



VICAR'S PONDERABLES – DECEMBER, 2024

A Note from the Vicar

*O come, Thou wisdom from on high and order all things, far and nigh.
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.*

There is a lot to ponder as we enter the holiday season. Gatherings with families and friends, the transition of elected leaders, safety and security of the vulnerable, care for victims of violence, war, and natural disasters, our wellbeing, the future of our congregations, and the work God is calling us to in the days ahead. The season of Advent is meant to slow us down, giving us time to clean out, to make room for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We celebrate His birth while anticipating His second coming. The next four weeks are for us to acknowledge the things hindering our relationship with God, our relationships with one another, to remove our biases, opinions, judgement, and control, allowing the Holy Spirit to fill these spaces with the love, joy, hope, and peace that only Jesus provides.

In the days of Advent make room for Jesus. Pray for wisdom. Pray for knowledge. Pray for love. Pray for joy. Pray for peace. Thanking God for the gift of His son, who was, who is, and who is yet to come.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel.

*J.M. Neale (1851)

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you this Advent season.

Vicar Philip



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Roger L. Kurtz

The setting of the service music we will be using throughout the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons is taken from the *Deutsche Messe (German Mass)*, a work composed by Franz Schubert (1797-1828) in 1826-27. An Austrian composer, Schubert died at age 31, but was extremely prolific during his lifetime. His output consists of over 600 secular vocal works, 7 complete symphonies, sacred music, operas, and a large body of chamber and piano music. Interest in his work increased significantly in the decades following his death. Felix Mendelssohn, Robert Schumann, Franz Liszt, Johannes Brahms, and other 19th-century composers discovered and championed his compositions. Today Schubert is ranked among the greatest composers of the late Classical and early Romantic eras and is one of the most frequently performed composers of the early 19th century.

Schubert's *Deutsche Messe (German Mass)* was commissioned by Johann Philipp Neumann (1774-1849), an Austrian physicist, librarian, and poet who was interested in seeing more simple church music written in the language of the people. To this end, he wrote the text of eight hymns and a translation of the Lord's Prayer, in addition to commissioning his friend Franz Schubert to write the *Deutsche Messe*. Censorship prevented the mass from being approved for liturgical use at the time, however, the work has since gained popularity and has been translated into other languages. The English version we will be using was done by Richard Proulx (1937-2010), an American composer and editor of church music who served from 1980 to 1994 as Organist and Music Director at the historic Cathedral of the Holy Name in Chicago.

As we once again focus our hearts and minds on Christ's coming during the four-week Advent season, our Jerusalem Choir will offer the following anthems to complement the assigned readings: *Come Jesus, Holy Son of God* by George Frideric Handel (12/1), *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* by Timothy Shaw (12/8), *Rejoice in the Lord Always* by Christopher Wiggins (12/15), and an arrangement of *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* by Stephen Cleobury (12/22).

As we look forward to celebrating Christ's birth on Christmas Eve, please note that a 20-minute prelude of Christmas choral and organ music will precede our 7:00 p.m. service. Anthems sung by our choir as part of the prelude and liturgy will include *On Christmas Night* – an arrangement of the *Sussex Carol* – by Henry Gerike, *Chill of the Nightfall* by Hal H. Hopson, and *Amid the Cold of Winter* by Bret Rhoades. Nine beloved carols will be sung by the congregation, many of which will be accompanied by Jeff Schreiber on timpani (and cymbals!).

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday, December 29th (The First Sunday of Christmas) at 10:30 a.m. If your favorite carol was not sung on Christmas Eve, chances are it will be this day! Modeled after the annual service from King's College, Cambridge, England, the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus are told in nine short readings from the Old Testament and Gospels, interspersed with the singing of carols and hymns by the congregation that reflect on each lesson.

Wishing you and yours a joyous Christmas season and a happy, healthy 2025!
Roger Kurtz

December Worship Leaders

	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister/Lector	Ushers	Acolyte	Zoom Monitor
Dec. 1	Emma Miller	Jill Clubb	Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		
Dec. 8	Emma Miller	Zachary Fetter	Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		
Dec. 15	Brenda Fetter	J.D. Wissler	Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		
Dec. 22	Jean Slaymaker	Brenda Fetter	Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		
Christmas Eve Service		Dave Carson	Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		
Dec. 29	Not Needed	J.D. Wissler	Andy Anderson, Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.		

HOME COMMUNION MEMBERS

Norma Rhoads

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

Doris Witwer

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

VICAR PHILIP ON VACATION

Vicar Philip Supeck will be away from Dec. 12th to Dec. 16th. The Reverend Dana Blouch-Hanson, Assistant to the Bishop and ordained in Word and Sacrament, will be serving as supply pastor on Sunday, December 15, 2024. If there are any emergencies during this time, please contact the church office: 717-626-8972, Zachary Fetter's cell phone: 717-572-5799, or Brenda Fetter's cell phone 717-283-9947.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

1. AC maintenance has been completed
2. Bushes on parking lot side of the church have been removed
3. Bids being sought for Bradford pear tree trimming and shaping
4. Selection of new garbage/trash vendor pending

ADVENT WORSHIP SOUP, BREAD, & DESSERT

JELC: December 5th at 6pm, December 19th at 6pm
BULC: December 12th at 11:30am.
Please see signup sheet on bulletin board in the narthex for food items you can provide for these events. Also, please sign up if you are planning to attend.

DECORATING THE CHURCH

Christmas decorating in the sanctuary will take place at 9:00 am on Sunday, December 1st.

DECEMBER FOOD BANK SUGGESTIONS:

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



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

SHARED MINISTRY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, December 2 at 6pm
at JELC.

December, 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 First Sunday of Advent Decorating the church 9:00 am 10:30 am Holy Communion Congregational Meeting following worship	2 Shared Ministry Committee Meeting 6pm JELC	3	4	5 Advent Devotions 6pm Jerusalem	6	7 Men's Bible Study at St Paul's Lutheran Lititz 9am Christmas Bazaar at-BULC 8am to 12pm
8 Second Sunday of Advent Adult Forum 9:00 am 10:30 am Holy Communion Fellowship Luncheon with BULC at the White Swan 12:30pm	9	10	11	12 Advent Devotions 11:30am Brickerville Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	13	14
15 Third Sunday of Advent Adult Forum 9:00 am 10:30 am Holy Communion Christmas Caroling 1:30pm	16 January Newsletter Deadline	17	18	19 Advent Devotions 6pm Jerusalem Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	20	21 First Day of Winter 
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent Adult Forum 9:00 am 10:30 am Holy Communion	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7pm	25 Christmas Day 	26 1st Day of Hanukkah Kwanzaa	27	28
29 First Sunday of Christmas Lessons & Carols 10:30 am No Communion	30	31 New Year's Eve 				



PRAYER CONCERNS

Let us pray for: Chrystine and Andy Anderson, Leslie Carson, Cheyenne Colon, Jean Ehrhart, Jane Harvey, Bonnie Hench, Weston Hertzler, Hunter Leisey, Andrea Reynolds, Norma Rhoads, Toby Sweigart, and Doris Witwer. Be with military personnel, first responders, healthcare workers, the people of Ukraine, the people of Turkey, the people of Syria, the people of Israel & Palestine and those affected by recent hurricanes.

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

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 1
**First Sunday of Advent
Year C**
First Reading
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm
Psalm 25:1-10
Second Reading
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Gospel
Luke 21:25-36

DECEMBER 2024 READINGS



December 15
**Third Sunday of Advent
Year C**
First Reading
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Second Reading
Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel
Luke 3:7-18

ASSISTING THE NEWPORT COMMONS COMMUNITY

We will collect funds via the Thanksgiving Envelopes for those affected by the Newport Commons Fire. The last day to give will be Sunday, December 8, 2024.

December 8
**Second Sunday of Advent
Year C**
First Reading
Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Second Reading
Philippians 1:3-11
Gospel
Luke 3:1-6

Dec. 24
**Christmas Eve
Year C**
First Reading
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm
Psalm 96
Second Reading
Titus 2:11-14
Gospel
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

December 22
**Third Sunday of Advent
Year C**
First Reading
Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Second Reading
Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

POINSETTIAS

Poinsettia order forms available for Christmas Eve. Cost is \$7.50 each for Red and White. Please see ushers for order forms. Money and orders due by Sunday, December 8.

ADVENT TREE TO BENEFIT ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Do you want a unique gift for that special someone on your gift list? Look no further than our Advent Tree! The Advent Tree will be set up in the narthex. Simply choose the ornament that represents the gift you would like to give, make a check out to Jerusalem Lutheran, and put the name of the gift in the memo section so it can be credited properly when sent to the ELCA. Catalogs are provided if you would like more information. Thank you for your support of this important ministry!

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON WITH BULC

Fellowship Luncheon at the White Swan on Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 12:30 PM. This will be a self-funded meal. There is a sign-up sheet located in the narthex for those who would like to attend. Signups are due by Sunday December 1, 2024.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN.

The ushers, Claude, and Charles will be collecting money on December 1st, December 8th, and December 15th for the staff Christmas Gifts.

LITITZ WARWICK COMMUNITY CHEST CHRISTMAS BASKETS

The LWCC reports a record number of food deliveries over this past year due to strained family budgets resulting from high food and housing costs. We are looking forward to again supporting this important community resource by sponsoring six families for the Christmas basket program. Grocery store gift cards will be purchased so that these families may purchase food for their holiday meal. Collections will take place on November 24th and December 1st. Thank you for your support of this important ministry!

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER AND PRAYER TEAM

We are updating our prayer list and the process for how our congregation connects with those needing prayer. If you have any additions or deletions to the prayer list, please call or text Vicar Philip at 717.725.3429 or contact him via email at jlcpastr@ptd.net. If you are able, please be prepared to share the reason for the request and the contact information of the person for whom the request is being made. This will be helpful as reach out and offer our support to those requesting our prayers. Privacy will be maintained as directed when communicating prayer information with members of the congregation. Please see Vicar Philip if you are interested in serving as a member of our prayer team, praying, communicating, and connecting with those who have asked for our prayers.

BRICKERVILLE EVENTS

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

WHEN: Saturday, December 7, 8:00am-noon

WHERE: BULC Narthex and Fellowship Hall

Featuring crafts, homemade treats and soups, jewelry, décor and much more! Volunteers needed for baked goods, stands, set-up and take down. **For now:** we have started collecting jewelry and could certainly use some more! Place your donations in the "Jewelry Box" located outside the office. Also, vintage and slightly used Christmas décor is a big draw at the bazaar. All donations welcome, including unused Christmas boxes, cards, wrapping paper, candles, ornaments, etc.

Adult Forum Schedule December

We are using the Augsburg Fortress Adult Bible Studies.

Everyone is welcome to join at 9 am.

Dec. 1 - No Adult Forum

Dec. 8 - The Way of the Righteous

Dec. 15 - Hope in God

Dec. 22 - The Lord, Our Keeper

Dec. 29 - God of Justice

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Christmas Caroling is planned for December 15 following worship. We will have a pizza lunch with caroling to follow. Caroling will start at 1:30pm.



CHRISTMAS EVE SOCIAL

There will be a Christmas Eve Social following the Christmas Eve Service on December 24th. Please bring a plate of your favorite cookies to share with our guests and members. Coffee and punch will be provided.

FEBRUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

At our February Congregational Meeting we will be electing a new nominating committee. The current members are Joyce Burkholder, Brenda Fetter, Zachary Fetter and Larrie Miller and they are ineligible for 2025. Rene Amey and Mike Fetter have agreed to serve on this committee leaving the need for two more volunteers. Please prayerfully consider serving in this capacity.

NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Office Administrator will have new office hours starting the third week of December. Zachary Fetter will be in the office Tuesdays 10am to 5pm and Thursdays 10am to 6pm.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE:

Check your contact information: telephone number, address and email address in current Annual Report. If changes needed, please inform our office administrator.

COMMITTEE REPORTS ANNUAL REPORT 2024

All committees please have your reports to the Office Administrator by Friday, January 10, 2025.

CHURCH OFFICE REQUEST

Please call the church office at 717-626-8972 or Vicar Philip Supeck's phone number 717-725-3429 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.

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.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

October 17, 2024

Thank You

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

Dear Jerusalem Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$100.00 to ELCA World Hunger.

"[Jesus said,] 'Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' [The lawyer] said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'"
(Luke 10:36-37)

As a church, we are freed by the transformative life of Christ, and this freedom emboldens us to love and serve our neighbors just as Christ has shown us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power of God's love.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It provides access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock and education, and it advances peace and justice. Through your gifts you join the whole church in working toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,

Daniel Rift

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, Giving, Service and Justice
ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response

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

**JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2024**

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

Present: Vicar Philip Supeck, Brenda Fetter, Scott Barr, Floss Morgan, Joyce Burkholder, Jill Clubb

Absent: Rene Amey, Patti Stripling, Mike Fetter, Beth Smith

Guest: Larrie Miller

Devotions: Led by Vicar Philip; Jill Clubb will lead devotions in November

Recognitions:

Thank you to all who helped with Rothsville Community Day and to Ken Craley and Brad Clubb for their work throughout the year in leading and organizing this event; thank you to all who helped with Vicar Philip’s meet and greet, to Joyce Burkholder and Floss Morgan for organizing the luncheon and to Rene Amey for the decorations; Vicar Philip expressed his thanks for the luncheon; thank you to Joyce and Brian Burkholder for delivering LWR kits and quilts to the conference drop off point.

Reports:

Secretary: minutes from the September 17, 2024 Council Meeting were distributed and discussed. Joyce Burkholder made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Vicar Philip seconded the motion; the motion was accepted.

Treasurer: the Treasurer’s Report was distributed and discussed. Larrie Miller stated that contributions to the Warwick Hub, Water Street Mission and the Support for Prison Ministries were made. The cost of the contract for our copier increased from approximately \$500 to \$1011.54- Larrie Miller will contact the company to review other contract options. Synod giving reports will no longer be mailed to our church, they can be accessed online on the Synod website. The 2025 budget will be ready for the next council meeting and will be discussed at that time. Vicar Philip made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report subject to audit; Floss motion seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Vicar’s Report: the Vicar’s Report was distributed and reviewed. Vicar Philip noted that Luther Acres is hosting a thank-you reception for donors on November 7th. Marketing for Advent was discussed. Vicar Philip also distributed a letter from Bishop Dunlap addressing the recent increase in violence in our country and in our world. Bishop Dunlap reminds us that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves; he urges us to speak the truth; and asks us to pray for peace and to reflect our love of Jesus in all of our actions. A Prayer of Lament was prayed collectively.

Committee Reports:

Sunday School: Adult Forum continues, Sundays 9:00 am

Worship and Music: the Lay Chair for W&M will be Cherie Kurtz; planning for the the Advent Candle Lighting is in process; the setting for Advent will be the Schubert settings; Advent Soup and Study will be at JELC on December 5th and 19th at 6:00pm and at BULC on December 12th at 11:30am

Cemetery: Ray Bowman has not yet spoken to the neighbor regarding the wood pallets, he will follow up

Finance: 2025 Budget items should be submitted to the Finance Committee ASAP

Memorial: no report

Property: light bulbs were changed in the Vicar’s office and the library; the holly bushes will be trimmed and the rest of the bushes/stumps will be removed, stone to be installed to cover the area

Service: no report

Stewardship: no report

Mutual Ministry: no report

Home Communion Extenders: no visits this month

Shared Ministry: next meeting is November 4th at JELC at 6:00pm. Vicar Philip stated that this committee chair should be at council meetings to give report.

Old Business:

1. Trash Removal Update: a member of the congregation was concerned that jobs were being taken away from Good's Disposal employees as a result of the decision to cancel the Good's contract, the concerned member contacted Good's and was able to negotiate the "residential rate" of \$128 per quarter rather than the commercial rate of \$200 per quarter for JELC. That member also paid the October, November and December disposal fees. There will be further discussion on this for the upcoming year.
2. Constitution Update: a follow-up call was made to Synod on 10/7/24, but the changes have not yet been reviewed.
3. Lititz Chooses Love Update: JELC will not be pursuing a partnership with Lititz Chooses Love for a food bank.
4. Update on Council Seats: the Nominating Committee continues to seek members who are willing to serve on council.
5. Fall Foliage at Camp Kirkenwald is on Sunday 10/27/24, 1:00-6:00, meal at 5:00.

New Business:

1. 2024 Homecoming: discussion took place regarding cancelling the Homecoming luncheon due to decreased attendance in recent years. Vicar Philip made a motion to cancel the Homecoming luncheon; Brenda Fetter seconded the motion; the motion passed.
2. Synod Assembly Representatives: there are four people interested in attending the 2025 Synod Assembly. Voting for our representatives will take place at the Annual Meeting.
3. Hurricane Assistance: options for assisting those affected by hurricanes Helene and Milton were discussed. Red envelopes will be used to place donations for hurricane relief; collection take place through November 24th. Also, Thrivent is partnering with the Orphan Grain Train for hurricane relief. We will be collecting items to assemble cleaning buckets which will be delivered to North Carolina by the Orphan Grain Train. Details will follow in bulletins.

Reminder Dates:

October 22nd - Social Teachings at JELC 7:00pm; October 27th - Reformation Sunday; October 27th Foliage at Kirkenwald; October 29th Social Teachings at JELC 7:00pm; October 31st Trunk or Treat; November 4th - Shared Ministry meeting 6:00 at JELC; November 5th - Election Day.

Announcements/Correspondence:

Thank you notes were received from Water Street Mission, Support for Prison Ministries and the Lutheran Camping Corporation for recent donations.

Swamp Lutheran Church will be having an AYCE breakfast on November 16th. Proceeds will go to Lutheran Disaster Response led by Pastor Glen Beard.

Lutheran Disaster Response: Pastor Glen Beard will be hosting the first planning meeting for next mission trip on Sunday November 10th at 2:00pm in the Luthercare Community Room at Luther Acres

Next Meeting: November 12, 2024

Adjournment: Floss Morgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Joyce Burkholder seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted
Jill Clubb, Council Secretary

Jerusalem Evangelical
Lutheran Church
36 Church Street
Lititz, PA 17543



December, 2024



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's Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8am to 4:30pm

Office hours: Thursday 10am to 5pm and Friday 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