



In 2020, the ELCA is celebrating the 50th anniversary of U.S. Lutheran churches' decision to ordain women, and continuing to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ordination of the first women of color and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to officially ordain people in same-gender committed relationships.

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

24th Sunday after Pentecost – November 15th, 2020

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemchurch.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDES

Amazing Grace
Jerusalem Handbell Quartet

Arr. Albert Zabel

The bell rings calling us to worship.

LITANY OF LAMENT AND THANKSGIVING

The assembly stands. The presiding minister begins.

We come before God and each other today celebrating the anniversaries of the ordination of women in the Lutheran church in the United States. Within this celebration, we also need to confess our individual and corporate sins that have prevented the full support of women in ministry, overtly and covertly, knowingly and unknowingly.

O God, as we give thanks for the ministry of ordained women throughout the decades, we also acknowledge and name the ways in which we have not been faithful supporters of women in ministry: exclusion, harassment or abuse, and impossible expectations, God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For women of color, who had to deal with the additional burden and barrier of racism, God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For women whose commitment to motherhood has been judged, or whose singleness has been questioned, God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For women who had to wait many years for a call, or who were passed over for leadership positions, God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of mercy, as we name and confess these individual and corporate sins of the church, give us strength and renewed commitment to the full inclusion of women at all levels of work and ministry in your church, God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the apostolic witness of Mary Magdalene, the dance of Miriam, the hospitality of Lydia, the prayer of Mary, the discernment of Deborah, and the courage of Rahab, and for the faithfulness of our biblical foremothers,

we rejoice and give thanks to God.

For the many ways that women have proclaimed the gospel through the centuries, especially serving as pastors for the past 50 years in the Lutheran Church,

we rejoice and give thanks to God.

For the ministries of women of color who have become part of the chorus of witnesses, so that this church might speak the Gospel in a variety of languages and cultures,

we rejoice and give thanks to God.

For the ministry of LGBTQIA+ pastors through the centuries, who in the last ten years are now included and ordained while in partnered relationships,

we rejoice and give thanks to God.

For all women, the polite, the pushy and the peacemakers, those who made coffee, paid the bills, and served as deaconesses and teachers, who through their witness have helped to sustain and transform the church – but especially for the church women who could not get the title “Pastor,” but who served God all the same,

we rejoice and give thanks to God.

For the decision to *finally* ordain women, enabling a new way for women to serve God’s call, and fresh ways for people to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ,

we rejoice and give thanks to God.

For all the ways women have pushed this church, and for the distinctive gifts that each woman brings,

we rejoice and give thanks to God.

Gracious and living God, we rejoice and give you thanks for your strength on display throughout time and place, calling all kinds of people to be witnesses to your grace and power. We celebrate how the Spirit has blessed your church through the work of women and girls, including in this time and place. Guide us, as your people, into welcoming your prophets and teachers among us and into hearing Christ’s good news through them. With gratitude, we pray.

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

Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God

458

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving be to God our maker,
source of all blessing, prodigal creator.
Baptized and made your own, now we come before you,
and we adore you.
- 2 Not our own holiness, nor that we have striven
brings us the peace which you, O Christ, have given.
Baptized and set apart, strengthen us, O Savior,
with grace and favor.
- 3 Come, Holy Spirit, come in visitation;
you are the truth, our hope, and our salvation.
Baptize with joy and pow'r; give, O Dove descending,
life never ending.
- 4 Praise to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
one Lord, one faith, one source of ev'ry merit.
Here now renew your church through this symbol given;
grant peace from heaven.

Text: H. Francis Yardley, 1911-1990; Frank J. Whiteley, b. 1914, alt. Text © 1969 H. Francis Yardley and Frank J. Whiteley

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Most high God, you know our whole truth, and you give us refuge in the shadow of your wings. Continue to raise up girls and women to serve Christ's church and strengthen all in the vocations to which you call us. And at the last, gather us with Miriam and the saints to dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Exodus 15:19-21

The assembly is seated.

¹⁹When the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his chariot drivers went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them; but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

²⁰Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Galatians 3:26-29

²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There 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. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Mark 5:24b-34

The assembly stands for the gospel.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." ²⁹Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?"

³¹And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³²He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole

truth. ³⁴He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

445

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

- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.
- 2 We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.
- 3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water washed and Spirit born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947. Music: Beach Spring, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844.

Text: ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company, Nashville, TN.

(8:00) AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM – THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation marks the completion of the congregation's program of confirmation ministry, a period of instruction in the Christian faith as confessed in the teachings of the Lutheran Church. Those who have completed this program were made members of Christ's Church in Baptism. Confirmation includes a public profession of the faith into which the candidates were baptized, thus underscoring God's action in the Baptism.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

Those making affirmation are presented by a representative of the congregation:

I present Marla Jane Freiwald, who desires to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for this sister,

whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called her to yourself,

enlightened her with the gifts of your Spirit,

and nourished her in the community of faith.

Uphold your servant in the gifts and promises of baptism,

and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response by the confirmand: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response by the confirmand: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response by the confirmand: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response by the confirmand: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support this sister and pray for her in her life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Those making affirmation kneel. The minister lays a hand on the head of the person and says:

Stir up in Marla Jane Freiwald the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of

the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

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 the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

For the women who faithfully serve as bishops, pastors, and deacons; for those first to be ordained and those most recently ordained, especially in our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the visible unity of the church, and for ongoing dialogue between church bodies that do not agree on the ordination of women. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For laypeople, who do vital work through church ministries of hospitality, outreach, teaching, music and dance. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For women and girls around the world who are ostracized from their communities for any reason, or treated as less than children of God. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all those whose hard work is rarely praised, and whose names are forgotten though their work lives on. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those who suffer from bleeding disorders; for children who are too sick or weak to get up; for all who continue to pray for healing in their bodies; for essential workers and people infected with the coronavirus; and for all who are sick ... [PAUSE]. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the women who nurtured us in faith, whether in our family of birth or in the family of God. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most high God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that your steadfast love is greater than the heavens and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. 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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER/THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy and generous God,

The source of all life-giving vocations,

The nourisher of dreams and hopes,

The joy of our souls and the song of our hearts:

You led your people from slavery into freedom

And the women led the dancing and singing.

You gave your psalmist words,

And those verses formed the prayers of generations.

You speak to those who listen,

And new relationships are formed in community.

You bring wholeness to the sick and the dead,

And, in you, all creation knows true peace.

On 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, his death, and his resurrection,

We thank you for the grace that you have poured out on your creation.

We thank you for the Spirit who strengthens the call to

preach the good news to all people in all places at all times.

With this bread and cup, we hold fast to Christ's life of love,

revealing divine power,

and we await the day when all shall be well and all things are made new.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts
That we may rejoice together in Christ's faithfulness, live courageously, and
Recognize the gifts and callings of all people in your church and in your world.
Unite our prayers with Miriam, the healed woman, the risen girl,
And all the saints of your word gathered on the banks of the river of life—
Giving you honor, glory, and praise—
Almighty God, Holy Parent, Holy Son, Holy Spirit, + one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Refrain

One Bread, One Body

496

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

- 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. *Refrain*
- 2 Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*
- 3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. *Refrain*

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939. Text © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and healing God: In this meal, you have given us your very self to eat, and you have made us one in Christ: there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female. As we go forth from this place, take us by the hand and free us from fear, that we might sing your praise with our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

BLESSING

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

May the joy of God's freedom cause your spirit to dance; May the presence of God's peace bring wholeness to your body and mind. May God give you blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe. In the name of God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

543

- 1 "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."
- 2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."
- 3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Heavens declare the glory of God

Benedetto Marcello

OFFERING

You may drop your offering in the plates as you leave. If you are worshipping 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, 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, Charlotte Moyer

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 Drenzo, 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 Steficheck, 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, Gemma Geary

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	Mary Rowe	Rob Baessler
Cantor(s)	Lloyd Wertz	Lloyd Wertz
Guides	Bill Shay	Jane Mahoney
	Anita Vickers	Frank Mahoney
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Gary Reager
Acolyte	Ellayna Boyer	Jillian Gipe
Altar Guild	Cheryl Miller & Karen Dudley	
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed, & Marie Shay	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Karen Ochenrider	Lloyd Wertz
Cantor(s)	Lou Messina	Jim & Linda Covert
Guides	Deb Reed	Jim Zeiglebein
	Joy Heffner	Don Boyer
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Rick Heckrote
Acolyte		Marla Freiwald
Altar Guild	Cheryl Miller & Karen Dudley	
Counters	Lou Messina, Rob Baessler, & Janet Sattizahn	

WEEKLY NEWS

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our mother's/grandmother's birthday, by her daughter, Faye Sausser and by her grandson, Mike Sausser.

THE FLOWERS IN THE FLOOR VASES are given by Mary and Pastor Rowe to the glory of God, and in honor of our friends and colleagues – pastors and faithful servants of Christ and the Church who are women, women of color, or people who are LGBTQIA+.

WE WELCOME THE REV. LINDA BONFIGLIO as our preacher today. Pastor Bonfiglio was ordained in 1984, and served several congregations in our area, including as a visitation pastor here at Jerusalem some years ago. Since her retirement four years ago she, and her husband Donald Boyer, have been members of Jerusalem's community. On this day when we

are intentionally recognizing the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's predecessor bodies ordaining women, we are thankful that as one of our retired pastors in residence, Pastor Bonfiglio is sharing the Word and celebrating the Lord's Supper.

TODAY WE CONFIRM MARLA JANE FREIWALD. Let us continue to pray for her whom God has loved and will continue to love. As part of the baptized people of God, may she continue to seek to follow and serve Christ.

WINTER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is tomorrow! Please submit articles by emailing them to mail@jerusalem.lutheran.com or place written articles in the Administrator Inbox in the church office. Thanks!

PROPERTY COMMITTEE WORKDAY will be Saturday, November 21st, starting at 9:00am. Anytime you can donate to get our church ready for the advent/Christmas season would be greatly appreciated!

PLEASE SIGN-UP! November 29th is the first Sunday in Advent; the season preparing us for the birth of Jesus. We need volunteers to light the Advent Wreath during the 8 and 10:30 services. A sign-up sheet is on the sign-up table for individuals or small groups to volunteer to do the lighting!

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, with a snow date of December 13 (or the closest possible Sunday). The key items of business will include election of officers, adoption of a Plan for Ministry (a budget), and hearing a brief presentation about widespread research for congregations that are growing younger. ALSO, if you, or a member you know cannot attend this meeting due to quarantine or their own risk, if they notify us in advance, we can arrange for him/her to participate through computer video (Zoom).

WE WILL DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS ON DECEMBER 13, immediately after the 10:30 service and will be serving pizza for lunch in the social hall. By following the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, we feel we can do this safely. If you are able to join us, please see the sign-up sheet in the lobby. We will also need help on **January 3, 2021 at 11:30 am** to remove the decorations.

RECENTLY OUR PPP LOAN of \$33,400 was approved by the SBA (Small Business Administration) to be totally forgiven! Many thanks to our local Vist bank for their help in securing the loan and forwarding our forgiveness application to the SBA in a timely manner! The forgiveness process normally can take 90 days with the SBA but we were approved in about a week!

ATTENTION: If you participate in the Redner's receipt program, please make sure that you use your **Redner's card** when you check out. Using your card ensures that a special code appears on the receipt that allows us to receive funds from Redner's. If there is no code, the receipt cannot be used! THANKS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

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!

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.

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

AN EASY AND SAFE WAY you can do your holiday shopping this year while supporting the ministry of Jerusalem Lutheran Church is to **DO HOLIDAY SHOPPING ON AMAZON SMILE!** Visit Smile.amazon.com, designate Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schuylkill Haven as your charity of choice! Thank you for thinking of us!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

<i>TODAY</i>	8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship
<i>MONDAY</i>	Winter Newsletter Deadline
<i>TUESDAY</i>	6:00pm Childcare Committee Meeting (Via Zoom) 7:00pm Divorce Support Group Meeting (Via Zoom)
<i>THURSDAY</i>	12:30pm Blood Drive 3:30pm COVID-19 Task Force Meeting (Via Zoom) 7:00pm Schuylkill Mission District Meeting (Via Zoom)
<i>FRIDAY</i>	1:00pm Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry Distribution
<i>SATURDAY</i>	9:00am Property Committee Workday