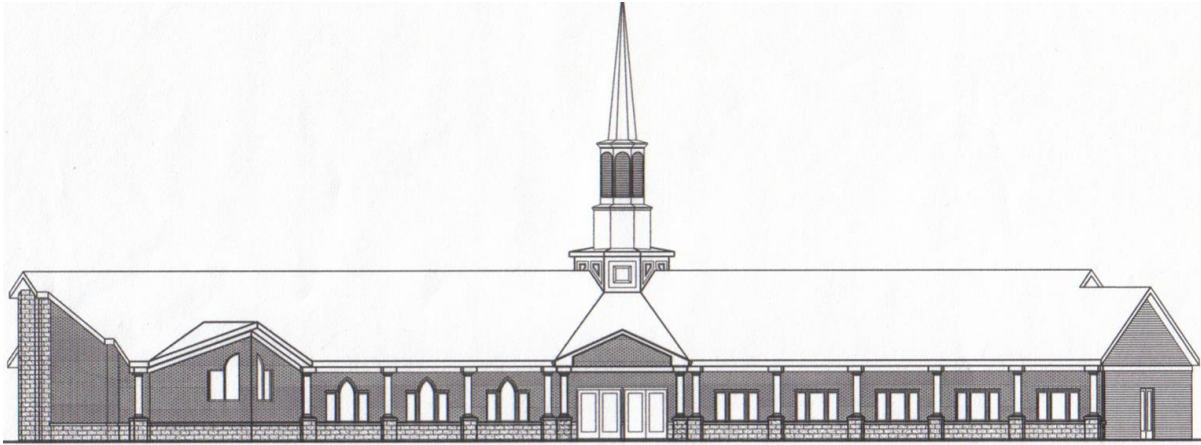


The Jerusalem Times



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

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

**Non-Profit Organization
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Permit #40

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



June 2023

✙
Happy Father's Day!
✙

June Church Events

**4th – Worship Service
11th – Worship Service / Holy Communion
18th – Worship Service / Happy Father's Day!
25th – Worship Service**

Church Office: 610-681-5200

E-MAIL: 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





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, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” -2 Corinthians 5:17

Having returned from Synod Assembly this past week, I am struck by the one word that seems to strike fear in the hearts of individuals and churches alike: Change. We have, without a doubt, experienced a dramatic change in our church experiences and in our culture over the last 10 years, let alone compared to whatever we remember Church being as a child.

I think to my home congregation. A place of over 200 on a Sunday morning with a thriving youth and children’s ministry. More volunteers than one would possibly know what to do with. One could consider it healthy in many ways, even though it was hard for me as a teenager to learn so many names! Fortunately, everyone sat in the same pew every Sunday, so I got to know our “pew neighbors” very well!

Fast forward 20 years later and that same church has less than half of that attendance. Ministries change. Pastors change. Culture changes. Pew neighbors go on to be with Jesus. It’s different. And frankly, many of us don’t know what to do with that.

There are two notes about change in the Bible that I’d like to point out. First is that the Scriptures are filled with change. Some of those are adaptive changes – how the people of God respond to new challenges (sound familiar?). If you think the current situation is tough, read prophets like Isaiah or Jeremiah where pretty well the whole nation turns to sin and idols instead of God. Humans really haven’t changed that much in 3,000 years, even if we like to bemoan how terrible things are now.

There are also wildly beneficial changes. We, who were dead in sin, are made alive in Christ. The theme of this year’s Synod Assembly was “Moving Beyond Death to Life.” What an incredible God who looks upon us and changes our very being to be like Christ. To give us “God’s righteousness” so that we may stand before God not as a trembling sinner waiting for the lightning bolt, but as a freed and forgiven child of God! God gives us life!

One of the visions that Bishop DeForest has laid out for the synod is one of partnership. You have been learning this over the past year and a half through a parish arrangement. The hope is to bring more partnership to this synod and to encourage one another and share our gifts. That will mean bringing in Deacons to the Synod (professional, seminary trained individuals who have a focus on Word and Service ministries). That will mean specialized training for qualified members within the congregation to serve as Lay Authorized Ministers and serve your congregation in an official capacity. The plan looks like this: 6261...

6 Congregations with
2 Pastors
6 Lay Ministers and
1 Deacon

The hope is that this addresses some realities – there are not enough clergy to serve our congregations and nearly every congregation cannot fit the one-pastor-to-one-church model any longer. It also addresses congregation's needs when a pastor is away for vacation or becomes ill. It allows the leaders to specialize – maybe one pastor is really good at running meetings and the other pastor hates doing them. You get the best of all of your professional leaders! While this is a vision and a recommendation for moving forward, I will encourage us to take a look at new ways of doing ministry that supports the needs of the congregation as we, too, look forward to moving from death to life!

I'll admit – change is scary. It's usually scary because it seems so very unknown. I had mentioned I wanted to say two things about change. The second is this – God is unchanging. God is unchanging in His great love for this Church. God is unchanging in His work to restore all creation. God is unchanging in His promise to walk with us and be with us “even to the end of the age.”

We've been through change. We need to talk about that together. We need to lament losses and celebrate new opportunities. We need to think about being Church in new ways. It's going to be tough – but it's going to be good!

Dreaming about the future,

Pastor Ken

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION – SAVE THE DATE

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.

Summer Bible Study

Our Summer Bible study on the book of Mark will continue to be held each Monday from 6:00-7:00pm at Jerusalem.

Pastoral Vacation

Pastor Ken will be on vacation the second week in August. More information to come.



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



Prayer List

Earl Beers, Raymond Beers, Richard Beers, Jean Beegle, Anita Borger, Delores Christman, Blaine Eckhart, LeRoy Eckhart, Pauline Eckhart, Robert Eckhart, Dale Eckley, Mark Green, Terry Hahn, Pete Horbowyj, Bonnie Johnson, Billie Jo Moyer, Glen Kichline, Delbert Knecht, Raymond Knecht, Stephanie Zarelli Pfancook, Chuck Schretzman, Earl Smale, Jeanette Smith, Brandie Uliana, Hidlegard Wheeler and Robert Ziegenfus.

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

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

Serving in the Armed Forces

Army – Danny Carden, Gerald Eckhart, and Timothy Rodgers
Coast Guard – Garrett Cameron
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

- 2nd **Sharlee Ahner, Billie Jo Moyer**
- 3rd **Gail Paules**
- 6th **Lyla Ahner**
- 9th **Marilyn Haydt**
- 10th **Erin George, William Kmetz**
- 11th **Mark Green**
- 13th **Julie Weiss**
- 14th **Norman Burger, Angelica Moyer**
- 15th **Bryan Sheckler**
- 18th **Angela Heffley**
- 19th **Jay Hall**
- 21st **Emma Evans**
- 23rd **Scott Dietz, Jarrett Long**
- 24th **Rick Moyer**
- 25th **Sandra Burger, Eugene M. Strohl**
- 27th **Dylan Bartholomew, Pauline Eckhart, Corrina Strohl**
- 28th **Karen Green, Vincent Rufo**
- 29th **Lewis George Jr., Stacia Gouger**
- 30th **Emily Butz, Oliver Carden, Katie Easton, Joshua Wilkins**



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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd – Jennifer & Vincent Rufo 10th – Randy & Goldie Wiese 11th – Randy & Lynette Frantz 12th – Frank IV & Resa Hall 17th – Joshua & Kelly Wilkins 	 HAPPY ANNIVERSARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19th – Tom & April Evans 21st – Eugene & June Hedrick 24th – Sterling & Jackie Brotzman 25th – Donald & Brenda Gouger 26th – Bruce & Wanda George 28th – Mark & Karen Green
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June 2023



WELCA's Persian Donut Sale in May was another big success! Again, **thank you** to everyone who took orders, helped with the baking, helped with preparing the icing, packaging, and delivering of the donuts. Also, thank you to all who ordered these delicious treats! WELCA also made the special flower presentations to mothers and grandmothers at the church's Mothers' Day service. It's always a nice way to honor our moms! WELCA awarded flowers to all mothers who attended as well as special vases of flowers in 8 different categories. Oldest Mother present was awarded to Gladys Green. Youngest Mother with child present was awarded to Felecia Anthony. Oldest Grandmother present was awarded to Gladys Green. Youngest Grandmother present was awarded to Dawn Lutz. Mother with most children present was a tie between Millie Johnson and Pauline Eckhart. Mother who traveled the farthest to Church was awarded to Marjorie Calandra, who came from Maryland. Mother with youngest child present was awarded to Felecia Anthony. Mother with most grandchildren present was awarded to Millie Johnson. Congratulations to all the winners! WELCA will meet again on June 5th at 12:30 PM. All are invited to attend!

New members are always welcome!!!



June Church News

Important dates of the month to remember:

- 4th – Holy Trinity Worship Service at 9:00 AM
- 5th – WELCA Meeting at 12:30 PM
- 11th – Worship Service with Holy Communion at 9:00 AM
- 12th – Bible Study at 6:00 PM
- 15th – Council Meeting at 7:00 PM
- 18th – Worship Service at 9:00 AM
- 19th – Bible Study at 6:00 PM
- 25th – Worship Service at 9:00 AM
- 26th – Bible Study at 6:00 PM

OPEN POSITION

Carol O'Brien is leaving the position of Financial Secretary at the end of June. We are looking for someone to fill this position. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Melber.



Our joint Vacation Bible School will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church starting on Monday, July 31st. Please let the office know if you are interested in registering any children ages 5 to 5th grade. Hope you will join this fun-filled event!

June Flower & Bulletin Sponsors

- 4th – Roger & Sheila Sherer
- 11th – John & Kathleen Spirk, Gail Paules
- 18th – Shelly & Del Christman
- 25th – Jackie Brotzman



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

Dates are still available to sponsor the flowers in July and September.



Fellowship Gathering

Save the Date!

On Saturday, September 17, 2023 we are planning a fellowship gathering.

More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date. Make sure to mark it on your calendar and save the date for this fun event!

WE JUST WANT TO SAY... **THANK YOU!**



Teacher Appreciation We wish to extend a HUGE thank you to our Sunday School teachers Carol O'Brien and Connie Strohl for a wonderful job with our Sunday School students.

To all those who came out to help clean-up the picnic grove in preparation for this year's annual picnic, especially Earl Smale who went above and beyond. Great job!

To all those that donated towards and those who planted the beautiful geraniums around the church. Making the outside as beautiful as the inside!

To Wanda George for purchasing the beautiful flowers and flower pots in front of the Church.

To Curtis & Nancy Green, George & Pat Dwinell for building and installing a beautiful custom-made shelf for the kitchen.

To Wanda George for hosting a beautiful Mother's Day Tea. A lovely time was had by all in attendance.

To all the men who mow our Church lawn weekly, keeping it looking beautiful.

To the family of Irene Green for the two beautiful custom-made round communion tables made in her memory.

To Kelly Scott for being our Church Sexton. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

WE JUST WANT TO SAY... **THANK YOU!**



Congratulations and Best Wishes to all of our 2023 Graduates!! We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors! Please let the office know if you would like your graduates name and information included in our July newsletter!



ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

Saturday, August 5th

Rain Date: Sunday, August 6th

**Picnic starts -- 12 Noon
Service starts -- 2:00 PM**

**Guest Speaker:
Roger Berger**

**Afternoon Activities:
Kiddie Cake Walk &
Fish Pond**

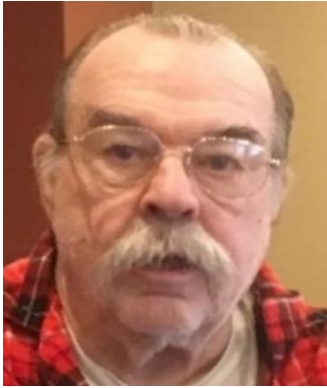
**Evening Activities:
Cake Walk for all ages &
Raffle Drawing**

**Live Music by The Hawks
beginning at 4 PM**

**Great Food, Fellowship, and
Fun for ALL!**



*to the family and friends of those that
passed away recently.*



Theodore W. Hittner, 82, Polk Township, Kunkletown, passed away on Saturday, May 6, 2023, in his home. He was the husband of the late Chong Hui (Yon) Hittner, who passed away on Dec. 28, 2021.

Born in Lehigh on Oct. 6, 1940, he was a son of the late William F. and Amelia (Strohl) Hittner.

He served our country with dedication and courage while on active duty in the U.S. Army for 21 years, including 36 months in Vietnam. After his retirement from the Army, he worked at the Tobyhanna Army Depot for over 29 years until retiring. He was a member of the Jerusalem Lutheran

Church, Trachsville, the Polk Township Historical Society, Kresgeville, Pocono Old-Tyme Farm Equipment Association, Indian Mountain Rod and Gun Club, V.F.W. Post 7134, Palmerton, the Vietnam Veterans Organization of Carbon County and the American Legion. He also loved hunting and spending time with his grandson.

We have been blessed with the presence of Theodore in our lives. He will be deeply missed by his sons, Theodor K. Hittner of Kunkletown and William L. Hittner of Fleetwood. He was the loving grandfather to William L. Hittner, who lovingly called him grand pappy. Theodore is also survived by five sisters, Althea, wife of Harvey Handwerk of Walnutport, Sharlee Ahner, Eleanor Long and Martha Serfass, all of Kunkletown, and Roberta, wife of Larry Heffley of Lehigh; and several nieces and nephews.

David C. Wentz, 73, of Palmerton, passed away Monday, May 8, 2023 in St. Luke's Hospital, Carbon campus, surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of Brenda (Walk) Wentz. They were married 42 years last September. He worked as a merchandiser for Abarta/Coca-Cola for many years, and also helped work his family's farm, Stroup's Dairy, Palmerton.

Dave was a member of St. John's Towamensing Lutheran Church, Palmerton, a life member of Bowmanstown Rod & Gun Club, a Son of the American Legion member, a former member and statistician of the Palmerton Dart League and an avid bowler in several Palmerton leagues. He was also active in the CACPAC Food Pantry.

Born in Palmerton, Dave was a son of the late Donald and Margie (Stroup) Wentz. Survivors: Wife; sons Mark and wife Joanna, Sean; sister Carla and husband Ed Moyer; sister-in-law Carol Wentz-Meining and husband Steve; brothers Todd and wife Brenda E., Clark and wife Melanie. He was predeceased by his brother Kim.



Church Council Members

Ricky Moyer – President

Robert Ziegenfus – Vice President

Carol O'Brien – Secretary

Jackie Brotzman

Delbert D. Christman

Sandy Christman

Pearl Eckhart

Frank Hall III

Wanda George

Donna McGarry

Rolf Windhorn

Council Meeting Minutes from April 15, 2023

Attendance: Jackie Brotzman, Sandy Christman, Delbert Christman, Pearl Eckhart, Wanda George, Frank Hall, Carol O'Brien, Rolf Windhorn, Bobby Ziegenfus, and Pastor Melber. Others in attendance were Melanie Windhorn, Treasurer

Absent: Ricky Moyer, Donna McGarry

Visitors: Shirley Craig and Stacy Buchiane

Call to Order by Vice President, Bobby Ziegenfus

Devotions & Prayers: Pearl Eckhart

Open Forum –

- Luther Hall Guidelines were amended. See attached.
- Shirley noted that new flower pots would be needed to replace the old ones in front of the church. Wanda will purchase them.
- Roger Christman suggested (through Sandy) that council consider eliminating announcements to shorten service to allow pastor time to get to his other parish and/or meet with new people. Pastor suggests that announcements be at 8:55, then the prelude, then the start of worship.
- Wanda made a motion to allow Stacy to take home non-confidential paperwork from the church and burn it. Frank seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Stacy requested time off this Wednesday & Thursday for funeral and she would work Monday & Tuesday to make up her time.

Correspondence – None

Secretary's Report

- Delbert made a motion to approve this report. Pearl seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- Jackie made a motion to approve this report. Delbert seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Discussion was held regarding what to do with the funds in memorial fund, where there are no surviving family members. This fund is not restricted. If any funds were to be used, a courtesy contact would need to be made to the family to let them know that we would like to use those funds and what they would be used for.
- Melanie will condense the memorial fund to take out the non-nominal people.
- Financial statement for basket social

Financial Secretary's Report (Motion Required)

Frank motion to approve. Rolf seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report (Motion required ONLY for mileage)

- Jackie approved the Pastor's mileage. Sandy seconded the mileage. Motion carried
- The Pastor submitted a sign-up sheet for him to meet with council members.
- Pastor noted he would be on Vacation on June 4. Frank has agreed to step in.

Ongoing and Unfinished Business

- Quote for the window in the office – Window world measured window. Stacy does not want a fixed window she would like it to open to transact business for tickets. Double-hung vs. a slider. The slider cost is \$875. The double-hung is \$764. Insulated/double paned, vinyl white. Set-up fee of \$295 is included in the entire price of the window. Bobby wants the money to come from Susie's memorial fund to cover the cost. Sandy asked that Roger have one more chance to submit a bid.
- Rolf has a quote for a used freezer for the ice cream stand. Not new and out of warranty status. It's a very good brand freezer/cooler. It is stainless steel. Size is about 35" high/70" long/6 top doors. The asking price \$2,500. Rolf feels that it is not worth it. He suggests we look at a newer one. Keep the old ones for another year or two.
- Melanie suggested we consider locking the door to the storage room between pastor's office and main office. She recommends a locking doorknob be added to the door with keys made and given to those who use that room. Also move the building key board and possibly purchase a lock box for all the keys

- Delbert spoke on the audit report. He questioned WELCA's position in the audit process. Pastor noted that WELCA is technically their own separate entity and is responsible for their own audit to be complete and submitted to the synod. However, they can include it with the church audit.

Personnel Concerns

- Stacy is now keeping all doors locked.
- Pastor noted that only one person spoke with him regarding issues before the Sexton review, which was held with Connie Smale, Sandy Christman & Pastor being present.
- Kelly commented that if anyone has concerns about her work to, go to her directly. That she is open to suggestions and issues to be addressed.
- At the time of her hire the list of Sexton duties were not completed or approved by council so she didn't receive it.
- The review committee recommends to advance her from \$12 to \$14 per hour.
- After continued discussion Rolf made a motion to table the compensation until our next council meeting. The motion was seconded by Frank. Motion carried.

Council member responsibilities for June:

- **Ushers:** Donna McGarry, Pearl Eckhart, Sandy Christman & _____
- **Chalice Bearers:** Sandy Christman
- **Communion:** June 4
- **Council devotions:** Frank Hall
- **Building Finance Steward:** Donna McGarry

Committee Reports

Finance

Music & Worship

Christian Education

Pastor will hold a VBS meeting on Sunday, April 30 after church at 11:30 at St. John's.

Outreach

Fellowship

- Sandy noted that we will hold a fellowship gathering on Sunday, September 17th.
- A Mother's Day Tea party will be held on Saturday, May 14th.

Building & Maintenance

- Rolf got quotes for generators but feels the price is extremely high. He recommends we don't spend a large of money at this time.

Evangelism – No report

WELCA

- They will be hosting a **take-out only** Ham and Dandelion dinner on April 22 from 4:00 – 6:00. Price: Adults \$15 & children \$10.
- People interested in donating something for the picnic raffle are asked to let Sharlee Ahner know because tickets need to be ordered.
- Their next meeting will be held on April 3rd at 12:30. All are invited to attend.
- Persian Donut sale will be held with pick up scheduled for Thursday, May 18th from 9:00 – 11:00

Mutual ministry will meet on June 6th

New Business – None

Other Items for the good of the church - None

Next Meeting – June15, 2023

Adjournment

- At 10:00 with no further business to discuss, Carol O'Brien made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Frank Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. O'Brien

Church Council Secretary

April 2022 OFFERING REPORT by Melanie Windhorn

GENERAL OPERATING OFFERING				BUILDING FUND
DATE	Attendance	Envelope, Initial, Plate Sunday School, Holidays &	Other	Building Maintenance Children's Envelope
4/3/22	64	\$2,298.00	\$215.00	\$526.00
4/10/22	73	\$1,711.00	\$201.00	\$261.00
4/17/22	73	\$3,066.00	\$4.00	\$12.00
4/24/22	51	\$1,388.00	\$0.00	\$381.00
Thrivent Direct Deposit				
		\$8,463.00	\$420.00	\$1,180.00

General Other:

Sunday School:

4/3 Word In Season	\$18.00		
4/3 Ukrainian Relief	\$197.00		
4/10 Ukrainian Relief	\$201.00		
4/17 Word In Season	\$4.00		

Total Sunday Attendance YTD:	960
Average Sunday Attendance YTD:	57
Envelope & Plate YTD:	\$32,283.00
General Offering Other YTD:	\$2,097.00
Building YTD:	\$4,273.00

April 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
4/2/23	77	\$2,059.00	\$8.00	\$491.00
4/9/2023	85	\$2,756.00		\$30.00
4/16/2023	77	\$1,743.00		\$171.00
4/23/2023	64	\$1,261.00	\$2.00	\$21.00
4/30/2023	97	\$1,787.00		\$644.00
Totals	400	\$9,606.00	\$10.00	\$1,357.00

General Other:

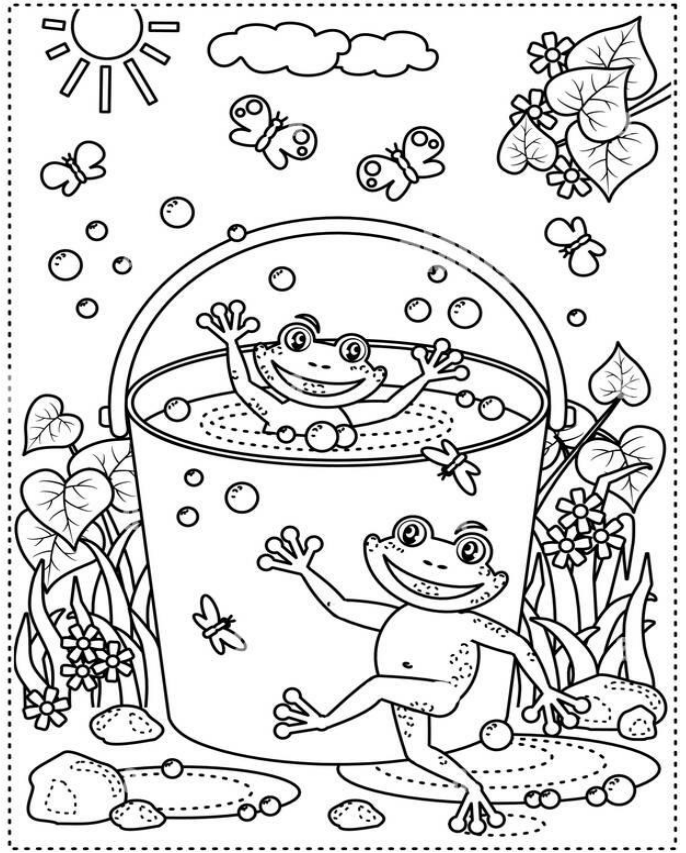
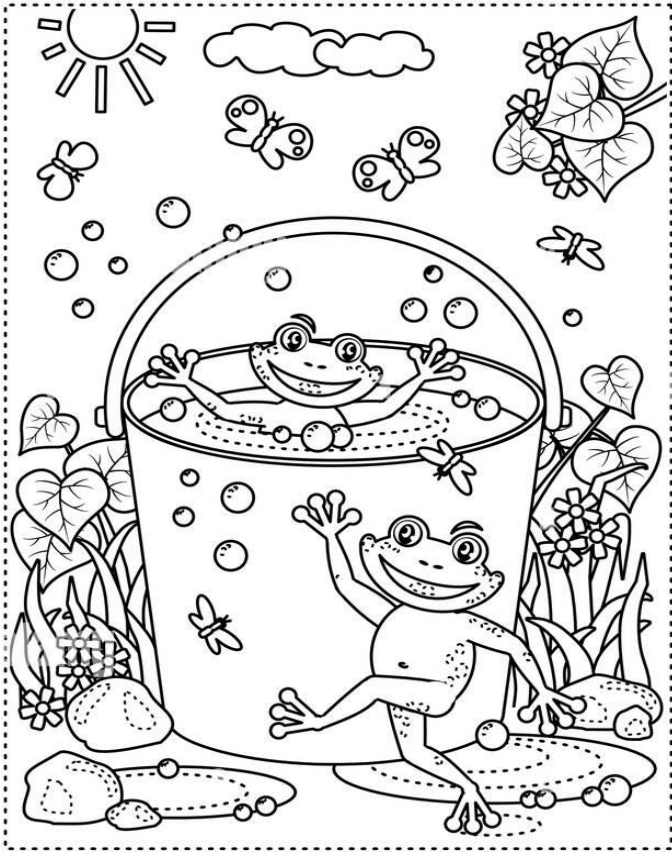
Sunday School:

4/2 Word in Season	\$8.00		
4/2 Flowers - J & K Spirk	\$30.00		
4/9 Flowers - E. Smith	\$25.00		
4/9 Flowers - S. Buchaine	\$30.00		
4/9 Flowers - I. Zacharias	\$30.00		
4/9 Flowers - J. Leiding	\$30.00		
4/16 Flowers - G & P Dwinell	\$30.00		
4/23 - Flowers Spirks	\$30.00		
4/23 Flowers - Craigs	\$30.00		

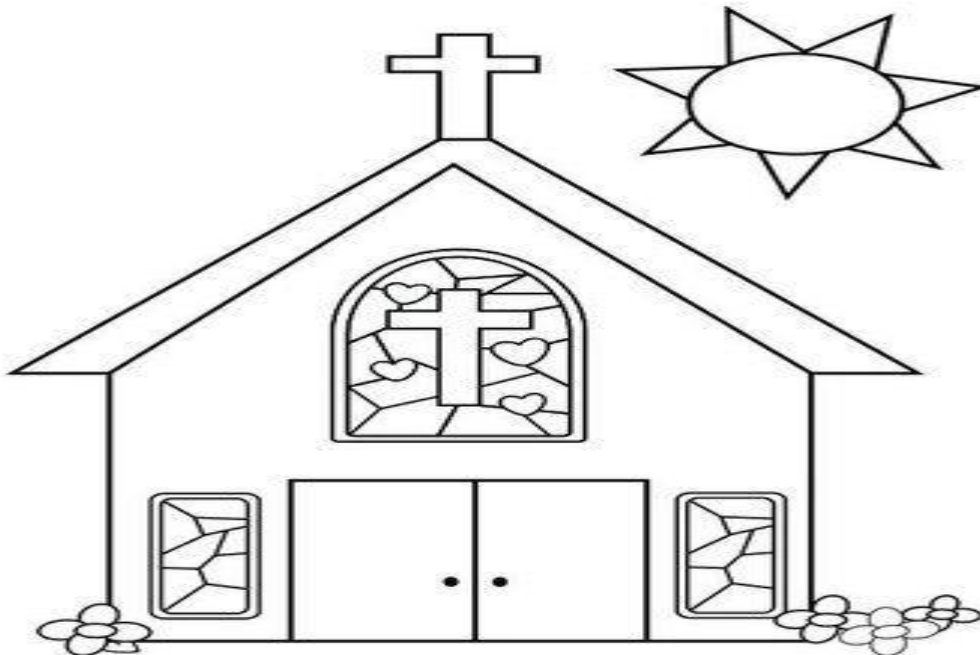
	Monthly Total	YTD Total
Total Sunday Attendance YTD:	400	1323
Average Sunday Attendance YTD:	80	73.5
General Envelope & Plate YTD:	8047.01	\$35,539.76
General Offering Other YTD:	\$1,559.00	\$3,514.00
Building YTD:	\$9,606.01	\$39,053.76

Fun for the Kids!

Find the ten differences between the two pictures.



I love going to church!





JUNE 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship Service – 9:00 AM Pastor vacation Guest Speaker	5 WELCA Meeting – 12:30 PM No Bible Study	6	7	8	9	10
11 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion– 9:00 AM	12 Bible Study – 6:00 PM	13	14 	15 Council Meeting – 7:00 PM	16	17
18 Worship Service – 9:00 AM  Happy Father's Day!	19 Bible Study – 6:00 PM	20	21 	22 	23	24
25 Worship Service – 9:00 AM	26 Bible Study – 6:00 PM	27	28	29	30	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>For pastoral service contact Rev. Kenneth Melber Jr. at: Home: 484-629-2812 Church office: 610-681-5200 Email: pastorken86@gmail.com</p> </div>