



VICAR'S PONDERABLES – OCTOBER 2025

A Note From the Vicar

Grumbling Toward Joy

Have you ever had the opportunity to introduce or re-introduce someone to Jesus Christ? If you have, you probably got to witness firsthand the transformation from grumbling to joy that takes place when one experiences the newness of life that comes from God's unfailing love. Certainly, as members of the family of faith, we should know about this love and be able to recount our own experiences of grumbling being turned toward joy. If you are struggling to recognize a moment like this, then let's talk.

The fifteenth chapter of Luke shares three familiar parables with us. Jesus addresses the Pharisees and the scribes who were grumbling because he was eating and conversing with a group of tax collectors and sinners. Even the titles of these parables seem to represent a bit of grumbling. Perhaps today, we can begin to reframe them into parables of joy. After all, this is the message Jesus is trying to convey. How do your expectations change when considering the following?

Grumbling

The Parable of the Lost Sheep
The Parable of the Lost Coin
The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Joy

The Parable of the Faithful Shepherd
The Parable of the Persistent Woman
The Parable of the Prodigal Father

In all three of these parables Jesus tells us we ought to celebrate when the lost has been found. Verse seven, "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Verse ten, "Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." and verse thirty-two, "But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

The Faithful Shepherd calls together his friends and neighbors to celebrate the one sheep that has been returned. The Persistent Woman calls together her friends and neighbors to celebrate. Probably spending all ten of her coins to hold the celebration. The Prodigal Father kills what was undoubtedly a valuable fatted calf to celebrate and welcome home his Prodigal

Son. The message is clear. God's love for us is immeasurable and we need not to grumble but to express joy when we experience it.

Even in our weekly recitation of the Lord's Prayer we grumble as we pray, "Lead us not into temptation." God loves us and does not lead us into temptation, so why do we continue to pray for him not to? We can turn our weekly recitation of grumbling into joy by using the more accurate translation of the Lukan text in praying, "Save us from the time of trial." In order to be saved, one must first become lost. In being saved we are found and therefore we need to celebrate. No grumbling. All joy!

As Lutherans we believe, "There is one divine essence which is called God and is God: eternal, incorporeal, indivisible, of immeasurable power, wisdom, and goodness, the creator and preserver of all things, visible and invisible. Yet, there are three persons, coeternal and of the same essence and power; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And the term "Person" is used... to signify not a part or a quality in another but that which subsists in itself." (Chief Articles of Faith, I. Concerning God. The Book of Concord. The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2000. Augsburg Fortress. Page 37.)

God loves us and desires our lives to be filled with His immeasurable goodness. So next time you find yourself grumbling, take a moment to consider that in this love, He seeks after you, He finds you, He restores you, and you are celebrated among family and friends. May the joy of our Lord be your strength!

Faith, love, grace, mercy, and peace be with you.

Vicar Philip J. Supeck

LUNCH WITH THE VICAR AT LUTHER ACRES LITITZ

Wednesday, October 29, 2025 - 11:30 AM - Katy's Grill

Wednesday, November 26, 2025 - 11:30 AM - Katy's Grill

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 - 11:30 AM - The Round

All are invited to attend. Please confirm your attendance with Vicar Philip the Sunday prior to each lunch.

VICAR'S UPCOMING SEMINARY SCHEDULE

October 14-19, 2025: 3.80 Congregational Studies in Context

March 10-15, 2026: 3.90 Worship

June 21 (Afternoon)-28, 2026: 2.40 History of Christianity; 3.50 Pastoral Care and Formation; 1.00 Intro to Scripture.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Roger L. Kurtz

Invite your family and friends to attend a recital in our nave featuring Duo Harpyn on Sunday, November 9th at 3:00 p.m. Flutist Lois Bliss Herbine and Harpist Rong Tan, who both live in the suburban Philadelphia area, will present a varied and enjoyable program of music for flute and harp. (Herbine has ties to the Lititz area, with her mother-in-law residing at Luther Acres and her sister-in-law living only a half mile from the retirement community.) As with all our past concerts, a free-will offering will be received during the intermission to help support our ongoing Music at Jerusalem Concert Series.

Lois Herbine enjoys a varied musical career as a soloist and recording artist, a chamber and orchestral musician, and a respected teacher and clinician. A native of the Philadelphia area, she earned her Bachelor of Music degree from the New School of Music, where she received the school's highest honors in performance and academic achievement. Herbine has performed piccolo with the Reading Symphony Orchestra for over twenty-five years and has played with dozens of other orchestras and ensembles in the tri-state area, including the Erie Philharmonic, the Ocean City Pops Orchestra, and the Fairmount Chamber Ensemble. She served for four years as the principal flutist for Peter Nero and the Philly Pops and the Mann Festival Orchestra, and has performed in soundtracks for numerous television and radio specials, theme music, and commercials. Herbine maintains an active teaching studio at her home and has given performance master classes at various schools and societies, including Baylor, Rice, and Temple Universities, and the University of Michigan. In the summer of 2024, she became the director of the new Philly Fife and Drum Company. Her corps has been invited to perform in America250PA celebratory events in Philadelphia, Easton, Lebanon, and Monroe County, PA.

Born in China, Rong Tan is an active chamber musician and freelancing harpist who resides in Cheltenham, PA. She has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Ballet, the Philly Pops, Opera Philadelphia, and the Delaware Symphony Orchestra, and is currently the principal harpist of Opera Delaware. Tan started her piano studies at age seven and was admitted into the Central Conservatory of Music for gifted children at the age of thirteen to study harp. She graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music, where she was a student of Marilyn Costello, the former principal harpist of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Tan received the Curtis Institute of Music Award and won the Elizabeth Herbert Hobin Harp Competition. As a soloist, Rong Tan has been featured with the National Repertory Orchestra, the Allegro Society, the Pennsylvania Pops, the Pottstown Symphony Orchestra, and the Bay Atlantic Symphony.

The November 9th program here at Jerusalem will include the following works: *Flute Sonata No. 1 in F Major* by Benedetto Marcello, *Minuet and Dance of the Blessed Spirits* by Christoph Willibald Gluck, *The Fog is Lifting* by Carl Nielsen, *Entr'acte for Flute and Harp* by Jacques Ibert, *Claire de Lune* by Claude Debussy, *Pièce en Forme de Habanera* by Maurice Ravel, *Phantasy on Themes of Japanese Folk Songs* by Josef Molnár, *Méditation* from *Thaïs* by Jules Massenet, and an arrangement by Lois Herbine of John Legend's *All of Me*.

October Worship Leaders

	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister/Lector	Ushers	Acolyte
October 5	Emma Miller	Jill Clubb	Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.	
October 12		Zachary Fetter	Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.	Joyce Burkholder
October 19	Kathy Schreiber	Dave Carson	Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.	Joyce Burkholder
October 26		Brenda Fetter	Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.	Joyce Burkholder

INGATHERING SUNDAY

Join us on October 5th to dedicate our beautiful handmade quilts, personal care kits and school kits which will be sent to those in need throughout the world. Thanks to your generosity 14 quilts, 19 personal care kits and 30 school kits will be distributed by Lutheran World Relief! We will also dedicate the 21 Christmas satchels compiled for the Seafarer's International House!

OCTOBER FOOD BANK SUGGESTIONS:

- Ready to eat, chunky-type canned soups
- Juice for children
- Canned meats (chicken, spam, tuna, etc.)



Items can be placed in the drop box on the first floor by the elevator - thank you!

IMPORTANT DATES:

November Newsletter Deadline on Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

Council Meeting 7 pm on Monday, October 20, 2025.

Music and Worship Committee Meeting at 11:30 am on Thursday, October 23.

Lunch with the Vicar 11:30 am at Katy's Grill Luther Acres Lititz on Wednesday, October 29, 2025.

Trunk or Treat Night at JELC on Friday, October 31, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm under the portico in our church parking lot.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Let us pray for: Chrystine and Andy Anderson, Sharron Bauer, Leslie Carson, Cheyenne Colon, Beth Craley, Jean Ehrhart, Weston Hertzler, Cody Leisey, Hunter Leisey, Andrea Reynolds, Joe Stoyanovich and Toby Sweigart.

Be with military personnel, first responders, healthcare workers, the people of Ukraine, the people of Israel & Palestine, those affected by recent hurricanes, wildfires and weather events.

Please call or email Vicar Philip Supeck if you would like a name added or removed from our prayer list.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

8-Florence Morgan	17- Janet Craley
12-Henry Bowman	18- Chris Scheid
12- Eric Weinhold	22- Gregory Sammet
16- Jan Keller	



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES OF BAPTISM

Betsy Smith 10/31/93

OCTOBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Roger & Cheri Kurtz 10/8/88



October 5
**17th Sunday after Pentecost
Year C**
First Reading
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalm
Psalm 37:1-9
Second Reading
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Gospel
Luke 17:5-10

October 12
**18th Sunday after Pentecost
Year C**
First Reading
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm
Psalm 111
Second Reading
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Gospel
Luke 17:11-19

October 19
**17th Sunday after Pentecost
Year C**
First Reading
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm
Psalm 121
Second Reading
2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5
Gospel
Luke 18:1-8

October 26
**Reformation Sunday
Year C**
First Reading
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm
Psalm 46
Second Reading
Romans 3:19-28
Gospel
John 8:31-36

OCTOBER 2025 READINGS



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped with the Rothsville Community Day Event and special thanks to Sue Fetter for organizing the Jerusalem children's games and prizes and to Brad Clubb for his work on the committee.

SERMON SERIES

Join us for worship Sundays, September 14, through November 2, 2025, as we explore **What Matters?** A sermon series on what it means to be Lutheran as revealed through scripture and the Augsburg Confession Articles.

OCTOBER PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

M & E Roofing will be coming the week of October 6th to replace education roof shingles. Also, some shingles blew off the portico roof recently and M & E will repair those at that time.

Fall Cleanup outside the church will take place on Saturday, October 11th with rain date of Saturday, October 18th. Trimming of bushes, weeding, leaf pick up etc., etc. Work will start at 8:00 am and hopefully be completed by noon. All are welcome to come out and help with this project!

TRUNK OR TREAT NIGHT AT JELC

Trunk or Treat Night will be held under our portico on Friday, October 31, 2025, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. All are welcome to come out and share some treats with our neighbors and friends. Questions: Ask Deb Carson or Brenda Fetter.



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The Book of Remembrance is now located in the narthex. All Saints Sunday is November 2nd. Please add the names of your loved ones if you desire.

NEW CHAPTER

Dear Jerusalem Lutheran Church,
I am proud to say that I have been accepted to Alvernia University in the Theology Program for the Spring of 2026. Please keep me in my prayers as I transition to another college and the next journey in my life.

Peace,
Zachary Fetter



SAVE THE DATE

Join us in celebrating the installation of the Rev. Stephen R. Herr as Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 2:00 pm at St. Matthew Lutheran Church Hanover. Prelude begins at 1:30 pm. This joyful worship service is a time for the whole church to gather, give thanks, and pray for Bishop Herr as he begins his call to serve and lead our synod. ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry will preach and preside.

All are welcome to attend as we share in fellowship and celebration. A reception will follow the service. Rostered ministers are invited to vest. Color of the day is red. If you plan to vest and process, please RSVP by October 6. An RSVP is only needed if you intend to join the procession.

Parking Information: St. Matthew Lutheran Church is located at 30 West Chestnut Street in downtown Hanover, PA, at the corner of Chestnut and Franklin streets, just a few blocks from the center square. Ample parking is available at the church.

Handicap spaces are available in both the Franklin Street and Chestnut Street church parking lots. Parking attendants will be available to assist you.

For those unable to attend in person, the service will be livestreamed on St. Matthew's YouTube Channel.

ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

The Adult Forum group will be discussing the Gospel Readings from Luke. All are welcome to join us at 9:00am!

Here is the schedule and chapters we will be looking at:

10/5 – No Adult Forum

10/12 – Luke 16:19-31

10/19 – Luke 17:5-10

10/26 – Luke 17:11-19



The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania has many events planned for the Fall and Winter Seasons. Check the bulletin board in the narthex for these events.

QUILT & CRAFT AUCTION

Join us for this year's annual **Quilt & Craft Auction, November 2** at **Camp Nawakwa**. This fun-filled day of bidding raises money for the Camping Corporation's **Endowment Fund**, which helps financially sustain our fine ministry activities.

Online bidding will be open October 25-30. High bids will become the starting bids on November 2.

Quilt & Craft donations will be accepted until October 19.

CAPTURE THE FLAG SPECTACULAR



Review your camp map, paint your face, and practice your cone zone celebration dance. Invite your friends and family (parents, too) to join you in this CTF summer reunion event. Play alongside familiar faces from your week at camp, plus campers from every other week of the summer. Campfire worship to follow.

at Kirchenwald
Sunday, October 5, 3-5:30 pm

This is a free event, but please RSVP by September 26 to
717-677-8211 or online at LutheranCamping.org



The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm
PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303
717-677-8211 • www.LutheranCamping.org



Fall Foliage Day

Kirchenwald
Sunday, Oct. 26

Pumpkin Painting
Canoeing / Kayaking
Mountain Biking
Hiking
And More!

Nawakwa
Sunday, Oct 19

Pumpkin Painting
Hayrides
Hiking
And More!

**Bring your family and friends to camp for a fall
afternoon! Both events will run from 1-6pm.
An evening meal will be provided.**

Registration is \$15/person (*4 & under free*)

**Please call 717-677-8211 or visit
LutheranCamping.org
to register.**



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JERUSALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2025

“As followers of Jesus we serve our neighbors locally and globally”

Present: Vicar Philip Supeck, Dave Carson, Jeanine Schreiber, Floss Morgan, Patti Stripling, Jean Slaymaker, Brad Clubb, Ken Craley, Beth Smith, Scott Barr, Jill Clubb

Guests: Pastor Richard Jorgensen, Pastor Kate Warn

Old Business:

1. Election of Council Vice President: Discussion took place regarding possible candidates. Floss Morgan made a motion to nominate Brad Clubb for Council Vice President; Ken Craley seconded the motion; the motion was accepted.
2. Church Directory: Jean Slaymaker reported that a draft of the Church Directory has been approved.

New Business:

1. Jean Slaymaker was appointed by Council to serve the vacancy left by JD Wissler. Her term will expire when a new Council is elected this year.
2. A vision for the future of Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church:
Pastor Richard Jorgensen and Pastor Kate Warn were invited to tonight's council meeting to facilitate discussion regarding the vision for the future of our congregation.
Vicar Philip reports that he has received two unsolicited contacts from churches looking to purchase a church building- one from a Romanian Baptist Church and another from a Pentecostal Church. Pastor Jorgensen reports that there is a demand for church properties at this time, and that prices are high. He recommends enlisting the help of a broker to value the property. We would also have to determine if an interested congregation would be interested in our cemetery. There would also be the possibility that Jerusalem could continue to meet at this location even if the church is sold. Discussion took place regarding potential issues and if selling the church building is a viable option for us.
Pastor Jorgensen provided a handout on the possible options available to our church as we look to the future. They are: continue as we are; develop partnerships; adoption/satellite; sell the building and stay; sell the building and go; consolidation; merger; give the building away; Holy Closure; other possibilities? Each option was discussed and the council decide that a forum involving the entire congregation was needed to present and discuss options and to present the information that has come to the council to this point. The date of the forum will be Sunday September 21 following worship. The council did decide that enlisting a broker and an attorney at this time would be prudent.
3. Beth Smith, Treasurer requested to be added as a signer on all Jonestown Bank and Trust accounts. Vicar Philip Supeck made a motion to add Beth Smith, Treasurer as a signer on all Jonestown Bank and Trust accounts; Dave Carson seconded the motion; the motion was accepted.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2025

Adjournment: Brad Clubb made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Floss Morgan seconded the motion; the motion was accepted

Respectfully Submitted

Jill Clubb, Council Secretary

JERUSALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2025

Patti Stripling, Council President called the special congregational meeting to order. A quorum is present.

The special congregational meeting was called to approve updates to the Constitution.

1. Proposed change of Chapter 10, item C10.04 to read “Twenty percent(20%) of voting members shall constitute a quorum”
2. Proposed change of Chapter 12, item C12.04 to read “The voting membership of the Congregational Council shall consist of the Pastor and not more than eight(8) members nor fewer than six(6) members of this congregation.”

Patti Stripling asked for discussion, there was none.

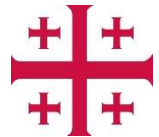
Brad Clubb made a motion to approve the proposed changes to item C10.04 and to item C12.04. Zach Fetter seconded the motion. The motion was accepted.

Jean Slaymaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Joyce Burkholder seconded the motion; the motion was accepted.

Respectfully Submitted

Jill Clubb, Council Secretary

Jerusalem Evangelical
Lutheran Church
36 Church Street
Lititz, PA 17543



October 2025



Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church
36 Church Street, Lititz (Rothsville), Pennsylvania 17543

717.626.8972 | www.jerusaluth.org | jelc@ptd.net

Vicar's email: jlcpastr@ptd.net

Vicar Philip's Availability:

Tuesday and Thursday 8am to 4:30pm. Call him at 717-725-3429 on those dates if you would like to schedule an appointment with him.

Church Office Hours: Tuesday 10am to 5pm and Thursday 10am to 6pm

Philip J. Supeck, *Vicar*

Mr. Roger L. Kurtz, *Director of Music*

Beth Smith, *Treasurer*

Zachary Fetter, *Office Administrator*

Joan C. Dull, *Sexton*

Congregation, *Ministers*