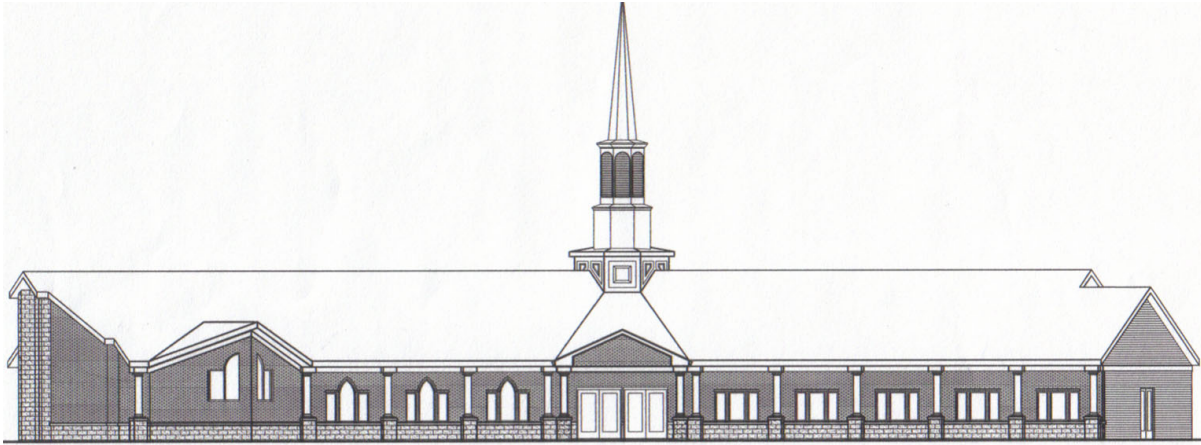


# *The Jerusalem Times*



*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  
Lehigh, PA  
Permit # 40

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## February 2024

### February Church Events

- 4<sup>th</sup> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
- 11<sup>th</sup> Worship Service
- 14<sup>th</sup> Ash Wed. Service w/ Holy Communion
- 18<sup>th</sup> Worship Service
- 21<sup>st</sup> Fellowship & Lenten Service
- 25<sup>th</sup> Worship Service
- 28<sup>th</sup> Fellowship & Lenten Service

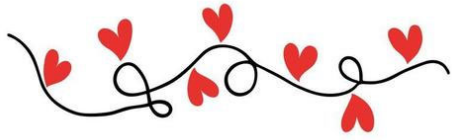
Church Office: 610-681-5200

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)





# FEBRUARY 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 	3
4 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion 9:00 AM Congregational Mtg	5 WELCA Meeting 12:30 PM	6	7	8	9	10
11 Worship Service 9:00 AM 	12	13	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Lenten Fellowship 6 PM Service w/ Holy Communion 7 PM @ Jerusalem  	15 Council Meeting 7pm	16	17
18 <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</i> Worship Service 9:00 AM	19 	20	21 <i>Lenten Fellowship 6 PM</i> Service 7 PM @ St John's	22 Church Office closes at 11am	23	24
25 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</i> Worship Service 9:00 AM	26	27	28 Lenten Fellowship 6 PM Service 7 PM @ Jerusalem	29 	<p>For pastoral service contact  <b>Rev. Kenneth Melber Jr. at:</b>            Home: 484-629-2812            Church office: 610-681-5200            Email: <a href="mailto:pastorken86@gmail.com">pastorken86@gmail.com</a></p>	



# 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

A Note from the  
Pastor

Prayer List

Birthdays &  
Anniversaries

WELCA News

Announcements

Council Meeting  
Minutes

Offering Report

Calendar

## From the Pastor's Desk

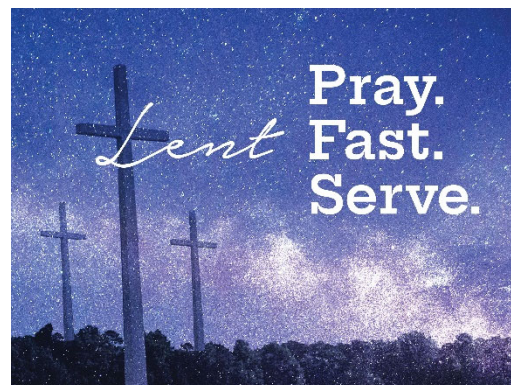
*“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” -Luke 1:78-79*

Christ makes known that His peace is a peace that surpasses all human understanding. It is a kind of peace that breaks into the scary unknowns of life and reminds us of His presence. The world may be filled with unknowns, but the God who has made Himself known in Jesus Christ gives us the assurance of life and salvation.

We continue to pray for and be present with those who continue to suffer the physical, emotional, economical, and spiritual arrows that are thrown their way. We are reminded that we are bearers of that same light and peace to bring hope and healing in a world of hurt.

Here's to a *peaceful* and *hope-filled* season.

*Praying for you,  
Pastor Ken*





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



**Prayer List**

Kimberly Bastibetilli, Earl Beers, Nancy Berkebile, Anita Borger, Delores Christman, Moriah Coles, Emmy Dunbar, Allen Eckhart, Barbara Eckhart, Robert Eckhart, Sylvia Gethen, Chad Hahn, Terry Hahn, Frank Hall III, Kit Hall, Catherine Henshaw, Pete Horbowyj, Glen Kichline, Sonja Kustafic, Nancy McNeese, Matt Nothstein, Erica Polizzi, Roseanna Polizzi, Chuck Schretzman, Sheila Sherer, Deric Sterling, John Spirk, Eugene Strohl, Kathryn 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  
 Allen Eckhart – LV Carbon (Brookmont)  
 Barbara Eckhart – Brookmont Health Care  
 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> LeRoy Strohl Jr.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Brett Diehl, Blaine Eckhart, Julie George-Kichline, Rickie Green
- 4<sup>th</sup> Arryanna Oliveri, Tammy VanBuskirk
- 5<sup>th</sup> Michelle Sheckler
- 6<sup>th</sup> Nancy Kresge
- 7<sup>th</sup> John Forgay
- 8<sup>th</sup> Bruce N. George, Ryan McGarry, Kathy Spirk, Linda Strohl
- 9<sup>th</sup> June E. Strohl
- 10<sup>th</sup> Stephon Strohl
- 11<sup>th</sup> Carrie Forgay, Cindy Kuntzman, Penny Lobach
- 12<sup>th</sup> Wyatt Smith
- 13<sup>th</sup> Curtis Green
- 14<sup>th</sup> Richard Beers, Pearl Eckhart, William Gouger IV
- 15<sup>th</sup> LaRue Weaver
- 16<sup>th</sup> Rodney Lobach Jr.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Kit Hall
- 19<sup>th</sup> Karen Creed
- 21<sup>st</sup> Pat Shook
- 22<sup>nd</sup> David Hedrick
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Rebecca Kuntzman, Emily Larkin
- 24<sup>th</sup> Doyle Heffley
- 25<sup>th</sup> Jessica Glicking, William Lee Hittner
- 28<sup>th</sup> Brody Mertz



***FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES***

***15<sup>th</sup> – Thomas & Tracy Creed***



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



# WELCA News

February 2024

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to all those who helped with the Meat Pie Sale. Whether you helped cook and cut meat, make, package, or delivered pies, your help was greatly appreciated!

**AUGUST PICNIC RAFFLE:** WELCA is requesting the name of any items that will be donated for their August Picnic Raffle so that tickets can be printed next month in preparation. Please contact Sharlee Ahner with raffle name or any questions!

WELCA meets at the church the first Monday of the month at 12:30pm.  
March meeting will be held March 4<sup>th</sup>. **New members are always welcome!!**



*WELCA and members of the congregation preparing and making the meat pies.*

# February Church Announcements



## Important dates of the month to remember:

4 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Congregational Meeting	9:00 p.m.
5 <sup>th</sup>	WELCA Meeting	12:30 p.m.
11 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Service	9:00 p.m.
14 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wed. Service w/ Holy Communion	6 & 7 p.m.
15 <sup>th</sup>	Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Service	9:00 p.m.
21 <sup>st</sup>	Fellowship & Lenten Service @ St. John's	6 & 7 p.m.
25 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Service	9:00 p.m.
28 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship & Lenten Service @ Jerusalem	6 & 7 p.m.



## February Flower & Bulletin Sponsors

**Feb. 4:** Richard Beers

**Feb 11:** Shelly & Del Christman

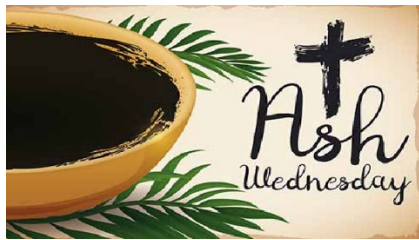
**Feb 18:** Pearl Eckhart

**Feb. 25:**

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

## Ash Wednesday Service

February 14 at 7:00 p.m.  
with Holy Communion  
Fellowship meal at 6:00 p.m.



## Lenten Services

Lenten service will be every Wednesday, rotating church weekly. Join us for a light fellowship meal before the service beginning at 6pm.

## Annual Spring Basket Social

Mark your calendar for our Annual Spring Basket Social on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>! Theme Baskets, Raffle, Homemade Soup, Filling, Apple Butter, Chow Chow & More! Donations of filled baskets are appreciated, or if you prefer Connie will accept your monetary donation and fill a basket for you. Basket Bags & flyers are available in the narthex!



## 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.

## 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 Reading that goes with the Sunday you chose to go over beforehand.



*Rows & rows of tables of Meat Pies ready to be picked up!*



# Church Council Members

Ricky Moyer – President  
Donna McGarry – Secretary  
Jackie Brotzman  
Connie Smale

Bobby Ziegenfus – Vice President  
Joan Altemose  
Delbert Christman  
Rolf Windhorn

---

## Council Meeting Minutes from December 2023

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2023

**Attendance:** Jackie Brotzman, Delbert Christman, Sandy Christman, Pearl Eckhart, Wanda George, Frank Hall, Donna McGarry, Ricky Moyer, Rolf Windhorn, Bobby Ziegenfus, and Treasurer Melanie Windhorn.

**Absent:** Pastor Melber

**Visitors:** None

**Call to Order** by President Ricky Moyer

**Devotions and Prayers:** Bobby Ziegenfus

**Open Forum** - No discussion

**Correspondence** - None

### Secretary's Report

- On motion by Delbert, second by Bobby and voice vote, the November 16 Council minutes and December 3 congregational minutes were approved.
- A tentative schedule of 2024 stewardship duties was presented. With the appointment of new members, this will be updated for next month's meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** – On motion by Donna, second by Jackie and voice vote, the Treasurer's report was approved.

**Financial Secretary's Report** – The current report reflects an update to monthly reports due to a calculation error found in an early-year report. On motion by Bobby, second by Pearl and voice vote, the Financial Secretary's report was approved.

### Pastor's Report

- On motion by Donna, second by Jackie and voice vote, Connie Smale was appointed to a three-year term and Joan Altemose was appointed to a one-year term on Council.
- Ricky will announce at the next service that we are in need of volunteers to be at the church for the Christmas tour on December 30.
- Melanie informed Council that she has not received the monthly detail of Pastor's mileage, and asked if Council wishes to see the detail before approving the monthly mileage reimbursement. The consensus was that there is no need for Council to see the detail; if anyone on Council wants to see the report, they can access it in the office. We can discuss this at a future meeting when Pastor Ken is present.
- On motion by Frank, second by Wanda and voice vote, the Pastor's mileage reimbursement was approved in the amount of \$106.11.
- Frank Hall informed Council he will no longer be serving on Council due to medical commitments.

### Ongoing and Unfinished Business

- Melanie reported that she received notification of an increase in our payroll costs. The cost has risen from \$1.75/employee/payroll to \$4/employee/payroll.
- A check issued in August to Pastor Bruce Potteiger for supply pastor services has not been cashed. Melanie contacted him, and he asked that the \$130 be sent to Food for the Poor. On motion by Delbert, second by Wanda and voice vote, this was authorized.
- Frank suggested a protocol be established for obtaining a supply pastor in Pastor Ken's absence.
- Melanie received two quotes for insurance through our new broker. \$11,833 – Goodville Mutual and \$8,251 – Brethren Mutual. Some changes need to be made:
  - We need to find out if we pay for worker's compensation insurance or if the parish does.
  - The stained glass windows are listed for being insured at \$25,000. After discussion, Melanie was asked to increase this to \$100,000.

Everyone thanked Melanie for doing this research. Rolf pointed out that we should require a certificate of insurance from all our contractors, and Melanie replied that she does follow through on this.

**Personnel Concerns** – None.

### **Council Member Responsibilities for January**

**Ushers:** Jackie and Delbert. Ricky will announce at the next service that anyone interested can sign up to serve as a greeter/usher.

**Chalice Bearers:** Bobby

**Communion:** January 7

**Council Devotions:** Jackie

**Building Finance Steward:** Because these contributions will no longer be going into a Building Fund, but rather General Fund, a separate responsibility for this is no longer necessary.

### **Committees**

**Finance**

**Music & Worship**

**Christian Ed**

**Fellowship** – Sandy will continue organizing the after-service fellowship and Pearl also offered to assist. The committee that organized this year's fellowship dinner has offered to serve on the committee for our dinner in 2024.

**Building & Maintenance**

- We have three quotes for replacement of the two air conditioning units with heat pumps, and Rolf is waiting for one more. We will ask the successful bidder to also provide pricing for replacement of the copper piping with PEX.
- On motion by Frank, second by Bobby and voice vote, Council authorize an expenditure up to \$2,000 for replacement of the steeple lighting, to be paid from the Building Fund. George and Pat Dwinell are handling this project.
- Our signs along Route 209 are old and have the wrong church address. We aren't sure if we handle the replacement or the Synod, and Ricky will look into this.

**Outreach** – Sandy asked that the shut-in list be updated. Boxes were prepared and distributed, but the list was not current. Jackie stated that the shut-in list is based on the prayer list. The church Secretary needs be notified when both the prayer list and shut-in list should be changed.

**Mutual Ministry**

**Evangelism** – Bobby has been reaching out to people by phone. Delbert will be scheduling a meeting in January with people who have volunteered to serve on the committee to generate ideas on how to grow the church membership.

**WELCA**

- Nearly 400 pounds of filling were prepared and sold.
- The Christmas festival was well attended.
- Soup orders will be due February 4, and available for take-out only on February 9. The cost is \$8 per quart.
- Meat pie orders are due December 31, and will be available January 15 or 16. Cost is \$13 for pork or chicken, \$13 for a mix of chicken/pork, and \$15 for beef.
- The next meeting is January 2.

### **New Business**

- Stacy will open the Church for the Christmas Eve 10:00 service and Ricky will open for the 5:00 service.
- Several items from our new Secretary:
  - Can she run a small space heater under her desk – no objections.
  - Is there an office dress code – no.
  - What if she needs to adjust work hours (work late, work extra hours) – this needs to be cleared with Ricky for approval.
  - In the event of sickness or time away, how is this handled – Ricky and Pastor Ken should be notified.
  - Who orders office supplies – the Secretary orders basic supplies.
- The security system codes must be updated.

### **Other Items for the Good of the Church**

**Next Meeting** – January 18, 2024

**Adjournment & Lords Prayer** – After a distribution of holiday treats from Wanda, on motion by Bobby, second by Jackie and voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna McGarry, Secretary



**December General Fund**

Date	Att	General Envelopes	Plate Offering	Initial Offering	Holiday Offering	Flowers/ Bulletins	Word In Season	Donations/ Refunds	Fund Raisers	Special Offerings	Total
12/3/2023	75	\$1,941.00	\$67.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,008.00
12/10/2023	92	\$2,878.00	\$171.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$17.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,126.00
12/17/2023	48	\$1,201.00	\$37.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$3.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,741.00
12/24/2023	109	\$2,073.00	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$1,517.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,605.00
12/24/2023	78	\$1,110.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$782.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,902.00
12/31/2023	53	\$1,352.00	\$63.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,445.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>\$10,555.00</b>	<b>\$338.00</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>\$2,824.00</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$13,827.00</b>

Monthly		\$10,893.00		\$2,914.00		\$20.00		\$13,827.00
YTD	#REF!	\$ 93,795.76	\$ 338.00	\$3,582.00	\$ 2,824.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,149.00	\$ - \$ - \$ -
		\$94,133.76		\$6,466.00		\$1,149.00		\$101,748.76

**December Building Fund**

Children	Building Envelopes	Children's Envelopes	Total
12/3/2023	\$480.00	\$ 7.00	\$487.00
12/10/2023	\$130.00	\$7.00	\$137.00
12/17/2023	\$210.00	\$1.00	\$211.00
12/24/2023	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
12/24/2023	\$0.00	\$4.00	\$4.00
12/31/2024	\$0.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>\$895.00</b>	<b>\$ 20.00</b>	<b>\$915.00</b>
<b>YTD</b>	<b>\$9,778.00</b>	<b>\$ 242.80</b>	<b>\$10,767.80</b>

General Envelope & Plate	\$10,893.00
General other	\$2,914.00
General special	\$20.00
<b>Total Env, plate, other, special</b>	<b>\$13,827.00</b>
YTD General Envelope & Plate	\$94,133.76
YTD General other	\$6,466.00
YTD General special	\$1,149.00
<b>YTD Total Env, plate &amp; other</b>	<b>\$101,748.76</b>