



Spring 2024 Newsletter
Jerusalem Lutheran
Church

Jerusalem Lutheran Church
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JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Welcome the Visitor - Be the Visitor!

Sheila's father died a few weeks ago. He was a gentle, loving man – a man who cared deeply about his family and his faith. Sheila asked him a few days before he died, “What was one of the most important things that you have done in your life?”

He said, “Your mother and I would go to church on Sundays and then after church we would go visit someone in the church family that was either homebound or in a care facility. Or sometimes we would just go and visit a member of the church.”

What a wonderful legacy for someone to leave to us. His answer is a legacy I will never forget. It is something that we should all remember. We are part of a family of believers who need each other. We need to listen to each other. We need to be present for one another. We need to share our concerns with each other. Our concerns will range from our family relationships, to our health and well-being, to our dreams and visions for ourselves and our loved ones, to our perspectives on what the church and the church family means to us, and much more.

Sister Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) was a mystical nun who spend many hours meditating, writing, sharing, and visiting with people. She wrote the following poem, which is the legacy she left for us.

Christ has no body now
on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes
with which we see
compassion in the world.
Yours are the feet
with which we walk to do good.
Yours are the hands with which
we reach out to bless the world.
Yours are the eyes.
Yours are the feet.
Yours are the hands.
You are the very presence of
Christ in this world. Amen.

May these words give you strength. May your legacy be a legacy of hospitality and warmth. And may God bless you richly.

Blessings and Peace – Pastor Laine

MUSIC Ministry

A graphic featuring a treble clef on the left, followed by a series of musical notes (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes) and a whole note on a five-line staff. The staff is curved upwards from left to right.

Lent begins on February 14th this year on Ash Wednesday. We will be singing one of three hymns that are celebrating their 500th anniversary of being included in the first Lutheran hymnal , the Achtliederbuch. The title of this first hymn is "Out of the Depths I Cry to You", text and music by Martin Luther, and appropriate for Ash Wednesday. Later this year we will be singing the other two hymns.

On the following Wednesdays in Lent we will again be singing Holden's Evening Prayer Service, written by Marty Haugen. He wrote this service during the winter of 1986 while at Holden Village retreat in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington State. This will be accompanied by our handbell choir, acoustic guitar, choir leaders, and special instrumentalists. The Chancel Choir will also be sharing an anthem each week . The Handbell Choir will be rehearsing on Sunday mornings after worship during Lent while the Chancel Choir will rehearse after Evening Prayer services. Make sure to be in attendance to enjoy these special Lenten worship services.

On Palm Sunday, March 24th, Jerusalem Bells will play special music, and on Easter Jerusalem Brass Quartet will raise up joyous sounds!

The final concert in our concert series for this season is a very special guest - Pastor Laine's daughter Karin. She is an accomplished vocalist and will be joined by two friends playing piano and flute. The date for this concert is April 14 at 3:00pm. Please join us in welcoming her again to our sanctuary and invite your friends and family too!

Audrey Christ
Director of Music Ministry

Rebates from Boyer's Food Market -

Jerusalem will earn a rebate of 1% of your grocery shopping bill if you participate in Boyer's Rebate Program. How? Pick up a Boyer's key tag in the church lobby and scan it every time you shop at Boyer's. It's automatically tallied, and we get a check twice a year.

Redner's Save-A-Tape Rewards -

When you shop at Redner's, scan your Redner's Rewards card/key tag, save your receipt, and bring them to church. **The whole receipt must be submitted (the words, "Save A Tape Total" must be visible) or it will not be accepted.** Jerusalem will receive 1% of your purchases! Place your rewards tapes in the Redner's box in the church lobby.



While you are thinking about grocery shopping, remember to pick up something for the Little Free Pantry!

The Little Free Pantry has turned out to be a blessing to those in need in our community. Every day several people help themselves to a snack, a bottle of water, or a pop-top canned food item. It's not a lot, but it's something. A few food items are added nearly every day and those with food insecurities stop by for a little something to eat.

Your donations help keep this ministry going. Pop-top cans of soup or Chef Boy R Dee pasta meals, cracker packets, snack foods and bottled water are always a good donation. Place your donations in the tote with the green lid in the church lobby or, if the Little Free Pantry is empty, place it right in the LFP. Monetary donations work, too. Make your check to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, noting Little Free Pantry on the memo line.

Thank you for your generous spirit!

Prayer List



We have a weekly prayer list in the Sunday bulletin. Please contact the church office to place a name in the bulletin. We also ask to have the address of the person we are praying for so that we can send them a card letting them know we are holding them in prayer. Bulletin prayer requests normally stay in the bulletin for 1 to 4 weeks.

If your requests become long term prayer needs, those names will be taken from the Sunday bulletin and published in the quarterly newsletters.

Those with long-term prayer needs—

Florence Clemens - Victoria Levan - William O'Donnel - Mary Miller - Robert Frantz
Zoey Heydt - Gaylene Ebling – Bonnie Ketchledge – Mary Burns – Connie Frantz



Those in our congregation that have passed away since late Fall through December 2023:

*Lee Miller 10/31/2023

*Stanley Daniels 11/1/2023

*Oliver Laubentine 12/10/2023

*P. Thomas Feeser 12/22/2023

Give the gift of life.....



**American
Red Cross**

**Jerusalem Lutheran Church will host Blood Drives the following dates
in 2024:**

March 7

May 9

July 18

September 19

November 14

Mark your calendar and schedule your donation as the date approaches.
Thank you!

Schedule your donation at redcrossblood.org

Blood donations are greatly needed. Please consider donating for one or more of these dates. Thank you!



News from your "old" treasurer...

Did you know, before we installed our new HVAC system in 2019, we were spending over \$58,000 a year on electric to heat and cool the church? This past year our total cost for electric and propane was \$40,880.49. That is quite a savings! The decision to renovate was a wise one. Your Capital Campaign donations for the renovations of the roof and HVAC systems amounted to almost \$44,000 last year! Those funds came from your offerings and from the Legacy Endowment Fund. We are just about 2 ½ years away from our goal of paying off the loan early before the interest rates go up at the end of 7 years of a 15 year term. Let's make a great commitment to finish the loan by considering an increase this year in your offerings for the Capital Campaign. Every little bit of extra offerings helps us get closer to the end! Thank you for your generous offerings over the past few years. Together we can get this done!

I have been blessed with being able to serve this congregation as its treasurer since April 2015. It has been a pleasure working with so many great people in our church! What is special about our congregation is that we get along so well and we work as a team. I believe we have a common goal.....to see our church be a success so we can continue our mission of helping others.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the team! I know Jean Mawson will serve you well and the congregation will support her as you did me.

Jill McCloy

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. – 2 Corinthians 9:8

News From Your New Treasurer

Hi! Thanks so much for welcoming me as your new Treasurer. First, a BIG Thank you to Jill McCloy for everything she does for our church, serving as Treasurer for almost 9 years and being an awesome Trainer and Mentor!

Please bear with me, I'm still learning all the accounts but I've got a good grasp of what goes on here at Jerusalem Lutheran. A busy person always finds the time to do the things that need to be done! A lot of you will see my name popping up all over around the church. I know with all of your support and working as a Team we can accomplish so much. And yes, that includes our finances!

We, as a congregation, can accomplish so much and more! Yes, we have bills to pay, so your weekly giving is very important if we want to continue this momentum. Please keep this in mind as you plan your Budgets and in your Financial Planning. Can you do just a little more for Jerusalem Lutheran Church? I know 2024 can be a great year with all your help!

For those of you who don't know much about me, my maiden name was Jean Edling. I was baptized and raised in Christ Lutheran Church. I have been a member of this congregation for many years. I took a step away from church for a few years while I was very active traveling with the Jaycee organization (I served as State President of the Pennsylvania Jaycees in 2005) and taking care of ill husband and father. A few years ago I became active again at church and got involved. A year and half ago, I married Rob Mawson.

Professionally, I have a BA in Criminal Justice Administration and a Paralegal Certificate. I have some health issues which are under control and currently work part time. This enables me to do the things I love to do, at my pace, especially here at the church. Thanks to all of you for your love and support!

Jean Mawson



Annual
Giving
Statements
by request
only
in 2024

Contribution statements for 2023 have been sent to all members of Jerusalem Lutheran Church.

Starting January of 2025, Jerusalem Lutheran Church will only provide your Annual Contribution Statements upon request.

Karen Ochenrider
Financial Secretary

The Legacy committee meets 4 times a year. We meet on the first Tuesday of February, May, August, and November. Current members of the Legacy Committee are: Bill Shay, Julie Coleman, Jill McCloy, Phil Kriner, Joanne Wertz, Linda Collins, Deb Reed, and Karen Dudley.

The goal of this fund is to enhance Jerusalem's mission beyond the ministries that would normally be funded by regular congregational giving. Therefore, we seek to use this endowment for mission and ministry to the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Each meeting we vote to donate our proceeds of 10% to the wider church, 45% for future use for capital improvements or major renovations, and 45% for ministries beyond those normally funded by the financial stewardship of the congregation.

The Legacy Committee received a quarterly dividend of \$2173.60.

The category A, 10%, \$217.36 was voted on to be used towards the wider church.

The Category B, 45%, \$978.12, was voted on to be used toward the Capital Campaign which involved the roof and HVAC repairs.

The Category C, 45%, \$978.12, was combined with an accrued balance totaling 5979.72. We voted to designate \$2000 to go towards the Copy Cat copier contract in our church office and \$1000 to go towards replenishing food in our Council of Churches food pantry. This leaves a current balance of \$2979.12 in that account.

All of our recommendations were approved by church council at its December meeting.

– Bill Shay, Chairperson

Social Ministry News...

Epiphany is winding down just as Super Bowl excitement is rising! We are collecting cans of soup for our **Soup-er Bowl of Caring** project through February 11th. All food items collected will be donated to the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry and our Little Free Pantry. Place your canned items in the totes marked with the Team you'll be rooting for during the Super Bowl.



As part of our Lenten journey, let's continue to support these ministries that help feed our neighbors in need. **The Little Free Pantry** is especially in need of snack items. Cracker packets, granola bars, pop-tarts, and pretzel or chip snack bags are always needed.

Our **Little Free Library** is in need of children's books. Please look through some of your gently used books at home and consider donating to our Little Free Library. It is, surprisingly, used fairly briskly! Thank you for all your book donations.

God's Barnyard is coming to life in the Spring! Help farmers restock their barns by "purchasing" various animals for their Farms. As your donations come in, we'll build our own farm with pictures to show a, hopefully, full barnyard. Watch for God's Barnyard all the Sundays in April! ELCA World Hunger is at work in 67 countries around the world....from the United States to Tanzania and Nepal, your donations help our farmers feed themselves and the world!

The next Social Ministry meeting is March 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm. If you have a heart for reaching out to others, please join us to help plan our ministry of outreach and social justice.

Together, we are making our world a better place!

Linda Covert, Social Ministry Chairperson



Church Council

The new officers for 2024 Church Council are:

Deb Reed – President

Bill Shay – Vice President

Joy Heffner – Secretary

Jean Mawson – Treasurer

Karen Ochenrider – Financial Secretary

Thank you for your willingness to serve our congregation!!!!



A little while ago we had extended a Call to a candidate to fill our vacant pastoral position contingent on Saint Johns in Friedensburg extending the same call to share that candidate's services. Unfortunately, Saint Johns did not feel as good as we did about the candidate. We did reach out to our Synod contact, Pastor Zach, asking to research other nearby congregations that might be in a similar situation to be able to share this pastor. At this time we are still waiting for that ideal matching congregation. We feel that considering our financial situation, along with our weekly attendance, we must continue to look for a sharable pastor.

Snippets from Worship and Music Committee

The New Year brought a new worship schedule for Jerusalem. We are now having one worship service on Sunday mornings at 9:00. The worship is live-streamed on Facebook. Sunday School follows worship at 10:30 am.

Lent begins on February 14, 2024 with Ash Wednesday. There will be imposition of ashes and communion. Worship begins at 6:30 pm.

Our mid-week Lenten Worship features the Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays February 21 – March 20. Come early and have a light meal at our Soup Suppers that start at 5:30 pm.

Worship volunteers are needed to help our worship run smoothly. Please consider signing up for assisting minister, communion assistant, usher, acolyte, or lector. Call the church office if you would like to have more information.



Palm Sunday, March 24 @ 9:00 am with a covered dish brunch after worship(see below)

Maundy Thursday – March 28 @ 6:30 pm

Good Friday – March 29 @ 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday - March 31 @ 9:00 am

Palm Sunday Brunch!

At Jerusalem, we love to eat! Sunday March 24th is Palm Sunday. We will be having a Covered Dish Brunch after the service. So dig out all those wonderful recipes! The Church will supply the drinks and paper supplies. Please Contact Jean or Rob Mawson 570-617-1062 or sign up at church to let us know you are coming, and what you might be bringing.

Things to do....people to see...food to share!

Superbowl Sunday Chili and Dessert Cookoff!

Mark your Calendar! Sunday, February 11th, 2024 6 pm Social Hall at the Church! Bring your Best Chili or Dessert for the Cookoff! We will be watching the First Half of the Superbowl (and the commercials of course!). Kickoff is 6:30 pm! Plus some games and fun! Come out for some judging (even if you don't bring something)! Sign-up Sheet at the church or call Jean Mawson 570-617-1062. Hope to see you there!

Lenten Soup Suppers!

Time to fill our bellies and Socialize before the Holden Evening Prayer Services during Lent! Come out and join us at 5:30 in the Social Hall. We are looking for people too who can help out by volunteering to bring a crockpot or pot of soup, some bread and/or helping out. There is a sign up sheet at the church. Jean Mawson is keeping track of who is coming with what but we need you to make this happen! Can you participate somehow in some way? Contact Jean Mawson 570-617-1062, or sign up. She may be calling on you!

Annual Egg Hunt

The Egg Hunt will be held at the Church on Saturday March 23rd at 10 am. (Rain date will be March 30th) Egg Hunt will be for Jerusalem Kids, JCC kids, family and friends. Ages 1-5 and 6-10. We need help! What can you do?

1. Bring Individually wrapped candy and prizes into the church for the egg hunt. If you have something that needs to be picked up we will gladly do that!
2. Come Volunteer that day to hide eggs and help with the Egg Hunt!
3. We will need volunteers to stuff eggs and prepare for the Egg hunt.

Please Contact Cheryl Feeser 570-573-4124 or Jean Mawson 570-617-1062 to help, or to ask for more information.

Game Night!

Sunday April 21st 6 pm. Social Hall at the Church. Bring a game! Rob and Jean Mawson have a few games but bring your favorite. We will order Pizza. Maybe put a Movie on the Roku? Sign up at the church.

Bear Creek Camp!

We have access to this wonderful Camp! Have you ever been there? If you have kids or grandkids check out their summer programs. There are scholarships from the church to help out financially with the cost of Camp! Also, they have retreats (for adults or families) other programs and rentals. They have an awesome Website. Just look them up!

Socials and Upcoming Events for Summer and Fall?

Looking for ideas! What do you want to see happen at Jerusalem? A Night at the Reading Phillies, A Picnic, more Game nights, A Progressive Dinner, and things for the family, are some ideas floating around. What are your ideas? What are your interests? What would you come out to? Are there better days? Would weeknights be better than weekends? Rob and Jean Mawson want to know so we can plan events to get everyone involved! Call Jean Mawson @ 570-617-1062 or the church office @ 570-385-2657. We're waiting to hear from you!

Are you looking for employment opportunities?

The Jerusalem Child Care Center is looking for teachers, teacher aides, and substitutes. Our child care center is a STAR 4 Facility, and we strive to maintain or exceed our place in the community. Call Gina Cappel, director at 570-385-4244 for more information.

Please support this ministry in your prayers.
We love our Jerusalem Child Care staff and kids!



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has changed their name to **Global Refuge**.

To learn more about this new chapter for the organization, visit

www.lirs.org/globalrefuge



is our
refuge
and
strength,
a very
present
help in
trouble.

Psalm 46:1

Jerusalem's
Sunday
Worship
Streamed



Live
9am

Naturally, we'd love to see you in person at Jerusalem on Sunday mornings at 9:00, however, if you are not able to be here in person, please join us online.

It's easy to join in! If you have a Facebook account, just do a "search" for Jerusalem Lutheran Church once you are on your Facebook page. If you don't have a Facebook account, go to our website, www.jerusalemchurch.com, scroll down on the homepage to our contact information and find the word "Facebook". Click the word Facebook, and you will be taken right to where you need to be!

