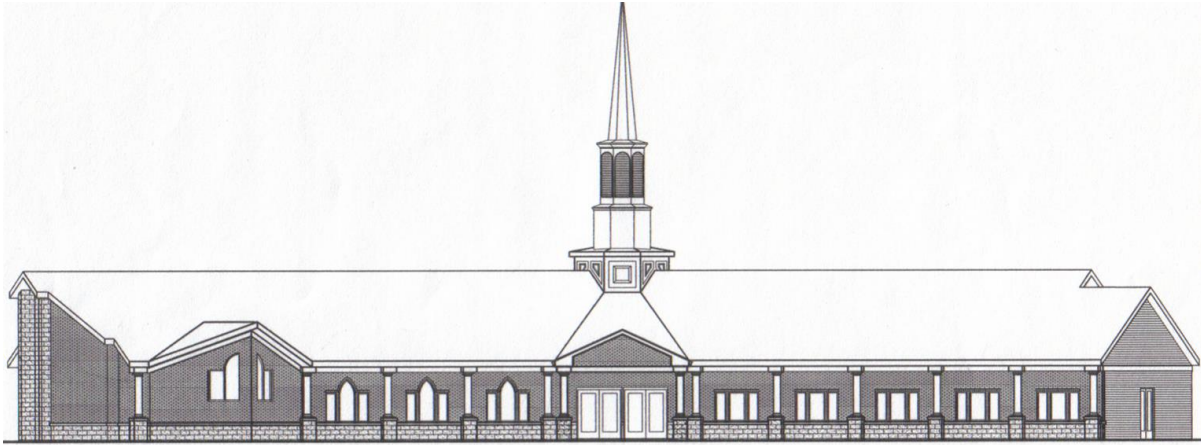


The Jerusalem Times



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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February 2023

February Church Events

- 5th – Worship Service / Holy Communion**
- 11th – Book Folding Seminar**
- 12th – Worship Service**
Congregational Meeting -- after service
- 19th – Worship Service**
- 22nd – Ash Wednesday Service at St Johns**
- 26th – Worship Service**

Church Office: 610-681-5200

E-MAIL: jlc03@ptd.net

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

Pastor Hours By Appointment: Tuesday 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Sunday Worship Services at 9:00 AM

Pastor: Kenneth Melber, Jr. Music Director: Frank Hall IV Sexton: Kelly Scott

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

A Note from the Pastor

Prayer List

Birthdays & Anniversaries

WELCA News

Church News

Council Meeting Minutes

Offering Report

Calendar



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

This month, we enter again into the season of Lent wherein we reflect on the saving act of Christ on the cross, giving to us all that is His (righteousness) and taking all that is ours (sin).

Our Mid-Week Lenten schedule this year will focus on the topic of Kings. Please see the schedule below. Ash Wednesday - Feb 22 - 7:00pm @ St. John's

Mar 1 @ Jerusalem

6:00 Fellowship and Refreshments

7:00 Worship

Mar 8 @ St. John's

6:00 Fellowship and Refreshments

7:00 Worship

Mar 15 @ Jerusalem

6:00 Fellowship and Refreshments

7:00 Worship

Mar 22 @ St. John's

6:00 Fellowship and Refreshments

7:00 Worship

Mar 29 @ Jerusalem

6:00 Fellowship and Refreshments

7:00 Worship

Apr 6 @ Jerusalem

7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship

Apr 7 @ Jerusalem

7:00 Good Friday Worship

Apr 8 @ Jerusalem 6:00 (Note Time Change!) Easter Vigil Worship

I sincerely hope you will consider these extra opportunities to worship together as a parish family!

Peace,

Pastor Ken





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



Prayer List

Sharlee Ahner, Joan Altemose, Earl Beers, Raymond Beers, Richard Beers, Matthew Cameron, Delores Christman, Shirley Craig, Pat Dwinell, Dale Eckley, Kyle Frable, Roberta Heffley, Pete Horbowyj, Billie Jo Moyer, Matt Nothstein, Roseanna Polizzi, Chuck Schretzman, Patricia Shook, Richard Shook, Earl Smale, Renee Tokarczyk, Brandie Uliana, Dave Wentz, and Hildegard Wheeler.

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

Gurney Borger – Gracedale Nursing Home
 Helen Christman – The Palmerton
 Gladys Green – Getz Personal Care Home
 Edwin Strohl – Mahoning Valley Nursing & Rehab Center

Serving in the Armed Forces

Army – Danny Carden, Gerald Eckhart, and Timothy Rodgers
Air Force - Staff Sgt. Kerry Heiney
Navy - Sarah McCready, Noah Sensinger, Tyler Silliman, and Jeremy Zellers
National Guard Army - Sean Hall
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

- 1st **LeRoy Strohl Jr.**
- 2nd **Brett Diehl, Blaine Eckhart, Julie George-Kichline, Rickie Green**
- 4th **Arryanna Oliveri, Tammy VanBuskirk**
- 5th **Michelle Sheckler**
- 6th **Nancy Kresge**
- 7th **John Forgay**
- 8th **Bruce N. George, Ryan McGarry, Kathy Spirk, Linda Strohl**
- 9th **June E. Strohl**
- 10th **Stephon Strohl**
- 11th **Carrie Forgay, Cindy Kuntzman, Penny Lobach**
- 12th **Wyatt Smith**
- 13th **Curtis Green**
- 14th **Richard Beers, Pearl Eckhart, William Gouger IV**
- 15th **LaRue Weaver**
- 16th **Rodney Lobach Jr.**
- 18th **Kit Hall**
- 19th **Karen Creed**
- 21st **Pat Shook**
- 22nd **David Hedrick**
- 23rd **Rebecca Kuntzman, Emily Larkin**
- 24th **Doyle Heffley**
- 25th **Jessica Glicking, William Lee Hittner**
- 28th **Brody Mertz**



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



15th – Thomas & Tracy Creed

WELCA had its January meeting as usual. Meat pies were made on Monday, January 16. Over 260 pies were made and baked, we had a great turn out of help. Thank you to all that helped! Our next meeting will be on February 6, at 12:30pm. Please come out and join us. The next function the WELCA ladies are looking forward to is the Basket Social on March 11, 2023, starting at 9 AM.

New members are always welcome!



Annual Spring Basket Social



Saturday, March 11th: 9 AM to 2 PM

**Theme Baskets & Raffle
BBQ, Homemade Soups, Chow Chow, etc. and
a Baked Goods sale!**

3 baskets will have \$25 hidden among the contents!

Come for the food and try your luck!



Above: WELCA and members of the congregation busy in the kitchen making the meat pies.



Right: meat pies lined up ready for pick-up and delivery.



**Streak-Less
Microfiber Cloth**



\$5.00 each

Available in the church office or see Shirley Craig.

Anyone who would like to donate to our Sunday School Picnic Raffle please see Sharlee Ahner. Save the Date our Annual Sunday School Picnic is on Saturday, August 5, 2023

February Church News



Important dates of the month to remember:

- 5th – Worship Service with Holy Communion at 9:00 AM
- 6th – WELCA Meeting at 12:30 PM
- 11th – Book Folding Seminar from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
- 12th – Worship Service at 9:00 AM
Congregational Meeting (Congregational Annual Reports) after worship service
- 16th – Council Meeting at 7:00 PM
- 19th – Worship Service at 9:00 AM
Installation of New Council Members
- 22nd – Ash Wednesday Worship service at St. John's Lutheran Church at 7:00 PM
- 26th – Worship Service at 9:00 AM



Shirley Craig would like to thank everyone for all the cards, texts, calls and well wishes she received during her recovery from surgery. She was overwhelmed by all the love and support.

A special thank you to all those who helped with the Meat Pie Sale. Whether you helped cook and cut meat, make, package, or deliver pies, your help was greatly appreciated!



The cemetery committee has decided to ask the congregation if there is anyone who would be interested in volunteering to mow the cemetery. If there is any interest shown, we would consider the purchase of a Zero Gravity mower for those individuals to use. Interested people should speak with any member of the committee: Richard Beers, Shirley Craig, Pearl or Leroy Eckhart, or Carol O'Brien.

2022 Giving Statement

If you would like a copy of your 2022 Contributions to the church, please sign your name on the form in the Narthex. Please check the basket as none will be mailed. Thank you.

Flower & Bulletin Sponsors

- 5th – Margie Beers
- 12th – LeRoy Eckhart
- 19th – John & Kathleen Spirk
- 26th –

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



Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting will be held on February 12th after the worship service to discuss the 2022 Annual Congregational Reports.

Worship with Us

All Are Welcome



Church Council Members



Robert Ziegenfus – President
Richard Beers – Vice President
Carol O'Brien – Secretary
Jackie Brotzman
Delbert Christman

Sandy Christman
Pearl Eckhart
Frank Hall III
Ricky Moyer
Earl Smale
Rolf Windhorn

Council Meeting Minutes from November 17, 2022

Attendance: Richard Beers, Jackie Brotzman, Sandy Christman, Pearl Eckhart, Ricky Moyer, Carol O'Brien, Bobby Ziegenfus, Rolf Windhorn, Earl Smale, Connie Strohl, Delbert Christman and Frank Hall and Pastor Melber. Others in attendance were Melanie Windhorn.

Absent: No one

Call to Order by Council President, Bobby Ziegenfus

Devotions & Prayers: Frank Hall presented Martin Luther's Seal and the explanation of it along with Martin Luther's morning and evening prayers.

Open Forum – George Dwinell will be approached to hang the refurbished Martin Luther photo on the wall by the kitchen in the narthex. The original can go in the safe in the office. George Dwinell will hang it.

Correspondence –

- Earl Smale noted Dawn Gower may be interested in the cleaning position and gave the phone number to Pastor Melber, who will contact her regarding the position.
- Connie Strohl is resigning her treasurer's position effective December 31. Delbert Christman made a motion to regretfully accept Connie's resignation. The motion was seconded by Richard Beers. The motion carried.
- Melanie Windhorn was offered and accepted the treasurer's position. Rolf Windhorn made a motion to change the check signers for the treasurer's position to be council President and Council Vice President. The motion was seconded by Sandy Christman. The motion carried.
- A verbal announcement for Melanie's position will be made during Sunday morning announcements.
- Pastor, Melanie & Connie worked on Quick Books. A balance sheet will be provided showing the Thrivent accounts.

Secretary's Report

- Pearl Eckhart made a motion to accept this report. Jackie Brotzman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (Motion Required)

- Carol O'Brien made a motion to approve this report. Delbert Christman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report (Motion Required)

- Richard Beers made a motion to accept this report. Carol O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pastor's Report (Motion required ONLY for mileage)

- Ricky Moyer made a motion to approve the Pastor's mileage. Rolf Windhorn seconded motion. The motion carried.
- Pastor noted approximately 10 people approached him regarding the start-up of the choir. He spoke with Frank who is looking towards spring and to possibly do an anthem once a month with rehearsal after church.
- December 11 training for altar guild.

- Will be speaking with the Parish committee regarding Confirmation issues
- We need to think about Lenten/Easter services
- He encouraged us to consider VBS for upcoming summer

Stewards for December:

- Ushers:** Carol O'Brien/Bobby for the month
 Roger & Sandy Christman will do the 3:00 Christmas Eve service
 Sandy will provide the bread for Christmas Eve
 Volunteers need for 5:30 Christmas Eve Ushers & Chalice Bearers
- Chalice Bearers:** Pearl Eckhart will be Chalice Bearer on Dec. 4 & provide the bread
- Communion Sunday:** December 4 & December 24
- Building Finance Steward:** Rolf & Melanie Windhorn
- Council devotions:** Bobby Ziegenfus

Personnel Concerns – Cleaning/Sexton position

- Nancy Green & Sandy Christman have been discussing a robotic vacuum. The vacuum has been purchased and we are going with a 60-day trial period. Delbert & Ricky will investigate programming it so we can try it to see if it is a wise purchase. If the purchase is made, Mrs. Green would like to know who is going to maintain it, where will the base be and who will program it. Stacy has a draft of updated cleaning duties.

Ongoing and Unfinished Business for October

- Carol would like to request committee reports to be submitted to her no later than the Monday before the council meetings
- Council terms ending:
 - 2022**
 - Earl Smale (2nd term)
 - Bobby Ziegenfus (1st term)
 - 2023**
 - Richard Beers (1st term)
 - Jackie Brotzman (1st term)
 - Pearl Eckhart (2nd term)
 - 2024**
 - Sandy Christman (2nd term)
 - Delbert Christman (1st term)
 - Frank Hall III
 - Ricky Moyer (1st term)
 - Carol O'Brien (2nd term)
 - Rolf Windhorn (1st term)

Committee Reports:

Finance

Insurance Representative spoke with council:

- Insurance agent visited and went over our policy with us. Discussion included the following:
- We informed him we no longer carry a mortgage.
- Was suggested that we raise the deductible from \$500 to \$2500 or \$5000
- We have an auto policy which is part of our "Religious package"
- We have liability on cemetery
- Suggested we check with the township regarding codes
- Have a contractor to give a price for rebuilding
- Appraising would put our value up more
- \$7333 is our annual premium
- He will bring back a detailed report for us to go over to make final changes.
- Rolf noted that AEP was not acceptable to work with for an electricity supplier. He changed to Direct Energy for 11.99 kw for 4 years.

- Melanie noted that she took care of having the phone at Luther Hall disconnected. The payment couldn't be adjusted due to the billing cycle. There will be a refund on the next bill for the church.

Music & Worship

- Looking at possibly starting choir in the spring

Christian Education

- Sunday School has been going very well. We have had up to 5 enthusiastic students. We are looking forward continued attendance!

Outreach

- The committee will gather on 12/6 to write Christmas cards to shut ins.
- Carol O'Brien will mail "Thanks for visiting us" church postcards to those who have signed our guest book when they worshipped with us, inviting them to visit again soon.

Fellowship –

- Sandy Christman has put out a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help set up and break down our refreshment station.
- Carol O'Brien is organizing a cookie exchange

Building & Maintenance

- Rolf contacted George's regarding the unsatisfactory service with our heating system after their annual cleaning and maintenance. We have some areas not heating properly.
- Carol O'Brien made a motion giving Rolf permission to reach out to a few electricians for prices on getting a generator and having it hooked up properly in the event of power outages. Frank Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Basement still needs to be cleaned up. Mostly vacuumed.

Evangelism - No report

WELCA

- On 11/13 WELCA had their thank offering service and the collected funds went to Valor House. They collected \$215.
- Filling will be made on November 21st at 4:00PM and on November 22nd starting at 7:00AM. There will be 250 pounds of filling to be made. Lots of help is needed on both days. Pick up will be on Tuesday from 10:00 – 2:00
- The church will be decorated on December 4th after worship and a Christmas Festival will be held afterwards. Sandwiches will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet for additional accompaniments.
- **Recommendation:** Jackie Brotzman made a motion for the Western Pocono ladies to use our church kitchen to make their soup for the West End Fair next year at a mutually agreed cost of \$150. (They normally use Polk Firehouse to make the food, but they were shut down due to citations.) Frank Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mutual ministry

- Group will meet on Tuesday, November 22nd.

New Business – None

Other Items for the good of the church - None

Next Meeting – December 15, 2022

Adjournment –

- Carol O'Brien made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Ricky Moyer. The motion carried.
made a motion to adjourn. Pearl Eckhart seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Lord's Prayer said by all

Congregational Meeting to Discuss/Approve the Budget for 2023

December 4, 2022

Council President, Bobby Ziegenfus opened the meeting after worship. Ricky Moyer noted a few items to make the congregation aware of why a few numbers were significantly different.

Richard Beers made a motion to revert the finance section of the budget back to the numbers of 2022. Ted Hittner seconded the motion. The motion failed.

After additional discussion, President Bobby Ziegenfus called for a motion to accept the Proposed 2023 budget. The motion was made by Norm Berger and seconded by Roger Christman. The motion was split, however, the majority of those in attendance voted to approve the Proposed 2023 budget.

Frank Hall, III made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roger Christman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Special Council Meeting (Before the service)

December 12, 2022

Pastor asked the council for their decision as to have a Christmas Day service. Council voted unanimously NOT to have a service. Pastor stated that St. John's WILL have a service and everyone who is interested may attend.

Special Council Meeting (After the service)

December 12, 2022

Pastor and Sandy Christman spoke on the two candidates who applied and were interviewed for the custodial/sexton position. Carol O'Brien made a motion to hire Kelly Scott at a wage of \$12.00/hr. for up to 10 hours a week with a 90-day probation period. The motion was seconded by Delbert Christman. The motion carried. Pastor contacted Kelly who is interested in starting immediately on Monday, December 12. She does, however, want to consider her work "volunteer" for tax purposes and then start getting paid hours starting January 1, 2023.

Pastor also noted that Richard Beers resigned effective immediately.

Special Council Meeting (Before the service)

December 18, 2022

Council met briefly to discuss options for Christmas Eve service if there is inclement weather. If the weather is bad, Pastor & Bobby will make a decision if services should be cancelled and it will be advertised and placed on Pastor's voicemail.

Carol O'Brien made a motion to approve Pastor's mileage. Jackie Brotzman seconded the motion and it carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. O'Brien

Church Council Secretary

November 2022 OFFERING REPORT by Melanie Windhorn

GENERAL OPERATING OFFERING				BUILDING FUND
DATE	Attendance	Envelope, Initial, Plate Sunday School, Holidays & Flowers	Other	Building Maintenance Children's Envelope
11/6/22	100	\$2,472.00	\$0.00	\$356.00
11/13/22	70	\$1,379.00	\$0.00	\$219.00
11/20/22	59	\$1,527.00	\$100.00	\$76.00
11/27/22	54	\$1,329.00	\$0.00	\$137.00
Thrivent Direct Deposit				
		\$6,707.00	\$100.00	\$788.00

General Other:

Sunday School:

11/20 Donation for needy family from Linda Meckes	\$100.00		

Total Sunday Attendance YTD:	2,641
Average Sunday Attendance YTD:	55
Envelope & Plate YTD:	\$87,205.00
General Offering Other YTD:	\$7,286.52
Building YTD:	\$12,101.00

December 2022 OFFERING REPORT by Melanie Windhorn

GENERAL OPERATING OFFERING				BUILDING FUND
DATE	Attendance	Envelope, Initial, Plate Sunday School, Holidays & Flowers	Other	Building Maintenance Children's Envelope
12/4/22	68	\$2,001.00	\$0.00	\$378.00
12/11/22	75	\$1,490.00	\$1,010.00	\$261.00
12/18/22	77	\$3,622.00	\$2,000.00	\$251.00
12/24/22	(3 PM) 74	\$1,350.00	\$11.00	\$0.00
12/24/22	(5:30 PM) 72	\$1,880.00	\$0.00	\$4.00
Thrivent Direct Deposit				
		\$10,343.00	\$3,021.00	\$894.00

General Other:

Sunday School:

12/11/22 Word in Season	\$10.00		
Donation from James Leiding	\$1,000.00		
12/18/22 Donation from Jerusalem Lutheran Cemetary	\$2,000.00		
12/24/22 Word in Season	\$11.00		

Total Sunday Attendance YTD:	3,007
Average Sunday Attendance YTD:	58
Envelope & Plate YTD:	\$97,548.00
General Offering Other YTD:	\$10,307.52
Building YTD:	\$12,995.00

FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 	3	4
5 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion – 9:00 AM	6 WELCA Meeting – 12:30 PM	7	8	9 Picnic Grove Feasibility Study Committee Meeting -- 7:00 PM	10	11 Book Folding Seminar – 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
12 Souper Bowl Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 AM Congregational Meeting -- after service Altar Guild Training	13 	14 	15	16 Council Meeting – 7:00 PM	17	18
19 Worship Service – 9:00 AM Installation of New Council Members	20 	21 Happy Birthday,  George Washington!	22 Ash Wednesday Worship Service — 7:00 PM St John's	23	24	25
26 Worship Service – 9:00 AM	27	28				

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