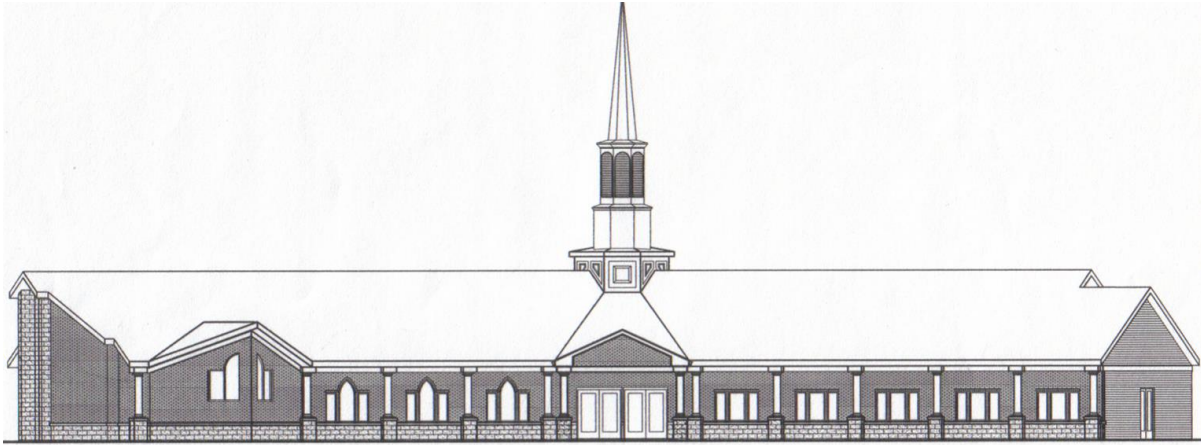


The Jerusalem Times



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

Non-Profit Organization

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

May 2023

May Church Events

- 7th – Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Persian Donut Orders Due**
- 13th – Mother's Day Tea**
- 14th – Mother's Day Service / Flowers given out**
- 18th -- Persian Donut pick-up from 9 – 11 AM**
- 21st – Worship Service
Last Day of Sunday School**

- 28th – Day of Pentecost Worship Service** 

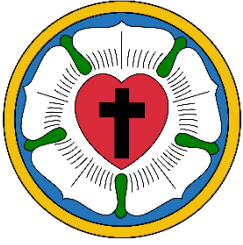
Church Office: 610-681-5200

E-MAIL: jlc03@ptd.net

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church \(Trachsville\)](https://www.facebook.com/Jerusalem-Evangelical-Lutheran-Church-(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: Tuesday 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Sunday Worship Services at 9:00 AM

Pastor: Kenneth Melber, Jr. Music Director: Frank Hall IV Sexton: Kelly Scott

Secretary: Stacy Buchiane Treasurer: Melanie Windhorn Financial Secretary: Carol O'Brien

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,

What is your favorite hobby? For me, my love of video games began when my grandparents bought me my Super Nintendo thirty years ago. I've been hooked ever since. Even within the realm of video games, there are many different genres. My favorite are RPGs (Role Playing Games). The downside of them is that they take much longer than a simple arcade game to finish. It's the upside, though, that I find most interesting. They are games that are heavily story-driven. They cemented early on a love for storytelling and creative expression.

Every Sunday, we gather together to hear the most important historical stories we will ever hear. They are a part of what we call a "Lectionary" – a series of readings that is appointed for the day. Since we use the bulletin insert, you know that I am not simply choosing the readings for each Sunday.

There's a reason for that. Folks who are far smarter than I put together this "Lectionary," which we read over the course of three years. That means that reading you're hearing next Sunday? You'll hear it again in three years (possibly earlier). It makes sure that we hear many of the themes of the Bible, even though we don't cover the whole thing in three years. It also gives us a great opportunity to talk about the readings for the day. Many different churches, not just Lutheran, use that same lectionary. It's very likely your friend or family member who goes to church out in Nebraska heard the same Scripture readings you did. It allows for conversation.

When I played my first role-playing game back in 1993, I fell in love with the story. It's still my favorite game thirty years later. A game from the same series became the inspiration for my daughter's name. It is my prayer that all of us become so captivated with the words of God so that the Bible becomes our favorite series of books.

Reading with you,

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.



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



Prayer List

Earl Beers, Raymond Beers, Richard Beers, Jean Beegle, Anita Borger, Delores Christman, Barry Eckhart, Blaine Eckhart, Bruce Eckhart, Pauline Eckhart, LeRoy Eckhart, Dale Eckley, Terry Hahn, Roberta Heffley, Peter Horbowyj, Bonnie Johnson, Delbert Knecht, Raymond Knecht, Billie Jo Moyer, Renald Moyer, Matt Nothstein, Roseanna Polizzi, Chuck Schretzman, Patricia Shook, Earl Smale, Jeanette Smith, 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
 Gladys Green – Getz Personal Care Home
 Richard Shook – Schuylkill Center 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

- 1st **Thomas Gouger**
- 5th **Julia Sherer**
- 6th **Matthew Spirk**
- 8th **Herbert N. Strohl**
- 9th **Angela George**
- 10th **Connor Franya**
- 11th **Suzanne Carden-Sweigert**
- 12th **George Dwinell**
- 13th **Matthew Bartholomew, Wyatt Bowman, Paul Kuehner, Alicia Sherer, Derek Szena**
- 16th **Rita Frantz, Shirley George, Morgyn Henry**
- 18th **Jacob Conklin Jr., Tyler Haydt**
- 19th **Donald Craig, Connie Strohl**
- 20th **Jacob Borger**
- 21st **Catherine Ziegenfus**
- 23rd **Hailey Hedrick, Tina Hedrick, Lucas Wilkins**
- 24th **Jonathan Frantz, Rhonda Green, Brody Oliveri**
- 25th **Stacy Buchiane, Mildred Lehman, Jason Strohl**
- 29th **Robert Eckhart, Darren Green**
- 31st **Jeffrey Beers, Earnest A. Christman**



*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 – Terry & Mary Hahn Douglas & Dawn Larkin 3rd – Charles & Gena Arthur Shawn & Heidi George 4th – Alan & Jessica Ahner Donald & Sandra Burger 5th – Phillip & Donna McGarry 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th – Jeffrey & Julie Weiss 17th – Daniel & Stacy Buchiane 18th – Ricky & Billie Jo Moyer 21st – Roger M. & Sandy Christman 26th – Andrew & Jessica Kuczma 27th – Alexander & Elizabeth Blose 30th – William & Connie Strohl
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WELCA News

May 2023

WELCA held their Ham & Dandelion Take-Out dinner on Saturday, April 22nd. A big 'Thanks' to all who helped and donated with this event!!! May includes another Persian Donut Sale for WELCA. Orders are due by May 7th and will be prepared and delivered on Thursday, May 18th. Help will be needed starting at 6:30 AM with baking, packaging, and delivering these fine treats. Donuts can be picked up at the church from 9 – 11 AM. Mothers' Day flowers are also provided for presentation at the church service on Mothers' Day, the 14th. Raffle tickets for the Sunday School Picnic are now being sold by WELCA. See Sharlee Ahner or other WELCA members for tickets. New Members Are Always Welcome!



May Church News

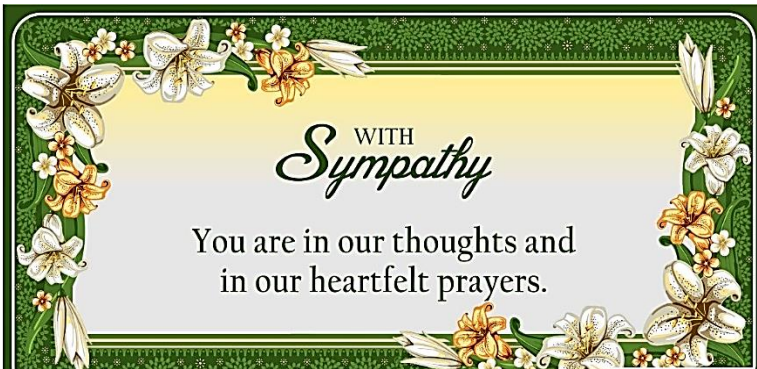
Important dates of the month to remember:

- 1st – WELCA Meeting at 12:30 PM
- 6th – Bible Study at 6:00 PM
- 7th – Worship Service with Holy Communion at 9:00 AM
- 13th – Mother's Day Tea at 1:30 PM
- 14th – Worship Service at 9:00 AM, Happy Mother's Day!
- 18th – Persian Donuts will be made starting at 6:30 AM
Donut pick-up from 9 – 11 AM
Council Meeting at 7:00 PM
- 21st – Worship Service at 9:00 AM Last Day of Sunday School
- 28th – Day of Pentecost Worship Service at 9:00 AM



WELCA would like to thank all those who helped with the Ham & Dandelion dinner. Your donations of items and your time were greatly appreciated.

To all those who helped with the Cemetery Clean-up, thank you.



We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of those who have recently passed away.

Theodore Hittner and Dave Wentz.

Flower & Bulletin Sponsors

- 7th – Pat Dwinell
- 14th – Shirley Craig
- 21st – Judy Walck
- 28th – John & Kathleen Spirk



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



Mark your calendars, this year's Annual Sunday School Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 5th.

More information coming soon!



Church Council Members

Ricky Moyer – President

Robert Ziegenfus – Vice President

Carol O'Brien – Secretary

Jackie Brotzman

Delbert D. Christman

Sandy Christman

Pearl Eckhart

Wanda George

Frank Hall III

Donna McGarry

Rolf Windhorn

Council Meeting Minutes from March 16, 2023

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

Absent: Rolf Windhorn

Visitors: None

Call to Order by President, Ricky Moyer

Devotions & Prayers by Delbert Christman

Open Forum – No discussion

Correspondence - None

Secretary's Report

- Bobby Ziegenfus made a motion to approve this report. Wanda George seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- Frank Hall made a motion to approve this report. Pearl Eckhart seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report (Motion Required)

- Discussion was held regarding breaking out the categories, so there is a clearer, more easily understood picture of our giving. Jackie Brotzman made a motion to accept this report with the noted corrections i.e. adding Sunday School column and correcting amounts and explanations under notes. Pearl Eckhart seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pastor's Report (Motion required ONLY for **mileage**)

- Delbert Christman made a motion to approve Page 1 of Sexton Duties. Bobby Ziegenfus seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Delbert made a motion to form a Policy Committee. Sandy Christman seconded the motion. The motion carried. Policy book should be in one accessible place where everyone on council can access it. Each document should have a created date and an approved date in the footer.
- Sunday after Easter Pastor will start in the sanctuary at 8:30 to talk about where the money goes when it is sent to the Synod.
- Synod delegates for 2023 will be Roger & Sandy Christman
- Ricky Moyer made a motion to approve the Pastor's mileage of 340 miles for \$222.70. Pearl seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Pastor & Frank are working on slowly getting the choir started again.
- Jackie Brotzman made a motion to pay \$100 to the substitute organist for Easter Vigil. Wanda George seconded the motion. The motion carried.

April:

Greeter: Pearl Eckhart

Ushers: Pearl Eckhart, Bobby Ziegenfus & Wanda George

Chalice Bearers: Wanda George (for Pearl)

Communion: April 2, 6, & 9

Council devotions: Pearl Eckhart

May:

Ushers: Wanda George & Carol O'Brien

Council devotions: Carol O'Brien

Chalice Bearers: Jackie Brotzman

Communion Sunday: May 7th

Building Finance Steward: Wanda George

Ongoing and Unfinished Business:

- Discussion was held about ushers/greeters. Sign-up sheet for greeters has been suggested to free up council members on Sunday mornings. A rally day in September was suggested and, on that day, open the sign-ups for opportunities to serve. Shorten service to talk about ways people can serve and then sign up.
- Alarm system has been contacted and updated. Melanie will share that information with Kelly.
- Susan Lovejoy will hopefully be here next month to talk about our Thrivent accounts.
- Melanie Windhorn discussed combining our building fund with our general fund because ELCA congregations should have only one checking account. Discussion was held in regard to...Do we close the building fund account and track it separately or blend it all. Since we adopted a building fund budget, we should track it. Also, if we combine the two accounts, we must have a congregational meeting to approve it. It would be presented as a group decision and wouldn't need to have a second. It was discussed to continue until the new budget is adopted and start accordingly in the new year.
- Delbert Christman made a motion that the council should direct the finance committee to explore a single budget in preparing for 2024. Pearl Eckhart seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- All people who handle money should be covered under a bond. If money is stolen the bond company returns the money. Melanie Windhorn will get the information on the cost to bond herself and Carol O'Brien and relay it to council.
- Melanie contacted the insurance company about having alcohol. We would not be liable for alcoholic incidents at Luther Hall. Jackie Brotzman said there is wording in the hall usage policy stating no alcohol is permitted on the premises.
- Melanie is having difficulties with our current accountants. Pastor has agreed, after reading email transmissions, that he has been unprofessional and rude. She has suggested signing up after tax season with Jill Wentz, in Palmerton.

Personnel Concerns

- Sandy Christman explained the sexton duties that she, Shirley Craig, and Connie Strohl wrote up. Strong discussion on who should be responsible for Weddings & Funerals. This will be reviewed with Kelly during her 90-day review which is now due. Pastor will set up the date for her review.

Committee Reports

Finance

- We need to have the books audited. Delbert Christman & Donna McGarry will do the books to get the signed form to Synod before March 31st. Pastor noted that the auditors should be council members.

Music & Worship

- Pastor and Frank are slowly working on getting the choir back up and running.

Christian Education

- Wanda made 12 Easter bags for Sunday School students to be given out on Palm Sunday. Frank Hall will provide his talents for the children as the Easter Bunny on Palm Sunday during coffee hour.
- VBS will be held at St. Johns this year. A combined meeting of the Parishes will be held after worship at St. John's on March 26th.

Outreach

- Group wants to meet with Pastor.

Fellowship

- Will organize fellowship dinner in the fall/September.

Building & Maintenance

- Picnic feasibility group, met on Monday.
- It was suggested to avoid another brainstorming meeting and have 3-5 ideas/options to present to council. This group will start with a master plan and then break the project down into phases.
- It was noted that our steeple needs to be pressure washed and painted. Rolf/Melanie will check with Peters for a reference (they painted the Narthex & hallway). Holy Trinity had work done. Pastor will check with Pastor Frost.
- We need a new mower. Bobby will present a few prices at our next council meeting.

- April 3 cemetery clean up.
- Melanie Windhorn noted that the window in the office is a sliding window, and we don't use it. It is not energy efficient. She is suggesting we have a replacement window installed. Roger Christman may be able to provide a quote. Window World has good quality windows (per Melanie). Two quotes by Melanie and Sandy will be presented at our next council meeting.

Evangelism – No report

WELCA

- The basket social will be held on March 11th.
- They will continue to provide soup and sandwiches for Lenten services.
- 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 – Next meeting will be in May.

New Business – None

Other Items for the good of the church

- Pastor presented our Official Record of our Congregation...**it is empty**. He is looking for help to get this filled in. Carol O'Brien volunteered to help, but we need another person who knows the people of the congregation.

Next Meeting – April 20, 2023

Adjournment

- Bobby Ziegenfus made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ricky Moyer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. O'Brien

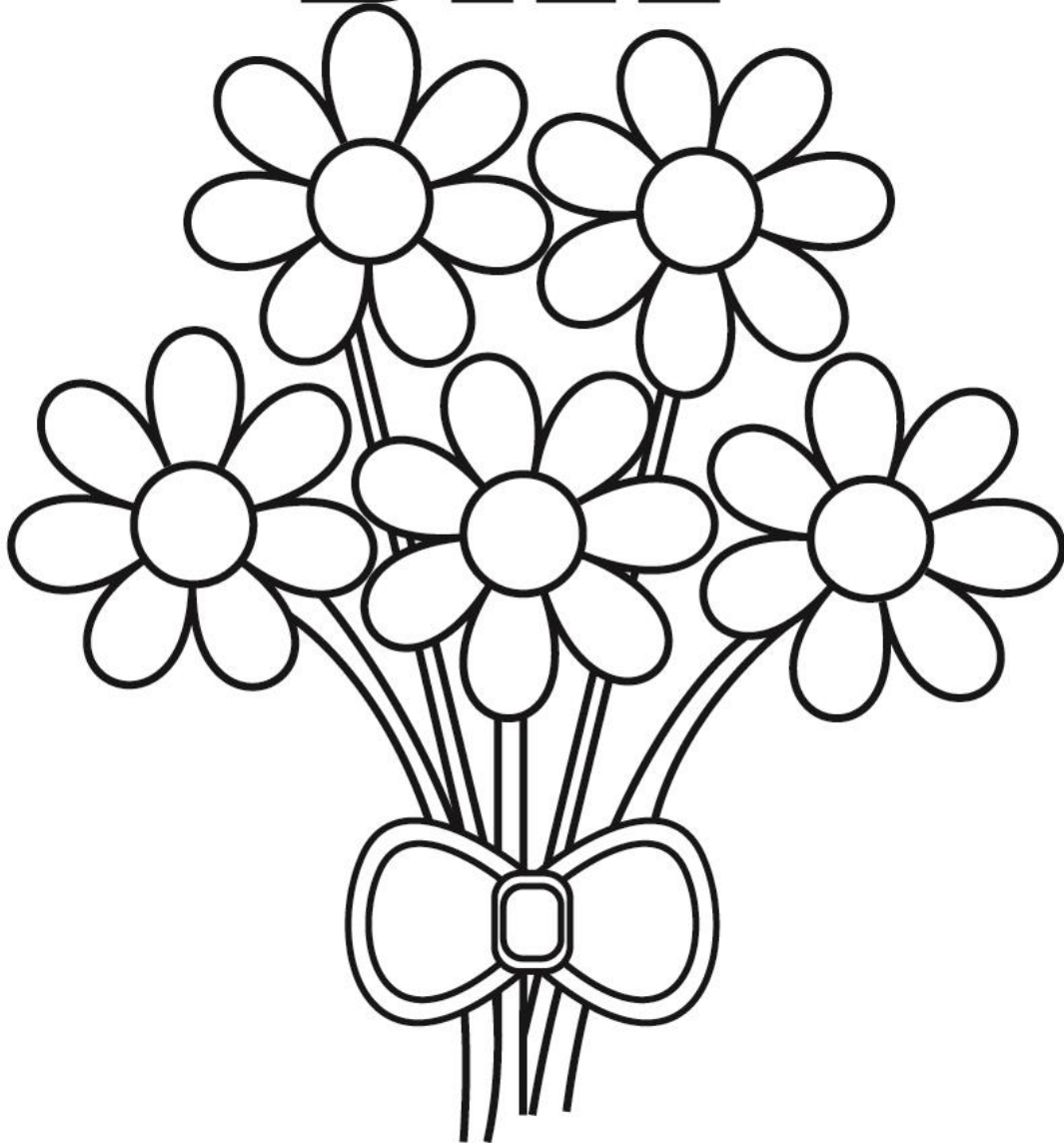
Church Council Secretary

March General Fund											
Date	Att	General Envelopes	Plate Offering	Initial Offering	Holiday Offering	Flowers/ Bulletins	Word In Season	Donations/ Refunds	Fund Raisers	Special Offerings	Total
3/5/2023	91	\$2,191.75	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,271.75
3/12/2023	59	\$2,013.00	\$43.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,116.00
3/19/2023	120	\$1,388.00	\$291.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,687.00
3/26/2023	58	\$1,780.00	\$52.00	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,867.00
Total	328	\$7,372.75	\$466.00	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$8.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,941.75
YTD Att	923	\$26,637.75	\$855.00	\$278.00	\$430.00	\$470.00	\$16.00	\$0.00	\$761.00	\$0.00	\$29,447.75


March Building Fund			
Sunday School	Building Envelopes	Children's Envelopes	Total
	\$495.00	\$12.80	\$507.80
	\$280.00	\$2.00	\$282.00
	\$115.00	\$1.00	\$116.00
	\$125.00	\$15.00	\$140.00
	\$1,015.00	\$30.80	\$1,045.80
	\$2,730.00	\$64.80	\$2,794.80

Fun for the Kids!

✿ HAPPY ✿
MOTHER'S
DAY



MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 WELCA - 12:30 PM	2	3	4 	5	6
7 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion – 9:00 AM	8	9	10	11	12	13 Mother's Day Tea- 1:30 PM 
14 Worship Service – 9:00 AM 	15	16 Make Icing for Donuts- 9:00 AM	17	18 Persian Donuts Made – 6:30 AM Donut Pick-up- 9 – 11 AM Council – 7:00 PM	19	20 
21 Worship Service w/ Holy Baptism – 9:00 AM	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Day of Pentecost Worship Service – 9:00 AM 	29 	30	31	<p style="text-align: center;"> For pastoral service contact Rev. Kenneth Melber Jr. at: Home: 484-629-2812 Church office: 610-681-5200 Email: pastorken86@gmail.com </p>		