANCE PRAISE & WORSHIP CENTER**

Reverend Maria Brooks and her Congregation utilize our facilities from 1-4PM on Sundays. They help or host events. A Prayer Line is hosted that you can join on their Conference Call # 1-657-390-7957 on Mondays, Thursdays, & Fridays at 5PM.



**VICAR APPOINTMENT ON MARCH 19TH, 2023**

A Memorandum of Understanding on the Matter of Pastoral Appointment

In Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) Candidacy

TO: Congregation Council, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Villas

FROM: The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, Bishop, New Jersey Synod

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

This memorandum is in support of your discussions with Vincent Piekarski as pastor of Holy Spirit, Villas. Because this is not the usual pattern for completing the educational and candidacy requirements for ordination, it is my hope that this memorandum will both provide guidelines and engage in conversation with those who are invested in this process.

I would say at the outset that because Vincent is an outstanding candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, we will all want to do whatever is necessary to assure that his placement serves the mission of the church in the best possible fashion.

The following notes reflect my own understanding of this matter:

(1) **The appointment for Vincent will begin on April 1, 2023**. At this time, Vincent

will assume all responsibilities of a regularly called pastor, including presiding at

the Sacrament of Holy Communion and Baptism at Holy Spirit, Villas.

(2) A pastoral appointment in the TEEM process is an option for completing

seminary educational requirements and the steps of the candidacy process.

Upon completion of the candidacy process and seminary education, the

candidate may receive and accept a call to ordained ministry from the

congregation where the appointment is being served.

(3) This appointment is jointly supervised by the Office of the Bishop and the TEEM

pastor’s seminary. A mentoring relationship with a local pastor is required for the

length of this appointment.

(4) The synod of candidacy origin will be responsible for the approval process.

(5) Upon approval for ordination, the congregation would be expected to extend a

call to the pastoral appointee.

(6) Compensation for the TEEM pastor will be according to the guidelines of the New

Jersey Synod. All normal forms of compensation should be in place for the term

of the appointment, including stipulation that base salary and housing shall be in

accord with synod guidelines for first call at time of ordination.

(7) The ELCA Portico benefit plan for lay persons in full-time church service should

be used for the pastoral appointee up to the time of ordination, whereupon the

benefit package is to be converted to the plan for ELCA clergy.

(8) A decision for Pastoral Appointment is made with the agreement of a synod and

its candidacy committee, and the ELCA, normally represented by the regional

staff person of each in consultation with the seminary and its Director for

Contextual Education.

(9) Pastoral Appointment in a TEEM Candidacy is an option that is to serve the

mission of the Church in a particular and vital way and is not to be viewed or

used as a means to circumvent the normal candidacy process and/or first call

placement process.

In the specific case of Vincent, the New Jersey Synod remains responsible for the candidacy and approval process, and has agreed to this proposal for Appointment at Holy Spirit, Villas.

Continued blessings to both Holy Spirit and Vincent Piekarski as you embark on this journey of mutual ministry. As partners in ministry, we walk with you and rejoice in this new relationship.

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| **2024 FINANCIAL STANDING** | |
| **AUGUST INCOME** | $4,679.00 |
| **AUGUST SPENDING** | $30,413.68 |
| **AUGUST GAIN OR (LOSS)** | ($25,734.68) |
| **2024 INCOME** | $67,856.67 |
| **2024 SPENDING** | $92,834.08 |
| **2024 GAIN OR (LOSS)** | ($24,977.41) |
| **ED GREEN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND** | $17,435.88 |
| **FOOD PANTRY FUND (SOCIAL MINISTRY)** | $12,514.73 |
| **CD** | $25,000.00 |



**CHURCH STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

**VICAR, BIBLE STUDY & FAITH DISCUSSIONS,**

**EVENTS, NEWSLETTER, & WEBSITE**

Vicar Vince Piekarski

**VICE PASTOR**

Pastor William Hodgetts

**ORGANIST & PIANIST**

Carol Amundsen

**CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Mary Melnicoff

**CHURCH COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT**

Judy Brannan

**CHURCH COUNCIL TREASURER**

Bonnie Millard

**CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY**

Vicki Rinier

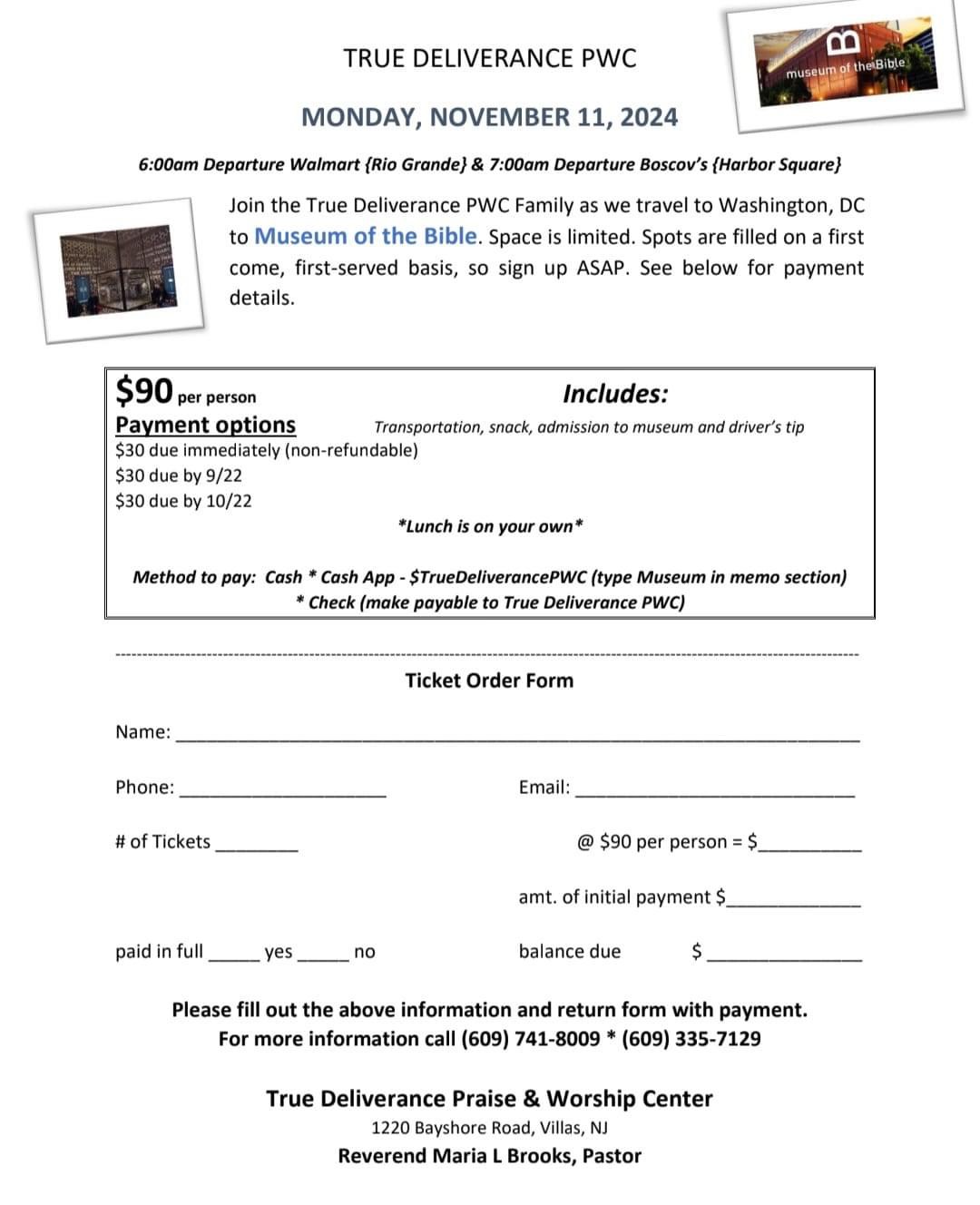
**CHURCH PROPERTY**

Frank Ford & Wayne Rand

**CHURCH OFFICE, SUNDAY SCHOOL, & FOOD PANTRY**

Heather Piekarski







**WHAT IS THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA)?**

The ELCA was formed in 1987 by the merger of three Lutheran Church bodies –

the ALC (American Lutheran Church), the LCA (Lutheran Church in America),

and the AELC (Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches).

To learn more, go to the ELCA's website at www.elca.org.

**WHAT IS THE NEW JERSEY SYNOD?**

The New Jersey Synod is a geographical grouping of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregations that share the mission and ministry of the Church on the New Jersey territory. It is one of 65 synods in the ELCA. The NJ Synod is comprised of 146 congregations, which include over 45,000 baptized members.