

Welcome to Jerusalem Lutheran Church



*The Gift that  
Changes the World*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**December 24th, 2021**

**Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972**

**570-385-2657 \* [www.jerusalemchurch.com](http://www.jerusalemchurch.com)**

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

## **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 worshipping 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 worshipping 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.

### **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 will be 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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*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

## **GATHERING**

### **PRELUDES**

*Away in a Manger*

arr. Richard Wagner

*Stars over Bethlehem*

Beverly Kriner, organ, and Audrey Christ, piano

arr. Rob Roy Perry

(5:00pm) *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Jerusalem Handbell choir arr. Dan Edward

(5:00pm) *Ding Dong Merrily on High*

Jerusalem Handbell choir arr. Doug Wagner

(8:00pm) *Love Came Down at Christmas/Angels We Have Heard on High*

Jerusalem Handbell Quartet, The Kriners, & The Christs

arr. Jason Krug

*Gesù Bambino*

Beverly Kriner, organ and Philip Kriner, handbells

arr. Pietro Yon

*O Holy Night*

Beverly Kriner and Philip Kriner, duet

(5:00) *Silent Night*

brass ensemble

arr. Harlo McCall

(8:00) *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Audrey Christ, French horn solo

arr. Adrienne Mann

### **PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN*****O Come All Ye Faithful*  
(5:00) brass ensemble**

# 283

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:

*Refrain*

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

- 2 The highest, most holy,  
light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: *Refrain*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

**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.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON****Mary Rowe****HYMN OF PRAISE*****Angels We Have Heard on High***

# 289

*Children accompany the hymn by ringing their small bells.*

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain*

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**Isaiah 9:2–7**

*The assembly is seated.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**Titus 2:11-14**

A reading from Titus.

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Of the Father's Love Begotten* # 295

*The cross and scriptures will be brought down into the assembly, and read there to remind us that in the birth of Jesus, God came into the world to live and be among us.*

1 Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite

## GOSPEL

**Luke 2:1-20**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to

deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**GOSPEL RESPONSE**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

# 295

3 This is he whom seers in old time  
chanted of with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word;  
now he shines, the long-expected;  
let creation praise its Lord  
evermore and evermore.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite

**SERMON**

**Pastor David Rowe**

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Joy to the World*

# 267

*In response to Scripture and the Sermon, the assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

### **NICENE CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**



**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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.*

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.*

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. In this time of pandemic bring rest for all who are burdened, depressed, angry, or ill. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they may nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night, especially those grieving the loss of life or property in the aftermath of tornadoes. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents.

Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, Joseph the Guardian, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, and all who point toward your love that has taken on flesh in Jesus Christ. 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.**

## **THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*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 sends the word with angels,  
who is made flesh among all peoples,  
and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**Amen.**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess our sin before you.**

**We replace compassion with competition.**

**We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.**

**We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.**

**We have not put on love in harmony with you.**

**Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.**

**Swaddle our hearts with your peace,**

**that all we do, in word or deed,**

**may reflect your love born among us.**

**Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us

in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.

† In Christ your sins are forgiven

and you are clothed in peace.

**Amen.**

## **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**

*Angels Came from Heaven*

**Anna Laura Page**

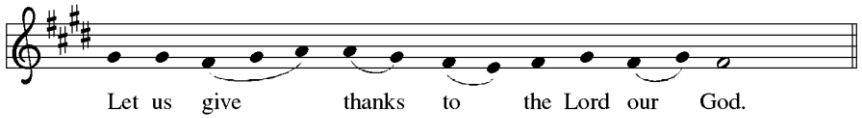
*God's Word is sung or played as an offering. Let us participate in the anthem with our prayerful listening*

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

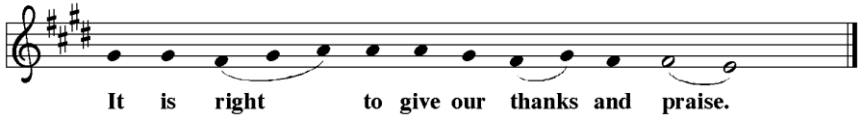
*The assembly stands. The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.*

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

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

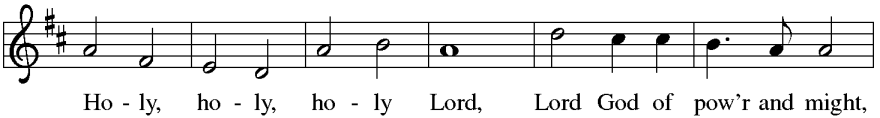


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

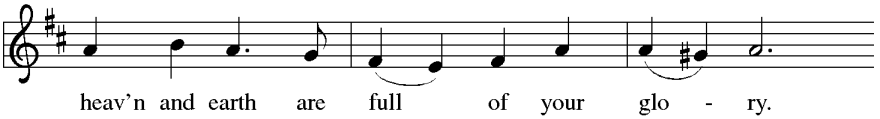


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

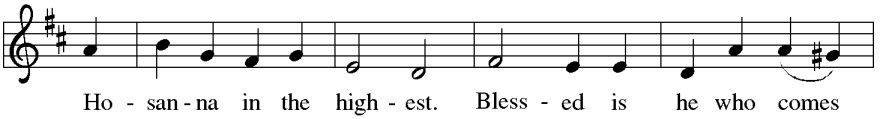
*The presiding minister continues with the communion preface; then the assembly responds:*



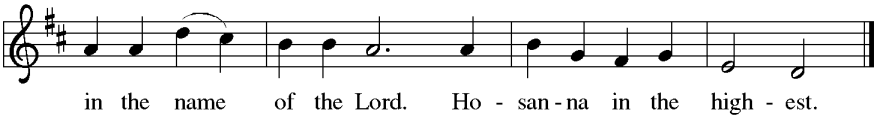
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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.

### THE 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.**

### **THE 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.**

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

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 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 CHOIR ANTHEM**

*A Christmas Echo*

**Patrick Liebergen**

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*The assembly stands. The assisting minister leads the prayer.*

Let us pray.

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.**

*Candlelight is passed as a Symbol of the Light of God that has become flesh in the world. We now prepare to be sent into the world to reflect the light of Christ for the world.*

**RESPONSE READING, EXCERPTS FROM THE FIRST CHAPTER OF THE GOSPEL OF ST. JOHN**

In the beginning was the Word,

**And the Word was God.**

All things came into being through him,

**and without him not one thing came into being.**

In him was life,

**and the life was the light of all people.**

The light shines in the darkness,

**and the darkness did not overcome it.**

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him;

**yet the world did not know him.**

To all who received him, who believed in his name,

**he gave power to become the children of God.**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,

**and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace**

**and truth.**

**HYMN**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

**# 281**

1 Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

sleep in heavenly peace,

sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

### **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, the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
**(5:00) brass ensemble**

**# 270**

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

#### *Refrain*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

**(5:00) *Joy to the World*  
brass ensemble**

**(8:00) *On Christmas Night***

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From Pastor  
Rowe

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 CHRISTMAS EVE**

	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	<b>Ellayna Boyer</b>	<b>James Covert</b>
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Philip Kriner</b>	<b>Laurie Bedford</b>
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	<b>Mary Rowe</b>	
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Joy Heffner</b>	<b>Julie Coleman</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Bill Shay</b>	<b>Frank Mahoney</b>
	<b>Faith Batz</b>	<b>Donald Boyer</b>
<b>Video Recorder</b>	<b>Joanne Wertz</b>	
<b>Sound Board</b>	<b>Rachel Kramer</b>	<b>Gary Reager</b>



**WORSHIP LEADERS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26**

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

***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.

***THANK YOU*** to the brass quartet for playing in tonight's 5:00pm service: Jim Covert on trombone, Melissa Boyer on baritone, Mark Christ on tuba, and Audrey Christ on French horn.

***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.

***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*** will be Monday, Dec. 27th by 9 AM. Offerings may be dropped off at the office at 9 AM that day or placed in the mail slot before the office opens at 9. If you plan to mail offerings, allow plenty of time to arrive **before** Christmas Eve as our mail delivery arrives after the office closes and there are no weekend deliveries. Thank you!

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

**HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** will be different due to the Office Administrator being on vacation from December 24<sup>th</sup> 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!

**CHOIR REHEARSAL** for Wednesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> is cancelled.

**EXPOSURE TO COVID AND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE** – if you are exposed to someone with Covid (within 6 feet, for over 10 minutes), please stay away from church activities until you either have a negative Covid test taken 3-5 days after exposure, or you have gone for 10 days without symptoms. Although you have been vaccinated and are both much less likely to contract Covid and have a much lower risk of a severe or dangerous illness, you still can get it and spread it (we have had four fully vaccinated members of the choir get Covid). Thank you for showing loving one another and caring for yourself as a child of God.

**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.

**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*

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Rachel Kramer, *Parish Administrator*

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Jill McCloy, *Treasurer*

treasurer@jerusalemlutheran.com

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Mike Sausser, *Sexton*

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Deborah Reed, *President of Church Council*

dreed1955@comcast.net

☼ **2021 POINSETTIA FLOWER COMMEMORATIONS** ☼

**POINSETTIAS ARE PRESENTED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Susan L. Morgan by Stanley and Barbara Daniels.  
Shawn C. Daniels by Stanley and Barbara Daniels.  
Russ & Betty McCready by Elaine Clews.  
Russ & Cathy (Koperna) McCready by Elaine Clews.  
Kathy (McCready) Gradwell by Elaine Clews.  
Virgil Scott by wife, Barbara, and family.  
Richie Wolesschok by wife, Helen, and family.  
My parents, Edwin and Edna Reber, by Jim Reber.  
Ralph & Marion Delong by Kenneth and Brenda Searle.  
William & Mildred Searle by Kenneth and Brenda Searle.  
My parents and brother by Nancy Blank.  
My husband, Milton Blank, by Nancy Blank.  
Ida Sharadin by granddaughter, Nancy Blank.  
Adam & Jennie Felty by Nancy Cooper.  
John T. Cooper by Nancy Cooper.  
Karen Cockill by Nancy Cooper.  
William & Carole Gehrig by Karen Dudley.  
Evelyn Millard by Thomas and Amy Gohsler.  
Lucy Altieri by Thomas and Amy Gohsler.  
Our parents and brother, Dominic & Ruth LaScala & Tony by Nick,  
Joan, Ruth, and Anna.  
Our mother, Sandy Seitzinger, by Tanya, Krystal, and Cali.  
Ron & Barbara Gill by Laurie Bedford, Julie Coleman, and Marny  
Donnelly.  
Paul & Iona Feeser by Laurie Bedford, Julie Coleman, and Marny  
Donnelly.  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Strouse by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Baessler.  
Mr. & Mrs. Al Hebden by Mr. and Mrs. Rober Baessler.  
John, Sr. & Ruth Ebling by Joy Heffner.  
Helyn & Bob Rettinger by the Joe Dewald Family.  
Peggy & Butch Dewald by the Joe Dewald Family.  
Zachary Robert Dewald by the Joe Dewald Family.  
Nevin Strock by the Joe Dewald Family.  
Jean & Harold Thomas by Steve and Sharon Thomas.  
Olivette & Frank Snyder by Steve and Sharon Thomas.  
Roy & Verna Boyer by Donald and Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer.  
Leo & Kathryn Alfano by Donald and Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer.  
Kas De Stefano by Donald and Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer.  
Louis & Kathleen Bonfiglio by Donald and Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer.

## **POINSETTIAS ARE PRESENTED IN HONOR OF:**

Our children by Beverly and Philip Kriner.

Our 8 grandchildren by Elaine Clews.

Philip & Michelle Reed by Deb Reed.

Hunter, Madison, & Millie Reed by Deb Reed.

Amy Reed & Holly Yandon by Deb Reed.

Our children & grandchildren by Kenneth and Brenda Searle.

The members of Jerusalem by Mary and Pastor David Rowe.

Our mother, Tanya Cartwright, by Danika and Ben.

Nancy M. Blank by Ann and Richard Gilpin.

Our children and grandchildren, Shannon Rogers, Stephanie & Dan

Dillow, and Harper & Thea Dillow by Steve and Sharon Thomas.



### **Christmas Message from the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton**

This is our second pandemic Christmas. We thought this would be over so long ago. And still, we wear masks; we're physically distant;

we can't be with friends and family as we used to do. And also, there's so much that's broken in this world so much that tells us,

"Why have hope? Just give up."

But we have a hope that's stronger than any of this, stronger even than death. The hope of God comes in the form of a tiny baby, a helpless child; nevertheless, who grew to a man and in his fragile strength was willing to die on the cross and was raised again.

I don't know what next Christmas will bring. I don't know what New Year's will bring. But I do know we have hope.

St. Paul put it this way:

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Merry Christmas, dear church,  
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop

