



Jerusalem

evangelical lutheran church
September 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 AM Worship Service



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

WELCOME

We are so glad you have chosen to join with us today as we gather in worship to give thanks to our gracious and loving God. If you have particular needs and/or questions please speak with an usher. Again, thanks for spending a little time with us.

Nursery Care is available for younger children downstairs in the room across from the Coffee Corner.

THIS WEEK AT JERUSALEM

Sunday, September 13	9:15 AM	Sunday School & Confirmation Rally Day (SH)
	10:30 AM	Worship Service with live stream
Monday, September 14	7:00 PM	JLNSDC Board Meeting (SH)
Tuesday, September 15	7:00 PM	Council Meeting (SH)
Wednesday, September 16	6:30 PM	Women's Bible Study Resumes
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (YC)
Thursday, September 17	9:30 PM	Care Team Meeting (YC)
	6:30 PM	Steepleringers Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	Asaph Choir Rehearsal
Friday, September 18	6:00 PM	Community Outreach Meals (SH)
Saturday, September 19	7:00 AM	AA Meeting (YC)
	10:00 AM	Schwenksville Community Day at Meadow Park
Sunday, September 20	9:15 AM	Sunday School Class Resumes
	10:30 AM	Worship Service with Communion and live stream
	11:30 AM	Confirmation Orientation (Sanctuary)

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 - 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://www.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: dalcrist@protonmail.com

Jerusalem Lutheran Nursery School and Day Care 610-287-6360

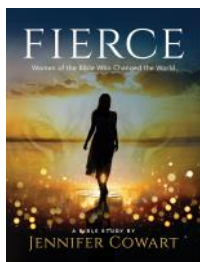
UPCOMING EVENTS & NOTES



Sunday School Rally Day

Please join us as we kick start our 2026-2027 Sunday School & Confirmation season with Rally Day on **Sunday, September 13th** at 9:15 AM in the Social Hall.

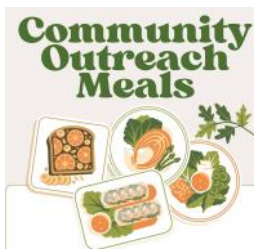
We will have games, crafts and lots of fun.



Women's Bible Study

We will resume our Women's Bible Study gathering starting **Wednesday, September 16th at 6:30 PM in the upper room of the Church Office.**

This new 6 week study is called "Fierce." We will be learning about lesser known females character in the Bible whose fear and faithfulness to God played important roles in God's purpose and plans. If interested in joining this study, please contact Glenda Ortiz in the church office.



Community Outreach Meal

Treat yourself to a healthy free home cooked meal prepared by our hospitality team. Open to all in our community. Take-out only!

When: Friday, September 18th **Time:** 6 PM-7PM
(please do not arrive prior to 6 PM until daycare is closed)

Where: Jerusalem Lutheran Church - Social Hall
To RSVP please visit our website at:
www.jelc.org or email secretary@jelc.org



Homeless Meals: Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed to help prepare meals for our community service on Friday, September 18th and also to prepare meals to feed the homeless at Opportunity House. We need all the helping hands we can get to make these two events happen. Please visit www.jelc.org to view sign-up schedule, or contact the church office, Norma Grosick, or Glenda Ortiz to be scheduled in volunteers slots.



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.

Altar Guild



Altar Guild Meeting

We will be having an Altar Guild meeting for all volunteers as Altar Guild on ***Sunday, September 20th from 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM (before the worship service.)*** This is meeting is for all current Altar Guild volunteers and or anyone that would like to learn more about Altar Guild responsibilities and duties. We would love to add more members to our group!



Confirmation Orientation

Sunday, September 20th, after the worship service at 11:30 AM in the Sanctuary. This orientation is for all 2026-2027 Confirmation students entering middle school, current second year students, and parents. Please make arrangements to attend this very informational meeting.



Acolyte Orientation

As we do every year, we will have an acolyte training/orientation and refresher for all acolytes: new and existing.

Please join us after the worship service on ***Sunday, September 27th*** at 11:30 AM in the Sanctuary.



Monthly Luncheon

September 24th at 12:30 PM

Dutch Cottage Tavern

1264 Bridge Road, Skippack (Rt 113 about one block off Rt73)

Please contact Dan Slemmer **BEFORE** September 21st to reserve your place and request carpooling if needed.



Teen Time

Tuesday, September 29th from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
(note rescheduled date)

JELC Social Hall

Email the church office at: secretary@jelc.org or
text Glenda Ortiz at: 215-237-7707 to RSVP



Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, October 31st 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 10/31/26 in the search box or scroll down list for Jerusalem Church from list of donors.



Please prepare your hearts for worship as we meditate during the Prelude sitting in silence or softly whispering upon entering the Sanctuary.

PRELUDE *“When in the Hour of Utmost Need”* J. S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING SONGS** *“Awesome in This Place”*

As I come into Your presence,
past the gates of praise,
into Your sanctuary
till we're standing face to face;
I look upon Your countenance,
I see the fullness of Your grace,
and I can only bow down and say.

“You are awesome in this place, Mighty God,
You are awesome in this place, Abba Father;
You are worthy of all praise,
to You our lives we raise,
You are awesome in this place, Mighty God.”

Words and Music: Dave Billington,
©1992 Integrity's Hosanna! Music c/o Integrity Music, Inc.

“10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)”

CHORUS: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes. CHORUS.

2. You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. CHORUS.

(Instrumental interlude)

3. And on that day, when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come;
still, my soul will sing Your praise unending;
ten thousand years, and then forevermore! CHORUS, twice.

Worship Your holy name, Lord,
I'll worship Your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name,
worship Your holy name,
worship Your holy name.

Words and Music: Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman, ©2011 Shout! Publishing (ASCAP), sixsteps Music (ASCAP), Said and Done Music (ASCAP), and ThankYou Music (PRS), admin. by EMICMG Publishing.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*KYRIE (SUNG)

CANTOR:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the church of
God, and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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For this holy house, and for all
who offer here their worship and
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



A - men.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 103:8-13 *Chanted responsively between Cantor and Congregation*

⁸ LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;

⁹ **you will not al- | ways accuse us,**
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.

¹¹ **For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,**
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

¹² As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.

¹³ **As a father has compassion | for his children,**
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

SECOND READING Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

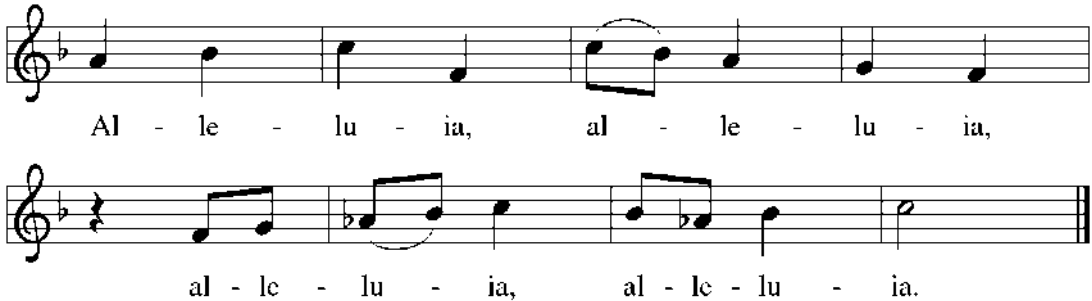
⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



CANTOR: We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous;
your sins are forgiven on account of his name.

ALL: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL READING*Matthew 18:21-35**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Erika Wesch

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”* Tune: LAND OF REST

1. “Forgive our sins as we forgive,”
You taught us, Lord, to pray;
but You alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

2. How can Your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?

3. In blazing light Your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
how trifling others’ debts to us;
how great our debt to You!

4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease;
then, by Your mercy reconciled,
our lives will spread Your peace.

Words: Rosamond E. Herklots, © Oxford University Press.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Each portion of the prayer ends: **A:** Lord, in your mercy, **C:** **hear our prayer.**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you all! **And also with you.**

OFFERING MUSIC “Come, Let Us Sing” Lindh

Asaph Choir

If desired to make an online offering donation or to set-up automatic recurring payments, please scan the attached QR code on the back of the bulletin.

***OFFERING PRAYER (UNISON)**

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHOOL YEAR & INSTALLATION OF TEACHERS

A reading from First Corinthians. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*1 Cor. 12:4-7*)

Brothers and sisters, you have volunteered your time, your energy, and your gifts to the children, youth, and family ministries of this congregation. Will you offer your giftedness to this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

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Will you trust in God's care, seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and honor the gospel with a faithful life?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Let us pray. Gracious God, for Jesus' sake, empower these ministers to care for the young ones in our family of faith. Help them to teach faithfully, lead patiently, and guide confidently. Stir up in these servants the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, who has given you the gifts and the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them. **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN** *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"* (#858)

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He
is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear now to
His temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all
things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an
eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen all
that is needful has been
sent by His gracious ordaining?

3. Praise to the Lord, who will
prosper your work and defend you;
surely His goodness and mercy
shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew what the
Almighty can do
if with His love He befriend you.

4. Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all
that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come
now with praises before Him!

Let the amen sound
from His people again.
Gladly forever adore Him!

***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *"Jubilant Praise!"* Ritter

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SERVING TODAY

10:30 AM

Ushers: Paul Ensminger &
Joan Connolly

Acolyte: Ella Cusumano

Cantor: Andy Englehart

Lector: Glenda Ortiz

Nursery Assistant: Jen Wolk

Counters: Paul Ensminger & Chris Freer

Altar Guild: Diane Martin & Tricia Hawks

Banners: Louise Hunsicker & John Souder

*Special welcome and thank-you to Pastor Erika Wesch
for being our Guest Pastor today.*

PRAYER CONCERNS....

PRAYERS FOR SPIRITUAL, PHYSICAL HEALING & RENEWAL

Barbara Blanchard, Martin Conte, Debbie Feichthaler, Anne Fisher,
Jay Kapila, Greg Kealey, Leslie Leben, Gene & Pat Miesse,
Bev O'Brien, Daniela Rivera, Don Peters, Robin Schlichter, Joseph Schmitt,
Frankie Stankus, Rita Weiss, Gail Wetzel, Bobbie Willis & Carol Withers.

ONGOING PRAYERS

Susie Barker, Jeanne Bullard, Audrey Englehart, Margaret Fisher,
Effa Hunt, Derek Kirby, Nellie Ann Kodoziejski, Bill Luyben
Janet Neumann, Linda Petruccelli, Noel Pumphrey, Joseph Russella,
Robert Schirk, Mary Ann Schofield, Shawn Schlichter, Jennifer Sone, Carol Sprainer,
& Marie Wolfe.

Online Giving: Please scan the attached QR code for
online giving or to set-up automatic recurring payments if desired.

