



"As followers of Jesus, we serve our neighbors locally and globally."



## PASTOR PONDERABLES - DECEMBER 2023

*Savior of the Nations come, virgin's son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth: God has chosen such a birth.*

December is a busy time of the year. Many I meet in congregations are always busy, and this time of year brings even more things to do. I hope that in the midst of the business, we remember why we are busy. The many things we chose to do during this month are a part of our faith: sharing our faith in God's daily presence, anticipating in hope Christ's coming, expressing our love for family and others. Wanting all those things to be just right can make our running around on snowy and icy roads even more stressful.

In the midst of all that, I hope we can all at times, stop and take a breath, and center ourselves on the grace and love of God we know through the incarnation of God's promise. It is a strange story we tell: that God chose to take on human form, not in a context of material wealth and political power, but in the context of a young family from a small town who on the night of this blessed birth had no shelter but an animals' stable; that common shepherds and elite Magi both came to praise and worship the newborn infant.

We often look to the power of nations for answers to the world's problems, but in Jesus we have a new understanding of salvation for the nations. In Jesus, we have seen the power of selfless love, we have seen the inability of world power structures to inhibit this selfless love, and we have seen the all-embracing love of God that is extended to all nations or peoples. How many times do we see people in this world exclude others, but in God's Kingdom, no one is excluded.

At this time of year with short days, the darkness can feel overwhelming. We can be angry at or resigned to the injustices in the world, and the harm done to innocent people. We can be tired and sad from personal losses, especially losses of this year, but also losses that still sting from years past. We can be unhappy with our introspection and our personal failings. But despite these dark feelings, we are called in Advent to center ourselves on the light of Christ. The light still to come that breaks into our suffering, and the light already in us that empowers us to care for and share with others, and to follow Christ's example of selfless love.

Whatever the burdens you are carrying at this time may be, allow Christmas lights, seen in towns throughout the world at this time of year, remind you of and center you in the light of Christ in this world. God is in the world bringing healing, and redemption and making each of us a new creation. God's love in Christ, shines despite the heaviness we feel through our faith, our hope in the future and our actions of love for others.

Blessings to all the families of Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Rothsville and Brickerville United Lutheran Church in Brickerville during this Advent and Christmas season. Christ is both at the door, and already in your home.

*Now your manger, shining bright, hallow night with newborn light  
Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith sine ever new.*

Pastor Dietrich

*(The verses above are originally from St Ambrose (340-397), bishop of Milan. Martin Luther translated them from Latin to German, his friend Johann Walther helped him put them to music, and they appeared in a 1524 hymnal in Wittenberg)*



# FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**Roger L. Kurtz**

As we once again center our hearts and minds on Christ's coming during the four weeks of Advent, the hymnody and choral/organ music of our liturgies will proclaim the themes of anticipation, watchfulness, and joy found in the assigned readings. The following Hymns of the Day will be sung: 12/3 – *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!* (ELW #246); 12/10 – *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (ELW #256); 12/17 – *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* (ELW #241 with *Valet will ich dir geben* as the alternate tune); and 12/24 – *Savior of the Nations, Come* (ELW #263). Choral anthems will include *In Night's Dim Shadows Lying* by George Guest (12/3); *Prepare the Way of the Lord* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (12/10); *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* by Robert A. Hobby (12/17); and *The Angel Gabriel* by Malcolm Archer (12/24). Organ voluntaries during Advent will include *Improvisation on "Conditor Alme Siderum"* by George Oldroyd and *Chorale Prelude on "Herr Christ, der einge Gottes-Sohn"* by Johann Sebastian Bach (12/3); *Chorale Prelude on "Freu dich sehr"* by Sigfrid Karg-Elert and *Carillon on "Puer Nobis"* by Richard Purvis (12/10); *Two Chorale Preludes on "Valet will ich dir geben"* by Georg Friedrich Kaufmann and Johann Sebastian Bach (12/17); and *Chorale Prelude on "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland"* by Dietrich Buxtehude and *Toccata on "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland"* by Paul Manz (12/24).

As we look forward to celebrating Christ's birth on Christmas Eve, please note that a 20-minute prelude of music for choir and organ will precede the 7:00 p.m. liturgy. During the prelude, our Jerusalem Choir will sing *A Babe Is Born* by Adrian Lucas and *Softly the Stars Were Shining* by Adolf Torovsky. Organ voluntaries will include *Noël No. 10, Grand Jeu et Duo* by Louis-Claude Daquin, *Chorale Prelude on "In Dulci Jubilo"* by Marcel Dupré, and *Carol Prelude on "Greensleeves"* by Richard Purvis. The offertory anthem will be Hal H. Hopson's arrangement of the lively 16th-century Spanish carol *Riu, Riu, Chiu, Manger Birds Are Winged*. The service will conclude with Johann Sebastian Bach's *Chorale Fantasia on "In Dulci Jubilo"* played as the postlude. Percussionist Jeff Schreiber will provide timpani accompaniment for many of the carols, as well play tambourine for the offertory anthem.

Plan to attend the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 31, the First Sunday of Christmas. If your favorite carol was not sung on Christmas Eve, chances are it will be this day since 11 hymns and carols will be part of the service! The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus are told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and hymns by the congregation. The service originated at England's Truro Cathedral in 1878. Since 1928, the best-known version has been broadcast annually from King's College Chapel, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. Even during the darkest days of World War II, the broadcasts continued uninterrupted despite the removal of the stained-glass windows and a total lack of heat in the building.

Wishing you and yours a joyous Christmas season and much happiness throughout the coming new year!



## December Worship Leaders

	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister/Lector	Ushers	Acolyte	Zoom Monitor
<b>Dec. 3</b>	Emma Miller	Jill Clubb	Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		
<b>Dec. 10</b>	Jean Slaymaker	Brenda Fetter	Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		
<b>Dec. 17</b>	Brenda Fetter	Zachary Fetter	Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		
<b>Dec. 24</b>			Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		
<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>			Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		
<b>Dec. 31</b>	Not Needed	J.D. Wissler	Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		

## HOME COMMUNION MEMBERS

<b>Barry Becker</b>	<b>Lillian Logeman</b>	<b>Norma Rhoads</b>	<b>Doris Witwer</b>
Maple Farms Nursing Center (Rm 41) 604 Oak Street Akron, PA 17501 Birthday: August 14	Ephrata Manor 99 Bethany Rd. Room #121. Ephrata, PA 17522 223-264-8805 <i>Birthday: August 31</i>	2646 Camp Road Manheim, PA 17545 717-626-8117 <i>Birthday: September 24</i>	Viva Senior Living 150 Kempton Ave., Room 252 Harrisburg, PA 17111 717-901-6026 <i>Birthday: February 20</i>

### Adult Forum Schedule December

We are using the Augsburg Fortress Adult Bible Studies.

Everyone is welcome to join at 9 am.

Dec. 3 - The Fall of Jerusalem

Dec. 10 - No Adult Forum

Dec. 17 - Grief and Hope




Dec. 24 - No Adult Forum

Dec. 31 - Who Is to Blame?

### Property Committee Update

1. Installation of portico height signage completed
2. Church property meets Warwick Township's Sidewalk Maintenance requirements
3. In response to a notice from Dept of Labor and Industry, Otis elevator was contacted to confirm we do not have the elevator system being investigated for safety concerns
4. Thanks to Mel Ravegum for doorbell relocation
5. Elevator inspection certificate received and posted in elevator as required
6. Additional AC estimates pending

# December, 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
<b>3</b> First Sunday of Advent  Adult Forum 9:00 am 10:30 am Holy Communion  Congregational Meeting after Worship Service	4	5	6	<b>7</b> Advent Devotion at Brickerville  Choir Rehearsal 7 pm  Pearl Harbor Day	<b>8</b> Hanukkah 1st Day  	9
<b>10</b> Second Sunday of Advent  Christmas Decorating 9:00 am 10:30 am Holy Communion  Christmas Caroling	11	12	<b>13</b> Finance Meeting	<b>14</b> Advent Devotion at Brickerville  Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	<b>15</b> January Newsletter Deadline	16
<b>17</b> Third Sunday of Advent  Adult Forum 9:00 am 10:30 am Holy Communion Lunch Social with BULC at noon at the White Swan	18	<b>19</b> 7 pm Council Meeting	20	<b>21</b> Advent Devotion at Brickerville  Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	22	23
<b>24</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:30 am Holy Communion Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	<b>25</b> Christmas Day  	<b>26</b> Kwanzaa	27	28	29	30
<b>31</b> First Sunday of Christmas Lessons & Carols 10:30 am No Communion New Year's Eve						



# PRAYER CONCERNS

Let us pray for: Christine and Andy Anderson, Barry Becker, Nate and Crystal, Kim Cravens, Spencer Ehrhart, Weston Hertzler, Hunter Leisey, Sharon Levering, Lillian Logeman, Joy McCurty and Pam Cramer, Byron Miller, Brianna Bergmann, Judy Perry, Norma Rhoads, Lisa Riley, Greg Summers, Toby Sweigart, Mary Valimont, Neal Vital, Tracey Whitney, and Doris Witwer. Be with military personnel, first responders, healthcare workers, the people of Ukraine, the people of Turkey, the people of Syria, and the people of Israel & Palestine.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 - Cheri Kurtz	23 - Natalie Rhoads
10 - Chrystine Anderson	25 - Elaine Mensch
11 - Chance Ryan Bowman	25- Lisa Riley
11 - Christopher DeWitt	30 - Matthew Scheid
13 - Andrew Carson	30 - Ray Bowman
16 - Michael Votano	31 - Barb Sammet

## DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Brian & Joyce Burkholder  
 \* December 12, 1975  
 Byron & Leslie Miller \*  
 December 26, 1992



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES OF BAPTISM

Claude Grube 12/7/47	Bonnie Votano 12/13/64
Sharon Levering 12/11/60	Henry Bowman II 12/25/46
Chad Morgan 12/12/71	Florence Morgan 12/25/46
	Janice Keller 12/30/51



## December 2023 Readings



**Dec. 3**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**Year B**

First Reading  
Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Second Reading  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Gospel  
Mark 13:24-37

**Dec. 10**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Year B**

First Reading  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Second Reading  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Gospel  
Mark 1:1-8

**Dec. 17**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Year B**

First Reading  
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Psalm  
Psalm 126  
Second Reading  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
Gospel  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Dec. 24**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Year B**

First Reading  
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Psalm  
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
Second Reading  
Romans 16:25-27  
Gospel  
Luke 1:26-38

**Dec. 24**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**Year B**

First Reading  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm  
Psalm 96  
Second Reading  
Titus 2:11-14  
Gospel  
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]



## MIDWEEK ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Please join us on Thursdays 12/7, 12/14 and 12/21 for Matins, fellowship with soup and Bible study to prepare for Jesus' birth. Time: 11:30am. Place: BULC.

Sign up sheets will be posted in the Narthex, but please come even if you forget to sign up!

## ADVENT TREE

An Advent Tree will be placed in the Narthex during the month of December. Decorating the tree will be Good Gifts "ornaments" to benefit the ELCA Good Gifts Program. Simply choose an ornament with the gift you wish to give (yes- you can take the ornament). Checks should be made out to JELC and given to Beth Smith- please put the name of the animal or service in the subject line of the check. There are also booklets with more information on the Good Gifts program- please feel free to take one. Thank you for your support!

### Lititz-Warwick Community Chest Food Bank

#### December Suggestions:

- \*laundry detergent
- \*shampoo & conditioner
- \*liquid dish soap

*Items can be placed in the box near the elevator on the first floor - thank you!*



Thank you to all who helped with the Trunk or Treat night. We had 30 costumed children and 9 church members in attendance. We had very lovely and interesting Halloween displays and quite a variety of costumes. Candy, popcorn and small toys were given out.

*Thank you*

### Janice Styer - change of address:

Pleasant View Retirement Community  
Terrace Gardens Rm 156  
544 North Penryn Rd.  
Manheim, PA 17545  
Phone Number: 717-209-1564



Donations of paper tissues needed (any brand or size).



Christmas decorating in the sanctuary will take place at 9:00 am and caroling will take place Sunday, December 10th after the worship service. We will have a pizza lunch.



### Lunch Social with BULC

Date: 12/17/23

Time: Noon

Location: White Swan

Deadline to Signup: 12/10

Signup sheet located in the Narthex.

The battery operated candles placed on the window sills at Christmas needed to be replaced. The new ones are in memory of Jim & Lucille Martin.

The ushers, Claude, Andy, and Charles will be collecting money December 3rd, December 10th, and December 17th for the staff Christmas Gifts.

Poinsettia order forms available for Christmas Eve. Cost is \$7.00 each for Red and White. Please see ushers for order forms. Money and orders due by Sunday, December 10.

A Christmas Eve Social will take place following the 7pm worship service on December 24. Please come and bring a plate of your favorite cookies to share with others. Coffee and punch will be provided.

# Christmas Day



CANDY, CANE, CAROLING, CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER, HOLLY, LIGHTS, MERRY, MISTLETOE,  
NORTH, POLE, PEACE, PRESENTS, REINDEER, SANTA CLAUS, SLEIGH, SNOWMAN, STAR,  
STOCKING, SUGARPLUM, TREE, WREATH.

# JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 17, 2023

**Purpose Statement:** As followers of Jesus Christ, we serve our neighbors locally and globally.

**Present:** Pastor Dietrich, Floss Morgan, Beth Smith, Mike Fetter, Zach Fetter, Brenda Fetter, Joyce Burkholder, Chrystine Anderson, Andy Anderson, Jill Clubb, Scott Barr, Patti Stripling

**Absent:** Rene Amey

**Meeting Led By:** Brenda Fetter

**Devotions Led By:** Pastor Dietrich

**Recognitions:**

1. Dave Carson for leading the Stewardship ministry.
2. Those who helped with Ingathering. Special thanks to Joyce and Brian Burkholder for delivering our gifts to the conference drop off point. Also, special thanks to Lois Mearig for creating the beautiful quilts to be sent to LWR.
3. Brenda Fetter for her leadership of our congregation.
4. Janet Craley and Junior Gabers for arranging for the portico clearance sign.
5. Ken Craley, Andy Anderson and Chrystine Anderson for sending the homecoming invitations.

**Reports:**

**Pastor:** Read and discussed.

**Secretary:** Read and discussed. Motion to accept with corrections was made by Joyce Burkholder; seconded by Zach Fetter; the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Read and discussed. Motion to accept the report subject to audit was made by Floss Morgan; seconded by Patti Stripling; the motion passed.

**Old Business:**

1. Maui Donation: \$875. Was collected from the congregation; a matching donation of \$875. Will be made by JELC.
2. Trunk or Treat 10/31/23- sign- up sheet is now in the narthex.
3. Homecoming: invitations have been mailed. Scott Barr and Floss Morgan are arranging for the food; Rene Amey will do flowers; and Chrystine and Andy Anderson are getting a cake.

**New Business:**

1. Steering Committee: a joint steering committee is being formed between JELC and BULC to draft a protocol for a joint ministry between the two congregations. BULC has three members; JELC is proposing four members for the committee: Dave Carson, J.D. Wissler, Kathy Schreiber, and Jean Slaymaker. The committee hopes to have a draft by the next Council meeting. Jill Clubb made a motion to accept the four JELC members for the steering committee; seconded by Joyce Burkholder; the motion passed.
2. Pastor Dietrich discussed a joint Advent study between JELC and BULC.
3. BULC to host a Christmas Bazaar on 12/2/23.

**Committee Reports: Sunday School:** No Adult forum on 11/5/23(Homecoming)

**Worship and Music:** next meeting 11/12/23

**Cemetery:** no meeting

**Finance:** working on 2024 budget- will have a draft for the next Council meeting.

**Memorial:** work continues to update contribution pages. Brenda Fetter has pricing for new candelabras that she will present to the committee.

**Property:** Clearance signs have been installed at the portico. Pricing was obtained from Haller for new air conditioning units. Sanctuary only: \$75,000. Sanctuary and Social Hall: \$111,000. Other quotes will be obtained.



**Service:** JELC will sponsor 6 families through the LWCC for Christmas.

**Stewardship:** campaign is currently underway with Commitment Sunday on 10/29/23.

**Other:** Pastor Dietrich initiated discussion on the following committees and when they should be convened: Nominating; Audit; Mutual Ministry; Call

**Reminder Dates:** 10/22: Seminary Sunday  
10/29: Reformation Sunday and Commitment Sunday  
10/31: Trunk or Treat  
11/2: All Saint's Sunday and Homecoming  
11/7: Election Day  
11/9: Trip to Seafarers International House  
11/19: Two Rivers Chamber Music

**Announcements/Correspondence:** None

**Next Meeting:** 11/29/23

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Zach Fetter; seconded by Floss Morgan; the motion passed.

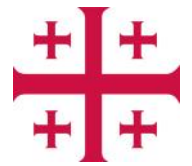
Respectfully Submitted,  
Jill Clubb  
Council Secretary

### **CHURCH OFFICE REQUEST**

Please call the church office at 717-626-8972 or Pastor Dietrich's phone number 717-507-3157 when:

- You are in the hospital or prior to going to the hospital (or have a relative call for you).
- You are confined to your home for an extended period of time because of illness or accident.
- You are going to a rehab center or a nursing home.
- There is a change in your family status (birth, death, marriage, or divorce).
- You move to a new home, move out of the area, or go away to college or graduate school. Important for keeping data base current.

Jerusalem Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
36 Church Street  
Lititz, PA 17543



December, 2023



## Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

36 Church Street, Rothsville (Lititz), Pennsylvania 17543

717.626.8972 | [www.jerusaluth.org](http://www.jerusaluth.org) | [jelc@ptd.net](mailto:jelc@ptd.net)

Pastor's email: [viking.dietrich@gmail.com](mailto:viking.dietrich@gmail.com)

**Office hours: Thursday 10 am to 5 pm and Friday 10 am to 6 pm**

**Rev. Viking Dietrich, *Interim Pastor***

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

**Beth Smith, *Treasurer***

**Zachary Fetter, *Office Administrator***

**Joan C. Dull, *Sexton***

**Congregation, *Ministers***