



Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church
311 Second Street
Schwenksville, PA 19473



The Good News

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

S O W: The Gospel of Jesus the Christ to all generations

G R O W: His followers into spiritually mature disciples

G O: Back into the world to serve others in His name

August 2026

Looking Ahead

- ◆ Monday, August 3rd - 7:00 PM: JLNSDC Board Meeting (SH)
- ◆ Tuesday, August 4th - 7:00 PM: Finance Meeting (OP)
- ◆ Wednesday, August 5th - 1:00 PM: Worship & Music Meeting (OP)
- ◆ Tuesday, August 11th - 7:00 PM: Council Meeting (SH)
- ◆ Monday, August 17th - **September Good News Deadline**
- ◆ Tuesday, August 18th - 6:30 PM: Teen Time at Waltz Farm
- ◆ Thursday, August 20th - 9:30 PM: Care Team Meeting (YC)
- ◆ Saturday, August 22nd - 9:00 AM: Community Blood Drive (SH)
- ◆ Thursday, August 27th - 12:30 PM: Monthly Luncheon Gathering
- ◆ Sunday, August 30th - 11:00 AM: Outdoor Worship Service and Picnic at Upper Salford Park



August Teen Time



Tuesday, August 18th from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM at Waltz Golf Farm

Join us for Teen Time in the **Social Hall**
Bring a snack to share and invite a friend!
Email the church office at: secretary@jelc.org or
text Glenda Ortiz at: 215-237-7707



Blood Drive



Red Cross Blood Donation at JELC

Saturday, August 22nd from 9AM to 2PM in the Social Hall.

Scan the QR code to register or visit: redcrossblood.org/give
Enter zip code 19473 and enter date 8/22/26 in the search box for Jerusalem Church from list of donors.



August Monthly Luncheon Gathering



Monthly Luncheon - Last Thursday of the Month ~ August 27th at 12:30 PM

Please Note: Due to change in schedules our Monthly Luncheons are now moved to the Last Thursday of the month.

Sumneytown Hotel
Main Street, Sumneytown, PA

Please contact Dan Slemmer **BEFORE** August 20th to reserve your place and request carpooling if needed.

Outdoor Worship Service & Church Picnic



Sunday, August 30th at 11:00 AM
Upper Salford Park in Schwenksville

Worship service followed by lunch.

Please join us during this fun time of fellowship. Please see bulletin board on Narthex for sign-up sheet, or Sign-up link via email contact the church to be added to the list.

We could use some helping hands for set-up at the park Pavilion at 9 AM.

Pastor's Page



Vacation & Menuha

I can't believe it's already August. This summer feels like it is flying by. As I write this newsletter article, I have just returned from vacation with my family in the Boston area. We had a wonderful time exploring historic towns, going to the beach, taking in a Red Sox game at Fenway Park, and spending time with friends and family. It was a great trip, it was good to be away, and it got me thinking about the importance of rest—and also the Hebrew word “menuha.”

We all say we know that rest is important. We know it matters to pause, to savor life, to not just work all the time. But while we might know this, many of us struggle to actually do it. After all, there are many important things to do: work responsibilities, family responsibilities, and of course church responsibilities. In the midst of everything on our plates, rest can easily fall by the wayside. Who has time to rest? And for all of you retired folks, I know that while it may seem you are resting more because you're retired, most of the retired people I know are even busier than those who are working.

We know rest is important not only because we feel it in our bodies when we neglect it, but also because God teaches us how important rest is, commands us to rest, and even demonstrates the importance of rest by resting himself.

In the Ten Commandments, God includes a commandment about rest—a commandment to take a sabbath each week. I find it striking that before God gives us commands about murder, adultery, stealing, lying, or even honoring our father and mother, God first commands us to rest. That alone suggests how important rest is. God gives two justifications for why sabbath is important, one in the book of Exodus and the other in the book of Deuteronomy. In Exodus, God tells the Israelites that God created the world in six days and on the seventh, he rested. It is almost as though God is saying to us, “I know how much you humans struggle to take a day off, but if God can take a day off, so can you.” Here is the interesting thing: the text doesn't say that God got tired; it simply says that God rested. So this rest is not a response to exhaustion but is for a different purpose.

Some rabbinical scholars believe that on the seventh day God did in fact create something—something without which creation would not have been complete: menuha. What is menuha? Menuha is sometimes translated as “rest,” but it is actually much more than that. Menuha is about stepping back and appreciating what has been made. Menuha is about experiencing peace and contentment, stillness and harmony. Some scholars argue that in order for us to truly value the gifts of creation and life itself, we need menuha. We need to pause and celebrate; we need to enjoy the life we have been given.

The seventh day of creation is therefore the culmination of the creation story, because it is the moment when God demonstrates to humanity how to enjoy all that God has made. It is where God teaches us an important rhythm of life that we often forget: that in order to enjoy life, we must balance periods of doing and not doing. If we are constantly doing, constantly working, constantly active, then we have no space for menuha, no opportunity to enjoy all that God has given us.

It would be like a piece of music with no rests, a constant stream of sound with no breaks. The rests are not only the spaces between the notes; they are just as important as the notes in shaping the song. Days of rest, sabbaths, vacations, and other pauses in life give us the space to savor life and to experience what Jesus describes as abundant life.

My hope is that you have made some space in your life for menuha this summer. And if you haven't yet, you are in luck, because summer isn't over. May you allow yourself time to enjoy your life, time to pause and appreciate the blessings God has given you, and time to remember that you are not defined by how much you get done in a day. You are a beloved child of God, and you were made for menuha.

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you all.
Pastor Chris

Vacation Bible School: Emerald Crossing





A special thank you to all our leaders, volunteers, parents, and our congregation on your support in making this year's Vacation Bible School ministry a wonderful success. We had an average of 35 children participate. We had an estimate of 20 volunteers –teen and adult. We had a week filled making friends, creating memories, lots of laughter, singing and dancing, but most importantly, learning how good God is, Our Shepherd!

Confirmation

Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made us your own. You forgave us all our sins and brought us to newness of life. Continue to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in us your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, Amen.

Congratulations to JELC's 2026 Confirmation Class

Confirmands from left to right:

Eli Johnni
Emily Englehart
Ella Cusumano

Instructors

Bob Rhoads
Nancy Arnold
Jack Bowman



CONFIRMATION BANNERS

A number of years ago Lutheran Church Women made the confirmation banner shown as a gift from the congregation to each confirmand. The banner was accompanied by the letter below. This year Confirmation Sunday was held on June 28, 2026. We thank Nancy Arnold for making the banner this year.

We give you this banner to remind you of who you are.

Baptized into Christ, you are a member of His body together with all other believers in Him. This is the most blessed and precious membership you could ever wish to hold. Treasure it always!

The red of the banner is the liturgical color used for the Day of Pentecost and it symbolizes the flames of fire seen at the time of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples in Jerusalem. The white descending dove stands for the Holy Spirit – white symbolizing the purity of God. The gold trim refers to God's majesty and glory.

You are the very temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in you and so you have the peace and joy of knowing that His strength, guidance, love and power are yours. Treasure the Spirit!

We hope this banner will serve as a reminder of your Confirmation Day and of your relationship to God.

Our best to you,
Your Jerusalem Church family

Council Highlights

- ◆ Approval of August Teen Time at Waltz Golf Farm on August 18th.
- ◆ Discussion and thoughts on smaller projects for Willow Morgan to complete for her Scouts project.

Lutheran Relief Support For Venezuela Earthquake Victims



The Church Council would like to financially assist Lutheran Disaster Relief in support of Venezuela amidst the destruction from recent earthquakes. We approved a donation of \$1000 + a matching of any donations made by the congregation during the month of August. Special envelopes are included in the August bulletins and Newsletter for all who would like to offer support by donating. Please use enclosed envelopes for your donations towards this relief project. Envelopes can be mailed to the church office or placed in the offering plate during worship services.

Help Needed



We have rolled out care for children in the Nursery room during the worship service once again. We are in need of volunteers. Please look for sign-up schedule in email. Child abuse clearances are required to be on file by the church. Please contact the church office for assistance in obtaining them if needed. There is no charge for volunteers requesting child abuse clearances, and they are valid for 5 years.



Daily Bread Community Food Pantry

Dear Friends of Daily Bread Community Food Pantry,

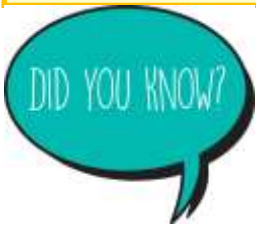
We will again be collecting school supplies and backpacks for the children of the clients of the Daily Bread Community Food

Pantry. We sincerely appreciate your support for this important project. We need a great many supplies since last year we distributed school supplies to 348 children, an increase from the previous year. The items most needed are listed below and the anticipated number of each item required is also noted:

222 red pens	220 packs of loose leaf filler paper
30 packs of 24 crayons	81 packs of dry erase markers with 4 colors in each pack
305 spiral notebooks	72 yellow highlighters
26 plastic pencil boxes	96 highlighters other than yellow
310 pencil cases for binders	80 Sharpie markers - black
85 3x5 ruled index cards	168 Sharpie markers in colors other than black
63 packs of dividers for binders	132 block erasers
201 1" binders	58 Large backpacks - especially black
173 folders with prongs	

We will distribute backpacks and school supplies at the food pantry every time they are open in August. **All donations are to be dropped off at the new location of the Daily Bread Food Pantry, 16 Iron Bridge Drive, Collegeville, PA 19426.** There is someone at the food pantry to receive donations from 9 A.M. until Noon Monday through Friday. Since we distribute food to clients on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9 A.M to 11 A.M. you might want to avoid that time. Donations can also be left after hours in the bin at the food pantry.

Did You Know....



Church Office

Did you know the church office was the “Parsonage” where some of the former Pastors of Jerusalem Church resided?

At the suggestion of the pastor the building of a parsonage was considered. The Ladies Aid started the move to accumulate funds to build a parsonage. Mary Geiger contributed to the fund and fulfilled her promise that there will be “something doing” once the Ladies Aid accumulated \$1,000.

The parsonage was built in 1909 by Mary Geiger as a memorial to her father, Jacob Schwenk, the founder of Schwenksville. According to the information shared on our pamphlet *“Continuing Our Journey of Faith”* states that announcement was shared with the congregation that a parsonage was to be erected and donated to the congregation. The land was donated by Irvin S. Schwenk and his wife Elizabeth Schwenk. Irvin Schwenk was the grandson of Jacob Schwenk.

The parsonage was built at a cost of \$5,382.00. Pastors that lived in the parsonage were: Rev. Schmidt (Pastor of Jerusalem Church for 60yrs), Rev. Leopold (Pastor of Jerusalem Church for 17 yrs) and Rev. Ensminger (Pastor of Jerusalem Church for 32yrs). Pastor Ken Ensminger was the last Pastor to reside in the parsonage until he retired in 1994. The parsonage was then converted to the known church office used today.

Thank You

Dear Ensminger Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for presenting me with the Ensminger Scholarship this year. I'm planning to attend Tufts University, and I know this money will come in handy. I plan to use it to get a new laptop to help me with my studies.

With Gratitude,
Christopher Rittich

Worship & Music Highlights

Attendance: David Crist, Jack Bowman, Janet Luyben, Babs DeFrenes, Glenda Ortiz, Carol Sprainer & Ardie Musselman

July 12, ASP commissioning of the team for their trip from **July 18 – 25**.

July 12, David will be on vacation, Paul Schweitzer will substitute

July 17, David and Jack will take the 37 handbells to Schulmerich Bells in Green Lane to be refurbished.

July 20, Handbell refurbishing begins, the process will take 2 to 3 months. If the refurbishing is not completed in time to resume rehearsal in the fall, we can use the chimes or bells can be borrowed from St. James church.

July 26, Pastor McKinstry will be on vacation. Pastor Paula Lebo will be our guest Pastor.

July 25, ASP team returns from their trip.

Worship & Music budget for 2027. We reviewed the budget of 2026 and discussed the needs for 2027. The budget will be forwarded to Andy for the Finance committee.

Recommendations for Council approval: To change the worship service time from 10:30am to 11:00am on August 30 for the outdoor service and picnic.

Next Worship & Music meeting will be Wednesday, August 5th at 1 PM in the Office Parlor.

Good News Deadline

GOOD NEWS DEADLINE for the *August* Edition is **Monday, August 17th**
Please send all submissions to secretary@jelc.org or drop off at the Church office.

Care Team Highlights



Sunshine Friends Birthdays: Mary Jane Kehs - August 25th

The Care Team continues to visit and give Communion to our Sunshine Friends. If anyone in the congregation needs any kind of assistance, please contact the church office or any member of the Care Team. We are here for each other.

The Prayer Circle continues to pray for individuals in immediate need. If you have a concern or someone who needs prayer, please contact the church office, Babs deFrenes or Gina Weygand.

Everyone enjoyed the Joshua show at Sight and Sound Theatre on July 14th. Jack Bowman is requesting anyone interested in next year's show "Jonah" on July 13, 2027 to contact him. If at least 15 people are interested, he can procure tickets for \$99.

Our next meeting will be August 20th, 2026 at 9:30 AM in the Youth Center.

Jeanette Frey

Gene & Pat Miesse

Janice Witte

Anne Fisher

Don & Nancy Peters

Donna Wisniewski

Jean Fulmer

Robert Schirk

Barbara Hartenbauer

Don and Jean Whitko

In Memoriam



Our Christian sympathy is extended to family and friends of **John Markley**, who entered into Eternal Life on June 29, 2026, and also **George Miller**, (brother of Carol Sprainer), who entered into Eternal Life on July 4, 2026.



I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7

Memorials

**Memorial gifts were received by Jerusalem Lutheran Church
in loving memory of Becky Dice from...**

Ambler Savings Bank, Brian & Heather Moffo, Robert & Susan Bennett, Christine & Gary Urban, Barbara & George White, Louise Hunsicker, Daniel & Jill Wagner, David & Annalee Buckner, Richard & Anita Black, Dale & Florance Ford, Wesley & Carol Nyce, Candance & Daniel Holzman, Gwyn Mays, Kiwanis Club of Sroudsburg, Caesar Gorski, Carolyn Watson, Lynn Perone, Diane Martin, Bernice Kleintop, Dolores Szucs, Carole Gehring, Gina & Charles Weygand, Ardie Mussleman, Tim & Nancy Arnold, Jack Bowman, & Marion Roberts.

The love and generosity which prompted these gifts is known by God and appreciated by us.

August Birthdays

02 Ed Eccker
 03 Michael Brown
 04 Joanne Soeder
 05 Sylvia Kohler,
 07 Christopher Balch
 Drew Hartenbauer, Ava Hawks,
 08 Jerry Moser, Paul Ensminger
 Delyla Emannual



09 Sam Morris
 11 Joseph Eccker
 13 David Hunsicker
 16 Addison Hawks
 19 Joan Connolly
 21 Chas Weygand
 25 Mary Jane Kehs
 29 Jill Stunkard, Gina Weygand



Our Member of the Month



This “*Member of the Month*” spotlight section featured in our monthly “Good News” newsletter is intended with hopes that it will help the congregation put names to faces and get to know each other.

We are asking that you please send a photo (preferably a headshot) and a 4-5 sentence paragraph about yourself that can be shared in the newsletter.

Some information that you may want to include in the bio would be your occupation, how long you have been a member here at JELC, your involvement with any activities/organizations (in or outside of church) and/or hobbies.

This month’s Member of the Month is Linda Kehs



My name is Linda Kehs and I have been a member of JELC since I was born. I was baptized by Pastor Leopold and confirmed by Pastor Ensminger. I assisted with the Luther League, was a part of the LCW (Lutheran Church Women), choir, and bell choir. I currently serve as an usher and counter. I enjoy participating in water volleyball, biking, and am part of a local Recycling Club.

ASP



**ASP Trip to North Carolina
 ~ July 18th - 25th ~**

This year’s ASP participants are:
*Dylan Dice, Andy & Ryan Englehart, Caesar Gorski,
 Norma Grosick, Rylee Gollie, Caden Troutman,
 & Garvey Wolk,*

Thank you and God’s blessing be upon our ASP Team and the families they ministered to during their trip.



Jerusalem Lutheran Nursery School and Day Care



DAY CARE
NEWS

It is hard to believe that summer camp at Jerusalem Lutheran Day Care is almost halfway over. It certainly is true, time flies when you are having fun! July was a jam-packed month filled with exciting and amazing activities which the children greatly enjoyed. Sprinkler days and frozen treats were especially refreshing during the recent heatwaves. Now we are looking forward to an awesome August. The good times will be on a roll when we head out to Earl Bowl for a morning of spares, strikes, and laughter! Also, we can't wait to welcome Andy Armadillo, the mascot from Texas Roadhouse restaurant, to summer camp. We will be playing games with Andy for a chance to win some fantastic prizes. In addition, we are planning to set up a future fundraising event with Andy at the Texas Roadhouse in Royersford. Details will be forthcoming. Lastly, the JLDC staff members have been working hard to make it an enjoyable and memorable summer for the campers. After all, we think summer memories are the best!

Reminder: Please "Like" us on Facebook at Jerusalem Lutheran Nursery School and Day Care to see the latest summer camp happenings.

Tell a Friend: Jerusalem Lutheran Day Care is currently enrolling students for the fall. Openings are available in our toddler classes, ages 13 months to 3 years old. In addition, we have a few openings in our Before and After School program for children attending Schwenksville Elementary School in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. For more information, please call the JLNS&DC office at 610-287-6360.



JLDC SUMMER CAMP 2026

Field Trips, Nature, Hikes, Special Guests, Crafts, and much more!!

Summer camp is available for children 13 months through 5th grade. Ages 1-10 years old. For more information on these programs, please call the JLNS&DC office at 610-287-6360.

Week 6: July 27 to July 31

Slime Slam

Ooey, gooey, squishy, squashy; this week we are making all kinds of slime. Prepare to "get slimed!"



Week 7: August 3 to August 7

Beach Bash

Surf's Up! Get ready to catch a wave as we head "down the shore" for a week filled with sun, sand, and good vibrations!



Week 8: August 10 to August 14

Around the World in 5 Days

Pack your suitcase and grab your passport. We are headed for some international adventures. Who knows where our travels will take us?



Week 9: August 17 to August 21

Petite Picassos

What masterpieces will our budding artists create? It is going to be a week of paint, palettes, and brushes!



Week 10: August 24 to August 28

Disney Days

Hot Dog! Hot Dog! Hot Diggity Dog! We are going to Mickey's Clubhouse for tons of Disney fun and excitement!



Schwenksville Community Day



Saturday, September 19, 2026 ~ 10 AM – 2 PM

Meadow Park, 300 Main St

Volunteers needed to help tend table and tent with giveaways.
Please contact the church office if you would like to participate.

August Worship Volunteers

DATE	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
	Communion		Communion		Outdoor Worship Service
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM
Ushers	Mike Kehs & Linda Kehs	Matthew Wolk & Linda Kehs	Tricia Hawks & Robin Schlichter	Chas & Gina Weygand	Joan Connolly
Acolytes	Ryan Englehart	Ella Cusuamno	TBD	Sean Ortiz	N/A
Stream Team					N/A
Counters	Chas & Gina Weygand	Paul Ensminger & Chris Freer	Linda Kehs & Ardie Musselman	Tim & Nancy Arnold	Babs deFrenes & Jack Bowman
Altar Guild: Ardie Musselman & Gail Maser Banners: Louise Hunsicker, & John Souder					



Help Needed!!!

We need someone willing to usher the third Sunday of every other month starting in May. There would also be the opportunity to usher as a substitute when another usher is unable to do their scheduled time and/or for special services.

No experience necessary, just a willingness to help. Please contact Linda Kehs at 215-855-1745 or email: lkeh@s@verizon.net. Your help will be greatly appreciated.



August 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
YC - Youth Center SH - Social Hall OP - Office Parlor						1 7:00 AM AA Meeting (YC)
2 10:30 AM live stream Parameters: GREEN Communion	3 10:45 AM-3:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 7 PM JLNSDC Board Meeting (SH)	4 12:30 PM-2:00 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 7 PM Finance Meeting (OP)	5 1 PM Worship & Music Meeting (OP) 7:00 PM AA Meeting (YC)	6 8:30 - 9 AM MCIU Therapy Sessions 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)	7 8:30 - 9 AM MCIU Therapy Sessions 10 AM - 12:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)	8 7:00 AM AA Meeting (YC)
9 10:30 AM Worship service with live stream Parameters: GREEN	10	11 7:00 PM Council Meeting (SH)	12 7:00 PM AA Meeting (YC)	13	14	15 7:00 AM AA Meeting (YC)
16 10:30 AM Worship service with live stream Parameters: GREEN Communion	17 September Good News Deadline	18 Teen Time 6:30 PM Teen Time at Waltz Farm	19 7:00 PM AA Meeting (YC)	20 9:30 AM Care Team Meeting	21	22 Blood Drive 7:00 AM AA Meeting (YC) 9AM-12 PM Blood Drive (SH)
23 10:30 AM Worship service with live stream Parameters: GREEN	24	25	26 7:00 PM AA Meeting (YC)	27 12:30 PM Monthly Luncheon gathering	28	29
30 Outdoor Worship Service 11:00 AM Outdoor Worship Service and Picnic at Upper Salford Park	31					

Congregational Church Council 2026

Andy Englehart
Norma Grosick
Chris Freer
Caesar Gorski, Jr.
Jen Wolk

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Financial Secretary

Paul Ensminger
Madeline Morris
Samuel Morris
Ryan Englehart



Regular Worship Schedule



Sunday School & Confirmation Classes ~ 9:15 AM
Till May 24th (end of season)
Will resume after Labor Day in September

Single Worship Schedule ~ 10:30 AM



The People of Jerusalem Congregation, Ministers

Rev. Chris McKinstry, Pastor

David A. Crist, Director of Music Glenda Ortiz, Secretary

311 Second Street Schwenksville, PA 19473

Office Hours: Monday: Remote / Tuesday - Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Phone: 610-287-7104

Glenda Ortiz Cell: 215-237-7707 Email - secretary@jelc.org Website: www.jelc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/jelcville/ Instagram: [jelc_schwenksville](https://instagram.com/jelc_schwenksville)

For pastoral care please contact Pastor Chris McKinstry at: 484-300-6674 or the church office at 610-287-7104

David Crist: 610 489-3320 Email: da1crist@protonmail.com
Jerusalem Lutheran Nursery School and Day Care 610-287-6360