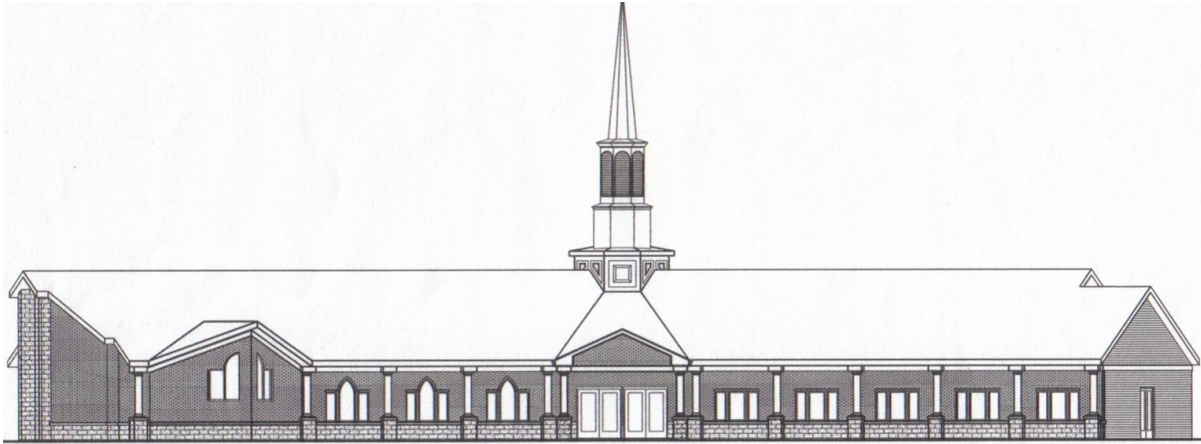


The Jerusalem Times



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

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER 2023

December Church Events

- 3th – Worship Service / Holy Communion
Christmas Festival**
- 10th – Worship Service**
- 17th – Worship Service**
- 24th – Christmas Eve Service / Holy Communion 10 am & 5:30pm**
- 25th – Christmas Day, Merry Christmas!**
- 31st – Worship Service
Meat Pie orders due**

Church Office: 610-681-5200

E-MAIL: jlc03@ptd.net

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

WEBSITE: www.jelctrachsville.weebly.com





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: Stacy Buchiane Treasurer: Melanie Windhorn Financial Secretary: Carol O'Brien

A Note from the
Pastor

Prayer List

Birthdays &
Anniversaries

WELCA News

Announcements

Council Meeting
Minutes

Offering Report

Calendar



Dear Friends in Christ,

In 1534, on March 25, the day the Church has celebrated as the Annunciation—when the angel Gabriel came to Mary to announce that she would be the mother of the Savior (Get it? Nine months before December 25!)—Martin Luther was preaching to his family and closest friends on Luke 1:26–38, the annunciation story.

In that house sermon, he said that both the devil and God come close to us. The difference is that the devil comes closer to harm us, and God, to save us. Listen to Luther's words: "We sustained a hurt through Adam's fall. Through it all of us are tainted with sins and subject to death. But greater than this hurt is the blessing we receive through Christ. He became man himself in order to redeem us from sin and death. The devil came close to us; but he did not come so close as to assume our nature. For although he fell through pride and thereupon persuaded man also to fall away from God, he nevertheless did not become man and did not come so close to us as did God's Son, who became our flesh and blood."

The devil hates us, disdains us, would never stoop to be one of us. God loves us so much that he takes our humanity.

May that love of God guide your hearts and your minds this Christmas season!

*Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Ken*

The Pastor will be on vacation from December 11-30, except for Christmas Eve.



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



Prayer List

Kimberly Bastbitelli, Earl Beers, Raymond Beers, Nancy Berkebile, Anita Borger, Delores Christman, Moriah Coles, Emmy Dunbar, Pauline Eckhart, Robert Eckhart, Dale Eckley, Chad Hahn, Terry Hahn, Frank Hall III, Pete Horbowyj, Catherine Henshaw, Glen Kichline, Billie Jo Moyer, Matt Nothstein, Stephanie Pfancook, Erica Polizzi, Roseanna Polizzi, Chuck Schretzman, Sheila Sherer, Deric Sterling, Eugene Strohl, John Spirk, Brandie Uliana, Eden Wilbur, Hildegard Wheeler, and Robert Ziegenfus.

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

Richard Beers – Scenic View Nursing Home
 Gurney Borger – Gracedale Nursing Home
 Helen Christman – The Palmerton
 Richard & Patricia Shook – The Gardens of 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 Theodorick 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

- 1st Emily Bonser, Hannah Bonser
- 2nd Donna Berger, Clyde Green
- 4th Jason Green, Jayne Kuehner
- 5th LeRoy Eckhart, Keene Gougher
- 6th Bryce Willis
- 9th Kathryn Fritz
- 11th James Lordi, Mason Roke
- 12th Jackson George, Jessica Kuczma, Eileen Long
- 13th Chad Hahn
- 14th Joan Altemose
- 15th David Gehr
- 16th Thomas Evans, Braydon Green, Alexander Larkin, Colton Rufo
- 17th Dennis Hedrick, Bailey Moyer
- 18th Joshua Fedor, Renee Serfass
- 19th Gary Hansler, Martha Serfass
- 20th Tiffany Schoch
- 21st Joshua Forgay, Dawn Larkin, Thomas Strohl Jr.
- 22nd Terry Hahn, Keith McFarland
- 23rd Trey Balogach
- 24th Riley Schoch, Deborah Wadiak
- 27th Dean Arthur
- 28th Robert Edinger
- 29th Tara Pritchard
- 30th Deborah Hartsell, William Strauch
- 31st Noah Henry



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



December

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5th – LeRoy & Pearl Eckhart
- 9th – Charles & Michele Horinko
- 22nd – Roy & Linda Christman
- 28th – Earnest & Margaret Christman



December 2023

A Filling Sale for Thanksgiving was also held, and orders were taken and filled for that holiday. This was accomplished on November 20th & 21st with many members of the congregation helping. Thanks to all who helped!

WELCA will have its yearly Christmas Luncheon on December 5 at Bert's in Palmerton. The group will meet at 11:30 AM. Cheer boxes will be assembled on Dec. 1 at 8 AM for those church members who are confined to home. WELCA members will make cookies to be included in the boxes. WELCA also made a donation to Paul's Valor House from a special collection at a prior church service.

Plans for January include a Meat Pie Sale on Jan. 15th or 16th. A choice of Chicken or Pork Pies or a combination will be sold for \$13. Beef Pies will also be available for \$15. Making the pies for Monday is the WELCA preference, as more people will be able to help that day. When ordering, give your preference of dates. Orders are due by December 31st. To all a Very Blessed & Merry Christmas!!!

New members are always welcome!!

Pictures from Thanksgiving filling sale:



MEAT PIE SALE 2023

\$13 for chicken, pork, or chicken / pork mixed

\$15 for beef



Place orders by December 31, 2023

610-681-5200 or 610-681-5020

**Pick-up will be January 15 or 16, 2023
starting at 12:00 PM.**

Please state which pick-up date you prefer.

Order forms are available in the church narthex.



December Church Announcements

Important dates of the month to remember:

- 1st – WELCA Cheer Boxes at 8:00 AM
- 3rd – First Sunday of Advent Worship Service with Holy Communion at 9:00 AM
Christmas Festival and Decorating the Sanctuary after service
- 5th – WELCA Luncheon & Meeting at 11:30 AM
- 10th – Worship Service at 9:00 AM
Altar Guild Meeting 1:00 to 2:30 PM
- 17th – Worship Service at 9:00 AM
- 21st – Council Meeting at 7:00 PM
- 24th – Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion at 10:00 AM and 5:30 PM
- 25th – Christmas Day, Merry Christmas to all!
- 31st – Worship Service at 9:00 AM
Meat Pie Orders Due

Flower & Bulletin Sponsors

- Dec. 5 – Pearl Eckhart
- Dec. 11 – Irene & Dean Zacharias
- Dec. 17 –
- Dec. 24 – Roger and Sheila Sherer
- Dec. 31 --



If you would like to reserve altar flowers for a Sunday, sign the flower chart or call the office at 610-681-5200.

Christmas Festival



Sunday, December 3 (after Worship Service)

All are welcome!



Christmas Eve Services

There will be two worship services on Christmas Eve.

10:00 AM and 5:30 PM.

Both services will be held both inside and outside, upon personal preference.

We hope you will join us!

Please note: We will not be holding our normal 9 am worship service on Christmas Eve.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Good News!

We are pleased to announce that Anne Cronk will be our new Church Secretary. We will be welcoming her starting in December. We hope her time with us will be a blessed one.

I would like to thank everyone for their support during my time as the secretary. Blessings, Stacy



Altar Guild

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



Ricky Moyer – President
Robert Ziegenfus – Vice President
Donna McGarry – Secretary
Jackie Brotzman
Delbert Christman

Sandy Christman
Pearl Eckhart
Frank Hall III
Wanda George
Rolf Windhorn

Council Meeting Minutes from October 19, 2023

Attendance: Jackie Brotzman, Delbert Christman, Sandy Christman, Pearl Eckhart, Wanda George, Donna McGarry, Ricky Moyer, Melanie Windhorn, Rolf Windhorn, and Pastor Melber.

Absent: Frank Hall III, Bobby Ziegenfus

Visitors: None

Call to Order by President, Ricky Moyer

Devotions and Prayers: Donna McGarry

Open Forum – No discussion

Correspondence -None

Secretary's Report – On motion by Delbert, second by Jackie and voice vote, the September 21 (correction to Ricky's position as President, not Vice-President; and anniversary celebration of 175, not 150 years), and the October 15 minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – On motion by Ricky, second by Pearl and voice vote, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

A proposed 2024 Budget was discussed. The budget includes purchase of a new copier and some office equipment, replacement of air conditioning units, replacement of the copper piping with PEX tubing, and repair of some paved areas around the church due to drainage issues. Delbert suggested we check around the holidays for special pricing on office equipment. Pastor Ken will be gathering details on options for the equipment. Melanie will be seeking quotes for our bonding requirements. Sandy asked for an increase in the Fellowship Events line item from \$150 to \$500. This should cover fellowship dinner in case we don't get the same donations we received for the first one.

Financial Secretary's Report- On motion by Jackie, second by Delbert and voice vote, the Financial Secretary' Report was approved.

Pastor's Report -

- Pastor Ken shared the tentative Lenten schedule; we would host February 28 and March 13 mid-week services. Fellowship details will be discussed later.
- Any members who wish to speak about the history of the church will be allowed time at the October 29 service, after which refreshments and cake will be served to celebrate our 175th anniversary.
- In order to address Pastor's concern about the growth of our church membership (our average member age is 72), it was recommended that a committee be formed to gather ideas on how to attract younger members and families. Delbert offered to organize the committee, which would include members of the congregation.
- On motion by Jackie, second by Wanda and voice vote, Pastor's mileage reimbursement was approved in the amount of \$221.39.

Ongoing and Unfinished Business

- Ricky spoke with someone from the UCC Church, and they indicated the filling and closure of the old septic system is being planned.

Personnel Concerns – An advertisement for our secretary position will be posted on Facebook for one week. If there is no response, Pastor Ken will run an advertisement in The Times News. Stacy has offered to stay on through November 10 if needed.

Council Member Responsibilities for November

Ushers: Delbert Christman, Ricky Moyer

Chalice Bearer: Pearl Eckhart

Communion: November 5

Council Devotions: Rolf Windhorn

Building Finance Steward: Delbert Christman

Committees

Finance – Melanie reported that a woman has been sending donations in memory of her parents, and has asked that the money be used by the Pastor for benevolence as needed. We need to devise a system for availability of these funds for Pastor's use.

Music & Worship – Plans are being discussed to revive the choir.

Christian Ed – We have 6 students in the confirmation class. Bible study is going well.

Fellowship – Coffee and cookies are available after Sunday services.

Building & Maintenance

- We are still waiting for a second quote on the air conditioning replacements.
- Rolf will seek quotes for the copper piping replacement.
- The new lawnmower has arrived. We will stress to the operators that they need to wear safety belts while operating the mower. The congregation will be advised that Church equipment is not available for personal use.
- A recent water test reported a failure in the coliform results. We found the UV light was not working as it should and we are working with George's on this issue. We will then need to get another water test to be sure the issue was corrected.
- The steeple was pressure washed, and did not need painting. Pat and George Dwinell are looking at a new type of light to shine on the steeple, the current one is burning out.

Outreach – Joan and Sandy continue sending cards.

Mutual Ministry – Pearl is our representative to the Parish Council and because her term on our Council expires at the end of this year, we need to find a replacement.

Evangelism

WELCA -Jackie reported the number of Persian donuts sold was about 1,300, not 1,600 as previously stated. Profit from the basket social is about \$6,000, though we are awaiting a few final invoices. Our filling fundraiser will take place in November and details on ordering will be shared soon.

New Business - Ricky explained that some of the paved areas around the church have settled, causing drainage issues. We will be looking for ideas on how to correct these areas, and funds were set aside in the budget for work.

Other Items for the Good of the Church – Thanks to the Douglas Youngkin Estate for the bequest of \$66,666.00 to the Church.

Next Meeting – November 16

Adjournment & Lords Prayer - On motion by Delbert, second by Wanda and voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Donna McGarry

Church Council Secretary





DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 WELCA Cheer Boxes- 8:00 AM	2
3 1 st Sunday of Advent Worship Service w/ Holy Communion – 9:00 AM Christmas Festival Decorating the Sanctuary – After service	4	5 WELCA Luncheon at Bert's – 11:30 AM	6 	7 	8	9
10 Worship Service – 9:00 AM Altar Guild Meeting 1:00 – 2:30 PM	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Worship Service – 9:00 AM	18	19 	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Worship Services – 10:00 AM and 5:30 PM  31 Worship Service – 9:00 AM Meat Pie Due 	25 	26	27	28	29	30

**For pastoral service contact
Rev. Kenneth Melber, Jr. at:**
Home: 484-629-2812
Church office: 610-681-5200
Email: pastorken86@gmail.com



COME JOIN US!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 24

10:00 AM AND 5:30 PM