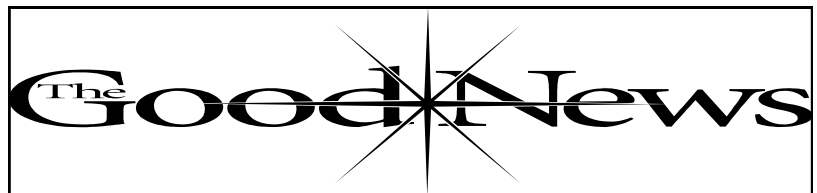




**Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
311 Second Street  
Schwenksville, PA 19473



*Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church*

Mission Statement  
SOW: The Gospel of Jesus the Christ to all generations  
GROW: His followers into spiritually mature disciples  
GO: Back into the world to serve others in His name

**July 2026**

## Looking Ahead

- ◆ Wednesday, July 1st - 1 PM: Worship & Music (OP)
- ◆ Saturday, July 4th - Happy Independence Day
- ◆ Monday, July 6th - 7 PM: JLNSDC Board Meeting (SH)
- ◆ Tuesday, July 7th - 7 PM: Finance Meeting (OP)
- ◆ Tuesday, July 14th - **Sight and Sound Trip: Joshua**  
7 PM: Council Meeting (SH)
- ◆ Thursday, July 16th - 9:30 AM: Care Team Meeting (YC)
- ◆ Monday, July 20th - August Good News Deadline  
10:00 AM: Book Club Meeting (OP)



## Sight and Sound Trip



Jack Bowman has secured tickets for “Joshua” at the Sight and Sound Theater for **July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Price of tickets is \$99. Please contact Jack if you are interested.

*There are still two tickets available for the “Joshua” show. If interested in purchasing a ticket please contact Jack Bowman.*

## June Monthly Luncheon Gathering



*There will be no Monthly Luncheon gathering for the month of July*

*Please stay tuned for our next gathering in August. Location yet to be determined.*

## July Birthdays

01 Rebecca Arnold, David Hawks,  
03 Linda Kuiken  
07 Sue Fulmer, Matthew Szczesny,  
12 Gabriel Emmanuel  
15 Adelina Freer  
16 Marcia Ehrhart, Tori Stunkard  
17 Joseph Kohler  
18 Bob Schirk



20 Joshua Bartlett,  
Neal Hunsberger,  
Betty Rowden  
21 Wayne Blanchard  
23 Elliott Dice, David Hawks, Jr.  
28 Andy Englehart,  
Maddie Kuiken  
30 Andrew Martin



## Good News Deadline

**GOOD NEWS DEADLINE** for the *August* Edition is **Monday, July 20th**  
Please send all submissions to [secretary@jelc.org](mailto:secretary@jelc.org) or drop off at the Church office.

## Pastor's Page



FROM OUR  
PASTOR

### “Holy Chaos”

My, what a week it has been. As I write this newsletter article, it is Thursday evening before our final day of VBS and, folks, I am tired. It has certainly been a busy week, so I'm not surprised to be tired, but I'm often surprised by just how tired I am.

I often refer to VBS as a week of “Holy Chaos.” I think the “chaos” part of that phrase is obvious. Any time you invite a whole bunch of children into your space, there is bound to be some chaos. But it is also holy and beautiful, and I'd like to spend a few moments highlighting some of the holy moments we have experienced this week.

In the midst of all the planning, organizing, and setup for an event like this, it can be easy to overlook the presence of God in the middle of it all. That doesn't mean this isn't a holy occasion, like so many others that we celebrate throughout the year. After all, this is an event all about sharing God's love with the youngest among us—an opportunity to both show and tell them how deeply loved they are.

It's also a time of great hospitality, where we welcome children both inside and outside of our congregation to join us. Throughout scripture, hospitality is a key theme, repeated again and again in both the Old and New Testaments. VBS gives us a very practical, down-to-earth opportunity to practice that hospitality: to welcome and love our neighbors, to learn their names, to listen to their stories, and to make room for them at our tables and in our pews. VBS also creates space for great joy to be had by all—those participating as well as those leading—and I believe that joy is a deeply holy experience. Joy connects us to one another, to God, and it enhances our experience of life. To be around the children participating in VBS this week was to bear witness to beautiful moments of joy over and over again: laughter echoing down the hallway, kids singing at the top of their lungs, friendships forming over crafts and games, and leaders discovering that they are receiving as much as they are giving. As the week has progressed, I've been thinking a lot about a line from our gospel lesson this coming Sunday, where Jesus says, “Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones... truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.” What Jesus is talking about here is welcome and hospitality for all people, even (and especially) the littlest among us. I like to think we've offered a cup of cold water, and more, to the children who have participated in VBS this week (sometimes that cold water came in the form of a water balloon).

In response, we have been blessed by their presence, invited into their joy, and together we all got to share in a week of Holy Chaos. In the noise, the games, and the tired feet at the end of the day, God has been present—smiling with us, delighting in these children, and working through this community.

I'd like to thank the many people who made VBS possible this year for all of their hard work, creativity, and patience. I'd also like to give a special shout-out to **Glenda Ortiz**, our fearless leader, without whom this week would not have been possible.

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

# ***Congratulations to our 2026 Graduates!!***

Jerusalem is proud of the following young men and women who will be high school and college graduates this year. We congratulate both the graduates and their families for the hard work and dedication needed to reach this milestone in their lives and wish them continued success in their post-graduate education and careers.



**Christopher Rittich**  
School: Perkiomen Valley  
High School  
Will be Attending:  
Tufts University  
Major: Mechanical Engineering



**Matthew Wolk**  
School: Perkiomen Valley  
High School  
Will be Attending:  
Rutgers University  
Major: Biology



**Jake Jonassen**  
School: Slippery Rock  
University  
Degree: Bachelor of Science  
in Safety Management



**Owen Gillespie**  
School: Ohio State University  
Degree: International Studies  
Minor: Statistics & Business



**Kayla Minkon**  
School: East Stroudsburg University  
Degree: Marketing  
She is currently doing a post graduate  
internship for a Pharmaceutical  
company in King of Prussia.

## *Ensminger Scholarship*

The Revered Kenneth S. Ensminger Scholarship was established to honor Pastor Emeritus Kenneth S. Ensminger, former pastor of Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church. The first scholarship was presented in 1994 and one or more scholarships have been awarded each year since 1994 to members of Jerusalem Lutheran Church seeking further education following graduation.

This year we had the honor and privilege to present The Ensminger Scholarships to Christopher Rittich, and Matthew Wolk. Below is a short speech from one of our Ensminger Scholarship Committee members, Chris Freer, to this year's award recipients:

*Dear Scholars,*

*On behalf of Jerusalem Lutheran and in honor of Kenneth Ensminger I am please to present these scholarships.*

*This achievement is a testament to your hard work, dedication, and the bright future that lies ahead of you. As you step into this new chapter, remember that your journey is not only about academic success but also about personal growth, resilience, and making a positive impact in the world.*

*Embrace every opportunity to learn and grow, both inside and outside the classroom. Seek wisdom, not just knowledge. Stay curious and open-minded, and let your faith guide you through challenges and triumphs alike.*

*Your scholarship is not just a reward, it's an investment in your potential to change the world. Use it wisely, and strive to be a beacon of hope and inspiration to others. Lean on your faith, your community, and each other. You are not alone on this journey.*

*With God's guidance, there is no limit to what you can achieve. Go forth with courage, and let your light shine brightly.*

## *Thank You*

Dear Church Council and Ensminger Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for your generous Ensminger Scholarship award. I appreciate the support and plan to use this scholarship towards a new laptop for college.

Thank you  
Sincerely,  
Matthew Wolk

## *Worship & Music Highlights*

**Topics discussed during Worship & Music Meeting held on June 10th.**

**June 14, Outdoor Worship Service at 11:00am** followed by a picnic at the Upper Salford Park. Sign up; check the sign up sheet at our meeting

**June 21**

Wolk family memorial service for Chris Wolk,  
VBS Week

**June 28, VBS Closing program,** Kona Ice Truck refreshments after the service

**Confirmation Sunday,** refreshments, carnations, other responsibilities of our committee.

**Parament colors will be green. No communion!**

**July: Handbell refurbishing** – beginning the week of July 20th

**ASP trip dates – July 18-25,** commissioning on July 12th

**David: vacation schedule to council** – July 12, August 9, & August 23.

Paul Schweitzer will sub for David

## Care Team Highlights



### Sunshine Friends Birthdays: Robert Schirk - July 18th

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.

Jack Bowman has secured tickets for “Joshua” at the Sight and Sound Theater for **July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Price of tickets is \$99. Please contact Jack if you are interested.

***There are still two tickets available for the “Joshua” show.  
If interested in purchasing a ticket please contact Jack Bowman.***

**No Meeting in July. Our next meeting will be August 20th, 2026 at 9:30 AM in the Youth Center.**

Jeanette Frey

Gene & Pat Miesse

Don and Jean Whitko

Anne Fisher

Don & Nancy Peters

Janice Witte

Jean Fulmer

Robert Schirk

Donna Wisniewski

Barbara Hartenbauer

## 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 Sarah Englehart**



I have been a member at Jerusalem Lutheran since 2010. I am married to Andy, and we have two children, Ryan and Emily. I enjoy assisting in youth programs and being involved in Mutual Ministry.

I grew up in Mansfield, Pennsylvania. I attended Susquehanna University for undergrad and then Pennsylvania College of Optometry. I currently work at Complete Family EyeCare in Gilbertsville.

My days are kept busy with attending my children's many activities. I also enjoy jogging and cooking. We also have a 3-year-old mini golden doodle, Phoenix.

# Jerusalem Lutheran Nursery School and Day Care



It looks like July is going to be a hot time at Jerusalem Lutheran Day Care Summer Camp. We will kick off the month with a celebration in honor of America 250. We will have a patriotic birthday party complete with cupcakes and ice cream. In addition, we are looking forward to our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade being bigger and better than ever for our nation's semiquincentennial. Our parade, which will take us up and down Second Street, will begin around 10 am on Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Spectators are always welcome! Next up in July, we will be getting wet and wild all week long as we enjoy a variety of water activities. Hopefully, the weather will be warm and sunny so we can cool down and dry off. Later in the month, we will have a wonderful time as we devote a week to all things ooey, gooey, squishy, and squashy. It is slime time! We plan to create all types of slime; from glittery, edible, and fluffy, to snowy, buttery, and smelly! The campers better be ready to "get slimed." In conclusion, summer camp is rolling along nicely with around thirty-three campers each week. We hope the good times will continue to roll all summer long!

Tell a Friend: Jerusalem Lutheran Day Care is currently enrolling children for the fall. We have several openings in our toddler classes, for ages 13 months to 3 years old.

We would like to offer special thanks to the following JELC members:

Joan Connolly for enrolling Jerusalem Lutheran Nursery School and Day Care in Thrivent Choice. We are excited to become a part of this charitable grant program.

Gene and Pat Miesse for donating delicious snacks for the children to enjoy.

Tony Damiani for faithfully performing maintenance work in Day Care.

Paul Ensminger for faithfully installing the air conditioner in the JLNS&DC office.

We are grateful for everyone's kindness, support, and dedication!



## JLDC SUMMER CAMP 2026

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

Summer camp is available for children 13 months through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Ages 1-10 years old.

For more information on these programs, please call the JLNS&DC office at 610-287-6360.

### Week 2: June 29 to July 3

#### America 250

It's the United States Semiquincentennial. Let's show our patriotic pride as we celebrate all things red, white, and blue!



### Week 3: July 6 to July 10

#### Minion Mania

Look out! Kevin, Bob, and Stewart are on the loose. Be prepared for lots of minion mayhem!



### Week 4: July 13 to July 17

#### Splish Splash

Get ready to get soaked. We are going to cool off with some awesome wet and wild activities. Don't forget your towel!



### Week 5: July 20 to July 24

#### Carnival Craziess

Step right up, boys and girls. Try your luck at some exciting games of skill and chance. Don't worry; everyone is a win-ner!



### 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!



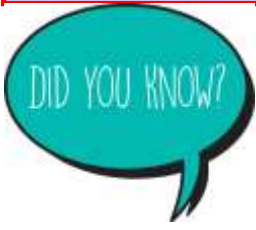
### Week 10: August 24 to August 28

#### Disney Days

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



## Did You Know....



The history of Jerusalem's Carillon is that it was purchased in 1986 in the memory of Hetty Lou Ensminger with memorial moneys and donations upon her passing! Originally Our Carillon were cassette tapes. After 32yrs the unit became outdated and was unable to be repaired, which then stopped working completely.

In 2018 the congregation approved to have the original carillon replaced. The carillon used currently is now digital & connected to the internet. The new carillon was installed in memory of Ralph Sprainer, Dottie Bowman, and Jazlynn May. The new Carillon rang for the first time on Easter Sunday in 2019.

The library of beautiful hymns are heard throughout the surrounding community! These hymns are programed to play on a scheduled set up and music can be chosen for any season of the church such as Easter, Lent, and Christmas! Also special occasions, such as weddings or funerals and also patriotic holidays!

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

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.

Anne Ryan

## July Worship Volunteers

DATE	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
	Comunion		Comunion	
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Paul Ensminger & Joan Connolly	Paul Ensminger & Joan Connolly	Janet Luyben & Joan Connolly	Paul Ensminger & Joan Connolly
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBD	Ella Cusumano	TBD	Eli Johnni
<b>Counters</b>	Linda Kehs & Ardie Musselman	Paul Ensminger & Chris Freer	Chas & Gina Weygand	Tim & Nancy Arnold
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Rose Koehler & Louise Hunsicker <b>Banners:</b> 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](mailto:lkeh@s@verizon.net). Your help will be greatly appreciated.



# July 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>YC - Youth Center SH - Social Hall OP - Office Parlor</p>			<p><b>1</b> 1 PM Worship &amp; Music Meeting (OP) 7:00 PM AA Meeting (YC)</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4 Independence Day</b></p> 
<p><b>5</b> 10:30 AM Worship service with live stream <b>Parameters: GREEN</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Comunion</p>	<p><b>6</b> 10:45 AM-3:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 7 PM JLNSDC Board Meeting (SH)</p>	<p><b>7</b> 12:30 PM-2:00 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 7 PM Finance Meeting (OP)</p>	<p><b>8</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting (YC)</p>	<p><b>9</b> 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)</p>	<p><b>10</b> 10 AM - 12:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)</p>	<p><b>11</b> 7:00 AM AA Meeting (YC)</p>
<p><b>12</b> 10:30 AM Worship service with live stream <b>Parameters: GREEN</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> 10:45 AM-3:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)</p>	<p><b>14 Slight and Sound Trip: Joshua</b> 12:30 PM-2:00 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 7:00 PM Council Meeting (SH)</p>	<p><b>15</b> 12 PM-4 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 7:00 PM AA Meeting (YC)</p>	<p><b>16</b> 9:30 AM Care Team Meeting 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)</p>	<p><b>17</b> 10 AM - 12:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)</p>	<p><b>18</b> 7:00 AM AA Meeting (YC)</p>
<p><b>19</b> 10:30 AM Worship service with live stream <b>Parameters: GREEN</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Comunion</p>	<p><b>20</b> 10:45 AM-3:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 10 AM Book Club Meeting (OP)</p>	<p><b>21</b> 12:30 PM-2:00 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)</p>	<p><b>22</b> 12 PM-4 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 7:00 PM AA Meeting (YC)</p>	<p><b>23</b> 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)</p>	<p><b>24</b> 10 AM - 12:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)</p>	<p><b>25</b> 7:00 AM AA Meeting (YC)</p>
<p><b>26</b> 10:30 AM Worship service with live stream <b>Parameters: GREEN</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 10:45 AM-3:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)</p>	<p><b>28</b> 12:30 PM-2:00 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)</p>	<p><b>29</b> 12 PM-4 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 7:00 PM AA Meeting (YC)</p>	<p><b>30</b> 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)</p>	<p><b>31</b> 10 AM - 12:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)</p>	

## 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](mailto:secretary@jelc.org)    Website: [www.jelc.org](http://www.jelc.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/jelcville/](https://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](mailto:da1crist@protonmail.com)  
Jerusalem Lutheran Nursery School and Day Care 610-287-6360