

## *FROM THE PASTOR*

### **Free from the Fear of Death**

A few days after the “stay at home order” went into effect, the sun came out and I decided to get out of my home office and take a walk on the paved trail through the local forest preserve. Many people were walking the trail as well, but everyone was keeping a safe distance from each other. A few people were wearing masks to cover their noses and mouths. People were cordial and friendly, but I could sense an anxious look on many faces. You could tell that people were grappling a new sense of fear – fear of catching a disease and even fear of dying from that disease.

The COVID-19 outbreak has given everyone a chance to think a little more about the reality of death. We have so many physical blessings in our modern Western world that we can feel rather safe and protected most of the time. Because of those blessings, we easily blind ourselves to our mortality. Entertainment keeps our mind distracted from it. Modern medicine gives us the false idea that we can stave off death indefinitely. But now, death has come closer and we are forced to reckon with it every time we go out and interact with people.

Previous generations faced death as a regular part of their lives much more than we do. They didn't have the marvels of modern medicine. Disease and death were more common. Life spans were much shorter. I can't help but think of a Christian prayer from the Middle Ages,

“In the midst of life we are in death.  
To whom may we look for help,  
but from you, Lord,  
who for our sins  
are justly displeased?  
Yet, Lord God most holy,  
Lord most mighty,  
holy and most merciful Savior,  
deliver us from the bitter pains of eternal death.”

Death is a reality we all have to face up to. It is the just curse laid upon the human race for our rebellion. Satan would love to torment us with this fear, but God wants to deliver us from it. That's why he sent his Son Jesus to give his life for us so that we could have a life that never ends. That's the good news God is telling us in the book of Hebrews. “Since the children have flesh and blood, he (Jesus) too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” (Hebrews 2:14-15)

We are getting close to Easter and sadly we may have to celebrate Easter at home this year rather than in person in church. But the message of Easter message has not been canceled. The good news is that Jesus has risen and is alive. His empty tomb proves to us that just as he paid for our every sin on the cross, eternal life in heaven is guaranteed to all who believe in him. He promises us and all believers, “Because I live, you also will live” (John 14:19).

I pray that you and those people on the trail come to know this good news. If you know it already, may you appreciate it all the more. Trust in Jesus, the Lord of life and death, and be free from the fear of death.

*Pastor Kehren*

## Online Worship

Because of the state “stay at home” order, worship services are suspended though the month of April. During this time we are providing a simplified video service over YouTube and Facebook. The Sunday service will be posted by Sunday morning and the Midweek Service by Wednesday evening. Even though we can’t gather for worship, we can worship as congregation together from our own homes. Maybe one of the blessings of this situation is that we will grow in our appreciation and skills at growing in God’s Word and worshipping our Savior in our homes. Think of it, “Every home a church.” For those who don’t have internet access we are mailing out a printed copy of the service and sermon.

Here is the link to our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWzPzwN7HAE3BLM4ZpybHkQ>

Here is the link to our Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/JerusalemMortonGrove/?eid=ARCNw-uUPu8lwQR5HnZz13doMD-2RTN-abpKhWSal\\_pKhUQKSRGOluj2D7VJVDCtLnX0m7uQMt-8qelq](https://www.facebook.com/JerusalemMortonGrove/?eid=ARCNw-uUPu8lwQR5HnZz13doMD-2RTN-abpKhWSal_pKhUQKSRGOluj2D7VJVDCtLnX0m7uQMt-8qelq)

Please also subscribe to our YouTube channel to give us more visibility on the internet. Just click the subscribe when you are on our YouTube channel.

## Worship Theme - The Son of God Goes Forth to War

Wednesday, April 1

Final Midweek Wednesday Service  
*The Promised Warrior*

### Holy Week

Sunday, April 5

Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 9

Maundy Thursday  
*The Battle is Personal*

Friday, April 10

Good Friday  
*The Greatest Battle Ever Fought*

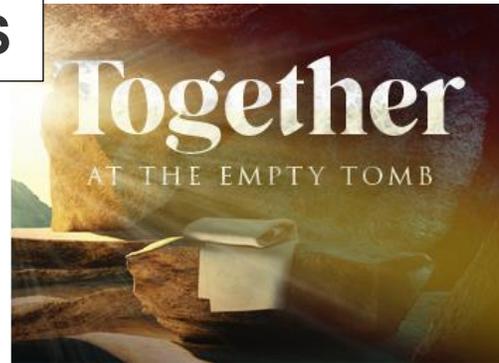
Sunday, April 12

Easter Sunday  
*Victory!*



## SYNOD-WIDE ONLINE SERVICES

This Sunday evening, **Palm Sunday**, WELS President Mark Schroeder will be delivering a brief message to the members of our synod in an online video broadcast. The message will be broadcast live at 6:00 p.m. (central). You can access it at [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net). If you are not able to view the video when it is broadcast live, it will be archived online.



A week later, we will be celebrating our Savior's resurrection on **Easter Sunday**. Our Easter Sunday worship will be different than any we have ever experienced. As a supplement to our congregation's virtual Easter worship, the WELS will be offering an opportunity for our entire synod to gather online for a special Easter Sunday evening service to be broadcast from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary at 6 p.m. (central). We will gather as one family of believers, from across the country and around the world, not only to celebrate our Savior's Easter victory but also to express our unity of faith and mission as members of the Wisconsin Synod. The theme of the service will be, "Together at the Empty Tomb." Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary President Earle Treptow will deliver the Easter message. A small choir, along with a few instruments, will enhance the worship with music and songs of praise. You can watch it [live online](#) at [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net). Stay online after the service for a live Q&A session hosted by President Treptow and Rev. Jon Hein, where viewers can ask questions.

## Bible Study and Sunday School

Sunday School and Bible Study have been suspended for now. Stay tuned for updates. I encourage you to make use of free online devotional material provided by our church body. You can find it here: <https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/>

Each week we will be emailing Sunday School materials to our member families with grade school and younger children to share at home, especially if you have extra time at home with your kids. This is an uncertain time for children and these resources can help provide them the peace that comes from God's promises. God's Word also encourages parents to bring their children up in God's Word (Ephesians 6:4) and these materials can equip you. Contact us at [secretary@jerusalemchurch.org](mailto:secretary@jerusalemchurch.org) if you are not receiving these weekly emails and we will add you to the list.

If you want a different grade level or wish to access future lessons for yourselves, you can download these Christ-Light lessons for free at <https://online.nph.net/cl-ss-downloads>, compliments of Northwestern Publishing House [www.nph.net](http://www.nph.net). Bible stories offered follow the life of Jesus, including several of his miracles and the events of Holy Week and Easter. Besides the student lessons, parents can download coloring sheets and other activities as well as a teacher's guide to help them share the lesson with their children. Different levels are available for children ranging in age from pre-kindergarten to grade six.

## EASTER LILIES

Currently we have reduced our Easter lily order to just a few. Even though it looks like we will be doing an online service for Easter, we would still like to decorate the altar for the video service. If you still want to contribute, please send your orders to Bonnie Sheirok, 4823 Birchwood Ave., Skokie, IL, 60077. Orders may also be sent to the church office, 6218 Capulina Ave., Morton Grove, IL, 60053. Include cash or a check (made out to Bonnie Sheirok) for \$14.00 per lily. Please order before Palm Sunday, April 5th.



## THANKOFFERINGS

Please keep in mind that the financial support of the ministry of Jerusalem depends entirely on the regular offerings of members, so we encourage you, if you are able, to continue your regular pattern of giving. You can mail offerings to the church office or drop them in the mailbox slot next to the school door. This will enable us to continue to pay bills and the salaries of our called workers and staff during this time. The mailing address of the church is: 6218 Capulina Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053. If you have any questions about sending in offerings, please contact our treasurer Steve Mueller at [smuell@ameritech.net](mailto:smuell@ameritech.net) or our congregation president at [Patrick.ruehrdanz@grainger.com](mailto:Patrick.ruehrdanz@grainger.com). We are looking into the possibility of electronic and/or online giving options. Stay tuned for more information.

## Homemade Medical Mask Drive

(A message from JELC member Tanya Kalbach)

Dear Jerusalem Family,  
Advocate Lutheran and many other places are accepting homemade medical masks. You can find patterns on the internet, but if you need more information please email me. When I called the hospital, they said they were accepting any pattern. The cloth can be any kind of cotton/cotton blend fabric and the straps that fasten behind the ears can be elastic or ties, but elastic is easier to get on quickly. Please email me for porch pick up. I will plan on delivering to the ER at Advocate Lutheran Saturday April 11th. My contact information is [tanya\\_kalbach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tanya_kalbach@sbcglobal.net)



## PRINCIPAL CALL

Luke Beilke has returned our call to be principal. Please keep him, his family, and his continuing ministry in Sarasota in your prayers. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the church council has decided to suspend the principal call process. Although we have time to extend another call before the April 15th call cutoff date, we do not want to put a called worker in the position of deliberating a call while trying to manage through this crisis. We will divide the principal duties among our current called workers and volunteers to begin the next school year. The call window will open again in Oct 2020. In the interim, there may be opportunities to extend a temporary and/or part time call to a retired/inactive principal looking for a short-term opportunity to serve. If you have questions, please feel free to contact [Patrick.ruehrdanz@gmail.com](mailto:Patrick.ruehrdanz@gmail.com) or [minerclass@gmail.com](mailto:minerclass@gmail.com)

## JERUSALEM SUMMER CAMPS

Registration forms are now available for summer camps at Jerusalem for kids ages entering Kindergarten through 8th grade. Contact us at [secretary@jerusalem.lutheran.org](mailto:secretary@jerusalem.lutheran.org) and we will send you a copy. Soccer Camp will be June 15th – 18th. S.T.E.A.M. Camp will be July 13th -16th. Volunteers will be needed for both events. Contact us for a list of the opportunities available for soccer camp.

## 2020 WELS International Youth Rally Canceled

It is with a heavy heart that WELS has decided to cancel the 2020 WELS International Youth Rally. We know this opportunity is important for our youth as a way to get and stay connected to God's Word. However, as it's unknown how long and significant the impact of COVID-19 will be along with the financial toll this crisis is taking on families and congregations, it was decided, in the best interest of our congregations and you, to postpone the event until the next scheduled rally in 2022. The WELS Commission on Discipleship is exploring options to make resources available online from the key presentations that were scheduled for the rally for youth groups and members to use. We will do our best to bring the rally to you.

"Seeing Christ Clearly. Serving Christ Boldly" was the theme for the rally. This theme for Christian living is more relevant now than ever. Through resources, Bible studies, community service ideas, and more we hope to make available this summer, our prayer is that WELS youth will still be able to receive this important message and use it as motivation and inspiration to share the light of Christ at home and in their communities.

It is unfortunate that in such unprecedented times we must make these difficult decisions. Praise God that we know he is in control of all things in heaven and on earth. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).



### Jerusalem School Begins Learning from Home Program

JELS school mascot, Jerry the Eagle, is waiting for all of his friends to return to school. But, in the meantime, students are working on the learning activities that their teachers have prepared.

YouTube channels have also been created by each teacher, and mini lessons are recorded for children to watch. Teachers especially of older students will also be providing materials online and setting up times to conference with their students a few times a week. Each teacher will be communicating students regularly to help guide them through all that is planned.



## School Sign Fundraising Update

For over 100 years Jerusalem Church has been educating the young people of Morton Grove in the truths of the gospel (my kids are the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of my family to receive this blessing at our school). It is long overdue for us to put a sign on the corner of Georgiana and Capulina to let people know that we are here to serve them with the good news of Jesus. **We only have about \$10.5k to go for our sign to be fully funded!** We are thankful to have just paid down our school debt from last year and would love to avoid taking out a loan to finish the project. Please prayerfully consider donating toward our sign. This sign could be the first opportunity to create awareness to a neighbor about the Lord's wonderful gracious gift offered at Jerusalem Lutheran Church & School.

REMINDER: MAKE ANY CHECKS OUT TO JERUSALEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL. If you have questions, please contact myself Patrick Ruehrdanz at [patrick.ruehrdanz@grainger.com](mailto:patrick.ruehrdanz@grainger.com) or Principal Vance at [djviag@gmail.com](mailto:djviag@gmail.com).



# Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

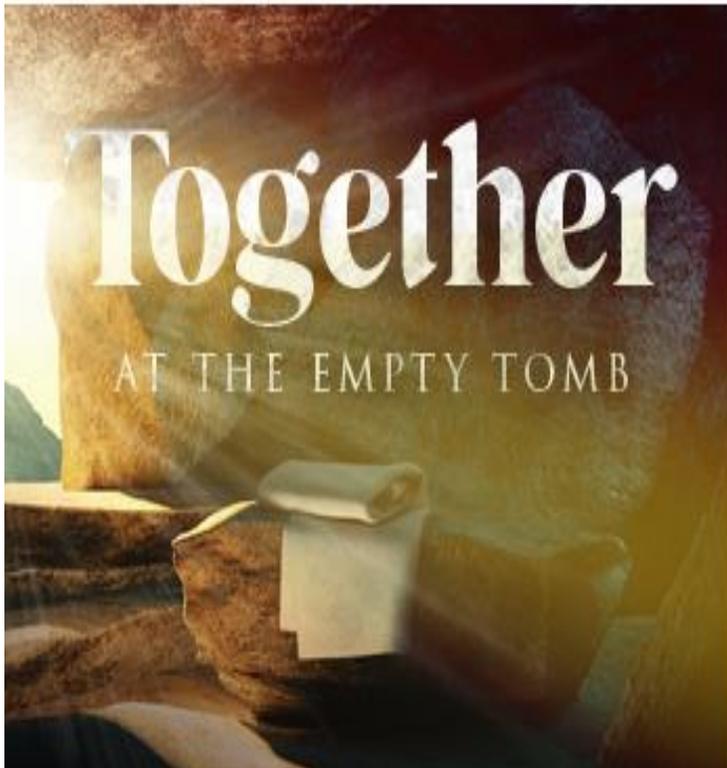
6218 Capulina Ave  
Morton Grove, IL 60053

Pastor Jonathan Kehren  
Phone: 847-965-7340  
Email: pastor@jerusalemlutheran.org

## **Worship Schedule**

Sunday 8:00 and 10:30 am

*“Our purpose is to serve all people  
with the gospel of Jesus Christ on  
the basis of Holy Scripture”*



*Easter and  
Holy Week  
online worship*

*See page 3*