Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church
311 Second Street
Schwenksville, PA 19473



November 26, 2026

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

November 2026

Volume 64 **Issue Number 11**

Pastor's Page



Confirmation, Again: How Did We Get Here?

In the last couple of weeks, more than forty of you from both Jerusalem and St. James gathered for our first "Confirmation, Again" session: "How to Read the Bible?" It was a rich, lively conversation. For me, it was also something of a personal relief and joy. This idea had been rattling around in my head for months, living in notes and half-formed outlines, and to finally share it with you—to see you wrestle with it, ask questions, and connect it to your own lives—felt like a gift. I hope it was as helpful for you as it was encouraging for me.

Our next session turns from Scripture to story—from how we read the Bible to how we understand the long, winding story of the church. In other words, we're going to ask: how did we get from the book of Acts to the church as we know it today?

Harry Truman once said, "There is nothing new in the world except the history you do not know." Mark Twain said, "History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes." Those two lines capture why church history matters for our faith. When we know our history, we start to recognize the "rhymes": familiar patterns of courage and compromise, faithfulness and failure, reform and renewal. We see that many of the questions we are asking today—about power, justice, inclusion, worship, Scripture, and mission—are not entirely new. Others have asked them before us.

By understanding where we've been, we can better understand where the church is today. We see the challenges the church has faced and overcome across centuries. We learn why we believe what we believe—not because our ancestors were perfect, but because countless women and men prayed, studied, argued, suffered, and sacrificed to hand the faith on to us. Their work, for better and for worse, has shaped the church we inhabit now.

Studying this story also helps us be honest about our mistakes. Church history is not a triumphal parade; it's a very human story. We will look at moments when the church went badly astray, listened more to fear than to the Spirit, or confused the way of Jesus with the ways of empire and power. But even there, history gives us a gift: we can learn from these failures so we don't repeat them in our own time.

Of course, trying to cover 2,000 years of history in about 90 minutes is an impossible task. We won't attempt a detailed timeline or a list of every council and controversy. Instead, we will trace some of the major milestones and turning points that have shaped the church: key decisions, movements, and people that still influence how we worship, how we read the Bible, and how we understand what it means to follow Christ together.

This season in the church year gives us a perfect lens for that work. As of writing this article we have just this past Sunday reflected on St. Luke—an evangelist and storyteller whose Gospel and the book of Acts give us our earliest picture of the church's life. And in the coming week we will celebrate Reformation Sunday, remembering another pivotal moment and the reformers who sought to call the church back to the heart of the gospel. Both Luke and the reformers remind us that the church has always been in motion, always being re-formed by the Spirit.

I would love for you to join us for our next "Confirmation, Again" session on church history later this month.

The class will be offered at two times:
Thursday, November 12 at St. James, Limerick at 7:00pm
Monday, November 16 at Jerusalem at 7:00pm.

Come and see how the story of the church's past can shed light on our present and help guide us into a faithful future.

May the grace and peace of Christ bless you throughout this month.
Pastor Chris



Looking Ahead: Welcome November



- Sunday, November 1st: ***All Saints Sunday***
- Monday, November 2nd - 7:00 PM: JLNSDC Board Meeting (SH)
- Tuesday, November 3rd - 6:00 PM: Maple Hill Assc. Meeting (YC)
- Wednesday, November 4th - 1:00 PM: Worship & Music Meeting (OP)
- Thursday, November 5th - 6:30 PM: PV Cheer Practice (SH)
- Tuesday, November 10th - 7:00 PM: Council Meeting (SH)
- Sunday, November 15th - 11:30 AM: ***Annual Congregational Meeting***
- Monday, November 16th - 10:00 AM: Book Club Meeting (OP)
  6:30 PM: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Begins (Sanctuary)
  7:00 PM: Adult Bible Study with Pastor Chris (SH)
- Tuesday, November 17th - 6:30 PM: Teen Time (SH)
- Thursday, November 19th - 9:30 AM: Care Team Meeting (YC)
- Sunday, November 22nd - ***Christ the King Sunday***
- Wednesday, November 25th - 7:30 PM: Thanksgiving Eve Service at Heidelberg UCC
- Thursday, November 26th - ***Happy Thanksgiving***
- Sunday, November 29th - ***1st Sunday of Advent***



All Saints Sunday



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
Will be held on Sunday, November 1, 2026.

The first Sunday in November is the day to remember our sisters & brothers in Christ who have died during the preceding year.

The names of members will be read during the Worship Service and the bell will toll as each name is read.

We will have a table for members to share photos of loved ones that have passed. We will acknowledge those loved ones in the service. If you would like to have your loved ones remembered in this way please drop the picture with the name of the person off to the church office.

"For All the Saints Who from Their Labors Rest"
For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who Thee by faith before the world confess,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest, Alleluia! Alleluia!







Congregational Meeting



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026 in the Sanctuary
at 11:30 AM (Following Worship Service)
There will be No Christian Education
You are important to this process…. Hope to see you all there!

Special Invitation



Duo Piano Recital ~ St. Luke Lutheran Church in Gilbertsville
presented by Bruce Tonkin, Director of Music

Sunday, November 1st at 2:00 PM
2 pianos, 8 hands
John Bednar, Joan Johnson, Amy LaRue, Bruce Tonkin - pianist
a free will offering will be received
35 Wilson Ave, Gilbertsville

November Teen Time



Teen Time
Tuesday, November 17th *from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM*
JELC Social Hall
Email the church office at: secretary@jelc.org or
text Glenda Ortiz at: 215-237-7707 to RSVP

Harvest Home Sunday



Harvest Home Sunday: Sunday, November 15th & 22nd
We will once again be collecting non perishable food items to be donated to local food banks. We will have baskets in the Coffee Corner for donation items to be placed (starting late October/ early November.) We will take some items to the altar for a special blessing before distributing the donations.
Donations can be dropped off no later than November 22nd

Thanksgiving Eve Services



As done traditionally every year, Thanksgiving Eve Services will be hosted by Heidelberg UCC. **The services will be on November 25th at 7:30 PM.**
We look forward to celebrating the season with everyone once again.

Monthly Luncheon Gatherings



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!

ASP Fundraising



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.

Christmas Blessing Bags



For the past few years our congregation alongside our JLNSDC have been generously participating in the *"Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child"* project. We are grateful for the support and achievements in collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts for children all around the world.

This year, we would like to shift our focus, but with the same momentum and 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 Christmas bags along with a supply list for families who wish to fill a bag at home as a family project.

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

We have provided a list of suggested items for the collection. Bags will be delivered to the Laurel House where coordinators will deliver the bags to families in need at their shelter.

Bags will be available in the Cloister and Coffee Corner along with list of gifts and supplies suggestions. Any questions please feel free to contact Glenda Ortiz at secretary@jelc.org or 610-287-7104.

Small doll
Small coloring books
Stuff Toy
Small Puzzles
Harmonica
Chap Stick
Slinky
Bandaids
Play-doh

School Supplies
Tool kits
Dinosaurs
Stickers
Plastic animals
Cars/trucks
Sunglasses
Cards/travel games
Balls

Yoyo
Bandana
Headbands, hair bows
Toothbrush
Socks
Comb/brush
Necklaces, bracelets, rings
Gloves
Scarfs
Socks

Children Christmas Pageant Rehearsals



We are excited to kick start our Rehearsals for our Children's Christmas Pageant.

Rehearsals will be held Monday evenings starting November 16th from 6:30 PM-7:30 PM in the Sanctuary.

Please contact Glenda Ortiz at secretary@jelc.org or text 215-237-7707 if interested in participating.

Christmas Eve Services



Christmas Eve Services

4:00 PM: Children's Annual Christmas Pageant with Communion

7:30 PM: Festive Candlelight Communion Service

FAMILY & FRIENDS ALL WELCOME

Volunteer Opportunities



Free Food Friday Community Meals

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. We need all the helping hands we can get. Please visit www.jelc.org to view sign-up schedule, contact the church office or Norma Grosick.



Nursery Assistants during Sunday Worship

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.



Sign-up for Stream Team Available

We are working on getting a schedule organized for our Stream Team. We are in need of volunteers to help run our live stream during the worship services each Sunday. Please sign-up for to help run the live stream each week. This is also a great serving opportunity for youth members.



Ushers Needed

We need someone willing to usher the third Sunday of the month every other month. 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:
lkehs@verizon.net. Your help will be greatly appreciated.



Worship Assistants

Would you like to grow into other serving opportunities during the Worship service? We are in need of additional Worship Assistants to be added to our small current group of volunteers. Worship Assistants help assist the Pastor during the service on Communion Sundays. Communion Sundays are scheduled during the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month and on certain festive church holidays such as Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, Easter and Reformation Sundays (just to name a few.) Duties for Worship Assistants are reading scripture passages, prayers, and pouring the wine during communion. If interesting in learning more and or to volunteer to become a Worship Assistant please reach out to Glenda Ortiz, Pastor Chris, or David Crist.

Welcome New Members



Jerusalem Lutheran Evangelical Church warmly welcomes Patrick & Lisa Morris as new members of our church family. Patrick & Lisa Morris joined as members on Sunday, October 4th. They are parents of Sam Morris and in-laws to Maddie Morris.

"We give you thanks for our new members, whom God has drawn to himself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others."

In Memoriam



Our Christian sympathy is extended to family and friends of ***Linda Petruccelli,*** mother in law of Ashley Petruccelli, who entered into Eternal Life on October 12, 2026.



I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
2 Timothy 4:7

Jerusalem Lutheran Nursery School and Day Care

DAY CARE NEWS

November will be a special month filled with gratitude and thankfulness as we count our blessings at JLNS&DC. To begin with, as Thanksgiving approaches, we will be focusing on the importance of sharing and caring for others. Each class will be collecting food items to donate to the Daily Bread Food Pantry. The children will be decorating boxes to hold the donations. Excitement will start to build as the children watch the collection boxes fill up with cans of soup, fruit, and vegetables, along with Jello, pudding, and cake mixes. Next, in honor of Veterans Day we will be making thank you cards to send to the veterans residing at the Southeastern Veterans' Center. We want the veterans to know how grateful we are for their service to our great country. In addition, we hope to once again welcome some local veterans from the Roy S. Leidy American Legion Post 203 to our school for a special Veterans Day program. We will present these veterans with thank you cards as well. The children genuinely enjoy spending time with the veterans each year and hearing about their experiences in the different branches of the military. Later in the month, we will be making Thanksgiving cards to send to our JELC Sunshine Friends. In addition, we plan to walk to The Village at Perkiomen Place, formerly known as Greenfield Assisted Living Community, to deliver Thanksgiving goodie bags to the residents. Finally, we are so thankful to God for all His goodness and continued blessings upon JLNS&DC!

Recently, Jerusalem Lutheran Day Care was inspected by a licensing agent from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). The unannounced inspection is an annual requirement for all licensed childcare centers in Pennsylvania. We are pleased to report that JLDC passed the inspection with flying colors! Our center was found to be in compliance with all state regulations. The agent was impressed by our staff members' qualifications and years of experience. In addition, the agent offered high praise for our center's thorough record keeping and safe environment. Congratulations to our dedicated and hardworking staff on a job well done!



Tell a Friend: We have a few full-time openings in our Nursery School program. For more information, please call the JLNS&DC office at 610-287-6360.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who participated in our Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser. We hope you enjoyed the delicious ribs! Money raised through this fundraiser will be used toward playground maintenance. We appreciate your support!

Care Team Highlights



No Sunshine Friends Birthdays in November

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.

The Care Team will be hanging bags for our Sunshine Friends for Christmas Cards starting on Nov. 22nd and the last date before delivering will Dec. 13th.

Our next meeting will be November 19th, 2026 at 9:30 AM in the Youth Center.

Jeanette Frey

Anne Fisher

Jean Fulmer

Barbara Hartenbauer

Gene & Pat Miesse

Don & Nancy Peters

Robert Schirk

Don and Jean Whitko

Janice Witte

Donna Wisniewski

Worship & Music Highlights

Notes from Worship & Music Committee meeting held on October 7, 2026

Attendance: Ardie Musselman, Anna Marie Damiani, Babs deFrenes, Carol Sprainer, Janet Luyben, Jack Bowman, Norma Grosick, Pastor Chris, David Crist, Glenda Ortiz

November:

- **All Saints Day, Nov. 1** – Remembrance table set up in the sanctuary, finalize plan. White paraments, communion at the rail. One assistant to pour wine.
- **November 15 – congregational meeting** after the service, continuous line communion
- **Harvest Home**, November 15th & November 22 – display fall decorations in the sanctuary and collect non-perishable items for the food pantry. Set up Saturday, Nov. 14. Suggestion: collect items needed for Norma for homeless donations.
- **Christ the King Festival Sunday**, November 22 -- white paraments. Continuous line communion distribution change. One Communion Assistant and the Acolyte will help pour wine.
- **Thanksgiving Eve service**, Wednesday, November 25 – joint, hosted by Heidelberg church at 7:30 pm.
- **November 28, Saturday before Advent** – door wreaths, globes, Advent wreath, at 10 AM
- **November 29, First Sunday in Advent** – brass ensemble

December:

Preparing for Christmas – live tree, Paul Ensminger and Todd Fulmer will take charge
Schedule dates for set up, and decorating the tree.
Christmas Eve worship service times 4 PM & 7:30 PM

Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 4th, at 1:00pm in the Office Parlor

November Birthdays

02 Jennifer, Brevoort, Crystal Koehler
04 Janet Luyben
06 Collin Elvidge, Sarah Wise
07 Marcia Elvidge
11 William Ford
13 Pam McHugh



14 Bruce Fulmer, Karen Sanders
15 Jeff Gosch
20 Thomas Bionda
21 Barbara Blanchard
24 Flossie Wood



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.



Member of the Month: David Crist

David Crist has been the Director of Music for Jerusalem for 22 years. He began studying music as age 6, and plays organ, piano, and a bit of guitar. He graduated from Perkiomen Valley in 1981 and attended Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ before transferring to North Texas State University, earning a Bachelor of Music degree in 1985. He also has taught piano at George's Music in Spring City since 2014, and has had piano students at church. Aside from music, hobbies include Bible study and Christian YouTube videos.

Council Highlights

- **2027 Budget:** The council approved the 2027 budget, to be shared at Annual Meeting
- **Property Maintenance:** The council approved having DHI paint the men's room wall on a time and materials basis.
- **Worship & Music:** Specific dates were finalized for the Chrismon tree: setup by December 11th, decorating on December 12th, and takedown on January 3rd, 2027.
- **Social Ministry:** The October Opportunity House event was moved from October 23rd to 24th. Council aligned on a plan to pursue a local ministry event at Christmas-time instead of Samaritan's Purse.

Good News Deadline

GOOD NEWS **DEADLINE** for the ***December*** Edition is ***Monday, November 16th***
Please send all submissions to secretary@jelc.org or drop off at the Church office.

November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints Sunday 9:15 AM Sunday School & Confirmation classes 10:30 AM Worship service with live stream **Paraments: WHITE** Communion	**2** 10:45 AM-3:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 7 PM JLNSDC Board Meeting (SH)	**3** 12:30 PM-2:00 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 6:00 PM Maple Hill Assc. Meeting (YC)	**4** 12 PM-4 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 1:00 PM Worship & Music Meeting (OP) 7:00 PM AA Meeting (YC)	**5** 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 6:30 PM Steepleringers Rehearsal 6:30 PM PV Cheer Practice (SH) 7:30 PM Asaph Choir Rehearsal	**6** 10 AM - 12:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)	**7** 7:00 AM AA Meeting (YC)
8 9:15 AM Sunday School & Confirmation classes 10:30 AM Worship service with live stream **Paraments: GREEN**	**9** 10:45 AM-3:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)	**10** 12:30 PM-2:00 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 7:00 PM Council Meeting (SH)	**11** 12 PM-4 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 7:00 PM AA Meeting (YC)	**12** 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 6:30 PM PV Cheer Practice (SH) 6:30 PM Steepleringers Rehearsal 7:30 PM Asaph Choir Rehearsal	**13** 10 AM - 12:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)	**14** 7:00 AM AA Meeting (YC)
15 Annual Congregational Meeting 9:15 AM Sunday School & Confirmation Classes 10:30 AM Worship service with live stream 11:30 Annual Congregational Meeting **Paraments: GREEN** Communion	**16** 10 AM Book Club (OP 10:45 AM-3:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 6:30 PM Pageant Rehearsal 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study (SH) ***December Good News Deadline***	**17** 12:30 PM-2:00 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 6:30 PM Teen Time (SH)	**18** 12 PM-4 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 7:00 PM AA Meeting (YC)	**19** 9:30 AM Care Team Meeting (YC) 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 6:30 PM Steepleringers Rehearsal 7:30 PM Asaph Choir Rehearsal	**20** 10 AM - 12:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)	**21** 7:00 AM AA Meeting (YC)
22 Christ the King Harvest Home 9:15 AM Sunday School & Confirmation Classes 10:30 AM Worship service with live stream **Paraments: WHITE** Communion	**23** 10:45 AM-3:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 6:30 PM Pageant Rehearsal	**24** 12:30 PM-2:00 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)	**25 Thanksgiving Eve Service** 12 PM-4 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 7:00 PM AA Meeting (YC) 7:30 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service at Heidelberg UCC	**26 Happy Thanksgiving** 	**27** 10 AM - 12:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC)	**28** 7:00 AM AA Meeting (YC)
29 1st Sunday of Advent 9:15 AM Sunday School & Confirmation Classes 10:30 AM Worship service with live stream **Paraments: BLUE**	**30** 10:45 AM-3:45 PM MCIU Therapy Sessions (YC) 6:30 PM Pageant Rehearsal					

YC - Youth Center
SH - Social Hall
OP - Office Parlor

Regular Communion Sunday
Festive Communion Sunday

November Worship Volunteers

DATE	November 1 Communion	November 8	November 15 Communion	November 22 Communion	November 29
	All Saints Sunday		**Annual Congrega-tional Meeting**	**Christ the King Sunday**	**1st Sunday in Advent**
	10:30 AM	**10:30 AM**	**10:30 AM**	**10:30 AM**	**10:30 AM**
Ushers	Paul Ensminger & Joan Connolly	Paul Ensminger & Joan Connolly	Janet Luyben & Joan Connolly	Paul Ensminger & Joan Connolly	Paul Ensminger & Joan Connolly
Acolytes	Emily Englehart	TBD	Sean Ortiz	Eli Johnni & Ryan Weygand	Ella Cusumano & Adelina Freer
Worship Assistants	Sarah Englehart	N/A	Robin Schlichter	Gina Weygand	N/A
Nursery Assistant		Jen Wolk			Glenda Ortiz
Counters	Chas & Gina Weygand	Paul Ensminger & Chris Freer	Linda Kehs & Ardie Musselman	Tim & Nancy Arnold	Babs deFrenes & Jack Bowman

Altar Guild: Rose Koehler & Daliliah Freer **Banners:** Louise Hunsicker, & John Souder

Congregational Church Council 2026

Andy Englehart	President	Paul Ensminger
Norma Grosick	Vice President	Madeline Morris
Chris Freer	Secretary	Samuel Morris
Caesar Gorski, Jr.	Treasurer	Ryan Englehart
Jen Wolk	Financial Secretary	









Regular Worship Schedule



Sunday School & Confirmation Classes ~ 9:15 AM

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
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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