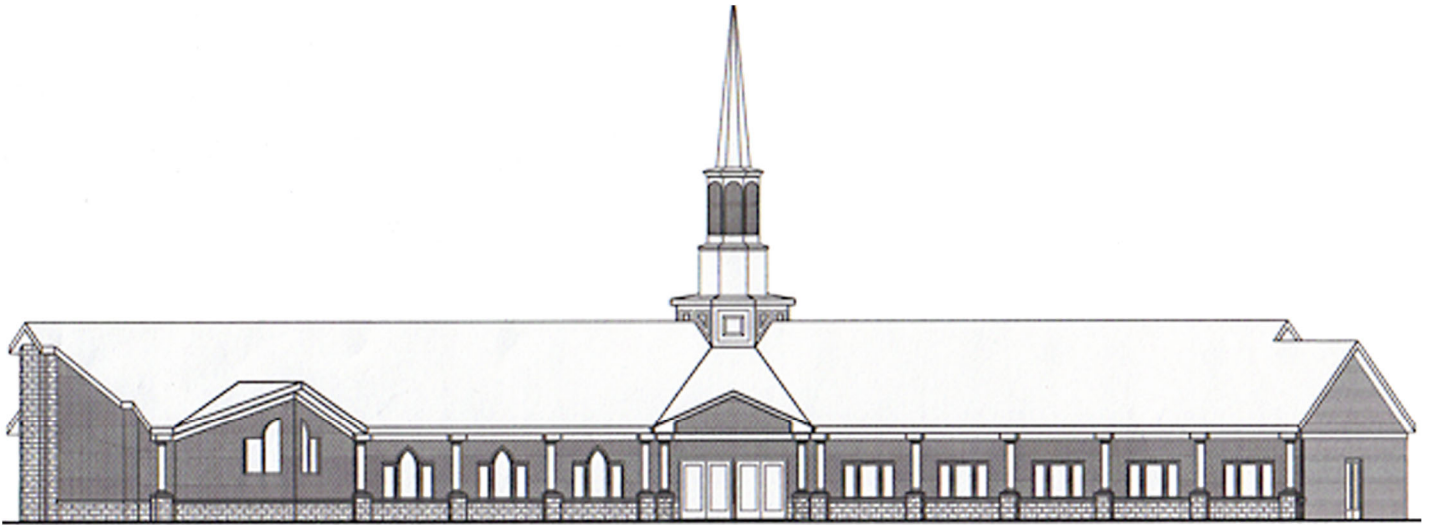


# THE JERUSALEM TIMES



*The monthly newsletter of Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Trachsville, Pa.*

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
500 Church Drive  
Palmerton, PA 18071-3642

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
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Permit # 40

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## April 2024

### Church Events

- 7<sup>th</sup> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
- 13<sup>th</sup> Ham & Dandelion Take-Out Dinner
- 14<sup>th</sup> Worship Service
- 21<sup>st</sup> Worship Service
- 28<sup>th</sup> Worship Service

Church Office: 610-681-5200








E-MAIL: [jlc03@ptd.net](mailto:jlc03@ptd.net)

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church \(Trachsville\)](https://facebook.com/Jerusalem%20Evangelical%20Lutheran%20Church%20(Trachsville))

WEBSITE: [www.jelctrachsville.weebly.com](http://www.jelctrachsville.weebly.com)



HELLO  
April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>March 31 Easter Sunday Worship Service w/ Holy Communion 9:00 AM</p>	<p>1 WELCA Mtg 12:30 PM</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Happy Dandelion Day</p> 	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Joint Worship Service 9:00 AM w/ Holy Communion</p>	<p>8</p> 	<p>9 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>10 Church Office Closed</p> <p>All Dinner Donations due</p>	<p>11 WELCA Prep Dandelions/Dressing 9 &amp; 10 am</p> <p>Office open 8-3 pm</p>	<p>12 WELCA prep potatoes 9 am</p> <p>Office open 8-10 am</p>	<p>13 WELCA Prep 11am</p> <p>Ham &amp; Dandelion Take-out Dinner 3:30-5:30 pm</p> 
<p>14 Worship Service 9:00 AM</p>	<p>15</p> 	<p>16 Office open 9-2</p>	<p>17 Office open 9-2</p>	<p>18 Office open 9-2</p> <p>Council Meeting 7:00 PM</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Worship Service 9:00 AM</p>	<p>22</p> 	<p>23 Office open 12-4</p>	<p>24 Office open 12-4</p>	<p>25 Office open 12-4</p>	<p>26</p> 	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Worship Service 9:00 AM</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Office open 9-2</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>For pastoral service contact Rev. Kenneth Melber Jr. at: Home: 484-629-2812 / Church office: 610-681-5200 Email: <a href="mailto:pastorken86@gmail.com">pastorken86@gmail.com</a></p> </div>			



# The Newsletter

of Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

500 Church Drive, Palmerton, PA 18071

Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sunday Worship Services at 9:00 AM

Pastor: Kenneth Melber, Jr

Music Director: Frank Hall IV

Sexton: Stacy Buchiane

Secretary: AnneMarie Cronk

Treasurer: Melanie Windhorn

Financial Secretary: Carol O'Brien



Calendar

A Note from the Pastor

Prayer List

Birthdays & Anniversaries

WELCA News

Announcements

Council Meeting Minutes

Offering Report

*Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!*

*Alleluia!*

One of the things I love about Sunday morning worship is the music. As we enter into this Easter season, our songs are filled with alleluias and shouts of joy for the victory of Christ over death. As Christ is risen, we too shall rise! Growing up, I always loved the Easter hymns. They were happy, upbeat, joyful. Filled with alleluias and promises of eternal life.

It's also striking that all of this Easter music comes after many weeks of Lent. The Lenten hymns are a bit more somber. I've found over the years that nobody is neutral on Lenten hymns. You either love them or you hate them. Here's the thing, though. I really love the Lenten hymns, too. They speak of a savior who comes to suffer and die in our place. We are the ones who sin, but Christ is the one who receives the punishment in our place. In a sense, that is a happy thing, even if reflecting on the cost is heavy!

This is all to say don't expect me to suddenly encourage us to sing upbeat songs in Lent or somber songs in Easter. We really need to sing both kinds of songs. Somber songs remind us of our sin and upbeat songs remind us of the saving Gospel. To ignore either of those realities is to miss so much of the human condition and how God interacts with it.

*Peace,*

*Pastor Ken*



***Please keep all of our family & friends in your prayers.***



**Prayer List**

Kimberly Bastibetilli, Earl Beers, Nancy Berkebile, Anita Borger, Tammy Burger, Delores Christman, Moriah Coles, Emmy Dunbar, Allen Eckhart, Robert Eckhart, Terry Hahn, Frank Hall III, Kit Hall, Catherine Henshaw, Pete Horbowyj, Glen Kichline, Nancy McNeese, Matt Nothstein, Erica Polizzi, Roseanna Polizzi, Chuck Schretzman, Sheila Sherer, Deric Sterling, John Spirk, Eugene Strohl, Brandie Uliana, Eden Wilbur, Robert Ziegenfus

**Residents of a Nursing Home, Personal Care Home, or Hospital**

Richard Beers – Scenic View Nursing Home  
Helen Christman – The Palmerton  
Richard & Patricia Shook – The Gardens at York Terrace

**SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES**

**Army** – Danny Carden, Gerald Eckhart, and Trevor Gower

**Coast Guard** – Garrett Cameron

**Navy** - Sarah McCready and Jeremy Zellers

**Marines** – Sam Rudolf

**Army Reserves** - William L. Hittner and Theodoric Hittner

*If you have an address to provide for the people that are serving in the military so that the congregation may correspond with them, please let the office know.*



**BIRTHDAYS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Stacey Ackley, Walker Sherer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sydney Buchiane, Makayla Fedor, Patty Forgay, Tanya Hook
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Kelly Scott
- 4<sup>th</sup> Mary Bollinger, Lisa Fedor, Carol O'Brien
- 5<sup>th</sup> Garrett Horvath, Brock Moyer
- 6<sup>th</sup> Sean Hall, Eugene Hedrick
- 8<sup>th</sup> Ivy Hagenbuch
- 12<sup>th</sup> Allen Eckhart, Sarah Larkin
- 14<sup>th</sup> Jaclyn Haydt
- 15<sup>th</sup> Evelyn Haydt
- 16<sup>th</sup> Raymond Berger, Tyler Butz, Roger Green Jr., Heather Long, Sabreena Strauch
- 17<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Green, Marla Szena
- 18<sup>th</sup> Logan Blose
- 19<sup>th</sup> Joel Beers
- 20<sup>th</sup> Roger Green Sr.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Elizabeth Blose, Victoria Smith
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Amy Kuehner
- 27<sup>th</sup> Michelle Kuehner
- 28<sup>th</sup> Christine Fritz
- 29<sup>th</sup> John Spirk



*HAPPY  
Birthday*

*The birth dates and anniversary dates are what we have on file. If they are incorrect, please contact the office.*

1<sup>st</sup> ~ Tom & Christine Fritz

14<sup>th</sup> ~ Roger & Sandra L. Green; James & Judith Leiding

16<sup>th</sup> ~ Irene & Dean Zacharias

19<sup>th</sup> ~ Allen & Barbara Eckhart

25<sup>th</sup> ~ Michael & Kayla Sander

28<sup>th</sup> ~ Paul & Michelle Kuehner

29<sup>th</sup> ~ Blaine & Lori Eckhart



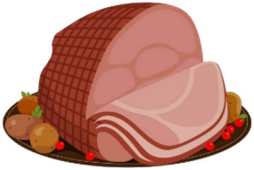


# WELCA News

April 2024

WELCA met on March 4<sup>th</sup> and made final arrangements the Basket Social and Lent Fellowship. The also started planning the Ham & Dandelion Dinner coming up. The Spring Basket Social was a huge success! There was over 130 baskets and a large turnout! A **BIG 'THANK YOU'** to all who donated baskets and helped with this event!!!

WELCA prepared Egg Chowder Soup and Chicken BBQ for the Fellowship on March 13<sup>th</sup>.



## **The Ham & Dandelion Take-out Dinner is Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Tickets are \$16 each. Call 610-681-5200 to order.

Please order early so we can be prepared!

Pick-up April 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.



### **Help is needed on the following dates and times for Dinner preparations:**

**Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>:** all donations for the dinner must be at the church by this day.

**Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>:** make dressing at 9:00 AM, clean & wash dandelion at 10:00 AM

**Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>:** help peel potatoes & set up tables for take-out at 9:00 AM

**Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>:** starting at 11:00 AM, prepare food for dinner. Need help at 3:00 PM to greet people and deliver their meals, and help package meals, and help in the kitchen to prepare the meals. We are also looking for men to sign up to lift the heavy pots in the kitchen.

A sign-up sheet for food donations and volunteers is located in the narthex, or let a WELCA member know if you can help.



## **Persian Donut Sale** **\$2.<sup>00</sup> each**



To order please call the Church office 610-681-5200

All Orders are due: May 5, 2024

Pick-up at the Church: May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9-11:00 a.m.

WELCA Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 12:30pm.  
April Meeting is Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> and the May Meeting will be Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.  
**New members are always welcome!!**



# April Church Announcements

## Joint Parish Service

Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> will be the first of four joint worship services with St. John's. All members of St. John's are invited to celebrate here at our 9 a.m. worship service, there will not be a 10:30 a.m. service there. Please extend a warm welcome to all! May 26<sup>th</sup> we will travel to St. John's for their 10:30 a.m. Service.



## Lectors Wanted

Anyone who would like to serve as a lector during a worship service can sign-up on the sheet located on the bulletin board outside the office. Once you have signed up, you can take the Today's Reading that goes with the Sunday you chose to go over beforehand.

## Thank You

Thank you to all those who helped with the Cemetery Clean-up on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Your time is appreciated!

## New Issues Available

The April/May/June issue of The Word in Season and Christ in Our Home are now available in the narthex. These are two different daily readings of inspiration for you, or you can pick up one for a friend or family member. There is a donation box located near these publications to help offset the cost.

## Altar Guild

We are looking for new members to join our Altar Guild. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex for anyone interested in joining. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Ken.

## St John's Basket Social

St John's will hold their Basket Social on Sat. May 4<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm. Basket drawing held at 2:30 p.m. Over 100 baskets to choose from, 50/50 drawing. Bake Sale and delicious home-made foods including Happy Bowl, Pierogies, BBQ, Hamburgers and Halushki. \$3 tickets or 2/\$5. Each ticket includes 25 chances to win!

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### *Important dates of the month to remember:*

1 <sup>st</sup>	WELCA Meeting	12:30 p.m.
7 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Worship Service w/ Holy Communion	9:00 p.m.
9 & 10 <sup>th</sup>	Church Office Closed (Tues & Wed)	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Church Office Open	8 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
11 <sup>th</sup>	WELCA- Make Dressing, Prep Dandelions	9 & 10:00 a.m.
12 <sup>th</sup>	Church Office Open	8 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
12 <sup>th</sup>	WELCA- Prep Potatoes	9:00 a.m.
13 <sup>th</sup>	WELCA -Dinner Take out prep	11:00 a.m.
13 <sup>th</sup>	Ham & Dandelion Dinner Pick-up	3:30-5:30 p.m.
14 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Service	9:00 p.m.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
21 <sup>st</sup>	Worship Service	9:00 p.m.
28 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Service	9:00 p.m.



### *APRIL FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSORS*

April 7: Connie Strohl

April 14: Irene & Dean Zacharias

April 21: Kathleen Spirk & Gail Paules

April 28: Phil & Donna McGarry



# Church Council Members

**Ricky Moyer – President**

**Donna McGarry – Secretary**

**Jackie Brotzman**

**Connie Smale**

**Bobby Ziegenfus – Vice President**

**Joan Altemose**

**Delbert Christman**

**Rolf Windhorn**

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## **Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2024**

**Attendance:** Joan Altemose, Jackie Brotzman, Delbert Christman, Donna McGarry, Ricky Moyer, Bobby Ziegenfus, Pastor Melber and Financial Secretary Carol O'Brien

**Absent:** Connie Smale, Rolf Windhorn

**Visitors:** None

**Call to Order** by President Ricky Moyer

**Devotions and Prayers:** Delbert Christman

### **Open Forum**

Carol O'Brien reported the following:

- 2025 envelopes have been ordered. Our church name will be printed on the envelope flap (at no extra cost) so they are more easily identifiable when we have a joint service with St. John's.
- Even though the building fund donations are now going into the General Fund, she is able to keep a record of these donations separate in the computer software.
- Young adults (formerly included in their parents' records) should have their own envelopes.
- She is using the Realm computer program to update member information. It also keeps a record of member communion participation.
- Carol suggested several items for our latest move to grow church membership, including availability of an idea sheet at the church, and community outreach by holding a service in the Palmerton Park. Bobby also suggested free community dinners to bring people to the church.

**Correspondence** – We received notice of several grant programs offered by the Synod. Pastor Ken is familiar with these and will keep them in mind when we have events that qualify.

**Secretary's Report** – On motion by Ricky, second by Jackie and voice vote, the January 18 Council minutes and February 4 congregational meeting minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** (Melanie participated via phone conference)

- On motion by Donna, second by Jackie and voice vote, Council authorized Melanie to move \$30,000 from the checking account to the Thrivent money market account.
- Melanie will get details for the question regarding the "reconciliation discrepancy" item listed on the year-end financial report. This will also be reviewed by the auditors.
- Pastor Ken and Melanie will devise a way to report income and expenses in the bulletin.
- Melanie will be moving the balance of the Building Fund and Luther Christman Scholarship Fund accounts into the General Fund checking account, as approved by Council previously.
- We received \$2,000 from the Cemetery Fund towards the cost of liability insurance.
- Jackie informed Melanie that WELCA will pay for event advertising costs to the Times News.
- On motion by Delbert, second by Bobby and voice vote, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Financial Secretary's Report** – On motion by Bobby, second by Delbert and voice vote, the Financial Secretary's January 2024 report was approved.

### **Pastor's Report**

- Pastor Ken has created a packet to be used by individuals serving in his absence.
- We currently have 6 members in confirmation class (3 first year and 3 second year).
- Organist Frank Hall selects music for services, and Pastor Ken only meets with him when there is a special service.
- Bible study on Habakkuk is being held Wednesday evenings during lent prior to services.
- Council previously discussed reducing the size of Council membership, and Pastor Ken informed the group this can be done via a by-law. He surveyed other churches and found that based on our attendance, the average Council size is 6 members. On motion by Ricky, second by Delbert and voice vote, the membership size for Council was changed to “no less than 6, and no more than 12”.
- On motion by Jackie, second by Delbert and voice vote, Pastor Ken's mileage was approved in the amount of \$224.05.

### **Ongoing and Unfinished Business**

- The office security cameras have been removed, since they record audio as well as video. We haven't been able to find an alternative solution. Joan offered to look into this.
- Our Secretary, Anne, is setting up accounts with vendors to get the best pricing on supplies.
- Melanie is still looking into the bonding of members as she isn't sure our current liability insurance covers this properly.
- Ricky will look into a question raised about correctness of the leaf for the Youngkin Family Estate donation.
- The maintenance plan on our copier will be expiring, and will be canceled since we own the machine. We will continue using it, as it still works, though we will need to shop for toner since it was previously included in the maintenance plan. A new color printer was purchased, and while the mimeograph machine is aged we will continue using it as long as it works.

### **Personnel Concerns**

- Delbert has found discrepancies in some of the job descriptions. Pastor Ken will review these with the Policy Committee after the Lenten season.

### **Council Member Responsibilities for March**

**Ushers:** Delbert Christman and Donna McGarry

**Chalice Bearer:** Rolf Windhorn

**Communion:** March 3, March 24 (Palm Sunday) and March 31 (Easter Sunday)

**Council Devotions:** Joan Altemose

### **Committees**

**Finance** – No report

**Music & Worship** – No report

**Christian Ed** – No report

**Fellowship** - No report

**Building & Maintenance**

- Home Comfort Solutions still has not provided a quote for replacement of the air condition units. We will address this at the March Council meeting when Rolf is here.
- WELCA has updated the event signs.
- Connie is getting pricing for updating the church signs on Route 209.



**Outreach** – No report

**Mutual Ministry** – A meeting of the Parish Committee will be held February 19. The first joint service with St. John's will be here on April 7.

**Evangelism** – No report

**WELCA** – The basket social will be held March 9 and a take-out ham/dandelion supper will be April 13.

**New Business** – None.

**Other Items for the Good of the Church** – Pastor Ken and Delbert met to discuss ideas on how to grow church membership. Some ideas included changes to music, community outreach, increased fellowship events, and attracting youth. These discussions are in the early planning stages, and we hope church members will come forward with any ideas they have.

**Next Meeting** – March 21, 2024

**Adjournment & Lord's Prayer** – On motion by Bobby, second by Donna and voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna McGarry, Secretary

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**Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Special Council Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2024**

**Attendance:** Joan Altemose, Jackie Brotzman, Delbert Christman, Donna McGarry, Ricky Moyer, Connie Smale, Bobby Ziegenfus, and Pastor Melber.

**Call to Order by Pastor Melber**

Pastor Ken informed the group that our financial secretary and treasurer have been receiving a 1099 for payment of their services rather than a paycheck. This creates additional costs for them at tax preparation time, as well as the need for them to pay for the required social security benefit match. If we choose to issue a paycheck for these positions, it will cost the church approximately \$300 more per year for the FICA match and payroll services. On motion by Connie, second by and voice vote, Council authorized the issuance of paychecks for these services.

We currently pay annual fees for our Microsoft Office program. There is a program available for a one-time purchase at a cost of \$250. The only way to purchase is by use of a credit card and Council is not inclined to get a credit card for the church. Pastor Ken offered to use his credit card, and then be reimbursed for the cost. On motion by Delbert, second by Ricky and voice vote, Council authorized the purchase of this program.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna McGarry, Secretary

**General Fund and Building Fund**

**Monthly Overview**

Submitted by: Carol O'Brien

**February General Fund**

Sp Worship Att

Date	Att	General Envelopes	Plate Offering	Initial Offering	Holiday Offering	Flowers/ Bulletins	Building	Children	Word In Season	Special Offerings	Total
2/4/2024	84	\$2,378.00	\$41.00	\$56.00		\$30.00	\$ 305.00	\$5.00			\$2,815.00
2/11/2024	60	\$1,383.00	\$45.00	\$5.00		\$90.00	\$ 255.00	\$ 5.00			\$1,783.00
2/18/2024	49	\$1,094.00	\$5.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$ 6.00			\$1,105.00
2/25/2024	73	\$2,276.00	\$22.00	\$0.00		\$85.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 5.00			\$2,528.00
											\$0.00
2/14/2024			\$92.00		\$435.00						\$527.00
2/28/2024			\$146.00		\$20.00						\$166.00
											\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	266	\$7,131.00	\$351.00	\$61.00	\$455.00	\$205.00	\$ 700.00	\$21.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,924.00

65  
37

\$0.00

**Totals for the Month:**

General Envelope & Plate	\$7,482.00
General Other	\$721.00
General Bulding	\$700.00
General Children	\$21.00
General Special	\$0.00
<b>Total Env, plate, other, special</b>	<b>\$8,924.00</b>
<b>Avg Mo Att:</b>	64

**YTD TOTALS:**

General Envelope & Plate	\$18,527.00
General Other	\$1,121.00
General Bulding	\$1,465.00
General Children	\$39.00
General Special	\$5.00
<b>Total Env, plate, other, special</b>	<b>\$21,157.00</b>

**YTD Attendance:**

	450
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Date	Amount	Sponsors	
2/4/2024	\$30.00	L Eckhart	2/18/24
2/11/2024	\$30.00	D & S Burger	
2/11/2024	\$30.00	O'Briens	3/3/24
2/11/2024	\$30.00	Eckharts	
2/25/2024	\$55.00	McGarry's	4/28/24
2/25/2024	\$30.00	Spirks	3/17/24
	<b>\$205.00</b>		