



Today marks the Lesser Festival of St. Luke the Evangelist. Identified as a physician in Colossians 4:14, Luke is even more importantly regarded as the inspired author of one of the four biblical gospels, as well as the book of the Acts of the Apostles which gives a unique account of the witness of the early church. Together, the witness of the books of Luke and Acts stress mercy, compassion, and healing as part of the Kingdom of God. Two of our most beloved parables, the Prodigal Son and Good Samaritan are found only in Luke.

WELCOME MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS.

“Individuals need to follow healthy hygiene practices, stay at home when sick, practice physical distancing to lower the risk of disease spread, and use a cloth face covering... in community settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained. These universal precautions are appropriate regardless of the extent of mitigation needed.” [The Center for Disease Control]

Therefore out of love for one another as part of the Body of Christ, we will all wear masks, stay six feet away from other households, sanitize our hands, refrain from singing, and speak together very quietly only for the Lord’s Prayer and Apostles’ Creed. The louder we speak, the more potential viral spread there would be, even from behind masks.

HOLY COMMUNION

Festival of St. Luke the Evangelist – October 18th, 2020

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemchurch.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDES

Prayer # 11

arr. Charles Morhange (Alkan)

The bell rings calling us to worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands and faces the baptismal font. 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,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,

And turn us again to life in you

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

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

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you inspired your servant Luke to reveal in his gospel the love and healing power of your Son. Give your church the same love and power to heal, and to proclaim your salvation among the nations to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our healer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

2 Timothy 4:5-11

The assembly is seated.

⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come.

⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

⁹Do your best to come to me soon, ¹⁰for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53

The assembly stands for the gospel.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed...

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

SERMON

Pastor David Rowe

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning

723

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

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

2 Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,

you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

4 Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat. Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

APOSTLES CREED

Spoken together quietly enough not to wake a baby, in order to share as little airborne virus as possible from community speaking. 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.

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you call us by name and invite us to share your good news. Send your Holy Spirit among preachers, missionaries, and evangelists. We give thanks for the witness of your servant Luke, the evangelist, whom the church commemorates today. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of praise, the heavens and all creation declare your glory. From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the whole universe show forth your goodness. Raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all, may your word of justice sound forth in every place. Restore divided nations and communities with reconciling truth. Give wisdom and understanding to our country's leaders.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt, especially all whom we now raise in prayer before you... Sustain teachers, doctors, nurses, caregivers, and researchers during this time of pandemic. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of truth, you show no partiality. May your spirit guide the work of justices, magistrates, court officials, and all vocations of the law, that your promise of restoration may be known.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Living God, as you raised Jesus from the dead, so raise up those who have died in you. We give thanks for their witness, confident of your rescuing welcome for all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of 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 who cannot be here! Yes, now is the time to use our phones in church, on silent of course!

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 God thanks and praise.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: AUTUMN

Holy God,
our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
You sent your Son to eat with sinners
and to become food for the world.
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.
Remembering, therefore,
his life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

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THE LORD'S PRAYER

Spoken together quietly enough not to wake a baby, in order to share as little airborne virus as possible from community speaking.

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.

During this time of the pandemic we are following ecumenical safety guidelines. The ushers will dismiss you by pew, and you will approach the altar by the center aisle (please allow a six-foot separation between households, as the blue tape on the floor indicates). The pastor, who has thoroughly disinfected his/her hands, will drop the consecrated wafer into your outstretched palms. Then we ask that you maintain a six-foot distance as you make your way toward the table that is holding prefilled glasses arranged far enough apart to take one without touching another. First lower your mask, then eat the host, and finally take either a glass of wine or grape juice. As you leave, drop the used glass in the nearby basket, replace your mask, and then sanitize your hands – and rejoice that although this is different, that we can resume receiving the Lord’s Supper if we continue to strive to keep one another safe with precautions.

ANTHEM(s)

This is the Place
Brenda Searle, soloist

The Gaithers

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.

Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

If requested, Communion servants will be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother’s tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,
assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament
with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The assembly stands. The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Mothering God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

You Servants of God

825

- 1 You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!
- 2 Ascended on high, almighty to save,
yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!
- 3 Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.
- 4 Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

A Festive Trumpet Tune

Douglas Wagner

OFFERING

You may drop your offering in the plates as you leave. If you are worshiping at home, please mail your offering to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA. Or you can drop it through the slot in the door at the back, office entrance of the church building.

To avoid crowding and therefore lessening the six-foot physical distance, we ask you to leave starting from the front pews to the back. If you and others feel comfortable, you can continue fellowship conversation in the lobby and outside with masks from a safe distance.

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MINISTRY NEWS

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, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Gemma Geary, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Deanna Carl, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Nancy Cooper, David and Angela Weiser, Faye Sausser, Kim O'Donnell, Leslie Wagner, Mateo Thomas, Barry Heffner

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Karen Cockill, Janice Barr, Donna Dizenzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Kathrine Smiley, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Stefichack, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson, Jerry Stoutland, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer

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 Minister	Lou Messina	Rob Baessler
Cantor(s)	Brenda Searle	Brenda Searle
Guides	Bill Shay	Frank Mahoney
	Anita Vickers	Jane Mahoney
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Gary Reager
Acolyte		Jillian Gipe
Altar Guild	Sue Moyer	
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed, and Marie Shay	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Mary Rowe	Linda Covert
Cantor(s)	Mary Rowe	Jim & Linda Covert
Guides	Deb Reed	Jim Zeiglebein
	Joy Heffner	Don Boyer
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Rick Heckrote
Acolyte	Ellayna Boyer	Marla Freiwald
Altar Guild	Sue Moyer	
Counters	Lou Messina, Rob Baessler, Janet Sattizahn	

WEEKLY NEWS

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the Glory of God, in loving memory of Joyce Stoutland by husband Jerry Stoutland and family.

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY WORSHIP AND

MEETINGS ONLINE THIS WEEK. Due to the pandemic, this year's assembly will be held by video conferencing, and you are invited to watch it! The remaining sessions of the assembly will also be streamed this Sunday, October 18, 2:00-4:30 PM; Friday, October 23, 7:00-9:30 PM; and Saturday, October 24, 9:30-11:45 AM and 1:30-4:00 PM.

SUNDAY FESTIVALS AND OBSERVANCES

- REFORMATION SUNDAY, October 25, remembering both the historic events led by Martin Luther in the 16th century, and the ongoing reform and renewal of the church, will also celebrate the Rite of Confirmation when several young people will affirm their baptismal faith.
- ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY, November 1, remembers all the saints of God, both dead and living. We will give thanks for the newly baptized, remember members and friends of the congregation who have died in the past year, and give thanks for the many other saints whose witness has influenced our lives.
- CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ORDINATION OF WOMEN IN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, November 15. Finally realizing that despite several negative verses in scripture about women in leadership, many more verses in the New Testament include and speak of women leading the church – most notably Paul in Galatians 3:28 "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." – We began ordaining women in 1970 (the first woman of color was not ordained until 1980).

THE FREEDOM OF A CHRISTIAN, a pamphlet by Martin Luther was written 500 years ago in 1520 by Martin Luther, and like many of his writings, became a "best seller" throughout 16th century Europe. Today it is one of his most famous and respected works, and really summarizes Christian faith in a grace-filled way. **WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A STUDY GROUP ON THIS ESSAY BY LUTHER USING THE ZOOM APP?** If so, please see Pastor Rowe who plans to lead this on Wednesday evenings for several months.

DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE CANCELED IF...

- If someone attends Sunday worship, and soon afterward tests positive – thereby having exposed us even while wearing masks while staying six feet apart. Out of love for one another we will then cancel Sunday worship for 1-2 weeks for a period of quarantine.
- If one of the school districts in the area suspends in-person learning, then we will also suspend worship and Sunday School out of mutual love and concern.
- If the Coronavirus Task Force (Jane Mahoney, Donald Boyer, Deborah Reed, and Pastor Rowe) and the Church Council feel that the level of community infection puts our gathering at risk, or that another temporary stop to worship may help prevent the increase of the virus.

Like snow cancellations, Sunday cancellation will be announced on Facebook, the church website (www.jerusalem.lutheran.com), and on the office answering machine (570-385-2657). The Sunday record of attendance will be used to call people. In addition, if we need to once again suspend Sunday gatherings, please help us pass the word to the others!

HOW THE PANDEMIC HAS IMPACTED JERUSALEM'S MEMBERS! At this point we know of four members who have had the Coronavirus. One was asymptomatic, one we sick at home, and two spent over a week in an intensive care unit. In addition, we know of three relatives of church members who have died. Despite some voices in our society that want to shrug off the virus and live normally, we believe that Christian love and concern call us to continue to take precautions both here on Sunday and throughout the week. Please wear your masks, social distance, and be cautious with family and public gatherings and travel.

WE COULD USE MORE VOLUNTEERS to take Holy Communion to people who are staying at home. Please see Pastor Rowe.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

<i>TODAY</i>	8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship 2:00pm NEPA Synod Assembly Session 2 4:00pm Cub Scout Pack 625 Sign-up Night (Cloister Walk)
<i>TUESDAY</i>	6:00pm Child Care Committee Meeting (Via Zoom) 7:00pm Divorce Support Group Meeting
<i>THURSDAY</i>	3:30pm Coronavirus Task Force Meeting (Via Zoom)
<i>FRIDAY</i>	7:00pm NEPA Synod Assembly Session 3
<i>SATURDAY</i>	9:30am NEPA Synod Assembly Session 4 1:30pm NEPA Synod Assembly Session 5