

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

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 new recommendations from the CDC and other church guidelines, has been prayerfully weighed by our leaders, along with the many different needs and wishes within our congregation. Therefore at this time as we emerge from 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.
- 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

20th Sunday after Pentecost – October 10th, 2021 Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972 570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemlutheran.com FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

POLICIES ON MASKS AND DISTANCING

- Vaccinated people may choose whether or not to wear a mask.
- Unvaccinated people are expected to wear masks, and to seek inoculation if that is medically advisable.
- People without masks need to assume that people wearing masks will want a six-foot distance from others, unless the masked person welcomes a closer distance.
- People without masks can choose a comfortable distance from each other.
- We have lots of space in which to worship, so we can spread throughout the nave for each service, but we will continue to tape off alternating pews as a precaution for people who are masked and need distance.

CURRENT WORSHIP PRACTICES

- We will continue to offer parking lot worship, video recordings of the service, and mailings of the bulletin and sermon for people who cannot yet attend in-person worship.
- We are resuming congregational speaking and singing in the building.
- Hymnals will be available in the pew racks, and distributed to and collected from people worshiping in the parking lot.
- Large print worship binders are available inside at worship stations. 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.
- The offering plates will stay in the back for the time being, until our ushering volunteers are back in full force.
- Lectors, Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants, Ushers, Sound Board people, and Acolytes are needed! If you have done this before, or would like to try something new, please see Melissa Boyer or Pastor Rowe.

HOLY COMMUNION

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GATHERING

PRELUDE

Worship Suite Beverly Kriner, 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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in + Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Soli Deo Gloria

Red Hymnal # 878

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





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

The assembly inside is seated.

⁶Seek the LORD and live,

or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! ¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. ¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. ¹²For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sinsyou who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. ¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. ¹⁴Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. ¹⁵Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

¹²So teach us to num-¹ ber our days that we may apply our ¹ hearts to wisdom.

¹³Return, O LORD; how long | will you tarry? Be gracious | to your servants.

¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love [|] in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad [|] all our days.

¹⁵Make us glad as many days as you af- | flicted us and as many years as we suf- | fered adversity.
¹⁶Show your ser- | vants your works,

and your splendor to their children.

¹⁷May the graciousness of the Lord our God [|] be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; pros-[|] per our handiwork.

SECOND READING

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must

Hebrews 4:12-16

Psalm 90:12-17

render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly inside stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL

Mark 10:17-31

The holy gospel according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

²⁸Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for

the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

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

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of Light

Red Hymnal # 688

Pastor David Rowe

The assembly inside stands. All proclaim the word of God in song. There will be an organ interlude before the final verse of the hymn.

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

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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence*.

Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and serving. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land, and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show compassion and love for their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind, especially Servants to All, the Council of Churches' Food Panty, and our Little Free Pantry. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us to open our hearts to see where new opportunities for ministry through this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Caring God, we pray for the world during this pandemic, and especially for researchers, doctors and nurses, teachers and students, and front-line workers. Comfort all who are sick or grieving, especially all whom we now raise in prayer before you... Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creating God, you love all the creatures that you have made. Bless the wild and domestic animals, and protect those who are threatened by climate change or human callousness. We give thanks for pets who provide service, love, and comfort. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we thank you for the lives of those who have died. Make us confident in your promise of salvation and support us in our own journey of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

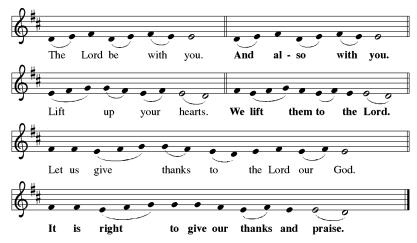
A Jubilant Song

Allen Pote

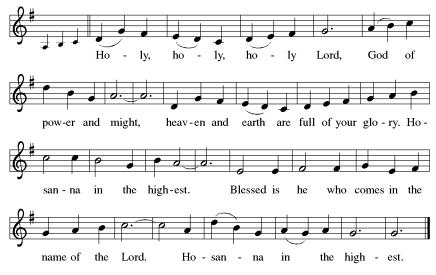
MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.



The presiding minister continues with the communion preface; and then the assembly responds with "Holy, Holy, Holy."



THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION

The thanksgiving concludes:

 \ldots to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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: During this time as we emerge from the pandemic we continue to follow ecumenical safety guidelines. Ushers will dismiss you by pew, then please give people wearing masks a six-foot distance as you approach the altar by the center aisle. Please take an empty glass if you wish to receive wine, or a glass prefilled with grape juice. The pastor, who has thoroughly disinfected his/her hands 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. There the communion assistant will declare the blood of Christ given for you. 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 ANTHEMBe Known to Us in Breaking Bread

Jay Althouse

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing. People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, + one God, bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING SONG

All Creatures, Worship God Most High! Red Hymnal # 835

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission. Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **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

The Solid Rock

Beverly Kriner, organ and Audrey Christ, piano

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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, Florence Shay, 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 Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Janice Barr, Donna Direnzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Steficheck, 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	Lou Messina	James Covert		
Lectors	Laurie Bedford	Rob Baessler		
Communion Assistants	Joy Heffner	Rebekah CdeBaca		
Ushers	Bill Shay	Luke Hale		
	John Macnutt	Noah Hale		
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Gary Reager		
Video Recorder	Kyle Nettles			
Counters	Lou Messina & Janet Sattizahn			

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Ministers	Ellayna Boyer	Rob Baessler
Lectors	Julie Coleman	Bob McCloy

Communion Assistants	Karen Ochenrider	Beverly Kriner
Ushers	Deb Reed	Mark Conville
	Hunter Reed	Sheila Conville
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Rick Heckrote
Video Recorder	-	Mary Rowe
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed	, & Marie Shay

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the Glory of God, in honor of Shirley Foose for her birthday by Tayvon, Stephanie, and Bonnie Jean.

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH is October, and Pastor Appreciation Sunday is always the 2nd Sunday in October. This celebration was established in 1992 with a mission of uplifting and encouraging pastors. We would like to uplift Pastor Rowe for his hard work. Please mail him a greeting card to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972.

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS is TODAY at 1:00 on Sunday, October 10th. Critters of all kinds are welcome to receive a blessing in the tradition of Saint Francis of Assisi (his witness is commemorated on October 4). And of course, please leash or restrain your pets since there will be others there (and the pastor may bless snarling or snake-like critters from a distance).

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, October 11th in observance of Columbus Day. Counters please come in on Tuesday, October 12th. Thanks!

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN US ON OCTOBER 24 AT 3:00 P.M. FOR AN ORGAN AND HARPSICHORD CONCERT FEATURING THEODORE (TED) DAVIS. He has been the organist and choirmaster at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Baltimore, Maryland for the past 16 years. He holds music degrees in organ performance, choral conducting and harpsichord and recently received his doctoral degree from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. As a soloist, he has performed around the mid-Atlantic region, New England and the Southeast. Masks are required to attend the concert. The Jerusalem Concert Series is funded by sponsorships and the free will offerings we receive at the concerts. Sponsorship forms are available at the sign-up table in the lobby.

WEATHER-PERMITTING, we are hoping to have an outdoor reception in the cloister after the concert. Sign-up in the lobby if you are willing to bring PRE-PACKAGED, INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED snacks for the reception, such as cookies and other baked goods, chips, pretzels, crackers – and any other goodies you can think of that are packaged this way! Any questions, contact Jane Mahoney at 570.617.2214.

ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021, we will be celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Lutheran Witness in Schuylkill Haven with one service at 10:30 AM followed by a catered luncheon. A historical display will be located in the church library for members and guests to view. A sign-up sheet is in the lobby for your luncheon reservations, or you may call at 570-385-2657 or email the office at mail.jerusalemlutheran.com no later than October 17th. Please plan to attend this special event in our church history!

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY, November 7th, is a time to give thanks for the witness of the saints through the ages, and especially for those in our lives who have lived and died in faith. We will also rejoice in praying for new saints baptized in God's promise, as well as those in our congregation who died in the past year. THE BOOK to list names of those to remember in prayer is in our lobby on the lectern (please print or write clearly), AND WHITE BAGS are available on which you are invited to write a name or names of those you wish to remember. The white bags will become luminaries decorating our sanctuary.

PASTOR EDWARD LAZARCHAK served at St. Matthews during the 1980s. He recently passed away. A memorial service for Pastor Lazarchak will be on Saturday, October 16th with a 10:00am calling hour and a service at 11:00am. The service will be at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 514 3rd Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Sympathy cards can be mailed to the Lazarchak family, 904 Carbon Street, Walnutport, PA 18088. Memorials can be sent to the American Cancer Society.

SHARE YOUR STORIES: As part of the 200th Anniversary of Lutheran Witness in Schuylkill Haven celebration, we are inviting all who have been a part of this journey to share your memories whether you are long a time member or a recent arrival. Tell us your favorite story about working with God and others for the Lutheran Witness in our community. In this bulletin, you will find an insert to write down your story. Please return this insert to the box marked MEMORIES in the church lobby by October 17th. Many thanks to all of you and hope to see your story.

THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE has Boscov's Friends Helping Friends shopping passes. For a \$5.00 donation, you'll receive a shopping pass that will give you a discount of 25% off most items. The shopping pass is good for in-store purchases for one day only -- October 20, 2021. Each shopping pass has a stub to fill out to register to win a \$100 Boscov's gift card! All proceeds of the Friends Helping Friends passes we sell will be donated to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Get your shopping pass today in the church lobby!

ST. JOHN'S UCC IN SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, located at the corner of Dock St. and Main St. will be hosting a free winter clothing give away on October 23rd (Oct. 30 rain date) from 9:00am – noon. If anyone would like to contribute clean, gently used clothing for this mission...the items can be dropped off at St. John's Church any Tuesday or Thursday from 9:30 am till 3:00 pm. Or on October 7th & 14th from 5:00 till 7:00 pm. Thanks!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

CHEER DAK FOR THE WEEK.		
TODAY	8:00am Worship	
	9:15am Sunday School	
	10:30am Worship	
	1:00pm Blessing of the Animals	
MONDAY	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
TUESDAY	6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting	
	7:00pm Church Council Meeting	
WEDNESDAY	6:15pm Bell Rehearsal	
	7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	
FRIDAY	1:00pm Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry Distribution	
	6:30pm Tyler/Spenser Wedding Rehearsal	
SATURDAY	4:00pm Tyler/Spenser Wedding	

STAFF AND LEADERS

Rev. David Rowe, Pastor	610 987 9798(H) 570-933-5511 (C)	
	pastorrowe@jerusalemlutheran.com	
Audrey Christ, Music Director		
	musicdirector@jerusalemlutheran.com	
Tanya Cartwright, Director of Faith & Families Ministries		
	faithandfamilies@jerusalemlutheran.com	
Rachel Kramer, Parish Administrator	mail@jerusalemlutheran.com	
Jill McCloy, Treasurer	treasurer@jerusalemlutheran.com	
Karen Ochenrider, Financial Secretary	karenochenrider@comcast.net	
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Mike Sausser, Sexton	linknomad@hotmail.com	

dreed1955@comcast.net

Deborah Reed, President of Church Council



Now that several weeks have passed since Pastor Rowe announced his retirement at the end of this year, here is brief overview to answer some of the questions that people have asked:

- Unlike when a pastor is called to another congregation giving a 30-day or so notice, retiring pastors are encouraged to announce the end of their congregational ministry several months in advance. This longer, unhurried time will allow for some celebration of this chapter of Jerusalem's ministry.
- Our Bishop and leaders of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will soon begin working with our church council to start a transitional process that will eventually lead to calling a new pastor.
- When Pastor Rowe leaves, another pastor will be designated by our synod to provide pastoral visitation, and to do marriages, funerals, etc. so care will go on! In addition, the bishop's office will provide supply pastors for Sunday services, so worship will continue!
- It will probably be at least a year until a new pastor is called, in order to give time for Jerusalem's leaders and members to prayerfully reflect on its strengths, growing edges, and opportunities for ministry in the years ahead. These will be submitted to the synod to help develop a congregational profile.
- The council will appoint a call committee, and using Jerusalem's profile, our synod will submit pastoral candidates to the call committee for an interview.
- When the call committee discerns that a candidate has some of the leadership gifts that Jerusalem needs, that person will then be sent to council for an interview where salary and benefits will be negotiated. Finally, with the support of the call committee and council, the candidate will be presented to the congregation, and after an opportunity for the candidate to meet people and lead worship, the congregation will be asked to vote to affirm the candidate, and to extend a call to the new pastor.

Please note that several things have changed over the last 20-30 years. First, Jerusalem itself has changed – for the first time in over a generation the call process will not take place in either the stressful aftermath of a fire and congregation merger, or the synodical disciplinary action of a pastor (so this will be the first "normal" transition in decades!). Second, there are now fewer pastors in mainline denominations, including our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, so the process to call the next pastor may take longer. But what HAS NOT CHANGED is that this will be a time for congregational members and leaders to work with our bishop and synod for prayerful conversation, reflection, and discernment concerning Christ's mission for Jerusalem's witness in this neighborhood.