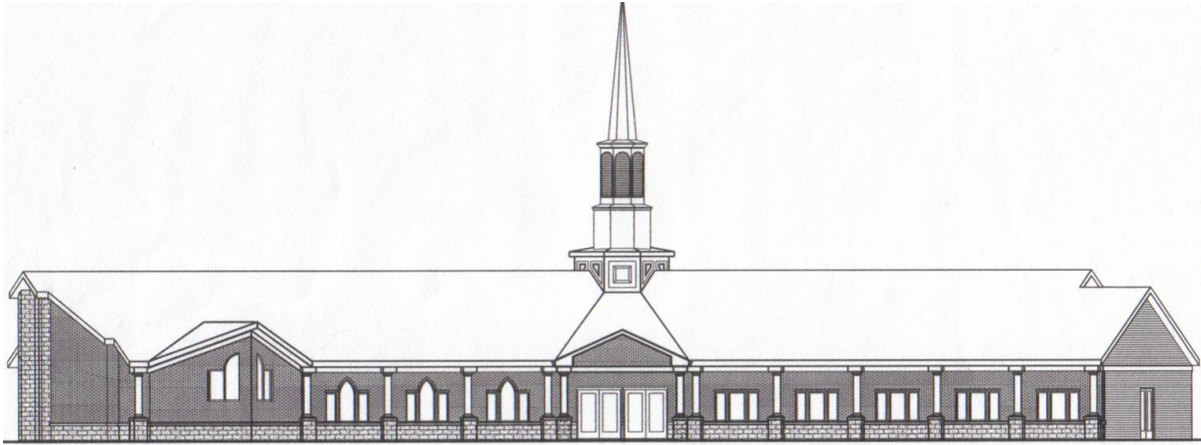


The Jerusalem Times



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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July 2023

July Church Events

- 2nd – Worship Service w/ Holy Communion**
- 9th – Worship Service**
- 16th – Worship Service in the Grove**
- 23rd – Worship Service**
- 30th – Worship Service**
- 31st – VBS at St. John's**

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

Pastor Hours: By Appointment

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:

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,

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” - Hebrews 12:1-2

Life can be filled with many distractions. We live in a society that so often values “busyness” that we can get caught up in so many things that do not bear the fruit we desire. The life of the church has that same danger. Now, I’d never say that church is a pointless distraction!

Indeed, God should take priority. Yet, this is the exact point. We can get so caught up in the little details of things that we forget the main thing.

The writer of Hebrews reminds their readers to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus. Whenever we do any visioning in the church or whenever we want to start a new program or do something in the life of the congregation, our eyes need to remain focused on Jesus. For the things that we do aren’t simply to make us happy or comfortable or to be a simple club of social gathering. We need to keep the main thing the main thing – keeping our eyes on Jesus, we give thanks to Him for life and salvation and the freedom to serve our neighbor in His name.

We can get so busy in our lives and even in our church lives. In all the things that take up your week, take a moment to ask yourself – Am I keeping my eyes on Jesus?

Seeking God with you,

Pastor Ken

Pastoral Vacation

Pastor Ken will be on vacation from August 7--19.

Information on pastoral coverage, if available, will be reported in the bulletin.

Confirmation Orientation

All individuals in 7th grade or higher who wish to begin or continue Confirmation classes are required to attend a Confirmation orientation on Sunday, August 20th from 12:00-12:30pm at St. John’s. First and second year confirmands should attend with a parent/guardian to help fill out the registration paperwork. We will be discussing the class structure and choosing dates and a meeting place to meet for the class. **Absolutely no registrations will be accepted after August 20**, so please be sure to put this date on your calendar.



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



Prayer List

Ear Beers, Raymond Beers, Richard Beers, Jean Beegle, Anita Borger, Delores Chrsitman, Blaine Eckhart, LeRoy Eckhart, Pauline Eckhart, Robert Eckhart, Dale Eckley, Mark Green, Terry Hahn, Frank Hall III, Pete Horbowyj, Bonnie Johnson, Glen Kichline, Delbert Knecht, Raymond Knecht, Billie Jo Moyer, Matt Nothstein, Stephanie Pfancook, Roseanna Polizzi, Chuck Schretzman, Sheila Sherer, Brandie Uliana, Hildegard Wheeler and Robert Ziegenfus.

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

Gurney Borger – Gracedale Nursing Home
 Helen Christman – The Palmerton
 Richard and Patricia Shook – The Gardens at York Terrace
 Edwin Strohl – Mahoning Valley Nursing Home

Serving in the Armed Forces

Army – Danny Carden and Gerald Eckhart
Coast Guard – Garrett Cameron
Navy - Sarah McCready, 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 Bruce A. George, JoAnn Mauger, Rev. Kenneth Melber, Jr.
- 2nd Austin Buchiane
- 3rd Renald Moyer
- 4th Lori Ann Green
- 5th Ryleigh Rufo
- 8th Stacey George
- 10th Irene Zacharias
- 12th Justin Sherer
- 13th Ronald Borger
- 14th Daniel Buchiane, Sr, Brett Ottinger, Matthew Ottinger
- 15th Felicia Anthony
- 16th Troy Prutzman
- 17th Richard Shook
- 19th Delores Christman
- 21st Zachary Brotzman
- 22nd Scott Beers, Diane Rudelitch
- 25th William Hittner
- 26th Jarad Windhorn
- 28th Randolph Wiese



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



5th – Donald & Shirley Craig

12th – Richard & Patty Shook

25th – John S. & Patti Forgay



WELCA News

July 2023

WELCA has not held any further fundraisers in the recent past, but has held its regular monthly meetings. At present, the ladies plan to do a thorough cleaning of its building in the Grove to prepare for the Annual Sunday School Picnic, help is always appreciated. Help will be needed to prepare, serve and clean up at our Annual Church Sunday School Picnic. On Thursday, August 3rd starting at 4:00 PM to prepare the meat, celery, toast and potatoes for the filling and on Friday, August 4th starting at 7:00 AM to make the filling. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex for anyone who can help.

New members are always welcome!!!

July Church News



Important dates of the month to remember:

- 2nd – Worship Service with Holy Communion at 9:00 AM
- 3rd – WELCA Meeting at 12:30 PM
- 4th – OFFICE CLOSED in observance of Independence Day
- 9th – Worship Service at 9:00 AM
- 10th Bible Study Class at 6:00 PM
- 16th – Worship Service in the Grove at 9:00 AM
- 17th – Bible Study Class at 6:00 PM
- 23rd – Worship Service at 9:00 AM
- 30th – Worship Service at 9:00 AM
- 31st – Vacation Bible School held at St. John's at 6:00 PM



Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

invites our membership to join us

for a **no cost** fellowship dinner to be held on

Sunday, September 17 at 5:00

(Please arrive promptly as dinner will begin at 5:00)

The Menu

Baked Ziti
Baked Boneless Chicken
Sausage & Peppers simmered in tomatoes

Tossed Salad
Green Beans
Oven Roasted Potatoes
Dinner Rolls

Desserts
Molasses Cake
Angel Food Cake

Hot coffee & tea

We look forward to seeing you then for an evening

of fellowship and fun.

Space is limited to 80 people.

Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Flower & Bulletin Sponsors

- 2nd – Donald & Shirley Craig
- 9th – Jim & Judi Leiding
- 16th – Connie Strohl
- 23rd – NO FLOWERS
- 30th – Gail Paules and
John & Kathleen Spirk



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



Annual Sunday School Picnic

Saturday, August 5th (Rain date: Sunday, August 6th)

Picnic starts at 12 Noon

Service starts at 2 PM with Guest Speaker Roger Borger

Activities: Kiddie Cake Walk & Fish Pond at 3 PM

Cake Walk for all ages & Raffle at 6:30 PM

Live Music starting at 4 PM



Bible Studies

Mondays at 6:00 PM

Everyone is welcome!



Dylan Matthew Serfass
Graduated from UTI
Universal Technical Institute
On May 12, 2023.



Dylan is the son of
Randy & Danielle Serfass.

Dylan graduated with his degree in Welding Technology.

He was the recipient of Student of the Course Achievement for his outstanding achievement in Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW).

He also received 2 Director's Honors List Awards which is an award granted to the student who satisfactorily completes three consecutive courses with both lab and class grades of 90% or better.

Dylan has also been nominated and accepted his nomination into the ALPHA BETTA KAPPA National Honor Society. This prestigious society is based on his academic achievements, superior lab performance, and excellence in attendance.

Dylan has been accepted into an apprenticeship for pipeline welding and will be traveling from coast to coast/state to state upon completion of his apprenticeship. He is also training and preparing for his underwater welding certifications which will be completed within the next year.



Ethan Douglas Brown

Graduated from Stephen Decatur High School



Ethan is the nephew of
Dan & Stacy Buchiane.

He graduated with honors and was the recipient of 3 gold stars from the NAVAL JROTC.

Ethan has enlisted in the U. S. Air Force and will be going to basic training in Texas this fall.

Samantha Rose Silliman

Graduated from Moravian University.



Samantha is the granddaughter of
Irene & Dean Zacharias.

Sara Leslie Silliman

Graduated from Jefferson University.



Sara is the granddaughter of
Irene & Dean Zacharias.

Church Council Members



Ricky Moyer – President

Jackie Brotzman

Wanda George

Robert Ziegenfus – Vice President

Delbert D. Christman

Frank Hall III

Donna McGarry – Secretary

Sandy Christman

Rolf Windhorn

Pearl Eckhart

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2023

Attendance: Jackie Brotzman, Sandy Christman, Pearl Eckhart, Wanda George, Donna McGarry, Rolf Windhorn, Bobby Ziegenfus, and Pastor Melber.

Absent: Delbert Christman, Frank Hall, Ricky Moyer.

Visitors: Roger Christman, Susan Lovejoy

Call to Order by Vice President, Bobby Ziegenfus

Devotions and Prayers: Jackie Brotzman

Open Forum

Susan Lovejoy of Thrivent Financial reviewed the Church's current investments. We have four investment fund plans that have varying goals. The funds are mostly invested in bonds, a few include stocks for a slightly more aggressive plan. The year 2022 was not good for investments, but she sees improvement in the first quarter of 2023. She didn't have our exact original investment figures to determine how well the investments have performed since original purchase; and will provide that for information at the next Council meeting. We also have available a money market that is currently offering 4.4% interest. We currently have some funds in a money market with First Northern Bank and will ask Melanie to provide the interest rate on that account for discussion at the next Council meeting.

Correspondence - None

Secretary's Report – Jackie made a motion to approve the April 20, 2023 minutes, seconded by Wanda George. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Pastor Melber thanked Melanie for providing year-to-date comparisons for 2022 vs. 2023 revenue and expenses. This will be helpful in evaluating our financial activity. Wanda made a motion to approve, seconded by Rolf. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report – Pastor Melber noted a discrepancy in the attendance number between this report and his numbers. He believes it could be a transposition of numbers and will clarify the differences for future reporting. Donna made a motion to approve, seconded by Jackie. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report -

- Pastor Melber has received a letter of resignation from Carol O'Brien from Council, effective immediately, and as Financial Secretary effective June 30. He discussed the need for a Council replacement, as well as another existing vacancy on Council. After some discussion, Pastor Melber will approach several recommended members to see if they are interested in serving.
- Carol's resignation from Council creates a vacancy in the position of Council Secretary and Donna offered to fill this position.
- The Financial Secretary vacancy will be announced in Church for anyone interested.

- Stacy Buchiane has offered to fill the Sexton position. Connie Smale will shadow her to see that she learns the job responsibilities. Pastor Melber will offer her \$12 per hour with reviews at 30 days and later as needed, with a potential rate increase at 90 days. Rolf offered to sit in on the review sessions. The position calls for 10 hours per week, and these hours will be in addition to the hours Stacy works as Secretary.
- Because Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, discussion was held how best to handle services on this day in conjunction with St. John's. It is also the fourth Sunday of Advent. It was decided to start the 9:00 a.m. service normally, with a transition into a Christmas Eve service. We will then hold a 5:30 Christmas Eve service. St. John's will hold a service at 7:30. Pastor Melber will share this at the next Parish meeting. There will not be a 3:00 Christmas Eve service.
- Jackie made a motion to approve the Pastor's mileage, seconded by Sandy. Motion carried.

Ongoing and Unfinished Business – None.

Personnel Concerns – Already discussed in Pastor's report.

Council Member Responsibilities for June

Ushers: - Donna McGarry, Pearl Eckhart, Sandy Christman (plus one additional person)

Chalice Bearers: Sandy Christman

Communion: June 11 (since Pastor will be away June 4)

Council Devotions: Frank Hall

Building Finance Steward: Donna McGarry

Committees

Finance- No report

Music & Worship – No report

Christian Ed – No report

Fellowship

- Sandy and Pearl will continue providing refreshments for fellowship after church services through the summer as needed.
- Plans are continuing for the September 17 fellowship dinner. The committee hopes to utilize funds budgeted for fellowship to cover the dinner costs, with the goal that there will be no fee to people attending the dinner. We will have limited seating and will offer reservations on a first-come, first-served basis with a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Building & Maintenance

- On motion by Donna, second by Sandy and voice vote, the Council approved purchase of a double-hung window for the Secretary's office at a cost of \$764. This will improve heat and air conditioning in the office. On the request of Bobby, the cost will come from Susie's memorial funds.
- Rolf changed our electric supplier to Direct Energy. The rate will be fixed at 11.99/kwh, with no cancellation fee. This is the best plan for our Church rather than an adjustable rate plan.
- The Committee is getting quotes for improvements to the grove lower bathroom and any necessary electric service changes in the grove.
- Kistler O'Brien inspected our fire extinguishers. Several need to be upgraded and one needs replacement.

Outreach – Sandy and Joan Altemose continue sending cards.

Mutual Ministry - Next meeting is June 6.

Evangelism – Bobby is reaching out by phone.

WELCA – Thanks to everyone to help with the Persian donut sale. Over 1,400 were sold.

New Business - None

Other Items for the Good of the Church - None.

Next Meeting – June 15, 2023

Adjournment & Lords Prayer – On motion by Pastor Ken, second by Donna McGarry and voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna McGarry
Church Council Secretary

**Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes from May 28, 2023**

Attending the meeting: Wanda George, Pearl Eckhart, Robert Ziegenfus, Rolf Windhorn, Frank Hall, Delbert Christman, Sandy Christman, Jackie Brotzman and Melanie Windhorn.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 AM.

Pastor Ken stated that the only application for the Sexton position was from Stacy Buchiane. He stated that Rolf and he met with Stacy to go over the Sexton position duties and interview her. Pastor Ken and Rolf are recommending hiring Stacy. He said there will be a 30-day review and a 90-day review, which at that time, a recommendation could be made for an increase in the hourly rate. For now, the rate will be \$12.00/hour with a maximum of 10 hours/week and no benefits. Stacy will pick the days she will work. It was requested that she not clean on the days she is in the office. She will begin as Sexton on Monday, June 5, 2023.

A question was asked as to who will train her and who will shadow her? Pastor said Connie Smale, Stacy and he will work together on the training. He also said that Shirley Craig may be willing to train Stacy. Pastor Ken said that as per her resume, Stacy has previous cleaning experience and therefore, he felt that she does not need to be shadowed.

Stacy will be the Sexton for weddings and funerals and Shirley Craig will be the backup person. If there is an event on a day that is her secretarial day, then the backup person would need to cover the event.

Robert Ziegenfus made a motion to hire Stacy Buchiane as the Sexton. Delbert Christman seconded. All in favor.

Melanie Windhorn advised that the check from The Douglas Youngkin Estate was received. It is approximately \$66,400. After discussion on where to deposit the funds, (First Northern Money Market or Thrivent Accounts) Jackie Brotzman made a motion to deposit the check in the Thrivent Money Market Account for now until Council can decide where to further invest the funds. Sandy seconded the motion. All in favor.

Melanie also advised Council that Carol O'Brien will be out for a while. Carol asked Melanie to fill-in for her with the weekly deposits until she returns.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM

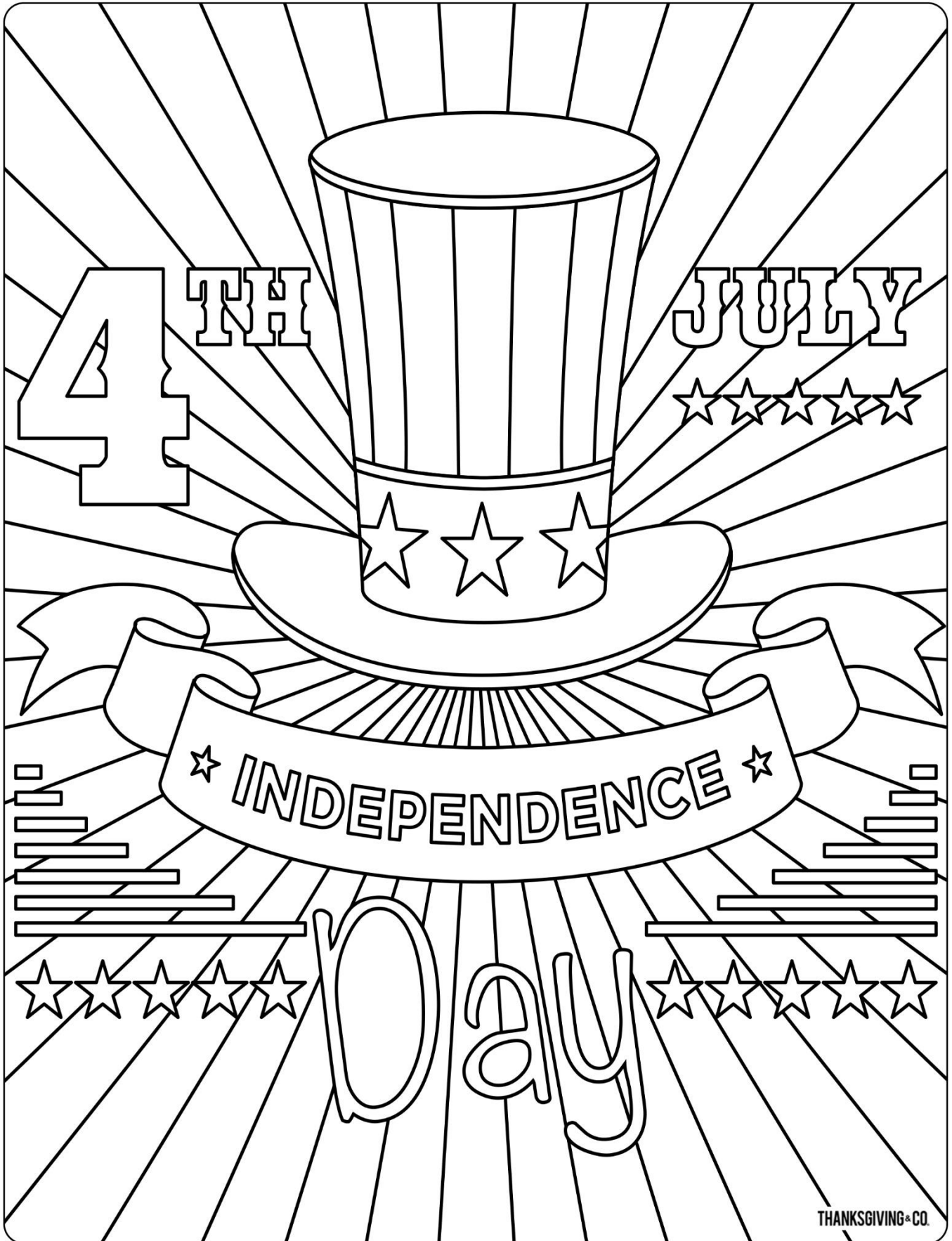
Respectfully submitted by

Melanie H. Windhorn

Treasurer

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fun for the Kids!



Fellowship, food & fun
CHURCH
Picnic



Annual Sunday School Picnic

Saturday, August 5, 2023

(Rain date: Sunday, August 6th)

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

500 Church Drive, Trachsville

Located off Route 209 behind Towamensing Fire Co.

Picnic starts – 12 Noon, Service starts – 2 PM

Guest speaker

Afternoon Activities:

Kiddie Cake Walk & Fish Pond – 3 PM

Evening Activities:

Cake Walk for all ages & Raffle Drawing afterwards – 6:30 PM


Live music

Great food, fellowship, and fun for all!

For more Information: 610-681-5200



JULY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion – 9:00 AM	3 WELCA Meeting – 12:30 PM Bible Study – 6:00 PM	4  OFFICE CLOSED	5	6	7	8
9 Worship Service – 9:00 AM	11 Bible Study – 6:00 PM	12	13	14	15	16
16 Worship Service In the Grove -- 9:00 AM	18 Bible Study – 6:00 PM	19	20	21 Council Meeting – 7:00 PM	22	23
23 Worship Service – 9:00 AM	25 Bible Study – 6:00 PM	26	27	28	29	30
30 Worship Service – 9:00 AM	31 Vacation Bible School-- 6:00 – 8:00 PM					

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