

FROM THE PASTOR

God's Perfect Christmas Gift

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things.” Romans 8:31,32

It's that time of year when we once again begin the quest for the —perfect Christmas. Have you noticed that in America it isn't just about experiencing Christmas, it has to be about experiencing the perfect Christmas? All around us are the expectations to have the kind of Christmas that could only fit on the cover of a Hallmark Christmas card. Every year we have great expectations for Christmas, yet it seems every year those expectations are never really satisfied or fulfilled.

And the tragic note is that we as Christians often buy into this mindset. Maybe not wholeheartedly at first, but gradually over time we find our Christmas joy and meaning defined by the standards of our culture. Unless our Christmas is like a Gap commercial, we feel shortchanged or less than fulfilled. Unless we receive the perfect gift or purchase the perfect gift, we feel as if Christmas has been a failure this year. Unless we have the perfect white Christmas with just the right amount of snowfall and Bing Crosby singing *White Christmas* in the background, it just doesn't feel like Christmas. We won't even talk about what constitutes the perfect Christmas dinner.

But the reality is that in Christ Jesus every Christmas is perfect. There is nothing lacking or incomplete in the gift our God gave us on that first Christmas. Perfect love brought Jesus into the world in a lowly manger in Bethlehem. Perfect righteousness was earned for each one of us through the perfect life he lived. Perfect forgiveness was bought and paid for every sinner through the sacrifice of his perfect life on the cross of Calvary.

Perfect victory was achieved for every believer through the power of our Savior's resurrection. And our joy and peace is nothing short of perfect because all these things are wrapped around our hearts through God's amazing promises.

Our sinful culture cannot define for us what Christmas is or what Christmas should be. It cannot determine for us what makes our Christmas joyful or fulfilling. Only the Christ child and the wonders of his love can do that. And that is why for God's people every Christmas is the perfect Christmas.

During these weeks of Advent as we get ready to celebrate Christmas, focus on what Christmas is all about – God's perfect gift to us.

Receiving with you once again God's perfect Christmas gift,

Pastor Kehren



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services

Our worship theme for our midweek Advent is “Women of the Promise.” Each week we will focus on an Old Testament woman who put their trust in God’s promises. We will hear the story of Sarah, Rahab, and Ruth. As we learn from their experiences, we will grow in our trust in God’s promises for our lives – above all the promise of our Savior Jesus.

Wednesday, December 2 – 7:00 PM
Wednesday, December 9 – 7:00 PM
Wednesday, December 16 – 7:00 PM

Christmas Services

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of our Savior and rejoice in the peace and hope that he brings!

Christmas Eve Services: Thursday, December 24 – 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM
Christmas Day Services: Friday, December 25 – 10:00 AM

This year, we will be filming our children’s Christmas service during the school day. Each Classroom PreK - 8th grade is learning songs and recitations. All the pieces will be combined in a Children’s Christmas Service DVD. Contact the church office if you would like a copy of the DVD.

We will have only one worship service on Sunday, December 27th. There will be no Bible Class or Sunday School.

New Year’s Eve Worship

Thursday, December 31st at 7:00 pm
at St. Matthews 9081 N Maryland St, Niles

Give thanks to God for another year of grace and look forward with faith to 2021. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Sunday Worship is at 8:00 am and 10:30 am.

If you are coming to Sunday, Advent, or Christmas worship, please register in advance by e-mail (secretary@jerusalemlutheran.org) or phone (847-965-4750). If you get the voice mail, please leave a message indicating which service you wish to attend and how many are coming. The nursery will not be available for church services until a later date.

ONLINE WORSHIP

We will livestream our Sunday 8:00 am morning service, our Advent services, and our Christmas services on the internet.

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 STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday morning in-person Bible class has resumed. Class runs from 9:15 am until no later than 10:00 am. We will have 7th graders on up join the adult class. We will study the parables of Jesus.

We will also have a video Sunday school class produced by NPH for any younger children who attend. If you are bringing a child to Sunday School on Sunday mornings, let us know so we know how many to prepare.

NPH is also providing online Sunday School videos for parents to use at home at their convenience. A new series will begin in a few weeks. If you haven't been following these lessons, now is a good time to start! Contact the church office by phone or e-mail if you would like the at-home Sunday School materials. To find the video lessons go [Sunday School At Home \(nph.net\)](http://www.nph.net). Scroll down to find the lesson for the week.

WEDNESDAY ZOOM BIBLE CLASS

We will take a break from Zoom Bible study until January.

**We welcome Adam Oakes to the
Jerusalem family.**

WELCOME

Clifford Schwartz was called to his eternal home to be at his Savior's side on November 13. Because of current Covid conditions, a memorial service will be held hopefully in late spring.

James Hoffman was called to his eternal rest on November 13. Because of COVID-19 concerns, the service was private with family.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Jerusalem Church and School is holding a food drive. We will deliver donations to the Niles Township Food Pantry for holiday baskets for families in need. Items requested include canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned beans, cereal, oatmeal, pasta, macaroni & cheese, rice, tuna, powdered milk, fruit cups, fruit snacks, and pudding cups. Non-food donations such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, and paper towels would also be appreciated.

The Food Pantry Serves Morton Grove, Niles, Skokie, Lincolnwood, and Glenview in partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

Please place your donations in the church entryway by Monday, December 7th.



PREGNANCY CENTER GIVING TREE

During Advent, we will hold a drive to support the WELS Pregnancy and Life Resource Center in Mundelein, IL. On the tree in the church entryway, you will find paper ornaments with the description of an item that the center can distribute to the women and children they serve. Please consider taking an ornament from the tree as we show our love for Christ and our love for others during the Christmas season. Items needed include diapers sizes 4-6, wipes, gallon sized zip locks bags, new or gently used children's clothing up to size 10-12, mittens, boots, and hats. Donations should not be wrapped.

If anyone is sticking closer to home this year, I'd be happy to do porch pick-up from your home or if you'd like to shop online, you can have it delivered to my home and I can get it to the Center. Please call me if any of these choices are better for you! Patty 847-530-6704

WELSSA RE-ACCREDITATION

Jerusalem is seeking WELSSA re-accreditation during the 2021-2022 school year. WELS School Accreditation (WELSSA) is a process in which the school evaluates its current education practices and seeks sound methods to build on its strengths and determine new ways to grow and strengthen the educational ministry of the school for the benefit of the students and parents to the glory of God.

Five years ago, Jerusalem went through this process and received Exemplary Accreditation. **During the 2020-2021 school year, we are looking to repeat the process again and complete another self study of our school.** We are scheduled for an accreditation visit on April 25-27, 2022.

We are looking for both congregational members and school families to help participate on committees. You will be teamed up with other volunteers/teachers to study one aspect of our ministry at Jerusalem. Due to the current pandemic, most of the meetings and work for this self study will be done over phone calls, Zoom meetings, and email until we are able to safely gather together again.

There is NO experience necessary to help with this task. Please contact Chiseon Kim (ckim@jerusalemlutheranschool.org) or Emily Buetow (emilysting@gmail.com) if you would like more information or would like to help serve on a committee. You can also leave a message with Linda Rosenblum in the school office at 847.965.4750. Thank you!





School News

Interim Principal Call

On Sunday, October 25th, Jerusalem Lutheran Church congregation voted to extend the interim principal call to our grades 5-6 teacher, Mr. Chiseon Kim. Mr. Kim will serve as our acting principal starting from January 2021. Please continue to support and pray for the ministry of Jerusalem Lutheran Church and School.

Congratulations Buetow Family

We are praising the Lord for the safe delivery of Mrs. Emily Buetow's precious twins, Owen and Maggie. Please keep this precious family in your prayers, praising God for the gift of life to these two precious blessings.

Eagles of the week

Each week, three students are selected by faculty members to be recognized based on their Christ-like attitude and academic effort.

Congratulations to our latest Eagles of the week:

Chloe Gross
 Ayla Schiop
 Johan Viruet
 Natalia Kubala
 Anella Odisho
 Daniel Yoon
 Zoey Holleran
 Marlee Rodgers
 Jvani Sarris
 Liam Moon
 Cameron Colianne
 Grace Vo
 Mateo Rodriguez
 Kara Jackson
 Joseph Yoon

Welcome, Ms. Weiglein

MLC graduate, Amy Weiglein, will be helping us out in the early months of 2021 to cover teaching duties while Mrs. Buetow is on pregnancy leave.



School Sign Update

The new sign will be done any day now! If you have been by school recently, you have seen the progress. Thank you for all the donations to date. We are very excited to be able to better share our messaging with our community. We still have a little ways to go for fund-raising (shortfall is currently ~ 5k). If you can contribute anything toward this effort, it will help us avoid dipping into our line of credit to pay the final bill. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to Jerusalem Lutheran School (don't forget, you can also make online donations). If you have any questions please contact Patrick Ruehrdanz at Patrick.ruehrdanz@gmail.com.

Open House

Precious Child Early Learning Center and Jerusalem School Kindergarten will be holding two Open House events. The first one will be Tuesday, December 1st from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The second will be Saturday, January 30th from 9:00 to 11:00 am. **Applications will be accepted beginning December 1st at the Open House.**

Invite your friends and neighbors with small children to visit and learn about our programs.

Masks and temperature checks will be required. Social distancing will be practiced.

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 am and 10:30 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”*

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Christmas at Jerusalem

Midweek Advent Services 7:00 pm
Wednesdays, December 2nd, 9th and 16th

Christmas Eve Thursday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 4:00 and 7:00 pm
Christmas Day Worship Friday, December 25th 10:00 am

New Year's Eve Thursday, December 31st 7:00 pm
Evening Worship with Holy Communion at St. Matthews

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