



FROM THE PASTOR

I can't believe it has been almost a month already. In a lot of ways, I'm just barely getting started and it feels like it hasn't even been a week. In some ways, I've been eager to get going with things and after 18 years, all the busyness hasn't been a big deal. Then, there is the whole social distancing and mask wearing that has been going on that keeps things from feeling like anything but normal. Then, there is the message of Christmas that is permeating every aspect of our congregation, from decorations to announcements to Christmas trees to Advent wreath to That part is never new and yet still new every year. It's never new because God spent centuries and centuries announcing the news and call to repentance to his people in the Old Testament. It's never new because we know by our sinfulness that we need a Savior. It's always new because how that message impacts us changes with our age, our experiences and those we come into contact with.

I encourage you to approach this busy Christmas season and New Year of 2022 with a contemplative attitude on what never changes with God's message of salvation through his Son, Jesus. Marvel on how God approaches us and doesn't change his message of repentance and grace.

I encourage you to look at the upcoming New Year as a way to see God's grace and mercy in a new way than you have previously seen it. See how things have changed in your personal history in 2021 and what lies on the horizon for 2022. Watch for changes in your family and how they've grown. Look for new ways to show them how to appreciate the NEW old news. Identify changes in our community that will enable us to reach out to them with the unchanging message of salvation. While this task (or perspective) may tempt us to cower in fear or become anxious, rely on God's promises for strength. Remember that God is going with us into the New Year as well. He never abandons us in the mission he gave us to share the Good News with everyone we come into contact with.

Since this is my first Newsletter article, let me also express my thanks for all the members have done to welcome me and my family, help us move our things, give us words and gifts of encouragement and be willing to introduce yourselves (again and again and again ...). I am working to learn as many names and faces as I can. The process will get easier as I see you more and more. I plan on visiting with as many members in their homes as I am able to in January and February. If you haven't gotten a contact from me to schedule that visit by the end of January, you can check with me or set up a time with me at your convenience. I encourage all our members to be active in participation in worship and Bible study as well as opportunities to reach out to our community as you are able. Keep your pastor and his family in your prayers as we seek to bring the message of salvation to our congregation and community.

While the month may be flying by and 2022 promises to do the same, we have a wonderful and gracious God to learn from and receive comfort and strength in his Means of Grace. May he bless our time together.

God's Blessings,

Pastor David Ernest

Congregational Meeting

We encourage all members to attend our regular Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 30th following the 2nd service.

Reports on the various aspects of our ministry will be discussed.

We welcome new members to our Jerusalem Family –

Matt Kreckler and his son, Dylan.

Pastor David Ernest and his wife, Lori. Children Ethan, Owen, Kessiah, and Austin.

Thank You!

Jerusalem called workers and staff thank you for the cards, gifts, well-wishes and encouragement received this Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated and seen as a reflection of Christ's love.

Thank you for your generous gifts blessing those in need in our community!

We once again received an outpouring of support for our various drives held during the church year.

We were happy to make two trips to the food pantry to deliver the large quantity of donations received.

We will be better able to share the message of our Savior at our Mundelein Pregnancy Center thanks to the many donations of diapers, wipes, baggies, boots, and clothes left under the giving tree.

A Letter recently sent to St. Matthew's Church, Niles

Dear Pastor Spaude and the congregation of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church,

We, the members of Jerusalem Lutheran Church, would like to thank Pastor Spaude and the congregation of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for your support and prayers as we went through the process of calling a new pastor. What a wonderful blessing it is to St. Matthew's to have such a dedicated servant and teacher as Pastor Spaude, and we are grateful for all of the additional time and effort he was able to share with Jerusalem. Beyond simply leading worship on Sundays and preaching God's word, he also performed baptisms, visited shut-in members, worked with our school, and taught our elders to lead Bible classes. He also helped lead us through call meetings, attended council meetings, and took two new members through Bible basics class. He went above and beyond his duties as a vacancy pastor, helping us continue to grow our ministry through God's word. We appreciate how this vacancy has helped to bring our two churches closer together, and we hope to continually grow and strengthen our connection in Christian love.

In Christ,
Jerusalem Lutheran Church

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

There will be only one worship service - 9:30 am - on Sunday, December 26th and Sunday January 2nd. We will not have Bible Class or Sunday School.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP

Give thanks to God for another year of grace and look forward with faith to 2022 at a New Year's Eve service here at Jerusalem on Friday, December 31st at 7:00 pm.

On January 9th we return to our Sunday Worship schedule of 8:00 and 11:00 am.

The nursery will not be available for church services until a later date.

ONLINE WORSHIP

We livestream our Sunday 8:00 am morning service 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/>

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

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Idols We Never Knew We Had – We've seen a lot of things that draw our attention away from God or demand our time instead of God. After seeing how **success, love, sports, technology, sports and family** may be idols in our lives, when class resumes (January 9th) Pastor Ernest will lead us in a study about how **even religion** can be our idol. This should be an interesting study to say the least. Sunday Bible Study meets from 9:45 until 10:30 am in the church sanctuary. Join us! And bring a friend!

After we conclude our Idols Bible Study on January 9th, we will begin a new study that looks at the Call process we use in our Wisconsin Lutheran Synod. We will look at the Scriptural principles involved and why our Synod has settled on various practices. This study will be beneficial for long time members of our church body and especially those who are new to our Synod.

TOT CLASS, SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND TEEN BIBLE CLASS

Classes run from 9:45 – 10:30 am. Newborn through age two (with parent) will meet in Ms. Tanya's classroom (Room M1). Children age three through 8th grade will begin in the kindergarten classroom (Room M2) with music before dispersing to their classrooms. After music, 6th-8th graders will join high school age students for teen bible class in Mr. Kim's classroom (Room 201). We look forward to seeing you!

NEW CHRISTIAN WORSHIP HYMNALS HAVE BEEN ORDERED

Jerusalem will be making use of new materials for our worship that have been produced by our Synod. The new materials will be available in the form of new hymnal books for worship and resources to use in our bulletins. New materials will be gradually introduced over the course of the next year (or more). If you want to make a special gift to help towards the purchase of the materials, you can indicate that in special offerings marked as "new hymnal." If you have any questions about the implementation of the new hymnal or its content, Pastor Ernest would be glad to answer your questions.



HELP NEEDED FOR CLEANING OF CHURCH SANCTUARY

The Church Council is looking for individuals or families who are willing to volunteer to help clean the sanctuary each week. In the past, congregation members had been able to carry out the work. If we are able to get interested groups to rotate a schedule for cleaning, we will be able to spread out the work among different groups so that service will occur less frequently. A list of duties and materials will be provided. If we cannot find enough volunteers from the congregation, an expense will be added to the budget to hire an outside agency to do the work. If you are interested, please provide the names of your group to our secretary, Linda Rosenblum. Once we gather enough names, a rotation will be scheduled.

NEW CHURCH DATA BASE – SERVANT KEEPER

Jerusalem Church is implementing a new church information system - Servant Keeper. Servant Keeper is a church management solution that caters to churches and faith-based organizations and helps them to manage their business operations.

This will enable us store member information in one location. We will be able to consolidate details such as address, phone number, etc. with information about your skills and interests. Church attendance records will be kept to help us reach out to friends we have not recently seen.

Please let us know if you have moved recently or had any other changes in your family that you would like us to update in your records.



Jerusalem Preschool and Kindergarten

Jerusalem Preschool and Kindergarten are currently taking applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Contact the church/school office to get an application.

Preschool Applications will be accepted through February 5th. You will be notified of your child's status by February 15th. Register soon for next year! We are filling up quickly this year.

Preschool and Kindergarten will have a second Open House on Saturday, February 5th from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Applications will be available and accepted at the event. Invite your friends and neighbors with young children to meet our teachers and learn about our programs.

If you have any questions about preschool, please contact Vicki Burger, vburger@jerusalemlutheranschool.org or at 847-965-4750, ext. 2. For kindergarten, speak with Julie Epple, jepple@jerusalemlutheranschool.org at 847-965-4750, ext. 3.



School News

Eagles of the week

Each week, 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:

- Liam Boughton
- Joseph Moon
- Anella Odisho
- Austin Ernest
- Chloe Gross
- Lani Naka



Congratulations, Mireya!

Kindergarten student Mireya S. was baptized during our chapel service on Tuesday, November 30th.

God's continued blessings to Mireya and her family!



Sports of the Season

By student reporters Grace Vo, Jade Viruet, Ellen McGuire, and Jeshurun Boohene

This school year, Jerusalem Lutheran School is offering basketball and cheerleading for the winter sports season. Practices have started. We will be competing against Resurrection and Good Shepherd. We hope to win this year's season and expect ourselves to try our best and show strength and spirit. Mrs. Buetow and Mrs. Felsing coach our basketball team. They have practice at St Paul's gym. Mrs. Epple coaches our cheerleaders.

Good Luck to all those who have signed up for basketball and cheerleading.



Jerusalem students and families generously shared the message of God's love to our community this season. Preschool classrooms led the way collecting toys for the Morton Grove Police Department's Toys for Tots program.

The kindergarten class sponsored Scholastic Books pajama drive. For every pair of pajamas donated, Scholastic Book Clubs donated a brand-new book to give to a child facing adversity.

School families joined with church families to help those in need through donations to both the Niles Township Food pantry and the WELS Pregnancy Counseling Center in Mundelien.

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6218 Capulina Ave
Morton Grove, IL 60053

Pastor David Ernest
Church office Phone: 847-965-7340
Email: pastor@JerusalemLutheran.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 8:00 am 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”*

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP Jerusalem Church Friday, December 31st at 7:00 pm.

We give thanks to God for the many blessings he has given us during the past year. We look forward with faith in God's grace and promises, trusting that He will continue to bless us as he has in the past.

