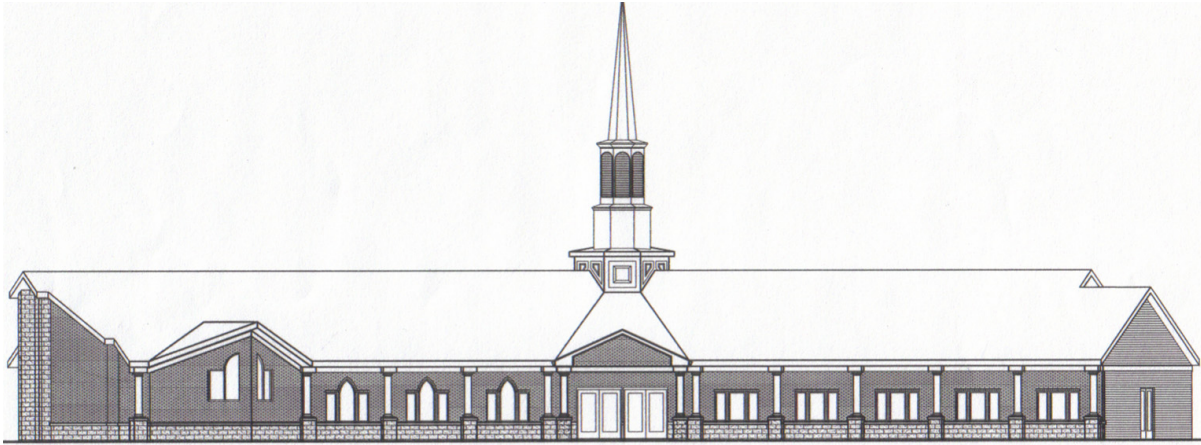


# *The Jerusalem Times*



*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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## January 2024

### January Church Events

7<sup>th</sup> –Worship Service w/ Holy Communion  
14<sup>th</sup> – Worship Service  
15/16<sup>th</sup> – Meat Pie Pick-up  
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)



# JANUARY 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 WELCA Meeting – 12:30 PM	3	4	5	6 
7 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> Worship Service with Holy Communion – 9:00 AM	8	9	10	11 WELCA Cook Meat & Make Crumbs – 7:00 AM  Cut Meat –10:00 AM	12	13
14 Worship Service – 9:00 AM	15 WELCA Make Meat Pies – 7:00 AM   Pick-up Meat Pies – 12 to 2:00 PM	16 WELCA Pick-up Meat Pies 12 to 2:00 PM	17	18 Council Meeting – 7:00 PM	19	20
21 Worship Service – 9:00 AM	22	23	24	25 Newsletter articles due for February	26	27
28 Worship Service – 9:00 AM	29	30	31	<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>For pastoral service contact</b>  <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

*"I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." -  
Psalm 22:22*

Some of you probably already know that one of my hobbies is playing video games. One of the neat consequences of that is that I have made friends with people who play those same games and I get to talk with them regularly. I talk with people as close as Easton and as far away as Australia. Most of them are younger than me (way to make me feel old at 37)!

One of the more curious parts of conversations happen when they ask me, "What do you do for work?" Finding out that I am a pastor elicits a variety of responses, but one thing that has consistently amazed me is how many questions I received. Most of these people don't believe in God, or at least aren't sure whether or not God exists. Yet, there is a hungering for knowing more about this God that I serve.

It strikes me that the secularization of my and younger generations especially has left younger people with absolutely no religious background. They don't know the language. They don't know the stories. They don't know that God is not an angry tyrant, but a God of love and salvation. The old ways of talking to the "younger generation" about God just doesn't work anymore. We need to find new ways of bringing a message of God's hope to a world that knows nothing about that God and if they do they have a warped sense of who God actually is.

One of the things I hear from our congregational council is that we need to bring in more young people. That's true. I think we need to bring in everybody, young and old, but there is a clear lack of people my age and younger actively involved in the church. We're not alone in this as most of American Christianity is at a loss for how to reach these newer generations.

Sometime soon we will be putting together a Committee on Renewal. I know, I know. Another committee?! The work of this group is more about dreaming for the future and how we reach those in our community with the love of Jesus. It is my hope that this committee will bring ideas to the congregation, but it will depend on the whole congregation to make it work and make our committee more than just talk.

If we're willing to put in the work and have faith in God, I am hopeful for bright days ahead.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Ken*



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



**Prayer List**

Kimberly Bastibetilli, Earl Beers, Raymond Beers, Nancy Berkebile, Anita Borger, Delores Christman, Moriah Coles, Emmy Dunbar, Robert Eckhart, Sylvia Gethen, Chad Hahn, Terry Hahn, Frank Hall III, Kit Hall, Catherine Henshaw, Pete Horbowyj, Glen Kichline, Nancy McNeese, Billie Jo Moyer, Dr. John Nicholson, Matt Nothstein, Erica Polizzi, Roseanna Polizzi, Chuck Schretzman, Sheila Sherer, Deric Sterling, Eugene Strohl, John Spirk, Kathryn Strohl, Bradie Uliana, Eden Wilbur, 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  
 John A. Forgay – The Gardens of Easton Nursing Home  
 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**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Mary Hahn**
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Kermit George**
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Nevin George**
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Braidyn Franya**
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Verna Borger**
- 9<sup>th</sup> **Patricia Kleppinger, Faith Szena**
- 10<sup>th</sup> **Joshua Greene, Joseph Hittner, Donna McGarry**
- 11<sup>th</sup> **Ryan Schoch**
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Alexis Bartholomew, Charles Horinko, Michelle Horinko**
- 13<sup>th</sup> **Thomas Creed, Joshua Turner**
- 15<sup>th</sup> **Travis Fedor, David Gouger**
- 18<sup>th</sup> **Emily Borger, Kristin Butz**
- 19<sup>th</sup> **Lynn Knappenberger, Tracy Strohl**
- 21<sup>st</sup> **Nancy Green**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> **Leah Haas, Alexa Jesberger**
- 24<sup>th</sup> **Miranda Wilkins**
- 25<sup>th</sup> **Lorianne Carden, William Repsher Jr.**
- 28<sup>th</sup> **Kimberly Bowman, Elizabeth Kuczma**
- 30<sup>th</sup> **Harper George, June Hedrick**



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

***JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES***



- 12<sup>th</sup> – **Michael & Eileen Long**
- 30<sup>th</sup> – **Gregory & Gail Beers**





# WELCA News

January 2024

WELCA's December meeting included a Christmas Luncheon at Bert's in Palmerton. The Thanksgiving Filling Sale made a total of 397-400lbs of filling. The Christmas festival was well visited. The Soup Sale for February has been cancelled.

**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. Next meeting Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>.  
New members are always welcome!!

## **SEE SIGN-UP SHEETS IN NARTHEX TO VOLUNTEER**

on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00am to cook the meat & make crumbs for the meat pies. And then at 10am to cut the meat.



We will also need help on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> to help make and package the meat pies beginning at 7am.

**WE NEED  
YOUR HELP**



**OUR 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
CONGREGATION PHOTO**



# January Church Announcements

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

- 7<sup>th</sup> – Worship Service w/ Holy Communion at 9:00 AM
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Worship Service at 9:00 AM
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Preparation for Meat Pie Sale at 7:00 AM and 10:00 AM
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Make Meat Pies at 7:00 AM; Pick-up Meat Pies from 12:00 to 2:00 PM
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Pick-up Meat Pies from 12:00 to 2:00 PM
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Council Meeting at 7:00 PM
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Worship Service at 9:00 AM
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Worship Service at 9:00 AM

## Flower & Bulletin Sponsors



**The flower chart for 2024 has been posted on the bulletin board outside the office.**

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



*Thank you to Stacy Buchiane for all of your hard work as our Church Secretary! God bless you!*

### CHRISTMAS EVE 2023

The Christmas Eve service for 2023 was held at 10:00am and 5:30pm. A total of 187 people attended the two services. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated with Christmas trees, nativity sets, candles, wreaths, and poinsettias.

Holy communion was given during both services. There were hymns sung during both services and the 10am service also included a duet of "Brightest and Best" beautifully sung by Resa Hall and her son, Jay visiting from Ireland.

### 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.



### 2024 Offering Envelopes

New offering envelopes are available in the hallway. If you do not see your envelopes, please write your name and information onto the sheet on the table so we can make sure to get you envelopes.

### 2023 Giving Statements

The sign-up sheet for the 2023 Offering Statements is located in the hallway. Statements will not be mailed. Once the statements are ready, they will be placed on the table in the narthex.

### 2023 Congregational Report

All reports for 2023 must be submitted by the end of the third week of January. A date will be announced shortly for the Congregational Meeting to discuss the Congregational Report.

## MEAT PIE SALE 2024

**If you ordered meat pies, don't forget pick-up will be January 15 or 16, 2024 12 Noon to 2:00 p.m.**



# 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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## Council Meeting Minutes from November 2023

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes for November 16, 2023

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

**Absent:** Frank Hall

**Visitors:** None

**Call to Order by** President Ricky Moyer

**Devotions and Prayers:** Rolf Windhorn

**Open Forum –** No discussion

### Correspondence

- We received a request for donation to Family Promise. Since we have already made a \$100 donation this year, this request will be held until 2024 for donation.
- A subscription notice from Palmerton Community Ambulance was not approved.

**Secretary's Report** – On motion by Delbert, second by Pearl and voice vote, the October 19, 2023 minutes were approved. On motion by Wanda, second by Sandy and voice vote, the October 29, 2023 minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – A report of profit from the basket social was presented, showing a profit of \$5,337.64. However, we have not received the Times News invoice for advertisement and that will change the net profit. On motion by Jackie, second by Bobby and voice vote, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Financial Secretary's Report** – Revised monthly collection reports were received, and approval of the Financial Secretary's Report was tabled until these changes can be explained.

### Pastor's Report

- Our membership rolls have been updated in the computer system. Active membership is 173 as of October 31, 2023. This includes 150 confirmed members and 23 children not yet confirmed.
- We will have a special music presentation at the December 10 service.
- Resa Hall has volunteered to take charge of vacation bible school. We will need additional volunteers. No date has been set.
- Pastor will be meeting with the Bishop next month to discuss the parish arrangement. He asked for any concerns or compliments. There were no negative comments, all present feel the joint situation is going well.
- At a recent parish meeting, it was decided that combined services will be held once per quarter starting in 2024. Additional information and details will follow.
- It has been several years since a Thanksgiving Eve service has been held. Discussion can be held in 2024 if we wish to revive this service.
- On motion by Pearl, second by Delbert and voice vote, the following individuals were approved to serve on the Mutual Ministry Committee: Roger Christman, Jackie Brotzman, and Donna McGarry
- On motion by Bobby, second by Jackie and voice vote, Council approved Pastor's mileage reimbursement in the amount of \$277.72

**Ongoing and Unfinished Business -** None

### Personnel Concerns

- On motion by Ricky, second by Delbert and voice vote, Council appointed AnnMarie Cronk as Church Secretary at a rate of \$15 per hour, for 15 hours per week. A ninety-day review will be conducted.

**Council Member Responsibilities for December**

**Ushers:** Weekly: Sandy Christman and Bobby Ziegenfus  
 December 24<sup>th</sup> service at 5:30: Wanda George and Bobby Ziegenfus  
**Chalice Bearers:** December 3: Delbert Christman  
 December 24<sup>th</sup> service at 5:30: Bobby Ziegenfus  
**Communion:** December 3 and 24  
**Council Devotions:** Bobby Ziegenfus  
**Building Finance Steward:** Sandy Christman

**Committees****Finance**

- On motion by Pearl, second by Delbert and voice vote, the 2024 Budget was approved. It will be presented at a congregational meeting on December 3.
- When donations by check are made toward benevolent funds, the Treasurer will deposit the check, then withdraw cash to be given to the Pastor for benevolent needs. A detailed accounting will be maintained of these transactions. The Policy Committee is asked to include this policy as part of their update.

**Music & Worship**

**Christian Ed** – Bible study continues

**Fellowship** – Hot tea has been added to after-service refreshments.

**Building & Maintenance**

- Quotes are being sought for replacement of two air conditioning units. There are two options – air conditioning units or heat pump units. Rolf believes the heat pump units, while more expensive, will pay off in the long run due to a decrease in heating oil consumption.
- Replacement of copper piping with PEX will be part of the air conditioning work.
- The water supply passed testing after George's came in and cleaned the UV light unit.
- George and Pat Dwinell are working on lighting improvement ideas for the steeple.
- The picnic grove was cleared of leaves and Luther Hall will be closed down until spring. Delbert suggested we establish a list of seasonal maintenance items for future reference.

**Outreach** – Christmas cards will be sent to shut-ins

**Mutual Ministry****Evangelism****WELCA**

- Approximately 325 pounds of filling orders were received.
- Shut-in boxes will be put together on December 1
- Our Christmas Festival will be after the December 3 service, when we will decorate the church. Food and refreshments will be available.

**New Business**

- Wanda George will prepare gift bags for any children who help at the Christmas Festival, and she is arranging a visit from Santa.
- We have been unable to find replacements for 3 of 4 vacancies coming on Council. On motion by Donna, second by Pearl and voice vote, Council approved initiation of steps to reduce the size of Council from 12 to 9.
- The contract with Bruce George Paving for snow removal and treatment came in with no increase in the rates.
- On motion by Donna, second by Jackie and voice vote, Council appointed Tompkins Insurance Agency as broker for our insurances. Melanie has been trying to get clarification of our policies, as well as better pricing, and we need a broker to assist.
- Pearl announced that we are seeking volunteers for the Alter Guild.

**Other Items for the Good of the Church - None**

**Next Meeting** – December 14 (moved one week ahead due to holiday)

**Adjournment & Lord's Prayer** – On motion by Bobby, second by Delbert and voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Donna McGarry, Secretary*



## November 2023 OFFERING REPORT by Carol O'Brien

GENERAL OPERATING OFFERING				BUILDING FUND
DATE	Attendance	Envelope, Initial, Plate Sunday School, Holidays & Flowers	Other	Building Maintenance Children's Envelope
11/5/23	79	\$2,686.00	\$0.00	\$554.00
11/12/23	66	\$1,574.00	\$2.00	\$107.00
11/19/23	82	\$1,797.00	\$0.00	\$32.00
11/26/23	63	\$1,486.00	\$0.00	\$130.00
Monthly Total	290	\$7,543.00	\$2.00	\$823.00
<b>YTD</b>	3143	\$87,921.76	\$1,129.00	\$9,852.80
		<b>Monthly</b>		<b>YTD</b>

# of Sun

# of Sun/Mon

48  
48  
48  
48  
48

Total Sunday Attendance YTD:	3143		0
Average Sunday Attendance YTD:			65
General Envelope & Plate YTD:	\$1,831.70		\$87,921.76
General Offering Other YTD:	\$23.52		\$1,129.00
Building YTD:	\$205.27		\$9,852.80

### Other

Date	Amount	Explanation
11/12/2023	\$2.00	Word in Season
<b>Flowers</b>		
Date	Amount	Sponsors
11/5/2023	\$30.00	Craig
11/19/2023	\$40.00	Heffley
11/29/2023	\$30.00	Eckhart

### Sunday School: