



TODAY IS THE SECOND DAY IN THE TWELVE-DAY SEASON OF CHRISTMAS, and it is also the FESTIVAL OF SAINT STEPHEN.

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning. Today we continue to celebrate Jesus's birth, and we remember Stephen and all of Christ's witnesses, who point to the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ the Savior.

COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

For just as the body is one and has many members...so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.... If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 26). Because the worshiping members of Jerusalem have a significantly higher vaccination rate than our county, that, together with recommendations from the CDC and ecumenical church worship guidelines, has been prayerfully considered by our leaders for our worship practices. Therefore at this time in the Covid pandemic we are worshiping in this way:

WELCOME

- **IN-PERSON WORSHIPERS**, please leave the first few spaces in the front parking lot for parking lot worshipers. Further information on page 2.
- **IN-PARKING LOT WORSHIPERS**, please park in the first few spaces closest to Dock Street and tune your radio to **90.1 FM**.
- **VISITORS**, we welcome you! In this uncertain time of a pandemic, we believe that grace-filled love of God made known in Jesus Christ, and proclaimed in scripture, prayer, and worship sustains us even now. We are glad that you are here with us, so that together, we all can receive the Good News of Jesus Christ, and then be strengthened in daily love for God and our neighbors.

LARGE PRINT WORSHIP binders are available in the church lobby.

HOLY COMMUNION

1st Sunday of Christmas – December 26th, 2021

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemchurch.com

POLICIES ON MASKS AND DISTANCING

- Everyone needs to wear a mask until the local pandemic subsides.
- We have lots of space in which to worship, so we can spread throughout the nave for each service, and we will continue to tape off alternating pews to maintain a safer distance.

CURRENT WORSHIP PRACTICES

- We have resumed congregational speaking and singing in the building.
- Hymnals are available in the pew racks, and distributed to and collected from people worshipping in the parking lot.
- Large print worship binders are available inside. Those worshipping in the parking lot can request large print from an usher.
- Wine and grape juice are once again being offered from the chalice inside, with intinction being offered outside. Please space yourselves as you come forward.
- The offering plates are in the back of the sanctuary by the door until we can safely pass the plates through many hands.

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1st Sunday of Christmas – December 26th, 2021
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570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemchurch.com
FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Adeste Fidelis

arr. Eleanor Whittsett

Mark O'Hearn, organ and Audrey Christ, piano

The bell rings calling us to worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed. I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed. I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Red Hymnal # 282

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

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 7:51-8:1

The assembly inside is seated.

“[Stephen said,] ⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. ⁵³You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.”

⁵⁴When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶Look, he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

^[81]And Saul approved of their killing him.

That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD¹ from the heavens;
praise God¹ in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**

⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹²**young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all |
faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly inside 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.

GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus

stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Audrey Christ

SERMON

Pastor David Rowe

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Good King Wenceslas

The assembly stands. All proclaim the word of God in song.

Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about
Deep and crisp and even
Brightly shone the moon that night
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man came in sight
Gathering winter fuel

Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou knowst it, telling
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?
Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain
Right against the forest fence
By Saint Agnes fountain.

Bring me flesh and bring me wine
Bring me pine logs hither
Thou and I shall see him dine
When we bear them thither.
Page and monarch, forth they went

Forth they went together
Through the rude winds wild lament
And the bitter weather

In his masters step he trod
Where the snow lay dinted
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed
Therefore, Christian men, be sure
Wealth or rank possessing
Ye, who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.

*Source: LyricFind. Songwriters: James Morgan / Juliette Pochin / Dp
Good King Wenceslas lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Warner Chappell Music, Inc,
Universal Music Publishing Group, BMG Rights Management, Songtrust Ave, Kobalt Music
Publishing Ltd.*

(8:00) 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.

(10:30) NEW MEMBERS AFIRMATION OF BAPTISIM p. 234
**Don & Maria Somers, Justin, Rachel, & Isabella Charkaway,
Kelsey Somers, and Bret Vandermeer**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation that we may live in service to you and the world you have made. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we may recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and Stephen who announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, illness, or pandemic, especially all whom we now raise in prayer before you Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You come to us in acts of forgiveness, justice, and peace. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the grace to be clothed with love, binding all things together in your peace. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever. We give thanks for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of your love. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Pastor: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

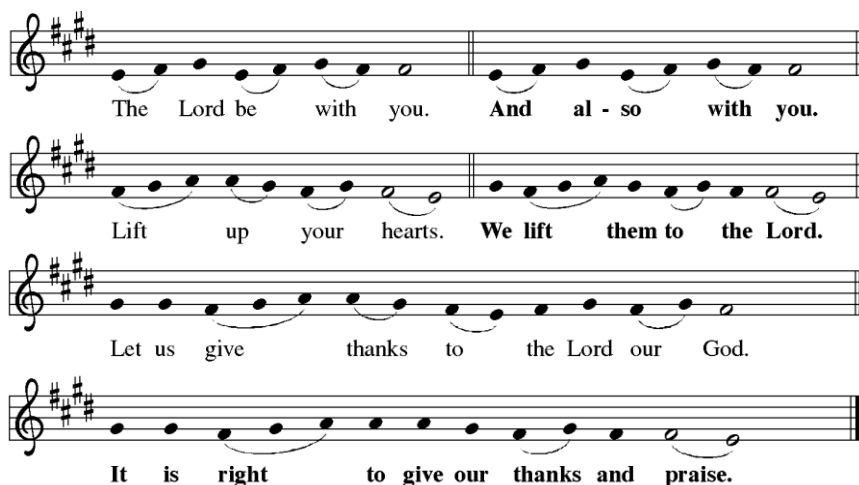
Rejoice and be Merry

Traditional carol

MEAL

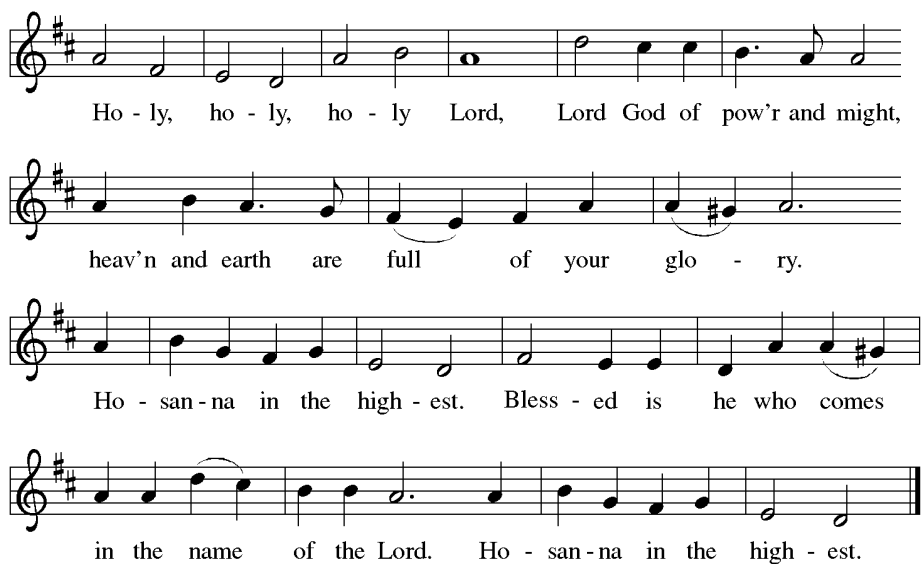
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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; and then the assembly responds with "Holy, Holy, Holy."



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER # 3

... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your word
dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth
in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God,
we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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.**

COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

INSIDE WORSHIPERS: Ushers will dismiss you by pew, then please allow a six-foot distance from other households as you approach the altar by the center aisle (tape marks in the center aisle are a helpful guide). Please take an empty

glass if you wish to receive wine, or a glass prefilled with grape juice. The pastor will place the consecrated wafer into your outstretched palms so that you may receive the body of Christ. Then proceed to one of the chalices where the wine will be poured, or where you will drink the prefilled glass. Those not receiving Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a no-touch blessing.

OUTSIDE WORSHIPERS: The Lord's Supper will be brought to those outside by a Communion Assistant, who will use an intinction set so that the consecrated wafer can be dipped in the grape juice, in order to receive the loving body and blood of Christ.

COMMUNION MUSIC

A Savior is Born
Beverly Kriner, solo

Carrimissi

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,

God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.

As we have shared this feast of love,

strengthen us to share your love with all the world.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

LITURGY OF FAREWELL, GODSPEED, AND RETIREMENT

Congregational Representative (8:00 Deb Reed/10:30 Lloyd Wertz):

A reading from Saint Paul's letter to the Christians in Corinth:

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. [1 Cor. 3:5-11]

Congregational Leader (8:00 Beverly Kriner/10:30 Tanya Cartwright):

David Rowe, on January 1, 2013, you began your call to Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church to be its pastor: to proclaim God's word, to baptize and teach,

to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's Table. With the gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you and your wife, Mary, have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.

People of God, members of Jerusalem Lutheran Church, do you release David Rowe from service as your pastor?

We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

David Rowe, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with Jerusalem Lutheran Church?

Response: I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Pastor Rowe

Dear siblings in Christ, through your call I have carried out the responsibilities of ordained ministry in your midst. At my installation as your pastor in 2013, you presented me with symbols expressing my role and responsibility among you. It is time to relinquish and return these symbols.

Symbols of the ordained office of Word and Sacrament are returned to representatives of the congregation.

At the baptismal font (8:00 Joy Heffner/10:30 Nancy Cooper): I have been among you to baptize, teach, and to forgive sins. I now relinquish and return the sign of this office.

There is one Body and one Spirit, there is one hope in God's call to us.

At the pulpit (8:00 Bill Shay/10:30 Don Boyer): I have been among you to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. I now relinquish and return the sign of this office.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

As the altar (8:00 Karen Ochenrider/10:30 Jill McCloy): I have been among you to lead worship and preside at Holy Communion. I now relinquish and return the sign of this office.

Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in God.

Pastor Rowe:

Having relinquished and returned the symbols of the office of pastor which you had presented to me, I ask for your prayers:

Congregational Leader:

For the life and ministry of David Rowe, we give you thanks, O God. For the gifts you have given him that he might serve your people, for opportunities to grow and learn, for relationships built through years of connection, we give you thanks, precious Lord. As David now transitions to retirement, for rest, play, and time with family, direct him in new ways of serving you and the Church of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Red Hymnal # 288

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may leave immediately after the dismissal, or those wishing to stay to listen to the full prelude may leave later.

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

Bach

Mark O'Hearn, organ

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Dear Siblings in Christ,

As the days until my retirement after December 31 dwindle to a few, I want to thank you for the privilege of being your pastor the past nine years. God has been at work in Jerusalem, and I give thanks for the members, leaders, and colleagues who have partnered with me for the mission and ministry of the church, as well as for the personal times of friendship and support, comfort and joy that you have brought to Mary and me.

Please know that after we leave, we will keep you in our prayers, and look forward to your future as a congregation, and as individuals. However, in order not to intrude on the next pastoral colleague, I will not do any pastoral acts, and in conversations we will not weigh-in on Jerusalem's ministry in the future (this is not only a personal decision, but what is expected of all pastors after leaving). Yet we will continue to celebrate fellowship, friendships, and God's future.

Thank you again for your love, care, and partnership with us.

Peace,
Pastor Rowe

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Cecelia Kacmar, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Clarence Zweizig, Melvin Rodriguez & family, JoAnn Baker Copley, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Kim O'Donnell, Leslie Wagner, Mateo Thomas, Barry Heffner, Phyllis Trinca Czech, Ed Sirianni, Stephen Edwards, Lester Aungst III, Christa Miller, Cathy Covach-Hale, Rev. Bruce MacLaughlin, Nancy Blank, Mary Miller, Rose Martin-Fuls, Earle Kull, Trent Johnson, Nancy Cooper, Dave Reager, Kevin Seibert, Mary Rauch, Tom Lokitus, Albert Tripp, Dorothy Moyer, Helen Fath, Diana Vasquez, Dorothy & Dan Ness, Robin Moran, Kendra Johnson

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Janice Barr, Donna Dizenzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Gemma Geary, Harold & Fay Sausser

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Ministers	Mary Rowe	Lloyd Wertz
Lectors	Karen Ochenrider	Linda Covert
Children's Sermon	Audrey Christ	
Communion Assistants	Deb Reed	Rebekah CdeBaca
Ushers	John Macnutt	Frank Mahoney
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Danika Kuhar
Counters	Lou Messina, Rob Baessler, and Janet Sattizahn	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30pm
Assisting Ministers	Ellayna Boyer	Philip Kriner
Lectors	Conner Roeder	Beverly Kriner

Communion Assistants	Joy Heffner	Linda Covert
Ushers	John Macnutt	Donald Boyer
	Donald Nettles	Deb Reed
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Rick Heckrote
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed, and Marie Shay	

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the Glory of God, in loving memory of Mark Reed by Deb, Amy, and Phil.

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the Glory of God, in loving memory of my husband, John Batz, Jr. and in loving memory of my mother, Ida Rutherford, by Faith Batz.

JERUSALEM'S SANCTUARY AND DAYCARE CHRISTMAS TREES ARE donated in honor of Martena Schnerring by Pioneer Evergreen Farms.

PASTOR MICHAEL PETRESKY from St. Paul's Lutheran, Orwigsburg, will be taking care of JERUSALEM'S pastoral needs during the initial part of our ministerial transition beginning January 1. For emergencies, please call his cell at 717-649-3532.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 2ND will be a service of lessons and carols featuring many scripture readings and hymns, as well as Holy Communion.

THE FESTIVAL OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD will be celebrated on **Sunday, January 9th**. It is an appropriate time for us to also remember our baptisms, so on that day we encourage you to *wear something white*, in remembrance of your baptism. White, like infant baptismal gowns, or adults albs, is the symbol for God's gracious forgiveness (see Revelation 7:13).

IN RESPONSE TO THE TRAGIC AND DEADLY TORNADOES that have struck the midwest, we are gathering a **SPECIAL OFFERING FOR LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**. You can give either by designating on your regular offering envelope, or by putting your gift in the **SPECIAL** offering envelopes in the back next to the offering plates. Lutheran Disaster Response provides immediate relief, and long-term care and volunteers in the wake of disasters.

HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS will be different due to the Office Administrator being on vacation from December 24th until after the New Year. For pastoral care during this time, please call Pastor Rowe on his cell phone at 570-933-5511. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to take down the Christmas decorations after the 10:30 am worship service on January 2ND.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS FOR GOD'S BARNYARD/ELCA GOOD GIFTS. Your total donations for Jerusalem's God's Barnyard Sale came to \$4,250. This amount was matched dollar for dollar

by the ELCA for a grand total of \$8,500 for this necessary ministry for our neighbors around the world. We purchased 2 months of food for a refugee family, 20 vaccinations for children, 2 portions of irrigation projects, 16 hygiene kits, a month of nutrition for 16 children, 20 chicks, 4 family farms, 6 herds of goats, 20 honeybee hives, 20 piglets, 2 honeybee hives with a community vegetable garden, and 2 shares of a fish farm. Together we are making the world a better place!

YOUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING for the mission and ministry of Jerusalem makes a huge difference each year. As you buy gifts for others, please keep Jerusalem on your gift-list so that we can end the year in a strong position for 2022 (gifts must be received by Dec.27th)! You can designate on your regular offering envelope, one that has been mailed to you, or there are extra Christmas offering envelopes available in the back next to the offering plates. Thank you!

THE FINAL DAY FOR YOUR 2021 OFFERINGS is TOMORROW by 9. Offerings may be dropped through the “office” mail slot before 9 AM that day. Thank you!

CHOIR REHEARSAL for Wednesday, December 29th is cancelled.

WEATHER CANCELLATION OF SERVICES! If there is no electricity during the winter, services will automatically be cancelled. *With snow and ice, please use your best judgment about your travel, because conditions do vary by neighborhood.* If services are cancelled they will be announced by 6:30 am on:

- **The church answering machine message.** Call the church office at 570-385-2657.
- **Facebook and the church web page** will announce Sunday closings if the administrator can get internet access from home.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

TODAY 8:00am Worship
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship
MONDAY 11:00am Interment Roger Huntzinger
TUESDAY 11:00am Coronavirus Task Force Meeting

STAFF AND LEADERS

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