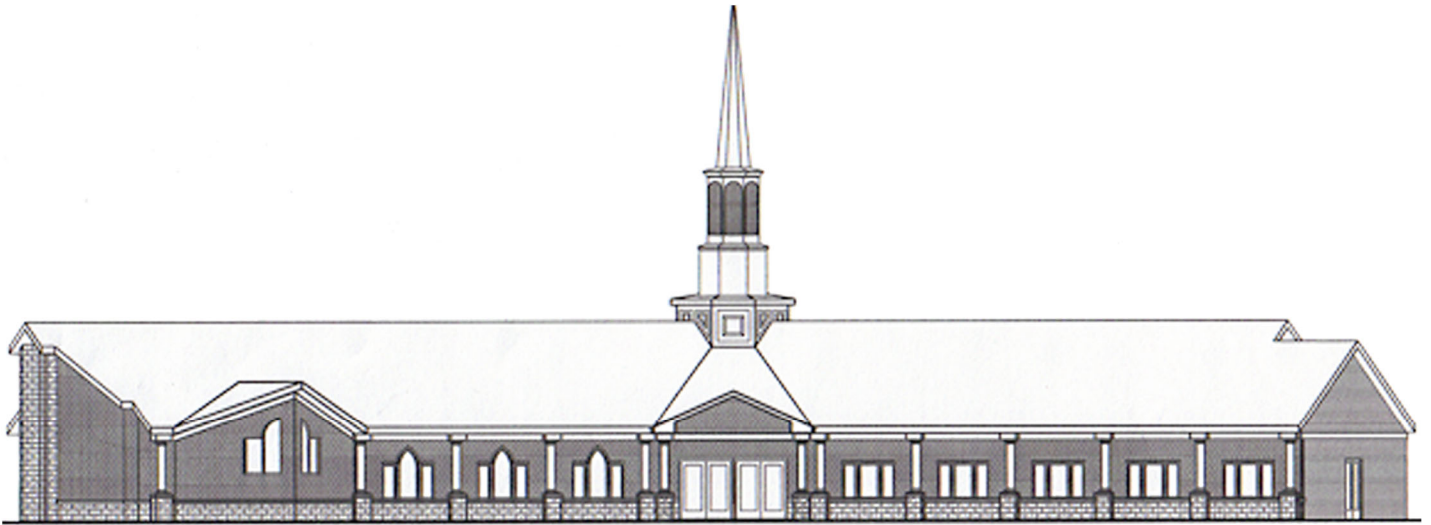


# THE JERUSALEM TIMES



*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  
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Permit # 40

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## March 2024

### Church Events

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
- 9<sup>th</sup> Spring Basket Social
- 10<sup>th</sup> Worship Service
- 17<sup>th</sup> Worship Service
- 24<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
- 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday Worship Service w/ Holy Communion

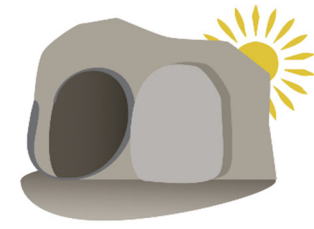
Church Office: 610-681-5200







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)





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> <b>Worship Service w/ Holy Communion</b> <b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>4</b> WELCA Mtg 12:30 PM  Easter Flower orders due!	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Lenten Fellowship 6 PM</b> <b>Service 7 PM</b> <b>@ St John's</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> WELCA make Soup, Filling, Apple Crisp 12:00 p.m.	<b>9</b> <b>SPRING BASKET SOCIAL</b> <b>9 AM- 2 PM.</b> 
<b>10</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> 	<b>11</b> Cemetery Spring Clean-up 5:00 PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Lenten Fellowship 6 PM</b> <b>Service 7 PM</b> <b>@ Jerusalem</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Lenten Fellowship 6 PM</b> <b>Service 7 PM</b> <b>@ St John's</b> 	<b>21</b> Council Meeting 7:00 PM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>w/ Holy Communion</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Holy Week</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Service at St. John's w/ Holy Communion 7:00 PM	<b>29</b> <b>Good Friday</b> Service at St. John's 7:00 PM	<b>30</b> <b>Holy Saturday / Easter Vigil</b> Service at St. John's 6:00 PM
<b>31</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>9:00 AM w/ Holy Communion</b> 			<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>For pastoral service contact</b>  <b>Rev. Kenneth Melber Jr. at: Home: 484-629-2812 / Church office: 610-681-5200</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:pastorken86@gmail.com">pastorken86@gmail.com</a></p> </div>			



# 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

## From the Pastor's Desk

### Calendar

A Note from the Pastor

Prayer List

Birthdays & Anniversaries

WELCA News

Announcements

Council Meeting Minutes

Offering Report

*“The sacrifices of God are a broken heart; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” -Psalm 51:17*

These words of Psalm 51 come shortly after words that many of us at Jerusalem are familiar with: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me...” (v. 10). The context is King David coming face to face with his transgressions and appealing to God for forgiveness in the midst of a multitude of heavy sins.

There are a lot of reasons why it's good that God is God and we are not. I'm not so sure I could always so quickly and easily forgive someone. Yet, here the Psalms once again remind us that a heart that comes in repentance to God will not be turned away. Through the saving work of Jesus on the cross, our sins are forgiven.

It's one of the aspects of our faith that never ceases to amaze me (maybe that's why they call it Amazing Grace). Every Sunday, as we hear the words of absolution: “I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins” – words I've spoken literally some one thousand times already – and still I'm utterly blown away by it. Does God not know all of the stuff I've done and left undone? Does God not know all of our sins? Yes. God does. And yet, because of the faithfulness of Jesus, our broken and contrite hearts are never turned away. We are fed and forgiven over and over and over again without limit.

*Continually Amazed,  
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, 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, 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  
 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 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**



- 3<sup>rd</sup> Theresa Hall, Daniel Zacharias
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tammy George
- 5<sup>th</sup> Theodorick Hittner, Linda Zacharias
- 6<sup>th</sup> Raymond Berger Jr., Nathan George
- 8<sup>th</sup> Emily George
- 9<sup>th</sup> Steven Lounsbury
- 10<sup>th</sup> Larry Beers, Thomas Fritz, Olivia Lounsbury, Kimberly Ottinger, Robert Ziegenfus
- 11<sup>th</sup> Wanda George
- 12<sup>th</sup> Tracy Creed, Ryan Hook
- 14<sup>th</sup> April Evans
- 15<sup>th</sup> Lynette Frantz, Pamela Hendleman
- 16<sup>th</sup> Lynn Rudelitch
- 18<sup>th</sup> Rodney Meinhart, Mikayla Wilkins
- 21<sup>st</sup> Xavior Carden, Scott Long
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Jenna Creed, Megan Evans, Nathan Frantz, Althea Haydt, Megan McGarry
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Eric Carden, Kelsey Eaton, Robert Farber
- 24<sup>th</sup> Samuel Kuehner
- 25<sup>th</sup> Megan Frantz, Rebecca Frantz, Amy Sander, William Strohl
- 27<sup>th</sup> Jacqueline Brotzman
- 28<sup>th</sup> Nicole Kuehner, Goldie Wiese
- 29<sup>th</sup> Donald Szena
- 31<sup>st</sup> James DeRose Jr.



**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

**25<sup>th</sup> ~ Joel & Rhonda Beers**

*Blessings  
on your  
Anniversary!*

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



# WELCA News

March 2024

WELCA made Ham and string bean soup for the Fellowship on Ash Wednesday, Feb 24. We will host again on Feb 28<sup>th</sup> and serve vegetable soup along with grilled cheese or peanut butter and jelly. We are requesting baked goods to be donated for dessert. Our last Lenten fellowship for 2024 at Jerusalem will be March 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Help is needed** on Friday, March 8, when WELCA will meet at 12pm to cook and cut meat, make soup & apple crisp for the Basket Social on Sat. March 9.

**The Ham & Dandelion take-out dinner** will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Ticket prices and more details to follow!

WELCA meets at the church the first Monday of the month at 12:30pm.

March meeting will be held March 4<sup>th</sup>, and April Meeting will be April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**New members are always welcome!!**



Annual  
**SPRING**

## **BASKET SOCIAL**

Theme Baskets & Raffle, Baked Goods, Homemade Soups,  
Filling, Apple Butter & Chow Chow

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024**

**9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**\$25 Hidden Within Three Baskets!!**



# March Church Announcements

## Lenten Services

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



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

## Easter Flower Sale



Easter flowers are available to order. Due to Joan Altemose or the office by March 4<sup>th</sup>. Choice of: Hyacinths: \$8.00, Tulips: \$8.00, Daffodils: \$9.00, Lilies: \$10.00 and Begonias: \$12.00

## Spring Cemetery Clean-Up

This year's Spring Cemetery Clean-up will be held Monday, March 11th at 5:00 PM (weather permitting). Anyone who can volunteer during the day is appreciated and asked to kindly make one pile, rather than several small ones. This request is due to the fact that we are down to one truck for hauling things away. Please remove only Christmas items. If you have anything on your loved one's plots that you would like to keep, please remove it prior to that date.



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

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion	9:00 p.m.
4 <sup>th</sup>	WELCA Meeting	12:30 p.m.
6 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship & Lenten Service @ St. John's	6 & 7 p.m.
8 <sup>th</sup>	WELCA prepare Meat, Soup, Apple Crisp	12:00 p.m.
9 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Basket Social	9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
10 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Service	9:00 p.m.
11 <sup>th</sup>	Cemetery Spring Clean-up	5:00 p.m.
13 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship & Lenten Service @ Jerusalem	6 & 7 p.m.
17 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Service	9:00 p.m.
20 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship & Lenten Service @ St. John's	6 & 7 p.m.
21 <sup>st</sup>	Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
24 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday Worship Service w/ Holy Communion	9:00 p.m.
28 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday Service @ St. John's	7:00 p.m.
29 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday Service @ St. John's	7:00 p.m.
30 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Vigil @ St. John's	6:00 p.m.
31 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Sunday Service w/ Holy Communion	9:00 a.m.



## MARCH FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSORS



March 3: George & Carol O'Brian

March 10: Joan Greene

March 17: John & Kathleen Spirk & Gail Paules

March 24: Jackie Brotzman

March 31: Ed Smith



# 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 January 2024

### Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes for January 18, 2024

**Attendance:** Joan Altemose, Jackie Brotzman, Delbert Christman, Ricky Moyer, Connie Smale, Bobby Ziegenfus, Treasurer Melanie Windhorn and Pastor Melber.

**Absent:** Donna McGarry

**Visitors:** None

**Call to Order by** President Ricky Moyer

**Devotions and Prayers:** Jackie Brotzman

**Open Forum** – None.

**Correspondence** – Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Network sent a thank-you for doing an angel tree.

**Secretary's Report** – On motion by Bobby, second by Delbert and voice vote, the December 14 minutes were approved. Connie Smale has to decide which term on Council she will do (1 year or 3 year).

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

**Financial Secretary's Report** – No report. Melanie said there are differences between her reports and Carol's. The Building Fund and General Fund are now combined.

**Pastor's Report-** On motion by Jackie, second by Bobby and voice vote, Pastor's mileage was approved. The 2024 mileage rate will increase to .67/mile. Pastor asked for two delegates to attend Synod Assembly. Resa Hall will coordinate the week-long vacation bible school.

### Ongoing and Unfinished Business

- Pastor is asked to give more timely notice for pastoral fill-in, if possible.
- Insurance on the stained-glass windows needs to be increased.
- The Parish needs to cover workers' compensation for the Pastor.
- Anne doesn't want the audio on the security system camera while she is working. Check to see if it can be returned, and get just a video system that can be mounted on the wall.

### Personnel Concerns

- Anne says the duplicator isn't working, the pressure plate doesn't lift. On motion by Delbert, second by Connie and voice vote, Council authorized the purchase of a black and white printer for \$800 and a color printer for Melanie at a cost of \$240.
- Anne needs accounts for office supplies. We have Quill, and she also wants Staples.
- Someone needs to talk with Anne about flowers every week even if no one is on the chart.
- The current slate of officers will remain the same for 2024.

### Council Member Responsibilities for February

**Ushers:** Joan and Jackie

**Chalice Bearer:** Donna McGarry

**Communion:** February 4 and February 14 (Ash Wednesday)

**Council Devotions:** Delbert Christman

## Committees

### Finance

- Congregational meeting will be held February 4
- Donna and Delbert will set a date to audit the books.
- A plate offering from Christmas services in the amount of \$721 was given to a needy family.
- On motion by Ricky, second by Delbert and voice vote, Council authorized the closing of the Luther Christman certificate of deposit. The proceeds will be placed in Thrivent.

**Music & Worship** – A meeting will be set up with Frank Hall to discuss the choir.

**Christian Ed** – Sunday School will be held at 9:00 a.m. during church

**Fellowship** – A fellowship dinner is being planned for September 15

### Building & Maintenance

- Rolf will be at the March meeting to give updates. We haven't received an air conditioning replacement quote from Home Comfort Solutions.
- The church signs on Route 209 need to be updated. Ricky will check with Hackmans and Connie will check with Jet Signs.
- The new steeple lights have been ordered and George Dwinell will install, weather permitting.

**Outreach**- Cards are going out.

**Mutual Ministry** – A Parish meeting is set for February 19 at Jerusalem Church.

**Evangelism** – Amy Sander, Kelly Scott, and Delbert are doing a study "Love of God Campaign". Our average member age is 72 years. We should be able to have updated music, while still keeping members happy who prefer traditional music.

### WELCA

- 270 meat pies were made on January 15. Pie crumbs were made, and meat was cooked and cut on January 11.
- The February 9 soup sale is cancelled.
- Items are needed for the picnic raffle, and the list needs to be at the printer by the end of February.
- WELCA will have soup and sandwiches for the February 14 Ash Wednesday service, before the service at 6 p.m.
- Next meeting is February 5 at 12:30. New members are welcome.

### New Business

- We need to replace candles on the Christmas pews.
- The Alter Guild needs to check the sticks after lighting the candles so the wax doesn't clog on the inside.
- The leaf for the donation from the Douglas Youngkin Estate needs to be checked. It may just say Douglas Youngkin.
- We should look into battery-operated candles for Christmas Eve service instead of the wax candles we use now.

**Other Items for the Good of the Church** – On motion by Ricky, second by Delbert and voice vote, a \$100 donation to the Towamensing Fire Company was approved. No donation to the Palmerton Library was approved. There will be a CACPAC meeting on May 9, 2024.

**Next Meeting** – February 15, 2024.

**Adjournment & Lord's Prayer** – On motion by Connie, second by Jackie and voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Brotzman



# JERUSALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## January 2024 OFFERING REPORT by Carol O'Brien

General Offering: Envelopes, Plate, Initial, Holiday, Flowers/bulleting & Sunday School  
 Other: Building, Children, Word in Season, Donations/Refunds, Fund Raisers, & Special Offerings

DATE	Attendance	General Offering	Other	Total
1/7/2024	Cancelled			
1/14/2024	63	\$7,607.00	\$442.00	\$8,049.00
1/21/2024	61	\$2,192.00	\$156.00	\$2,348.00
1/28/2024	60	\$1,646.00	\$190.00	\$1,836.00
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>\$11,445.00</b>	<b>\$788.00</b>	<b>\$12,233.00</b>
YTD Total	184	\$11,445.00	\$788.00	\$12,233.00

	Monthly Total	YTD Total	# of Svc
Total Sunday Attendance YTD:	184	184	
Average Sunday Attendance YTD:		61	3
General Offering YTD:	\$11,445.00	\$11,445.00	3
General Offering Other YTD:	\$788.00	\$788.00	3

### Misc Notes for "Other"

Date	Amount	Explanation

### Flowers

Date	Amount	Sponsors
1/28/2024	\$30.00	Margie Beers for 2/4 Richard's birthday