

# March 2021 Readings

March 7<sup>th</sup>

Third Sunday in Lent

**First Reading**

Exodus 20:1-17

**Psalm**

Psalm 19

**Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

**Gospel**

John 2:13-22

March 14<sup>th</sup>

Fourth Sunday in Lent

**First Reading**

Numbers 21:4-9

**Psalm**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

**Second Reading**

Ephesians 2:1-10

**Gospel**

John 3:14-21

March 21<sup>st</sup>

Fifth Sunday in Lent

**First Reading**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Psalm**

Psalm 51:1-12

**Second Reading**

Hebrews 5:5-10

**Gospel**

John 12:20-33

March 28<sup>th</sup>

Sunday of the Passion/Palm

Sunday

**Processional Gospel**

Mark 11:1-11

**First Reading**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

**Psalm**

Psalm 31:9-16

**Second Reading**

Philippians 2:5-11

**Gospel**

Mark 14:1--15:47

# JERUSALEM JOURNAL

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

## March 2021

## PASTOR'S PONDERABLES

### PRAYER

It doesn't have to be  
the blue iris, it could be  
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few  
small stones; just  
pay attention, then patch  
a few words together and don't try  
to make them elaborate, this isn't a contest, but the doorway  
into thanks, and a silence in which  
another voice may speak. - Mary Oliver, *Thirst*

Of the three Lenten practices - prayer, fasting and almsgiving, this month I want to focus on prayer. If you are struggling with your prayer life today, I offer this story.

### *The Empty Chair.*

A man's daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her father. When the minister arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed. The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me," he said. "No, who are you?" said the father. The minister told him his name and then remarked. "I see the empty chair; I figured you knew I was going to show up." "Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head." I abandoned any attempt at conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest," "Sit down in a chair; place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because he promised, "I'll be with you always." "Then just speak to him in the same way you're doing with me right now." "So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm." The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church. Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her daddy had died that afternoon. "Did he die in peace?" he asked. "Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek.

When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?” The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, “I wish we could all go like that.”

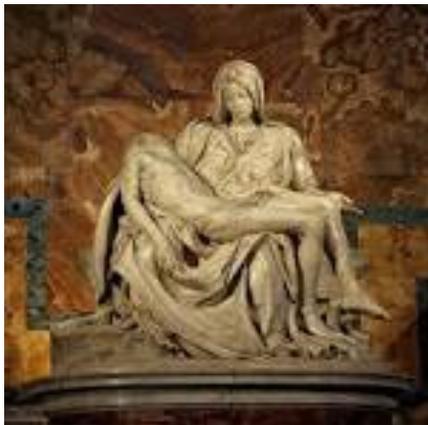
Ruach, breath of God is soldered into a magnificent stained glass window at the church that holds me in its embrace when I worshipped at Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church. The ultimate prayer of thanksgiving when we, “Take and eat, this is my body given for you.” “Take and drink, this is my blood shed for you,” is the capstone of every worship service.

C.S. Lewis, the famous English writer on Christianity said, “Prayer doesn’t change God; prayer changes me” (movie *Shadowlands*). This can happen if we allow ourselves to be open and shaped by God.

There is a story about a child watching Michelangelo carve a large piece of marble. Day after day, week after week, (s)he watched as Michelangelo whittled away at the piece of marble. When he was finished, he had carved a beautiful lion. The little child asked Michelangelo, “How did you know there was a lion in there?” If we see God as the sculptor of our lives, God whittles away at us until God makes us who we were meant to be. This happens most profoundly in prayer.

A huge piece of marble that had a crack in it was rejected by other sculptors. It was that piece of marble that Michelangelo used to sculpt *The Pieta*. We, too, with all our cracks, would be rejected by any other sculptor than God. Developing a life of prayer and meditation is our way of letting our Creator re-create us.

Origen of Alexandria, an early church father expressed it this way, “The whole of our life says, “Our Father.” And as Paul the apostle told the Thessalonians, and us, “Rejoice always. Pray with out ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (*I Thessalonians 5:16—18*).



### The Pieta - “The Pity”

“Pieta” means “piety, “pity” or “compassion”

Jesus’ mother Mary is cradling her dead Son on her lap.

# FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

As we observe Holy Week at the end of this month, one of the finest devotional poems to meditate upon is “My Song Is Love Unknown,” the text of which is printed below and also found on page 343 of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. The hymn’s six stanzas retell the events of the Passion and take the singer on a journey from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. It is, from the very beginning, a love song sung to our Savior who demonstrated pure love, even to the “love-less” so that they might be “lovely.” Samuel Crossman (1624-1683), an English clergyman and hymn writer, authored the text in 1664. He sympathized with the Puritan cause and participated in a movement that attempted to revise the *Book of Common Prayer* so it could serve both Puritans and Anglicans. For this he and some 2,000 like-minded clergy were expelled from the Church of England. Crossman later recanted and was reinstated, eventually becoming Dean of Bristol Cathedral in 1683 - the year in which he later passed away. The lyric tune paired with “My Song Is Love Unknown” in *ELW* was composed by John Ireland (1879-1962), an English composer, organist, and choirmaster. Interestingly enough, Ireland hastily composed his memorable, expressive melody on the back of a menu over lunch one day. (One can only imagine what he was capable of doing over a leisurely, multi-course dinner!)

1 My song is love unknown,

my Savior's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown  
that they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

2 He came from his blest throne  
salvation to bestow;  
the world that was his own  
would not its Savior know.  
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,  
who at my need his life did spend!

3 Sometimes we strew his way  
and his sweet praises sing;  
resounding all the day  
hosannas to our king.  
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath,  
and for his death we thirst and cry.

4 We cry out; we will have

our dear Lord made away,  
a murderer to save,  
the prince of life to slay.  
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes  
that he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was his home  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—  
no story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend!

## COVID CORNER - March 2021

### Everything We Need to Know about Life, We Learned during a Pandemic!

*(the elements in this list were sent to me by Robin Lupowitz and her family. Ms. Lupowitz is the Office Administrator and Treasurer at Trinity Lutheran Church, Robesonia, PA )*

1. Share everything - food, toilet paper, ideas, friendship, love.
2. Playing games can be done virtually. Play fair, and treat ALL others fairly.
3. Don't judge people, you are not on their journey. Always be kind.
4. Learn to listen. - really listen to others. Listen with compassion.
5. Wash your hands before you eat. Wash your hands often. Wash your hands until they are dried and cracked. Then, wash again!
6. Play music. Listen to music. Write music. Music can heal.
7. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Baking is a good way to pass the time when you are quarantined, too. Especially if you share your home with a good taste tester.
8. Live a balanced life - learn some, draw some, paint some and take a walk in nature and work some every day.
9. Read your book every day. And, take a nap every afternoon.
10. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, socially distance.
11. Love your neighbor, wear a mask.
12. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the styrofoam cup? The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that. And there is beauty all around us, especially in nature and the wonder of it. Appreciate it.
13. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the styrofoam cup - they all die. So, do we. Live every day like it was your last.
14. Forgive. Don't stay angry. Relationships are more important than being right.
15. Count your blessings every day. Especially have gratitude for all the important people in your life. Tell them often. You can never tell them too often.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 3:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	3	4	5 	6
7 9:00am Holy Communion  (If we can safely Gather in person)	8 International Women's Day	9	10 Renewers of Society  Harriet Tubman, d. 1913  Sojourner Truth, D. 1883	11 1	12	13  Time to Spring Ahead
14  9:00am Holy Communion  (If we can safely Gather in person)	15	16  7:00pm Congregational Council Meeting	17 Patrick, Bishop missionary to Ireland d. 461 CE  	18	19  Joseph, Guardian of Jesus commemoration	20   1st Day of SPRING
21 9:00am Holy Communion  (If we can safely Gather in person)	22	23	24  Oscar Romero Bishop of El Salvador martyred 1980	25  Annunciation of our lord	26	27
28 9:00am Holy Communion  (If we can safely Gather in person)  Palm Sunday Passover begins	29  Monday of Holy Week	30  Tuesday of Holy Week	31  Wednesday of Holy Week			

# MARCH CELEBRATIONS

## March Birthdays

- |                      |                      |                         |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Joel Mearig      | 12 - Dean DeWitt     | 19 - Steve Carson       |
| 6 - Charles Sweigart | 12 - Kayla DeWitt    | 24 - Andrew Sweigart    |
| 9 - Shelby Hoover    | 14 - Sarah Schreiber | 26 - Kathleen Schreiber |
| 9 - Roger Kurtz      | 15 - Chase Clubb     |                         |



## March Wedding Anniversaries

- Jean & Daryl Slaymaker celebrate 48 years on March 4th  
 Mary & Jere Berkheimer celebrate 12 years on March 16th  
 Dean & Leslie Carson celebrate 36 years on March 24th  
 Harry & Alicia Scheid celebrate 41 years on March 31st



## March Anniversaries of Baptism

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Barb Sammet - March 5, 1961     | Kelly Smith - March 24, 1991  |
| Ray Bowman - March 12, 1967     | Hank Bowman - March 24, 1963  |
| Larrie Miller - March 13, 1958  | James Martin - March 30, 1947 |
| Lori Kemler - March 18, 1973    | Ivan Ravegum - March 30, 1980 |
| Lucille Martin - March 19, 1937 |                               |



*Best wishes to those celebrating in March. If your special day was missed, please contact Shelby in the church office - (717)626-8972*

Dear Jerusalem Lutheran Church,  
 Thank you for all the birthday cards and birthday wishes! They were very appreciated.

Helen Blank

**THANKS**  
 for  
 remembering

## PRAYER CONCERNS

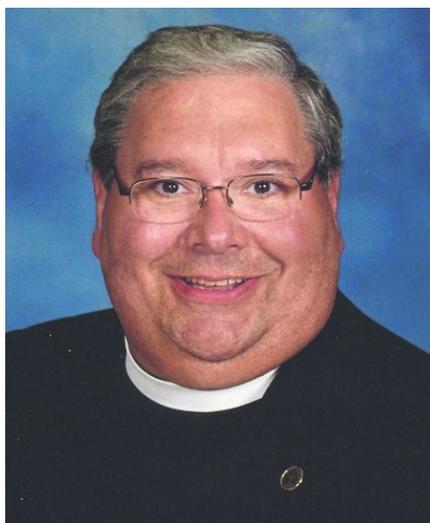
Lynn Beard, Spencer Ehrhart, Brenda Fetter, Jacob Garman, Weston Hertzler, Alma Hollingsworth, Hunter Leisey, Lillian Logeman, James Martin, Ken Martin, Lucille Martin, Mae Maxwell, Doug Michael, Florence Morgan, Norma Rhoads, Lisa Riley, Gerald Styer, Charles Sweigart, Gwen Weiser & Family and the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church of Robesonia, Trista Winqvist, Evelyn Wisler, Wyatt Wolfe and Craig Young. Be with Military Personnel, First Responders, Healthcare Workers and the helpers and the residents at Nursing Homes.

"It is with great sadness that I learned of my internship supervisor, Pastor Bill Weiser passed from this life to eternal life on Thursday, February 18th. He was the consummate pastor, skilled and compassionate mentor, and a genuinely loving and grace-filled human being. Please keep his family and the disciples of Trinity Lutheran Church in Robesonia in your prayers."

Grace and peace,

Pastor

Rev. William H. Weiser The Rev. William H. Weiser, age 60, of Robesonia passed away on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at his residence with his family by his side. He was the loving husband of 36 years to Gwen H. (Hammaker) Weiser. Born in Harrisburg on November 29, 1960 and raised in Hershey, he was the son of the late Ralph and Dorothy (Stover) Weiser. He was a graduate of Hershey High School, Susquehanna University, and a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Pastor Bill's first call was to Christ's United Lutheran Church in Millmont, PA. Since 1995 he faithfully and joyfully served at Trinity Lutheran Church in Robesonia. He dedicated his life to serving God through the Church, the community, and his family. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his loving children, Sarah K. McGrory wife of Colin, Timothy B. Weiser and his girlfriend Rachel Pearson, Matthew K. Weiser and his girlfriend Elif Erman, and Phillip C. Weiser and his girlfriend Emma Price; a brother, Robert R. Weiser husband of Cathy; a sister, K. Estella wife of Rev. Glenn Ludwig; and his beloved grandchildren, Charlotte J. and Declan F. McGrory. Friends and the community are invited to view a live stream Memorial Service for Pastor Bill on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 3:00pm on Trinity Lutheran Church Robesonia's Facebook page. A private interment will take place at Trinity Lutheran Church Columbarium. Cole Funeral Home & Cremation Center, Robesonia is handling arrangements. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to Trinity Lutheran Church or to the Pastor Bill Scholarship Fund, c/o Trinity Lutheran Church, 108 S. Robeson St., Robesonia, PA 19551. Please make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and note in memo which fund you would like your donation to be applied.





**With Friends Like These...**  
The Disciples in the Gospel of Mark  
**For Openers:**

My favorite (musician, actor, actress, artist, etc.) is \_\_\_\_\_ because...

If life were a football game, the position I would most like to play is ...

The best/worst thing a friend has ever done for/to me is...

The format for our study this week will be a bit different than usual. Note that the "For Your Information" section includes most of the

questions to work us through the material. Approach the questions as though you do not know what the other Gospel writers have to

say about the situation. Also, be careful to read the verses exactly as noted in the questions so that we can trace the shift in attitudes

and perceptions within a story.

**For Your Information:**

A1) We first meet the disciples in 1:16-20. Read this passage again.

! What do Simon, Andrew, James, and John know about Jesus when he calls them to follow him?

3: Marked for Life 2/16/21, 3:27 PM

<http://crossmarks.com/MarkStudy/3marked.htm> Page 2 of 5

! What is your opinion of these disciples at this point?

! Check out 10.28-30 and how it applies. Then read 10.31!

A2) Read 4:10-13 and 33-34.

! What privileged position do the disciples have with regard to Jesus' teaching of parables?

A3) Read 6:7-13.

! How does this passage shape your view of the disciples?

B1) Read 4:35-38.

! Are the disciples responding appropriately?

! Is their question to Jesus a legitimate one?

! Now read verses 39-40. What is Jesus' attitude towards the disciples?

! Now read verse 41. Is the disciples' response and question appropriate? How do you feel about the disciples now?

B2) Read 6:45-50. Did the disciples respond appropriately? What is the relationship between Jesus and the disciples?

! Now read verse 51-52. How and why do the disciples respond as they did?

! What is your attitude towards the disciples now?

C1) Read 6:34-36.

! Does the disciples' question reflect a compassionate concern for the people?

! Now read verse 37. What is going on in the relationship between Jesus and his disciples?

! Now read verses 38-44. How do the disciples respond?

C2) Read 8:1-3. Who raises the issue of feeding the crowd this time? Why?

! Now read 8:4. What do you make of the disciples' question?

! Now read verses 5-10. How do the disciples respond?

C3) Read 8:14-21. What is going on here? What is Jesus' relationship with the disciples?

D) Read 8:27-30.

! What is your opinion of Peter and the disciples now?

3: Marked for Life 2/16/21, 3:27 PM

<http://crossmarks.com/MarkStudy/3marked.htm> Page 3 of 5

! Now read verses 31-33. What is your opinion of Peter and the disciples now?

! Now read verses 34-38. How is true discipleship defined?

E) Read 9:14-19.

! How are the disciples portrayed here?

! Who is the "faithless generation" Jesus mentions?

! Now read 9:28-29. How do you understand Jesus' response to the disciples' question? (angry, understanding, information, correction, rebuke, etc.)

F1) Read 9:30-32. How are the disciples characterized here?

! Now read verses 33-34. What were the disciples arguing about?

! What is your attitude about the disciples?

! Now read verses 35-37. What lesson does Jesus want the disciples to learn?

F2) Read 10:13-16. How well did the disciples learn the lesson of 9:35-37? How does Jesus respond? How do you respond to the disciples?

G1) Read 14:26-31.

! Who is right: Jesus or Peter and the disciples? How do you know?

! Is Peter sincere in his intention not to desert Jesus?

G2) Now read 14:66-71. How is Peter portrayed in these verses? What is your opinion of him?

! Now read verse 72. How does the information in this verse affect your view of Peter?

G3) Read 16:6-7. Why is Peter specifically mentioned here?

H) Now we will look at some other possible examples of discipleship in Mark.

H1) Read 1:40-45. Is the leper a model of faith or disobedient to Jesus' command?

H2) In chapter 5 is the story of Jesus' healing of the man with the "Legion" of demons. Read the conclusion in 5:18-20. How is this man a disciple of Jesus?

H3) Read 5:25-34. How is this woman characterized?

H4) Read 7:24-30. How is this woman characterized?

H5) Read 10:46-52. How is Bartimaeus characterized? How does he respond?

H6) Read 14:3-9. How is this woman characterized?

3: Marked for Life 2/16/21, 3:27 PM

<http://crossmarks.com/MarkStudy/3marked.htm> Page 4 of 5

H7) Read 15:42-47. How is Joseph of Arimathea characterized? (By the way, read 6:29. Who might have we expected to bury Jesus?)

I) Read the "Parable of the Sower" in 4:1-9 and 13-20. Who in Mark's gospel are "path" people? (Cf. 3.6) Who are "thorny"? (Cf. 10.17) Who are "good soil"? (Cf. texts in H above) Who are "rocky"? (Cf. 3.16 where Simon is given the name Peter which means "rock"!)

### For Your Consideration:

1. Write down characteristics of the disciples as you have seen them in Mark.
2. Write down characteristics of what you think true discipleship involves.
3. What is your overall impression of the disciples?
  - ! Arrogant because of their relationship with Jesus
  - ! Well-meaning but absolutely clueless
  - ! Weak and misguided
  - ! Good *negative* role models
  - ! Projects still under Jesus' development
  - ! They just don't get it
  - ! Pretty normal human beings
4. What are the consistent or defining characteristics in the group of people who were considered in question H above?
5. In what ways are you a faithful disciple of Jesus? How is your discipleship challenged in your daily life? In what ways do you need to grow?
6. Consider again the texts in questions B1-2. Have there been times in your life when God has seemed to be asleep or distant? What is the best way to respond? What encouragement do you find in these stories?
7. In Mark 6.7-9, why did Jesus send the disciples out in pairs? Why were they to take so little with them? What implications does this have for your own discipleship?
8. If you had been in the Garden of Gethsemane with Jesus (14.32-52), what do you think you would have done?
9. The depiction of the disciples in Mark encourages me to be a better disciple than they were makes me wonder if anyone can be a true disciple suggests that you can really mess up and still be a disciple of Jesus.

### MARCH SPECIAL SERVICE PROJECT

We have received an alert from Lutheran World Relief that they are in dire need of Personal Care Kits. Please collect the following:

**ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

**TWO** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

**ONE** adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging\*

**ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging

**ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

\* Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

Personal Care kits may be dropped off at church on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm and place them on the first floor near the elevator.

If you prefer, you may also call Jilll Clubb at 717-654-0684, who will pick up items you have collected to complete the kits.

## **Lent: Time to go the second mile**

*“If any of your kin fall into difficulty and become dependent on you, you shall support them.” -*

### **Leviticus 25:35a**

Thanks to vaccines, we can expect an end to the pandemic this year, but the economic recovery will linger much longer. Our government reports that half the families in our nation lost income in 2020, with many of them forced into desperate poverty. Billions of dollars in federal assistance and a moratorium on evictions have helped ease the pain, but many are suffering. The pandemic’s economic victims may include you, your family members, and people in your community or congregation. Lent has begun, but it’s not too late to adopt a discipline that may simultaneously help bring you closer to God, increase your faith and help your neighbor. Pray for guidance on how best to respond to the need. Here are some ideas:

- Pray. Set aside time each day to talk and listen to God.
- If you can afford to make a financial contribution, give sacrificially to a ministry that’s helping people get by. A food pantry, soup kitchen, homeless shelter, clothing closet. Can you make a weekly donation through Lent, and beyond?
- If you cannot afford to make a financial contribution, can you volunteer? Are there special talents – writing, online communications, organizing, fundraising, etc. – that you might be able to donate?
- In your congregation, start or expand a helping ministry. Alternatively, lead your church to become a ministry that’s already doing a good job.
- Learn about the needs in your congregation and community, and then educate others.
- Advocate on issues of poverty and economic justice. The pandemic’s bruising effects will take years to heal. As God’s people, we can help by praying, serving and supporting those in need.

*–Rob Blizzard*

*Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for [www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org). He blogs at [www.thestewardshipguy.com](http://www.thestewardshipguy.com).*

# HOME COMMUNION MEMBERS *A call, dropping a card, or a visit...*

## **Willis Beam**

411 A East Main Street  
Leola, PA 17540  
(717) 203-4941  
*Birthday: October 7*

## **Jacob Garman**

United Zion Ret. Community  
722 Furnace Hills Pike,  
Room 130  
Lititz, PA 17543  
*Birthday: April 1*

## **Alma Hollingsworth**

Room 602, Muhlenberg Lodge  
300 St. Mark Drive  
Lititz, PA 17543  
*Birthday: September 21*

## **Lillian Logeman**

Keystone Villa, Room 321  
100 North State Street  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
Landline (717) 738-5821  
Cell (717) 888-0371  
*Birthday: August 31*

## **Jim & Lucille Martin**

536 Brookshire Avenue  
Manheim, Pa 17545  
Landline (717)664-4319  
Cell (717-598-8003  
Jim - Nov. 10th  
Lucille - April 18th

## **Norma Rhoads**

149 Owl Hill Road  
Lititz, PA 17543  
*Birthday: September 24*

## **Evelyn Wissler**

321 Meadow Valley Road  
Lititz, PA 17543  
*Birthday: April 14*



## **Property Committee Update**

Dusk/Dawn light on end of Portico repaired Emergency light battery in social hall replaced

## **Lititz-Warwick Community Chest Food Bank**

*Suggested items to donate to our local food bank. Please find the drop box in the narthex.*

- Canned fruit
- Condensed soups - cream of mushroom, cream of chicken and tomato
- Instant mashed potatoes

**THANK YOU!**





# Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Council Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021

**Present:** Pastor Oplinger, Rene Amey, Chrystine and Odel Anderson, Joyce Burkholder, Brenda Fetter, Larrie Miller, Mel Ravegum, Florence Morgan, Jean Slaymaker, JD Wissler.

**Absent:** Zachary Fetter, Jim Martin.

**Guests:** None.

**Devotions were led by:** Pastor Oplinger – Perceiving the World as Sacred.

**Meeting led by:** Rene Amey, council president

JD Wissler, outgoing council president, started the meeting with the election of council officers. Joyce Burkholder made a motion for Rene Amey: President, Jean Slaymaker: Vice President for the year 2021, Brenda Fetter: Secretary, Larrie Miller: Treasurer, and Mel Ravegum seconded. The motion was approved.

### Recognition:

Pastor Oplinger and JD Wissler for Drive thru Communion on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mel Ravegum for picking up the mail and ringing the bell.

Larrie Miller for all the work involved with the church's finances.

Flyway for the snow removal.

### Reports:

**Pastor's Report:** November 2020 and December 2020 Pastor's reports were distributed to the Council and were approved as written and with the discussion of the following:

1. Upgrading the church WiFi at cost of less than \$1000.00. Discussion took place, Jean Slaymaker made a motion to have extenders for WiFi installed and Florence Morgan seconded and the motion was approved.
2. Continue to host Millport District as a voting site. Discussion took place. Brenda Fetter made a motion to allow Millport District to use our facility as a voting site and Mel Ravegum seconded and the motion was approved.
3. Level of comfort to return to in-person worship. Discussion took place. JD Wissler made a motion to return to in-person worship when COVID numbers are less than 100 cases per day and/or positivity rate is 5% or less. Joyce Burkholder seconded and the motion was approved.
4. Pastor Oplinger questioned the use of our facility by Central Penn Blood Bank as a blood donation site. Pastor Oplinger will contact Central Penn Blood Bank to ask if our facility would qualify for their use.

**Secretary's Report:** JD Wissler made a motion to accept the November 17, 2020 Secretary's report with the amendment of deleting Scott Kopp's name from the Finance Committee. Mel Ravegum seconded and the motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** The December 7, 2020 Treasurer's report was distributed to council members. Jean Slaymaker made a motion to accept the report subject to audit and Brenda Fetter seconded and the motion was

approved.

The January 5, 2021 Treasurer's report was distributed to council members. Brenda Fetter made a motion to accept the report subject to audit and JD Wissler seconded and the motion was approved.

**Old Business:** JD Wissler reported he had no questions or concerns regarding the proposed 2021 budget. So, the 2021 budget as written has been accepted by the congregation.

**New Business:** Joyce Burkholder suggested a Easter, April 4<sup>th</sup> Sunrise Service. Pastor Oplinger will ask the Rothsville church's if they would participate with the service.

**Committee Reports:**

**Sunday School:** None

**Worship and Music:** None

**Cemetery:** None

**Memorial:** None

**Finance:** See Treasurer's Report

**Property:** None

**Service:** Joyce Burkholder reported:

1. Advent calendars were given to our shut-ins.
2. Four families received \$150.00 Christmas gift cards. Money for gift cards came from \$400.00 bake sale money and other donations.

**Stewardship:** No Report

**Council Representatives for Committees:**

**Sunday School:** Zachary Fetter

**Worship and Music:** Jim Martin

**Cemetery:** Florence Morgan

**Memorial:** Jean Slaymaker

**Finance:** Larrie Miller

**Property:** Mel Ravegum

**Service:** Joyce Burkholder

**Stewardship:** Pastor Oplinger

**Reminder Dates:** February 17, 2021 Ash Wednesday Drive Thru – will include Imposition of Ashes.

**Next Meeting:** February 16, 2021

**Announcements/Correspondences:**

Thank you from Luther Care for the gift of \$325.00 towards the use for child care scholarships and COVID care.

Thank you from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America for the gift of \$160.00 for Good Gifts.

Thank you from Seafarer's International for the gift of 62 knitted caps.

**Adjournment:** Brenda Fetter made the motion to adjourn the meeting and JD Wissler seconded. The motion was approved and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Brenda Fetter, Council Secretary**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

January 14, 2021

*Thank You*

Jerusalem Lutheran Church  
36 Church St  
Lititz, PA 17543-3036

Dear Jerusalem Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$160.00 to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) ministries through ELCA Good Gifts.

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring  
("Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," ELW 254).*

This season, we remember a time before Christ's birth, when humanity waited to be delivered from fear and sin. But, we also remember the day the waiting ended. Our Savior arrived, and now we live in a world transformed by God's grace. Through your gifts, you are sharing the everlasting joy of that transformation with your neighbors around the world.

Your Good Gift is a very good gift, indeed. With resources such as seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you're equipping God's people – around the world and around the corner – with what they need to live abundant lives.

Jesus was born to reign in us forever. Now, you are inviting countless others into his gracious kingdom. Thank you.

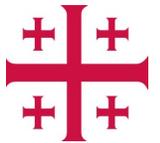
In God's abundant grace,

*Rachel Wind*

Rachel Wind  
Executive for Development

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your official receipt.

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
36 Church Street  
Lititz, PA 17543



## **Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church**

36 Church Street, Rothsville (Lititz), Pennsylvania 17543

**Sunday Morning Worship – 9:00 a.m.**

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

Pastor's email: [jerusaluthpastor@windstream.net](mailto:jerusaluthpastor@windstream.net)

**Office hours:** Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm

**The Reverend Bonnie M. Oplinger, *Pastor***

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

**Shelby Hoover, *Office Administrator***

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

**Congregation, *Ministers***