



Jerusalem

evangelical lutheran church

September 27, 2026
Eighteenth 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 27	9:15 AM	Sunday School & Confirmation Classes
	10:30 AM	Worship Service with live stream
	11:30 AM	Acolyte Training & Orientation
Wednesday, September 30	6:30 PM	Women's Bible Study (OP)
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (YC)
Thursday, October 1	6:30 PM	Steepleringers Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	Asaph Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, October 3	7:00 AM	AA Meeting (YC)
Sunday, October 4	9:15 AM	Sunday School & Confirmation Classes
	10:30 AM	Worship Service with Communion & live stream

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



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.



Teen Time

Tuesday, September 29th from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

JELC Social Hall

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



Healing Service

Sunday, October 18th

Join us during our 10:30 AM service for a special prayer and laying of hands for those in need of healing.



Free Food Friday

Treat yourself to a healthy free home cooked meal prepared by our volunteers Open to all in our community.

When: Friday, October 23rd **Time:** 6 PM-7PM
(please do not arrive prior to 6 PM until daycare is closed)

Where: Jerusalem Lutheran Church - Social Hall

To RSVP visit our website at: www.jelc.org or call 610-287-7104.



Monthly Luncheon ~ Last Thursday of the month October 29th at 12:30 PM

Giovanni's 724 Restaurant
1492 E. Schuykill Road
Pottstown, PA 19465

Please contact Dan Slemmer **BEFORE** October 22nd to reserve your place and request carpooling if needed. Please note: there is a max limit of 20 people for this reservation.



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 “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun” Ashdown

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING SONGS** “Blessed Be Your Name”

1. Blessed be Your name in the land
that is plentiful,
where Your streams of abundance flow,
blessed be Your name.

2. Blessed be Your name when I'm found
in the desert place,
though I walk through the wilderness,
blessed be Your name.

Ev'ry blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
still I will say,

“Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your glorious name.”

3. Blessed be Your name when the sun's
shining down on me,
when the world's “all as it should be,”
blessed be Your name.

4. Blessed be Your name on the road
marked with suffering,
though there's pain in the offering,
blessed be Your name.

Ev'ry blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
still I will say,

“Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your glorious name.”

You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
“Lord, Blessed be Your name.”

You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
“Lord, Blessed be Your name.”

“Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your glorious name.”

“Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your glorious name.”

Words and Music: Matt and Beth Redman, ©2002

Thankyou Music, admin. by worshiptogether.com Songs.

“Change My Heart, O God” (#801)

REFRAIN:

Change my heart, O God,
make it ever true;
change my heart, O God,
may I be like You.

VERSE:

You are the Potter, I am the clay;
mold me and make me,
this is what I pray.

REFRAIN.

VERSE.

REFRAIN.

Words and Music: Eddie Espinosa, ©1982 Mercy/
Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

***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.

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

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

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²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

PSALM Psalm 25:1-9

Chanted responsively between Cantor and Congregation

¹ To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and
for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

**Remem- | ber, O LORD,
your compas- | sion and love.**

SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.

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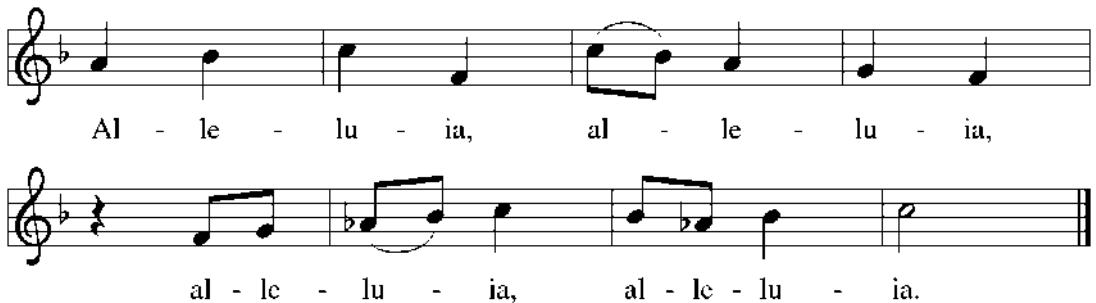
⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 assuming human likeness.
 And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death—
 even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
 and gave him the name
 that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my
 presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and
 trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work
 for his good pleasure.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



CANTOR: My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me.
ALL: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING*Matthew 21:23-32**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’” ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’” ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Chris McKinstry

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”*

1. O Master, let me walk with You
in lowly paths of service true;
tell me Your secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

2. Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

3. Teach me Your patience; share with me
a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,

4. in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only You can give;
with You, O Master, let me live.

***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 *"Simple Gifts"* arr. Cota **Steepleringers Handbell 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.

***BENEDICTION**

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

***SENDING HYMN "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" (#712)**

1. Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked Your mercy's perfect deed:
we, Your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to Your purpose
every gift which You impart.

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2. Still Your children wander homeless;
 still the hungry cry for bread;
 still the captives long for freedom;
 still in grief we mourn our dead.
 As You, Lord, in deep compassion
 healed the sick and freed the soul,
 by Your Spirit send Your power
 to our world to make it whole.

3. As we worship, grant us vision,
 till Your love's revealing light
 in its height and depth and greatness
 dawns upon our quickened sight,
 making known the needs and burdens
 Your compassion bids us bear,
 stirring us to ardent service,
 Your abundant life to share.

4. Called by worship to Your service,
 forth in Your dear name we go,
 to the child, the youth, the aged,
 love in living deeds to show;
 hope and health, goodwill and comfort,
 counsel, aid, and peace we give,
 that Your servants, Lord, in freedom,
 may Your mercy know and live.

Words: Albert F. Bayly, © Oxford University Press.

***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *“Lord of Our Life”* Smith

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SERVING TODAY

10:30 AM

Ushers: Paul Ensminger &
Joan Connolly

Acolyte: Sean Ortiz

Cantor: Norma Grosick

Lector: Maddie Morris

Nursery Assistant: Glenda Ortiz

Counters: Tim & Nancy Arnold

Altar Guild: Diane Martin & Tricia Hawks

Banners: Louise Hunsicker & John Souder

PRAYER CONCERNS....

PRAYERS FOR SPIRITUAL, PHYSICAL HEALING & RENEWAL

Barbara Blanchard, Martin Conte, Debbie Feichthaler, Anne Fisher,
Pat Giarrocco, 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.

