



A Christmas Gift

This Christmas, our monetary gift in honor of the congregations and rostered ministers of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod is being sent to the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania (LAMPa). Together, we seek to make changes in our commonwealth for the sake of all people, especially for those who do not have what is necessary for a good and healthy life or those whose voices are not heard.

We thank you for your faithful ministry with the congregations and communities you serve in Pennsylvania. May God bless us all with a peaceful New Year!

Bishop Ralph E. and Pastor Sandra K. Jones

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrew 13:16



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January

1— Bishops Academy

5— TEEM Alternate Prep A History of Christian Theology- 9AM,
Interpretation to Proclamation- 1PM

19-TEEM Alternate Prep A History of Christian Theology- 9AM, Interpretation to
Proclamation- 1PM

21— Martin Luther King Jr Day— Office Closed

26-TEEM Alternate Prep Leadership— 9AM



February

9- TEEM Alternate Prep Leadership— 9AM

14— Valentines Day

23— Synod Council Meeting— 10AM



NWPA Synod— Green Team

A YEAR OF ZERO WASTE

Do you think you can do a year of zero waste? No, me either... but I'll bet you and I can cut down on our waste! Below are some ideas to think about. Take baby steps, work with a friend, get your family on board, talk to co-workers and look around other places you spend time (church, park, gym, school). Don't take a vacation from zero waste. Be aware all the time, not just when it's convenient or easy. GOOD LUCK! —————>

JANUARY: A LOW-WASTE KITCHEN

- Do a trash audit
- Shop bulk
- Challenge yourself to not waste food

FEBRUARY: A WASTE-FREE BATHROOM

- Assess your shower and sink space
- Makeup changes
- Water usage challenge

MARCH: GREEN CLEANING SUPPLIES

- Do a cleaning supply audit
- Make a swap
- Declutter

APRIL: A LOW-WASTE WORKPLACE

- What's it like at work?
- Talk your coworkers and encourage them to join you in low-waste efforts

MAY: ZERO WASTE IN REAL LIFE

- Do a day-to-day assessment
- Deal with the nay-sayers

JUNE: MINIMIZING MINDFULLY

- What are you spending?
- Bathroom and kitchen
- Bedroom and living room

JULY: YOUR AT-HOME GARDEN

- What is your growing potential?
- Try low-waste gardening

AUGUST: DE-TRASHING TRAVEL

- What's the best way to travel?
- Plan your low-waste visit
- Deal with your carbon emissions

SEPTEMBER: ALL ABOUT COMPOSTING

- Learn about composting
- Compost as much waste as you can
- Find outside arrangements

OCTOBER: AN ETHICAL WARDROBE

- Complete a closet assessment
- Declutter mindfully

NOVEMBER: COMMUNITY ACTION

- Who is your community?
- Start a zero waste group
- Host a zero waste event

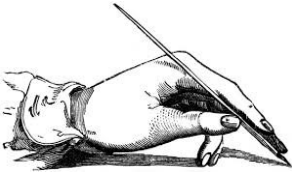
DECEMBER: ZERO WASTE HOLIDAYS

- The "no wasteful gifts, please" talk
- Wrap sustainably
- Make zero waste resolutions

If you would like to be on the **NWPA Synod's Green Team's** email list or would like more information about the Green Team, contact Chair, Rev. Ken Laber (jklaber@velocity.net), or member Dennis Groce (d_mgroce@labs.net) with your name and email address.

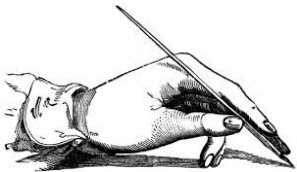
Martin Luther, "God is wholly present in all creation, in every corner, behind you and before you." (LW 51:43)





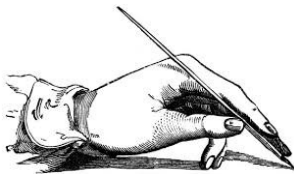
2019 Rostered Leader Reports

Every member of the Word and Service Roster; formerly listed as Pastor, Associate-in-Ministry, Diaconal Minister, and Deaconess is expected to provide an annual report to the synodical bishop. The report may be mailed to the Synod Office or sent by e-mail to bishop@nwpaelca.org. The reports may be found on the ELCA website at <http://www.elca.org/en/About/Churchwide/Office-of-the-Secretary/Rostered-Leaders>. Reports are provided according to the rostered-leader's status.



2018 Parochial Reports

Information for the 2018 Congregational Parochial Reports from the ELCA should be received either by email or hardcopy by early January. Please make sure you fill out both the **A** and **C** reports. Please either submit them directly on the ELCA website or by sending them to me at the Synod office by February 15, 2019. Please remember that these reports come from the ELCA, not the Synod Office. If you do not receive your reports or need help accessing your ID and Password please feel free to contact me and I will be more than happy to assist you. -Ellen



2019 Commitment Reports

Each congregation should have received their 2019 Commitment Form. Please fill out and return to the Synod office no later than March 1, 2019. These forms are a critical stepping stone in building our budget. These forms help us correctly determine the amount of support that can be put towards ministry within the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod. Each congregation is encouraged to submit their Commitment form. In order to receive your Mission Support Certificate at Synod Assembly, the congregation must first submit their amount and then reach or surpass their designated commitment.

2019 Synod Assembly

June 13-15

Thiel College, Greenville

ELCA Representative:

Lori Fedyk

Treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2019 Mileage update

The Internal Revenue Service today issued the 2019 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2019, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 58 cents per mile driven for business use, up 3.5 cents from the rate for 2018,
- 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, up 2 cents from the rate for 2018, and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

A word from Ellen

NWPA SYNOD, ELCA

22598 Titusville Road
PO BOX 43
Pleasantville, PA 16341-0043

814.589.7660
Fax: 814.589.7566

nwpasynodelca@gmail.com



WWW.NWPAELCA.ORG



Northwestern PA Synod, ELCA

Local Happenings

Family Winterfest

Saturday, January 26, 2019

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Two Mile Run County Park's Pioneer Flats Pavilion

Bring the whole family and join us for some fun in the snow!!!

Here's what we will be enjoying:

- Sled Riding
- Cardboard Box Derby Race*
- Snowman Building Contest*
- Hot Dogs and Cocoa
- A HUGE Bonfire
- Door Prizes

Chocoholic Frolic 2019

February 23, 2019

Get your tickets today to sample chocolate delights from bakeries, caterers, and other chocolatiers across our region. Your ticket will get you into the Italian Civic Club from 6-8pm for samples, cash bar, basket auction and more! Sponsors are invited to attend the VIP Sponsors Cocktail Hour from 5-6 pm.