



PASTOR PONDERABLES - January 2024

Dear members of Brickerville United and Jerusalem Lutheran Churches,

Each year in January the Church at large celebrates the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18 to January 25. This week is bookended by the Confession of Peter on January 18 and the Conversion of Paul on January 25. Of course, Peter and Paul are easily recognized as founders of the early church. Peter, one of the disciples, was the first to confess, "You are the Messiah" (Mark 8). Paul, formerly known as Saul, converted to faith on the Road to Damascus (Acts 9).

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is a response to Christ's prayer "that they all may be one" (John 17:21). It is fundamental to our understanding that the Church on earth belongs to God and not to any one group, and that it is the Holy Spirit that makes the Church possible. This Week of Christian Unity is an eight-day period of prayer in which all Christians are invited to participate.

Each year, the World Council of Churches chooses a different theme. For 2024, the theme chosen is "You shall love the Lord your God ...and your neighbor as yourself..." (Luke 10). The study and devotion material for this year was prepared by the The Chemin Neuf Community in Burkina Faso. (Chemin Neuf is French for The New Path). Their reflections explore how we find our common identity, as diverse as we might be, in the experience of God's love. In the context of Burkina Faso where rebels and Islamists have caused much suffering, these reflections are particularly poignant in their call to place love at the centre of the quest for peace and reconciliation.

The week of Christian Unity often goes by without much notice. People have spent so much energy organizing for Christmas, there just isn't enough time in early January to get ready for this week. But I want to point to it because this year, 2024 will be the year, when Jerusalem Lutheran and Brickerville United Lutheran will call a pastor together in a shared ministry. Yours will be a living example of Christian Unity. You are embarking on a "Chemin Neuf", a new path.

Though our context is much different from the one in Burkina Faso, it is still true that the quest for a healthy relationship and unity in any context requires love to be placed at the center. The commandment to love one's neighbor is the essence of Christ's teaching! How will this commandment help lay the foundation for the new relationship you are building?

Peter and Paul had different stories and paths. We all have unique stories to tell about how we grew in faith. It will be wonderful to see how members of both churches share these stories with one another, grow to understand one another, and live into a shared ministry that keeps God's commandment to love our neighbor at the center.

Best wishes to all of you in the New Year,
Pastor Dietrich.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Roger L. Kurtz

Approximately 80 people attended the concert presented by Two Rivers Chamber Music String Quartet here at Jerusalem Church on November 19, 2023. Those who did were treated to an extremely enjoyable and varied program that included everything from works by Bach and Mozart to arrangements of tunes made popular by Simon & Garfunkel and The Beach Boys. Many thanks to those who are patrons for this season's series (Ken and Janet Craley, Claude Grube, James and Connie Grube, Lois Mearig, Peggy Rowe, and Jean Slaymaker) and to those who helped with usher responsibilities that day (Ken and Janet Craley, Brenda Fetter, Zachary Fetter, Cheri Kurtz, Floss Morgan, Mel Ravegum, and John David Wissler). The two musical events presented each year continue to be well attended and provide a wonderful opportunity for us to reach out and make concerts of quality music available to the community free of admission charge. In return, the community's appreciation has been more than evident in the exceptionally generous free-will offerings received for the three concerts scheduled following the pandemic.

During the month of January, the following Hymns of the Day and anthems have been chosen to celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord (1/7) and proclaim the themes of discipleship and healing found in the assigned readings for the Time after Epiphany: "When Jesus Came to Jordan" (*ELW* #305) and "The Baptism of Our Lord" by Charles Callahan (1/7); "O Jesus, I Have Promised" (*ELW* #810) and "Lord, Here Am I" by John Ness Beck (1/14); "The Son of God, Our Christ" (*ELW* #584) and "Jesus Calls Us" by K. Lee Scott (1/21); and "O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come" (*ELW* #610) and "Word of God, Come Down on Earth" by John A. Behnke (1/28). Organ voluntaries include "Chorale Partita on 'Salzburg'" by Johann Pachelbel and "Fughetta on the Hymn of the Epiphany" by Alexandre Guilmant (1/7); "Pastorale" by Charles Wesley and "Petit Plein Jeu" & "Plein Jeu: Et in Terra pax" by François Couperin (1/14); "Air" by Gerre Hancock and "Prelude and Fugue in G Minor" ("Little") by Johann Sebastian Bach (1/21); and "Adagio" from "Chorale in A Minor" by César Franck and "Fanfare" by Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (1/28).

As we begin 2024, the following hymn stanza written by Miriam Drury (1900-1985) is a fitting prayer as we entertain both the hopes and anxieties a brand-new year presents, not only in our personal lives, but also as a faith community and nation:

*Now a new year has dawned and its days are unknown;
Christ is our guide, we shall not be alone;
May the Spirit of truth in our living appear;
Father, be with us throughout this new year.*

January Worship Leaders

	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister/Lector	Ushers	Acolyte	Zoom Monitor
Jan. 7	Emma Miller	Zachary Fetter	Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		
Jan. 14	Brenda Fetter	J.D. Wissler	Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		
Jan. 21	Jean Slaymaker	Brenda Fetter	Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		
Jan. 28		Dave Carson	Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		

HOME COMMUNION MEMBERS

Barry Becker

Maple Farms
Nursing Center
(Rm 41)
604 Oak Street
Akron, PA 17501
Birthdays: August 14

Spencer Ehrhart

309 North Elm Street
Lititz, PA 17543
717-626-3985
Birthdays: September 25

Lillian Logeman

Ephrata Manor
99 Bethany Rd.
Room #121.
Ephrata, PA 17522
223-264-8805
Birthdays: August 31

Norma Rhoads

2646 Camp Road
Manheim, PA 17545
717-626-8117
Birthdays: September 24

Doris Witwer

Viva Senior Living
150 Kempton Ave.,
Room 252
Harrisburg, PA 17111
717-901-6026
Birthdays: February 20

Lititz-Warwick Community Chest Food Bank

January Suggestions:

- * Condensed soup– cream of mushroom, cream of chicken, tomato
- * rice - plain white or brown
- * flavored baked beans



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

All Committee Reports for Annual Report due by Friday, January 12, 2024.

Property Committee Update

1. 3rd Air Conditioning estimate pending
2. Fire extinguisher inspection completed
3. Sound System inspected and microphones adjusted/repositioned

Dear Jerusalem Members,

Thanks so much for the very generous Christmas bonus. Your kind thoughtfulness and support of our music ministry are greatly appreciated! Best wishes to all of you for a happy and healthy 2024.

Roger

January, 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	5	6 Men's Bible Study at BULC 9:00 am
7 Baptism of our Lord 10:30 am Holy Communion Worship and Music committee meeting after church	8	9	10 Finance Meeting	11 Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	12 Deadline for Committee Reports for the Annual Report	13
14 Second Sunday after Epiphany Adult Forum 9:00 am 10:30 am Holy Communion	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day February Newsletter Deadline	16 7 pm Council Meeting	17	18 Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	19	20
21 Third Sunday after Epiphany Adult Forum 9:00 am 10:30 am Holy Communion	22	23	24	25 Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	26	27
28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Adult Forum 9:00 am 10:30 am Holy Communion	29	30	31			



PRAYER CONCERNS

Let us pray for: Christine and Andy Anderson, Barry Becker, Nate and Crystal, Spencer Ehrhart, Weston Hertzler, Hunter Leisey, Sharon Levering, Lillian Logeman, Joy McCurdy, Byron Miller, 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.

Please call the church office or Janice Styer if you would like a name added or removed from our prayer list.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 - Janice Styer
- 7 - Timothy Sweigart, Jr.
- 7 - Harry Scheid
- 14 - Eryn Murphy
- 14 - John David Wissler
- 22 - Allison Clubb
- 27 - Lisa Sweigart



JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Kenneth & Janet Craley
*January 6, 1967



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES OF BAPTISM

Cheri Kurtz 1/3/54
Janet Craley 1/12/58
Brenda Fetter 1/30/49



Dear Jerusalem Members,

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift you gave to me! Your kindness and support are truly appreciated! Hard to believe it is my first year as being your Office Administrator. God bless all of you in 2024!

Peace,
Zachary Fetter

Adult Forum Schedule

We will be discussing the Gospel Readings.
Everyone is welcome to join at 9 am.

- Jan 7 - No Adult Forum
- Jan. 14 - Gospel of Mark 1:4-11
- Jan. 21 - Gospel of John 1:43-51
- Jan. 28 - Gospel of Mark 1:14-20
- Feb. 4 - Gospel of Mark 1:21-28

January 2024 Readings



Jan. 7
**Baptism of our Lord
Year B**
First Reading
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm
Psalm 29
Second Reading
Acts 19:1-7
Gospel
Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 14
**Second Sunday
after Epiphany
Year B**
First Reading
1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Second Reading
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel
John 1:43-51

Jan. 21
**Third Sunday
after Epiphany
Year B**
First Reading
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm
Psalm 62:5-12
Second Reading
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel
Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 28
**Fourth Sunday
after Epiphany
Year B**
First Reading
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm
Psalm 111
Second Reading
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Gospel
Mark 1:21-28

Message from Council President

Notes from December 19 Council Meeting

1. It was voted to decrease our council members to eight.
2. It was decided to give a donation of \$1000 to Lutheran Disaster Relief and gift designated to be given for hunger in the Gaza region.
3. Council Officers for 2024 are as follows:
 - Brenda Fetter, President
 - Patti Stripling, Vice President
 - Jill Clubb, Secretary
 - Beth Smith, Treasurer
4. Thank you for the time and service to our out going council members who are Andy Anderson, Chrystine Anderson, and Zach Fetter.
5. Installation of Church Council Members on Sunday, January 14.

In Christ's name,
Brenda Fetter, Council President

Brickerville United Lutheran is inviting the women of Jerusalem to participate in a monthly study of women of the Bible using the book,

"Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream. Purchase of the book is optional. Becoming familiar with each months women will be helpful for your participation in discussion. The study will be held in the fellowship hall at Brickerville United Lutheran Church located at 340 Hershey Rd. Lititz at 10 AM on 3rd Monday of the month except July and August, no study. We hope to see you! Don't travel if weather/roads are nasty.

Have questions? Call Jackie 717 821-2616

Jan 15	Deborah & Jael
Feb 19	Esther & Rahab
March 18	Rachel & Leah
April 15	Mary Jesus' mother & Mary Magdalene
May 20	Hannah & Miriam
June 17	Sarah & Hagar
Sept 16	Tamar & Ruth
Oct 21	Mary & Martha
Nov 18	Jesus & The Women

Save the date: Jerusalem congregation is invited to "Spud Night" Friday March 15, 2024 @ 5:30pm

Dear Pastor Viking,

We are so grateful for the love Jerusalem shares with our neighbors in need around the world. May this Advent season bring you peace and joy.

In gratitude,
Emma Wagner



Merry Christmas
FROM
ELITE COACH
May your holidays be filled with joy!

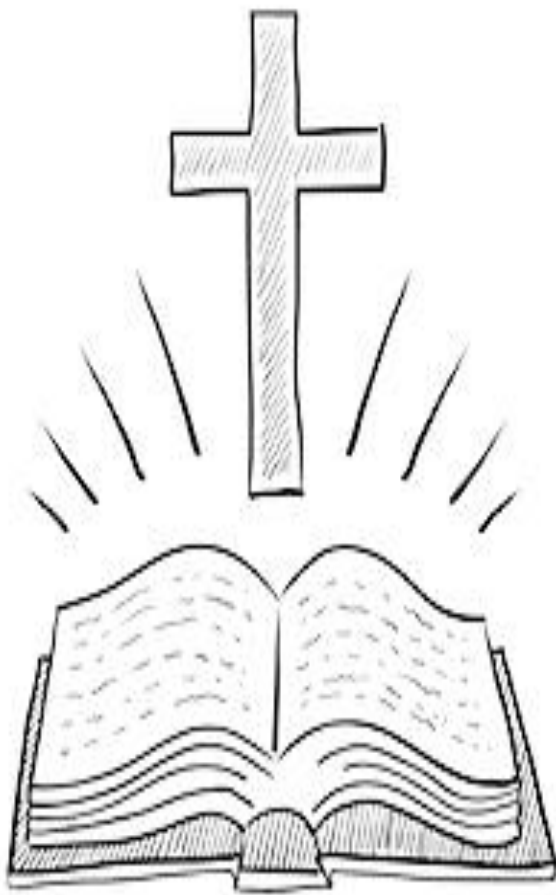


We appreciate you traveling with us
and thank you for your business.

YOUR ELITE COACH FAMILY

Epiphany

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid.
Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



BABY, BALTHAZAR, BAPTISM, BETHLEHEM, CASPAR, CHRISTIAN, EPIPHANY, FEAST, FIRST MIRACLE,
FRANKINCENSE, GOLD, HEROD, HOLIDAY, HOPE, JANUARY, JESUS, MAGI, MELCHIOR, MYRRH,
REVELATION, SIXTH, STAR, SUNDAY, THREE KINGS, TWELFTH DAY, WISE MEN

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: November 14, 2023

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

Present: Pastor Dietrich, Andy Anderson, Chrystine Anderson, Joyce Burkholder, Beth Smith, Patti Stripling, Brenda Fetter, Mike Fetter, Zach Fetter, Rene Amey

Absent: Jill Clubb, Scott Barr, Floss Morgan

Guests: Larrie Miller, Charles Sweigart

Devotions were led by: Pastor Dietrich

Meeting led by: Brenda Fetter, Council President

Recognitions:

Brenda Fetter for the Seafarers Trip and all who went on the trip.

All who helped with Trunk or Treat Night.

All who helped with All Saints Sunday / Homecoming and Rene Amey for flowers.

Scott Barr and all who helped with Election Day.

Homebound Ministry people.

Dave Carson for the Stewardship program.

Zach Fetter for putting stewardship information in newsletter/bulletins

and for emailing the Seafarers Trip information to Lutheran Churches in North Lancaster Conference.

Reports:

Pastor's Report: Read and Discussed

Staff Reviews – by Mutual Ministry Committee.

Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting in December.

Draft of Articles of Agreement to be approved at December council meeting.

Received Bishop Dunlop's letter about doing External financial audit in the future.

Naming of call committee at December council meeting.

Secretary's Report: The written Secretary's Report from October 17, 2023 was distributed to council members. Rene Amey made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as written. Zach Fetter seconded, and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: The November 6, 2023 Treasurer's Report was distributed to Council Members. Patti Stripling made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, subject to audit, and Joyce Burkholder seconded. The motion was approved.

1. The 2024 Budget was proposed and discussed.

2. The church staff to receive a 2% increase to their salaries. Treasurer Beth Smith declined on receiving an increase.

Rene Amey made a motion to accept the 2024 Budget and Patti Stripling seconded. The motion was approved.

Old Business:

AC Discussion

Advent meals

New Business:

With the recent Seafarers International House trip to New York City the following gifts were given to SIH: 10 men’s t-shirts, 83 knitted caps and some sweatshirts. These items were donated by congregations represented on the trip. It was recommended to give a money gift of \$250 to SIH and \$250 to the Salvation Army. Discussion took place. Rene Amey made a motion to give \$250 to Seafarers International House, and \$250 to the Salvation Army. Christine Anderson seconded, and the motion was approved.

Poinsettias Christmas Eve.

Committee Reports:

Sunday School: Nothing to report.

Worship and Music: Advent Services at BULC - Soup JELC 2nd & 4th Thursdays.
Christmas Eve Service at 7pm, and social after service.

Cemetery: Nothing.

Memorial: Red book found, and candelabras refurbished.

Finance: See Treasurer’s report.

Property: Air Conditioning quote – Ressler & Mateer.

Service: 83 Delivered Hats to Seafarers.

Christmas decorating in sanctuary at 9:00 am on Sunday, Dec. 10

Stewardship: Nothing.

Reminder Dates:

11/19/23 – Two Rivers Chamber Music String Quartet Concert 3:00pm

11/30/23 – Advent Devotions at BULC begin

12/2/23 – Christmas Bazaar at BULC

12/3/23 – Congregational Meeting after worship service

Next Meeting: December 19, 2023

Announcements/Correspondences: None

Adjournment: Rene Amey made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Andy Anderson seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

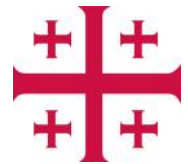
Respectfully submitted,
Mike Fetter, Vice President

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



January, 2024



Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

36 Church Street, Lititz (Rothsville), Pennsylvania 17543

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

Pastor's email: viking.dietrich@gmail.com

Office hours: Tuesday 10 am to 5 pm and Thursday 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*