

FROM THE PASTOR

What is a “Divine Call”?

Most of you have heard by now that I have received a “divine call” to serve as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Nicollet, Minnesota. Four-and-a-half years ago, you extended a “divine call” when I was serving at Hope Lutheran Church in Penryn, California.

You may be wondering to yourself, “What is a ‘divine call?’” In Bible times, God called some people into the ministry directly. We think of Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the twelve apostles and the apostle Paul. Today, we say that God calls people indirectly through the Church. This happened in the New Testament as Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for the new churches they had established in southern Galatia (Acts 14:23). Paul told Titus to appoint elders on Crete (Titus 1:5). Today, congregations “call” men to serve as their pastors or men and women to serve as teachers. Though the call is issued through God’s people, the call is still “divine” in the sense that we trust that God is guiding the process. Through the Church, God calls individuals to serve him and he guides and blesses the process. The call gives the person called the assurance that they are doing God’s work and they are where the Lord wants them to be. The call also reminds them that they are doing God’s work and should preach and teach God’s Word faithfully and love the people God has sent them to shepherd. St. Paul reminded the elders of Ephesus: “Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers” (Acts 20:28). The call also gives the congregation the confidence that the pastor who serves them is the one whom God has sent to them. They can trust that as long as the pastor is being faithful to his calling, they are to follow his lead as the shepherd God has sent them.

When a congregation needs a new pastor or teacher, it contacts the district president. He will meet with the congregation to determine the particular needs of the congregation and then provide a list of about five names for the congregation to consider. The congregation will meet and then pray, vote, and issue a call to one individual. The pastor or teacher who receives a new call will have to spend a few weeks prayerfully deliberating whether to remain at his present call or accept the new call. The questions he has to keep in mind are, “What needs does each congregation have? How might my gifts and talents best be used at the present time? Is there a particular need in either one of the congregations that my gifts can fill? Have I accomplished what I needed to accomplish at my present call? Are there pressing needs at the new call that need my particular gifts?” His personal and family needs also need to be taken into consideration. The pastor or teacher then seeks advice from others, deliberates, prays, and decides. Many things influence the decision, but he lays them at God’s feet and trusts God from there.

Receiving a call can be a time of anxiety for congregation and called worker alike. Suddenly, the pastor or teacher holds two calls, and it is not immediately clear which one God intends him to fill. But this time of anxiety can be a beneficial time for both the called worker and congregation. It’s a time for prayer and godly advice. It’s a time for both pastor and people to reassess ministry. We should all ask questions like, “Where are we at in our ministry? How are we doing? Are we carrying out the mission God has given us? Where are our strengths and weaknesses? Do we need to revitalize our work?” It’s a time for reflection and a time to pull together as a congregation around the mission God has given us to grow in his grace and share the gospel.

As I deliberate my two calls, one to Jerusalem and Trinity, I invite your prayers and welcome your advice. Above all let us pray and trust that whether I stay or go, God’s will be done and that his kingdom be served.

Pastor Kehren

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Pie Fellowship

Our Thanksgiving Eve worship service will be here at Jerusalem on Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00 pm. The children of our Elementary School, Sunday School, and Early Learning Center will sing.

All are invited to a special pie fellowship hour immediately following Wednesday's service. If you are attending the fellowship after the service, please bring a pie to share.

Thanksgiving Day Worship

Thursday, November 28th

10:00 am

at St. Matthew's

9081 N Maryland Street, Niles

Midweek Advent Worship

We will have Advent services on Wednesdays, December 5th, 12th, and 19th at 2:15 pm and 7:00 pm. Our midweek Advent theme is "What Child Is This?"

Come and join us for these special midweek services in Advent.



Children's Christmas Services

Sunday, December 15th

Preschool-Kindergarten at 2:00 pm

Grades 1- 8 at 4:00 pm

Come hear our young people proclaim the good news of our Savior's birth.

Christmas Eve Service

We will have candlelight **Christmas Eve Services on Tuesday, December 24th at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm.** Begin your celebration of our Savior's birth with this service of music and hymns, Scripture and devotion.

Christmas Day Festival

The culmination of our Christmas celebration will take place on **Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th at 10:00 am** with a festival service including the celebration of Holy Communion. There is no better way to worship the newborn King than to gather around the divine cradle of his Word and Sacrament.

New Year's Eve Worship

Give thanks to God for another year of grace and look forward with faith to 2019 at a **New Year's Eve service on Tuesday, December 31st at 7:00 pm.** Holy Communion will be celebrated.

CANDY DONATIONS

Donations of candy are needed to make candy bags to distribute to children after the Christmas Services on December 15th. Please leave your donations in the box in the school entryway or in the office. Please bring your donations by December 8th. Thank You!

Women's Advent Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, December 7th 9:00 am

All women, confirmation age and older, are invited to come and enjoy a morning of Word and song, along with fellowship and food, as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of our Savior's birth! Our theme this year is "Anticipating His Presence"

Please, feel free to invite friends! Sign up in the church entryway. \$10 per person. Volunteers are needed to help with this event. See the information sheets in the church entryway.



Christmas Invitation Distribution

We will be distributing door hangers with invitations to our Christmas Services to our Morton Grove neighbors. We are going to do two smaller distributions, one on December 7th during the Advent Prayer Breakfast and then a follow-up one on the 14th during the Children's Service practice. Each time we will meet between 9:30-10:00 am for fellowship and prep and then start the distribution at 10:00 am.

Please join us if you are not already involved with the Advent breakfast or Christmas program rehearsal.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

"Prepared to Answer" This study is designed to help equip us to answer the various challenges and questions people may have when it comes to the Christian faith. 1 Peter 3:15 says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you for the reason for the hope that you have." Join us in the church sanctuary at 9:15 am. **There is no class on December 29th.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS

On December 1st, the children age 3 through grade 6 will be making ornaments to decorate the Christmas tree in the church entryway. Our lessons on December 8th and 15th focus on events leading up to our Savior's birth. We will celebrate with a Christmas party on December 22nd with snacks and games. We meet in the kindergarten classroom for music before dispersing to our classrooms.

The teen group (7th-12th grade) meets in the 5th-6th grade classroom.

Students age 3 through 8th grade will sing at the beginning of each of the 10:30 am Sunday worship services in Advent. We will rehearse during the Sunday School hour.

Please speak to Pastor about participation in our Children's Christmas services on December 15th.

"Toddlin' to Jesus" is a new class this year during Sunday school hour for our youngest children - new-born through age two with a parent. The class will include a short bible story, music, games, and a snack. This class meets in Ms. Tanya's 4K room.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Our study discusses the teachings of cult groups and world religions from a Lutheran perspective to better equip us to understand others and witness to them about the true message of Christ. As always, we will test every teaching in light of what God's Word says. No class on November 27th and in December, we will meet from 1:00 – 2:00 pm.

DEBT REDUCTION – MATCHING GIFTS

The Lord continues to bless our congregation financially in many ways. Although, we see some very strong weeks of giving (like our recent one), our offerings seem to continue to fall short of our overall budgetary needs on a weekly basis. This required us to dip into our line of credit this last year, and we still owe ~\$20k. **We have a very generous offer on the table from some donors to match each dollar donated about our budgetary needs up to \$10k! This offer has been extended through the end of the this year!** Hitting that target would eliminate our line of credit debt. Since our weekly offerings are still \$8k below budgeted, we have some catching up to do in order to **begin** taking advantage of these matching funds. Please prayerfully consider the blessing that the Lord gives you every day and how they may be used to serve His kingdom.

Jerusalem Women's Christmas Choir

All women high school age and older are cordially invited to sing with our Women's Choir at the end of the 4:00 pm children's service on December 15th. The children of JELS and JELC Sunday school will be singing "Silent Night." Our Women's Choir will be accompanying with "Peace, Peace." The women are also invited to attend the Saturday, December 14th practice as we will run through the song then. Anyone who wants to come can arrive around 10:30 am on Saturday for the rehearsal. Please speak to Emily Buetow for more information.

Gingerbread Real Estate Sale

Jerusalem teens are invited to construct Gingerbread Estates on Saturday, December 21st at 4:00 pm. Their creations will be up for auction in the church entryway on the morning of Sunday, December 22nd. Place your bid on a unique centerpiece perfect for holiday entertaining.

Holiday Food Barrel

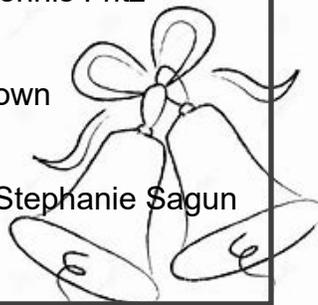
The Morton Grove Firefighters Association will be holding their holiday food drive again this year. Please place your donations of non-perishable foods (no glass jars, please) in the barrel located in the church narthex. Local families in need will be provided with a holiday dinner and food supplies. Please bring your donations by December 13th.

Congratulations to recently married members of our Jerusalem Family:

Christine Keating and Dennis Fritz
September 27th

Julie Castro and Bill Brown
November 10th

Christopher Darga and Stephanie Sagun
November 16th



Christmas Caroling

Join us at the Abington of
Glenview on Monday,
December 16th at 4:00 pm for
Christmas Caroling!

You can either drive directly to the Abington or meet at church about 3:30 pm. After caroling, everyone is cordially invited to come to the church parsonage for dinner at about 5:30 pm.

Giving Tree

During Advent, we will hold a drive to support the WELS Pregnancy Counseling 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. Thank You!



School News

Congratulations JELS Forensics Team

First in CALAC Forensics for the 4th year in a row!



Congratulations to Jerusalem winners of the Morton Grove Fire Department Poster Contest

- Liyah Thomas, 8th grade "Get Help For Emergencies"
- Faith Vo, 7th grade "Pick a Meeting Place Outside your House"
- Claire Benemerito, 6th grade "See a Fire? Get Out and Stay Out!"
- Jack Becker, 4th grade, "Call 9-1-1 for an Emergency"
- Aznef Esho, 3rd grade "Smoke Alarms on Every Floor"

Eagles of the Week

Congratulations to recent Eagles of the Week:

- Alyssa Iusco
- Ninib Gorgis
- Anthony Younan
- Jason Kehren
- Madison Siscar
- Carlisle Yoo
- Mika Manansala
- Nathan Vance
- Sophia Senkyr
- Gavin Iusco
- Alice Chung
- Audrey Mandell
- Giorgio Georgian
- Isabella Iacob
- Shane Sullivan

Parents' Club Christmas Party School and Church Families Preschool through 8th Grade Saturday, December 14th 9:30-11:30 am

Families are invited to come to the downstairs auditorium to decorate sugar cookies, make arts and crafts, and enjoy fellowship together. Come and go as your schedule allows.



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 3rd from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The second will be Friday, February 7th from 9:00 to 11:00 am.

Applications will be accepted beginning December 3rd at the Open House.

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

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6218 Capulina Ave
Morton Grove, IL 60053

Pastor Jonathan Kehren
Phone: 847-965-7340
Email: pastor@jerusalemchurch.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”*



Christmas at Jerusalem

Midweek Advent Services 2:15 and 7:00 pm
Wednesdays, December 4th, 11th and 18th

Children's Christmas Services	Sunday, December 15th
Preschool and Kindergarten	2:00 pm
Grades 1-8	4:00 pm

Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 4:00 and 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship Wednesday, December 25th 10:00 am

New Year's Eve Tuesday, December 31st 7:00 pm
Evening Worship with Holy Communion