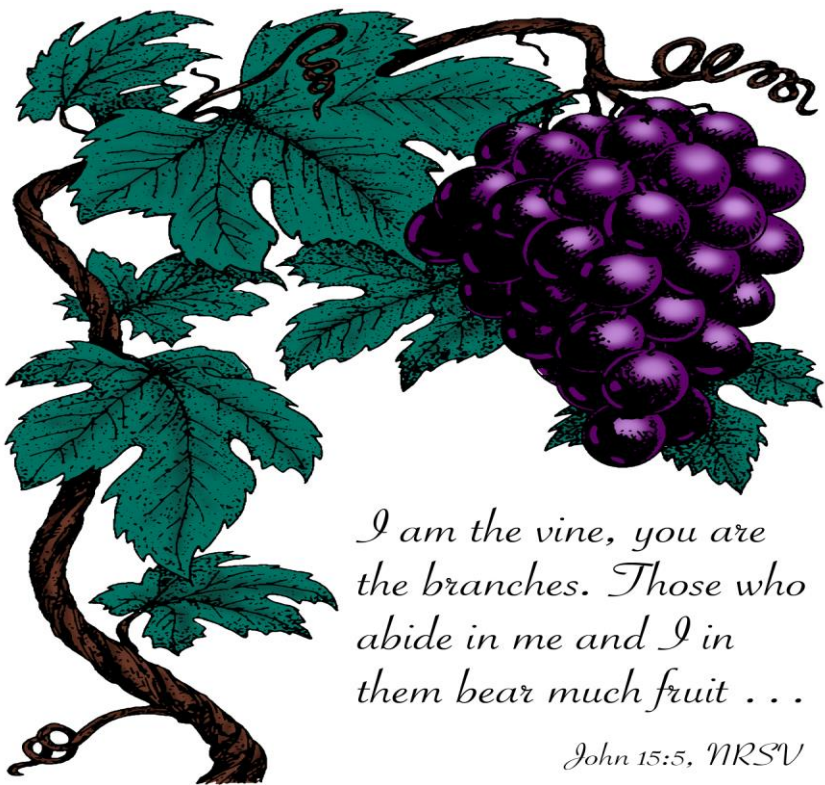


# Welcome to Jerusalem Lutheran Church



*I am the vine, you are  
the branches. Those who  
abide in me and I in  
them bear much fruit . . .*

*John 15:5, NRSV*

## **HOLY COMMUNION** **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972**  
**570-385-2657 \* [www.jerusalemchurch.com](http://www.jerusalemchurch.com)**  
**LIVE STREAMING ON FACEBOOK!**

### **April 28, 2024**

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE LOBBY.**

## PREPARATIONS

**PRELUDE**                      *O Blessed Spring*  
Mark Christ, clarinet                      arr. James Biery

*The bell rings calling us to worship.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
*Please stay seated until after the announcements.*

**PASSING THE PEACE** *(please stand)*  
*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of Christ. Then, share that peace with your neighbor.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**



**GREETING SONG**                      *O God, We Call*  
*(The pastor will sing through once, the congregation joins in 2<sup>nd</sup> time.)*  
*from the All Creation Sings Hymnal (purple) #1075*

**O God, we call, o God, we call,  
From deep inside we yearn,  
From deep inside we yearn,  
From deep inside we yearn for you.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
by whose hand we are given new birth,  
by whose speaking we are given new life.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are welcomed, restored, and supported  
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,

holy and merciful,

holy and mighty,

you are the river of life,

you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death  
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.

In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,  
and in them we are born anew.

*(Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.)*

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,

for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,

quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,

the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.**

**Empower our witness to your resurrection.**

**Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.

Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.

Where despair prevails, grant hope.

Where chaos reigns, bring peace.

We ask this through Christ,

who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

**Amen.**

# GATHERING

## ENTRANCE HYMN

*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!*

Red Hymnal # 377

## GREETING

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 1 Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and

strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,



al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 3 Sing with all the peo-ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,



glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,



al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## WORD

*The assembly is seated*

### FIRST READING

**Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM****Psalm 22:25-31**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**

**who rules o- | ver the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**

**whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn, saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

**SECOND READING****1 John 4:7-21**

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

**John 15:1-8**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**Rev. Larry Laine**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*



*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*  
Purple Hymnal # 966



**Jesus, feed  
again your  
people**

#### **APOSTLES CREED**

*We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *(Assisting Minister)*

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters.

Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. We pray especially for those of special concern to our congregation as we name them aloud.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*(Presiding minister offers the final petition)*

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

## MEAL

### OFFERING

*An offering is collected for the mission of the church. Music accompanies the offering as it is collected*

**CHOIR ANTHEM with congregation**  
**Mark Christ – Clarinet**

***Christ Is the Vine***  
**by Marilyn and James Biery**

*God's Word is sung or played as an offering. The bulletin insert is for the congregation to use to join in. Audrey will cue the congregation when they are to sing.*



*After the anthem, stand and sing the offering song as ushers bring plates forward.*

### OFFERING SONG

***Come to the Table***

**Red Hymnal #481**

*The assembly stands as the offering is brought forward.*

**Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.  
All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.  
Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand.  
Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.**

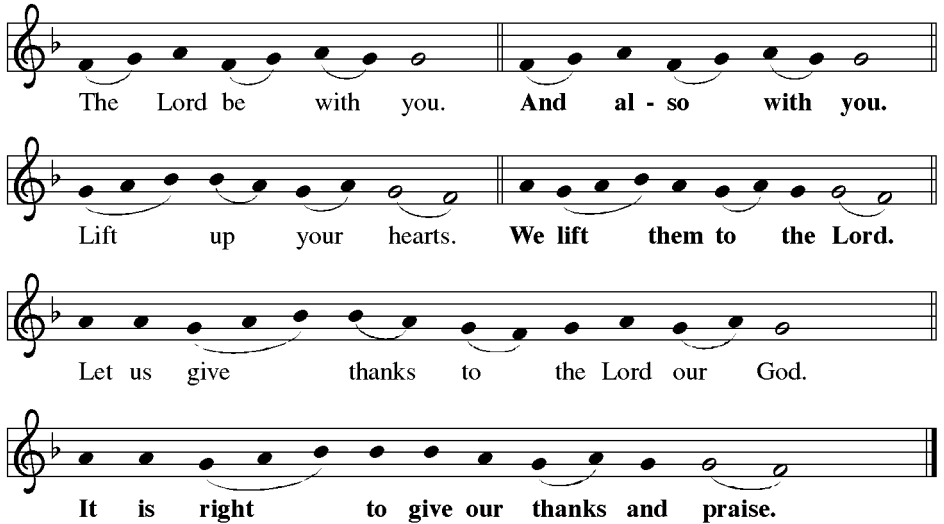
### OFFERING PRAYER *(Assisting Minister)*

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The assembly stands. The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.*



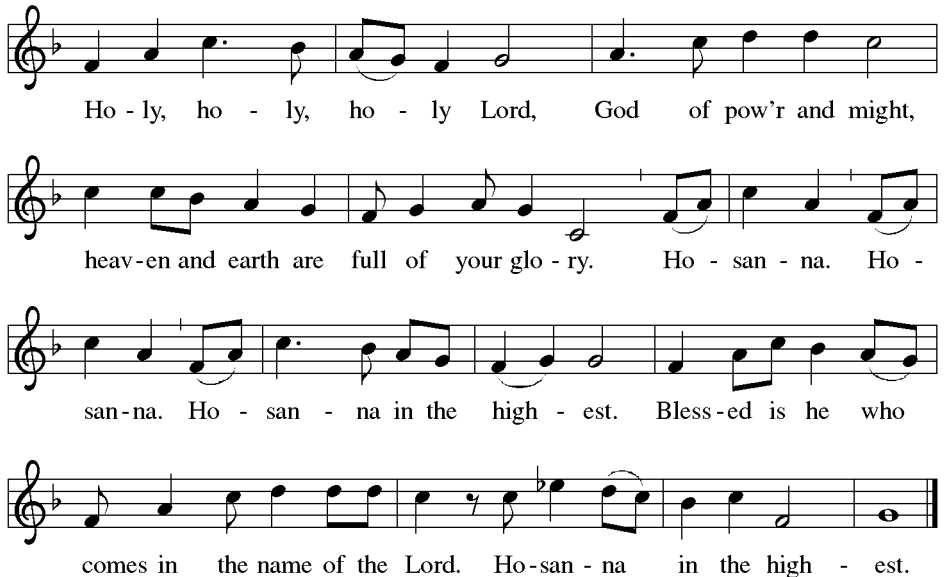
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The presiding minister continues with the **communion preface**; then the assembly responds:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

*In This Moment of Remembrance*

**Dale Wood**

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

*The presiding minister says:*

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (*Assisting Minister*)

Gracious God,  
in you we live and move and have our being.  
With your word and this meal of grace,  
you have nourished our life together.  
Strengthen us to show your love  
and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

*Let All Things Now Living*

Red Hymnal # 881

### DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### POSTLUDE

*Let the Earth Rejoice*

Dale Wood

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*Our thanks to Mark Christ  
for playing the clarinet  
at worship today!!*

**THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES** are to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Fred Wenner. By Sheila & Mark Conville and family



*Altar Flowers are needed for June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.*

### Prayer List...

Clarence Zweizig, Curt Freed, Judi Mawson, Marie Shay, Rev. James Seifert, Bob McCloy, Tammy Munster, John Krater, Peterine Wojcik, the family of Chris Blugis.

*(As you add your monthly prayer requests, we would appreciate having the address for that person so that we can let them know we are holding them in prayer at Jerusalem)*

### **WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE:**

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer,  
Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles,  
Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Airman Jacob Edwards.

### **WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY**

**Assisting Minister**

Linda Covert

**Lector**

Janet Sattizahn

**Communion Assistant**

Janet Sattizahn

**Ushers**

Maddie Nunnemacher, Bill Shay

**Acolytes**

Teri Spangler

**Altar Guild for April**

Melissa Boyer

**Counters on 4/29/2024**

Linda Collins and Barb Abrams



## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

**TODAY 4/28** - 9:00 am Worship  
10:15 am Sunday School

**TUESDAY 4/30** - Happy Birthday, Pastor Laine!

**WEDNESDAY 5/1** - 6:15 pm Bell Choir rehearsal  
7:00 Choir rehearsal

**SUNDAY 5/5** - 1:30 – 5 pm Piano Recital

### *Attention Committee Chairpersons!*

Please sign up your committee for hosting one or more of our church social hours. Sign up sheets are in the narthex (aka: the church lobby)

While you're at the sign up table, we need worship volunteers!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Mother's Day Tea May 12th



Please join us in the social hall **on May 12th for our annual Mother's Day Tea**. We will be gathering for fellowship, food and fun following the church service.

Feel free to bring a picture of your mother or someone who is like a mother to you. It will be great to share all the wonderful ladies that we hold close to our hearts.

**All are welcome!** It's not just an event for women. So come on out men! We're all getting together to honor our mothers!

John Krater has been in the hospital and will soon be going back home where he'll need skilled care. John loves his church family at Jerusalem and we want to send some encouragement his way! His birthday is May 13, so let's send him some cards to let him know we're thinking about him. Please send the cards to his sister's address:

**John Krater**  
**c/o Faith Delaney**  
**1832 Apostle Way**  
**Lancaster, PA 17603**



**What are you doing with your Dad/Family on Father's Day?**

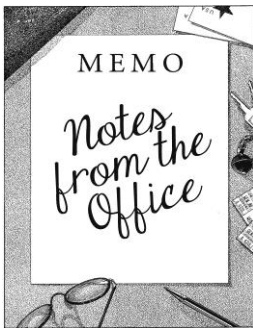
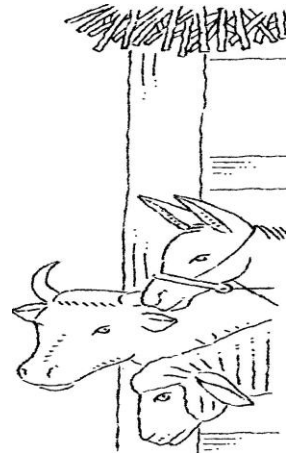
Join us on Father's Day, Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for the Reading Fightin' Phillies 5:15 game at FirstEnergy Stadium. (Special Presentation before game involving the Mawson Family, Shhh, it's a surprise for Rob's DAD) We are sitting in RAM Seats Right Field OR General Admission Right Field. **Please purchase tickets ahead of time, on your own.** Let Rob or Jean Mawson know you booked tickets! We would love to see everyone at the game!



**Let's  
meet up  
at the  
Reading  
Phillies Game!**

**PENTECOST is May 19<sup>th</sup> and we are looking to decorate the church with red flowers. If you would like to purchase a red Kalanchoe, geraniums may not be in bloom yet, to help celebrate, you are urged to get a flower in honor, or in memory, of someone special in your life. See the order forms in the church lobby for details on placing your order. Deadline for orders is Wednesday, May 8.**

**GOD'S BARNYARD** is really coming to life!  
Please see the display in the church lobby and make your donation to help farmers get a good start this Spring! All donations will be sent to the ELCA Good Gifts program and will be used globally to help farmers in need. Get your donations in by May 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support!  
~ Social Ministry Committee



The church administrator is looking for articles for the **Summer Newsletter!** If you are on staff, a S.S. teacher, or a committee chairperson, we are looking for your **article by May 20** to be included in the newsletter. Thanks!

## **STAFF AND LEADERS**

The Rev. Larry Laine, *Pastor*  
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Audrey Christ, Music Director  
[musicdirector@jerusalemchurch.com](mailto:musicdirector@jerusalemchurch.com)

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Mike Sausser, Sexton  
[linknomad@hotmail.com](mailto:linknomad@hotmail.com)