

FROM THE PASTOR

LOOK FAR AHEAD

Are you nearsighted? Unfortunately, I am. Put a cereal box in front of me, and my eyes won't need any help to move Snap, Crackle, and Pop through the maze printed on the back. Ask me to read the sign across the street, and my eyes will need corrective lenses to see clearly. I am part of the 40% of Americans who see objects clearly if near, but blurry if far.

Did you know the 40% is growing? Some have estimated that half of the world's population will be nearsighted by 2050. Did you read that right? Not half of *America's* population...half of the *world's* population. Going by today's numbers, that would be about 3.8 billion people! 3.8 billion people who can enjoy the back of a Rice Krispies box but can't drive safely without some sort of help.

Dr. Andrew Huberman is a Professor of Neurobiology and Ophthalmology at Stanford University School of Medicine. He and his lab are working to find out why that 40% is growing so rapidly. He has reaffirmed that genetics play a huge role. He's also discovered that people have trouble clearly seeing objects at a distance because they simply don't do it often. If you're anything like me, you spend more time looking at close-up stuff like phones, computer screens, books, newspapers, or cereal boxes than squinting at boats sailing over the horizon on Lake Michigan. So, look far ahead more often. Dr. Huberman has shown that our eyes need to be exercised just like our muscles do. His lab recommends staring out a window and focusing on something in the distance for a few moments every hour and a half. Who knew daydreaming was the miracle cure?

I'm musing about vision today because I often wonder if our "spiritual vision" (if you'll permit me to invent that term) is nearsighted. It is easy to see the things near – the things we need God to take care of right now. We need a full-time pastor. We need to get organized for the school year. I need to have things ready for worship next week. Certainly, these are things we need to focus on. However, if we only focus on the objects near, we lose the ability to clearly see objects far. Have you focused on any of these far things lately? What will Jerusalem look like four pastors from now? Or ten school years? What about worship content and style when your great-great-grandchildren sit in the pew? These are also things we need to focus on. If those things are hard for you to picture, you're not alone. I'd venture a guess that 100% of Christians suffer from some sort of spiritual nearsightedness.

To see those far off objects more clearly, you could do a little spiritual exercise. The Apostle Paul recommends spending time looking really – really – far ahead. *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things (Colossians 3:1,2).*

When we use our spiritual vision to see our life with Christ, we see everything more clearly. When your mind is focused on things above, you are reminded that God loved you enough to come from that far-off place above to this near place. The prescription lens that says "Rx – *Christ Died For You*" enables you to see objects both near and far clearly. In this way, whether it is one pastor or four from now, one school year or ten, worship next week or for your grandchild – we at Jerusalem will see clearly when we focus our minds on Christ above.

- Pastor Spaude

PASTORAL CALL ISSUED

The congregation has voted to call Eric Melso as our next pastor. Pastor Melso is currently serving at Living Hope Lutheran Church in Ooltewah, Tennessee. He is married and he and his wife are expecting their second child. He was called based on his preaching, outreach, and administration abilities, and because of his background with the Asian culture, having taken Chinese language classes and spending a year in China. He and his family would be a wonderful blessing to both the church and school at Jerusalem. He will now seek input from both congregations as he decides whether to continue in his present ministry or to accept the call to serve at Jerusalem. Please keep both congregations in your prayers.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

All members are encouraged to attend our regular quarterly congregational meeting on Sunday, July 25th following the second service. Reports will be presented on the status of our church and school ministries.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Jerusalem Lutheran and St. Matthew's Lutheran

Jerusalem Lutheran and St. Matthew's Lutheran are two sister churches serving the Morton Grove and Niles communities. Regardless of which location, you will sing the same songs and hear the same readings and message. For your convenience, three service times are offered on Sunday morning at the times and locations below.

8:00am – Jerusalem Campus
9:30am – St. Matthew's Campus
11:00am – Jerusalem Campus

We continue to livestream the 8:00 am service at Jerusalem:

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/>

Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School will take a break for the summer.



PASTOR KEHREN FAREWELL

We bid a fond farewell to Pastor Kehren, Ginny, Joshua, and Jason with a special fellowship event on Sunday, June 27th. Pastor Kehren is now serving as a Christian Giving Counselor for the WELS Western Wisconsin District. We thank the Kehren family for their faithful service at Jerusalem and wish them all God's Blessings as they relocate to Wisconsin! We will miss you!

READ THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT IN A YEAR

Pastor Kehren will finish out the year providing Bible Readings and Questions to read through the New Testament in a year. It is not too late to join in! Contact the church office to be added to the weekly email list or if you would like to receive a paper copy of the readings.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Commemorate a birthday or special event by providing flowers to be placed either on the church altar or by the statue of Jesus in the back of the church. Contact Emily Buetow to schedule a date.

CLEAN-UP DAY

Join us for a clean-up day for the interior of the church and school. We want to get everything looking nice for the upcoming school year. Come and join us on Saturday, August 7th from 9:00 am – noon. Many hands make light work!



CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE CHURCH SERVES

Fill in the blank. Jesus came to _____. How would you fill it in? Preach? Love? Forgive? Maybe it is best to get our answer from Jesus himself. In the book of Mark, Jesus said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many." How did Jesus fill in the blank? Jesus came to serve! His life was a life of service to us. In this sermon series, we will look at how the life of a Christian is also a life of service. Motivated by the perfect service Jesus gave us, we as Christians serve the Lord and each other. The topic and dates for each week in the series are below.

- July 11th: The Church Serves with Workers (Work)
- July 18th: The Church Serves in Worship (Worship)
- July 25th: Series takes a break – guest preacher
- August 1st: The Church Serves by Teaching (Educate)
- August 8th: The Church Serves God's House (Build)
- August 15th: The Church Serves God's People (Reach)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY SUNDAYS

In conjunction with the sermon series, we will be highlighting the many service opportunities available at Jerusalem. Each Sunday, we will be introducing a different area of ministry and the volunteer opportunities available.



Stop by the volunteer table in the church entryway. Contact the person listed below after each opportunity or contact the church office to clarify the details of each role: Why is my role so valuable? How does my roll connect people to Jesus? What exactly do I do, step-by-step? How long is the commitment? What if I run into an issue? What about substitutes? Who is my contact person?

If everyone could agree to take on one or two tasks, together we will continue to have a well-run church and school. Please prayerfully consider how you can best use your talents/abilities to serve at Jerusalem and show your love for Jesus.

Worship

Altar Guild (Emily Buetow)
Choir (Emily Buetow)
Greeters (Linda Rosenblum)
Livestreaming (Chiseon Kim)
Musicians (Lola Kirstein, Laura Boughton)
TV Screen Messages (Chiseon Kim)
Ushers (Heinz Kirstein)



Education

After-School Academy (Chiseon Kim)
Cradle Roll (Linda Rosenblum)
JELS Reading Volunteers (Chiseon Kim)
Sunday School Music (Laura Boughton or Deb Felsing)
Sunday School Teachers (Alex Buetow)
Support Students Away at School (Linda Rosenblum)



Building and Grounds

Church Cleaners (Ginny Knuth)
Complex Maintenance (Romeo Iusco)
Security (Heinz Kirstein)
Simple Maintenance (Marco Freytes)
Work Days (Marco Freytes)



Fellowship and Outreach

Advent Prayer Breakfast (Emily Buetow)
Blocktoberfest (Brian Felsing)
Canvassing/Postcards (Brian Felsing)
Calling Committee (John Hasenberg)
ESL for Adults (Steve Mueller)
Special Events (Brian Felsing)
Summer Camps (Deb Felsing)





School News



On July 18th, Ms. Eliza Punzel and Mr. Chiseon Kim were installed before God and Jerusalem Congregation. Ms. Punzel will serve as the grades 1-2 teacher, and Mr. Kim will serve as the principal of Jerusalem Lutheran School and grades 5-6 teacher. Please keep Ms. Punzel and Mr. Kim in your prayers.



ESL Program

Jerusalem's third and fourth grade teacher, Debbie Felsing, has just received her English as a Second Language Endorsement after completing the program at National Louis University. This Endorsement, or certification, enables Mrs. Felsing to work with ESL students from Preschool through grade 12 to develop their English language proficiency.

What does this mean for Jerusalem school? Students who attend our school that do not speak English as their primary language will initially receive a language assessment. If it is determined that services would be beneficial, students will receive additional help in the classroom to learn the curriculum as well as develop their English language communication skills. Mrs. Felsing will also be working with the classroom teachers so they can provide effective instruction to meet the needs of these students and communicate progress to the parents.

We are so happy that God has blessed our school with this ESL program! We hope and pray that this program enables us to share the gospel with many families.



Jerusalem Lutheran Precious Child Early Learning Center wraps up its summer camp on July 30th.

Throughout the summer, students spent time in God's word, participated in outdoor activities, and learned through arts/crafts and STEM activities.



Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Vacancy Pastor: Paul Spaude
Phone: 847-965-7340
Email: pastor@jerusalemlutheran.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 8:00 and 11:00 am
Online Worship on Facebook and YouTube

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



In order to provide an opportunity to think about the blessings of worship as well as get a sneak peek at what the new hymnal has to offer, WELS is celebrating WELS National Hymnal Week, Sept. 19th–26th. Online presentations, concerts, and a hymn sing will be available. Go to www.christianworship.com for more information.