Jerusalem
evangelical lutheran church

November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
10:30 AM Worship Service



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

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, November 29	***1st Sunday of Advent***	
	10:30 AM	Worship Service with live stream
Monday, November 30	5:30 PM	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Wednesday, December 2	1:00 PM	Worship & Music Meeting (OP)
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (YC)
Thursday, December 3	6:30 PM	Steepleringers Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	Asaph Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, December 5	7:00 AM	AA Meeting (YC)
Sunday, December 6	***2nd Sunday of Advent***	
	9:15 AM	Sunday School & Confirmation Classes
	10:30 AM	Worship Service with 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
For pastoral care please contact Pastor Chris McKinstry at: pastor@jelc.org
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

UPCOMING EVENTS & NOTES



Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsals
Monday evenings starting
5:30 PM-6:30 PM in the Sanctuary
Pageant will be presented on Christmas Eve during the 4 PM service.
Children from Nursery School through Confirmation
are invited to participate.

Blessing Bags

This year, we would like to support and bless a local shelter with families in need with ***Blessing Bags.*** Essentially we will fill Christmas bags with gifts and small necessities for children in local shelter. We have selected to partner with *Laurel House* and be a blessing to the families they provide services in their shelters. We will hand out reusable Christmas bags along with a supply list for families who wish to fill a bag at home as a family project and return to the church which will then deliver to local shelter. Bags and supply list will be available to take home starting the week of November 22nd.

Filled bags can be turned in no later than **Sunday, December 13th.**

ASP Christmas Cards Fundraising

ASP is currently selling Christmas cards as part of their fundraising efforts for their upcoming mission trip in July of 2027. Christmas cards are available in the Coffee corner. They are $10 for a pack of 10. Cash payments can be placed in the envelope provided by the cards. Payments made by checks can be placed in the offering plate.
Please mark: ***"ASP Christmas Cards"*** in the memo line.

November - NO LUNCHEON due to Thanksgiving holiday
Thursday, December 3rd - due to Christmas Holiday
Naceville Hotel, Ridge Road, Naceville PA

Please contact Dan Slemmer ***before November 27th*** to reserve your place and request carpooling if needed. Start the season with a great Christmas Lunch along side great friends!

Adult Bible Study

For our next "Confirmation, Again" class we will be reflecting on the question "What Is a Lutheran?" And so we will be discussing Lutheran history, theology, what Lutherans believe and why it makes a difference. There are two meeting times for this class:

Thursday, December 10th, at 7:00pm at St. James
Monday, December 14th at 7:00pm at Jerusalem



Help Needed: Chrismon Tree set-up

It's the season!! We are getting ready to put up our traditional Chrismon Tree. We need helping hands to help put the tree up in the Sanctuary on Friday, December 11th.

We will then need help **decorating the tree on Saturday, December 12th** starting at 10AM. The more helping hands the merrier!



Staff Appreciation Gift: We are now collecting donations for the staff Christmas gift for Pastor Chris, David and Glenda. If you are able and would like to donate toward this gift, please use the ***Staff Appreciation Gift*** envelope included with your packet of envelopes mailed to you quarterly or use the envelope included with the Bulletin or News letter. You can deliver it at worship on December 6th, 13th or 20th, or you can mail it in to the office. If you don't have an envelope, you can simply write a check and mark **"*Staff Christmas Gift"*** on the memo line. We need to have these donations in by December 20th in order to be able to present them by Christmas.



Free Food Friday

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

When: Friday, December 18th **Time:** 6 PM-7PM
(please do not arrive prior to 6 PM until daycare is closed)
Where: Jerusalem Lutheran Church - Social Hal
To RSVP visit our website at: www.jelc.org or call 610-287-7104.



Homeless Meals Volunteers Needed
Saturday, December 19th

Volunteers needed to help prepare meals to feed the homeless on Saturday, December 19th. Please visit www.jelc.org to view sign-up schedule, contact the church office or Norma Grosick.



Mark your Calendars: Epiphany Brunch

Join us Sunday, January 10th after the worship service as we celebrate the arrival of the Three Wise Men to visit The New Born King during Epiphany as we close the Christmas Season.

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

PRELUDE *"Once He Came in Blessing"* J. S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING SONG** *"The King Shall Come"* **(#260)**

1. The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

2. Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

3. Oh, brighter than the rising morn when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death, despite the rage of foes.

4. Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes, and we shall see His face.

5. The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: come quickly, King of kings.

***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.

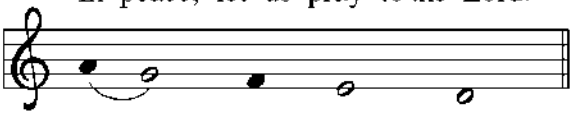
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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

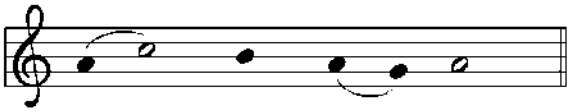
***KYRIE (SUNG)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



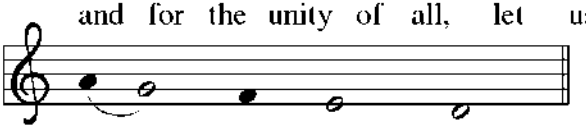
Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



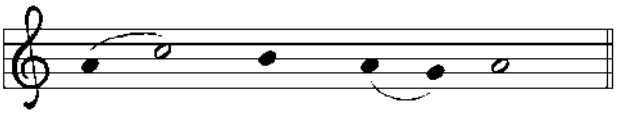
Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

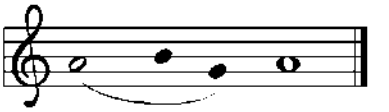


Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

BLESSING AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

HYMN *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"* **(#240:1)**

1. Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Words: Wayne L. Wold, ©1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

PSALM Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Chanted responsively between Cantor and Congregation

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
3 Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
4 **O Lord | God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
5 You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
19 **Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

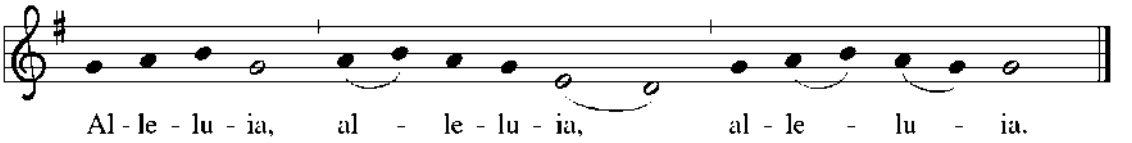
SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



CANTOR: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.
ALL: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

***GOSPEL READING Mark 13:24-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.
27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

SERMON **Pastor Chris McKinstry**

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"* **(#436)**

1. Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The Bridegroom comes! Awake;
your lamps with gladness take!" Alleluia!
Rise and prepare the feast to share;
go, meet the Bridegroom, who draws near.

2. Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
Her dear Friend comes down, all glorious,
the Strong in grace, in Truth victorious:
her Star is ris'n; her Light is come.
Now come, O Blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Sing hosanna!
Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
and follow to the banquet hall.

3. Gloria! Let heav'n adore You!
Let saints and angels sing before You,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,
with angel choirs around Your throne.
No eye has caught the light,
no ear the thund'ring might of such glory.
There we will go: what joy we'll know!
There sweet delight will ever flow.

Words: Philipp Nicolai, tr composite, ©1999 Augsburg Fortress.

***NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
he was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, 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 *"The Only Son from Heaven"* J.S. Bach **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)**

Holy Creator,
we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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** *"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"* **(#244)**

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

2. The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the Bridegroom near;
go forth as He approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the Bridegroom is at hand.

3. The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before Him
their diadems of gold.

4. Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets Your people free!

***DISMISSAL**
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *"Carillon on 'Sleepers, Wake' "* Paxton



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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SERVING TODAY

10:30 AM
Ushers: Paul Ensminger & Joan Connolly
Acolytes: Ella Cusumano & Adelina Freer

Cantor: Dylan Dice
Lector: Robin Schlichter
Nursery Assistant: Glenda Ortiz

Brass ensemble:
Christopher and Nicholas Rittich,
Garvey and Matthew Wolk—Trumpets
Robert Rittich—Baritone Horn; Roland Rittich—Tuba

Counters: Babs deFrenes & Jack Bowman
Altar Guild: Rose Koehler & Dalilah Freer
Banners: Louise Hunsicker & John Souder



Our Christian sympathy and prayers are extended to family and friends of ***Joan Erb,*** who entered into Eternal Life on November 20, 2026.



PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS FOR SPIRITUAL, PHYSICAL HEALING & RENEWAL

Barbara Blanchard, Martin Conte, Ryan Dankanich, Debbie Feichthaler, Anne Fisher, Pat Giarrocco, Greg Kealey, Gene & Pat Miesse, Bev O'Brien, Daniela Rivera, Don Peters, Lorie Sarnocinski, Joseph Schmitt, Frankie Stankus, Victor Vazquez, Rita Weiss, Gail Wetzel, Bobbie Willis & Carol Withers.

ONGOING PRAYERS

Damian Aguilera, Coral Aubert, Susie Barker, Jeanne Bullard, Audrey Englehart, Margaret Fisher, Madison Hills, Effa Hunt, Jay Kapila, Derek Kirby, Nellie Ann Kodoziejski, Leslie Leben, Bill Luyben, Janet Neumann, Noel Pumphrey, Joseph Russella, Robin Schlichter, Robert Schirk, Mary Ann Schofield, Shawn Schlichter, Jennifer Sone, & Carol Sprainer.

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