

FROM THE PASTOR

THE WONDER OF OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH

Mary treasured up all these things in her heart and pondered them in her heart.

Luke 2:19

Advent is the four week season leading up to the celebration of Christmas, the birth of our Savior. Advent is a special time of repentance when we examine our hearts and lives, confess our sins, and are renewed by our Lord's gracious forgiveness. When we prepare ourselves for Christmas this way, we can be filled with joyful wonder as we contemplate the meaning of Jesus' birth.

Children are filled with wonder at Christmas time. Almost every child has snuck into the room to slide under the tree and gaze at the presents. "I wonder what they got me." Tiny hands cannot be restrained from grasping and shaking the package to assess the contents. "If only I could see what's in there."

Can you imagine the wonder Mary felt as she held the baby Jesus on that first Christmas Eve? Mary didn't have to sneak a peek or guess. She knew. He came from her, but he was sent from God. Mary compared what she'd been told with what was now happening. She couldn't comprehend how the "contents" of this little package might affect her life but now she could see him. She marveled at the love of God. God with us! And then gazing into his precious face she embraced God's Son, "Hello Jesus. Welcome to your new home."

One Friday, thirty-some years after Mary pondered the miraculous birth of the Son of God, she had to say goodbye. She watched him go. She believed that his innocent death covered the guilt of every sin. She knew that she couldn't keep him here because he belonged there on the throne with his Father. She remembered, like only a mother can remember, everything that was said of him, everything that was done to him, everything he had told her. Deep in her heart she trusted that she would see him again and hear him return the greeting, "Hello mother, welcome home."

Part of the mystery of Christmas is learning how to say hello to Jesus before you have to say goodbye. His coming has changed our going. His greeting on the other side ties directly to our believing that he came to save us sinful human beings. "Hello, welcome home," he'll say to all who trust him as Savior. And the gift of eternal life which he bought for us by his birth, life, and death will be completely unwrapped. Let us repent of our sins which made it necessary for our Savior to be born for us and then let us rejoice in the wonder that he gave his life so that we could live forever.

Join Mary in gazing at this wonderful Child by reading Luke 2. Take a bit more time to ponder what's in God's special "present" by spending time in his Word and in worship this Advent as we humbly repent of our sins and rejoice that a Savior has come. Then let us celebrate Christmas in joyful wonder and praise that a Savior was born for us.

Pastor Jonathan Kehren



HOLIDAY SERVICES

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: Jesus Christ Foretold. Each Wednesday we will look at how the Old Testament foretold Jesus as 1) Our Prophet, 2) Our Priest, and 3) Our King. We will look at what a blessing it is for us that Jesus serves in these three roles for us. Come and join us for these special midweek services in Advent.

Children's Christmas Services

Sunday, December 16th

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 Candlelight Service

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

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

There will be a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on **Christmas Eve, December 24th at 10:30 pm**. This traditional service is intended to help Christians recall the entire history of God's plan of salvation for his people, summed up in the person and work of Jesus Christ our Savior. It is a service of quiet contemplation and stirring good news.

Christmas Day Festival

The culmination of our Christmas celebration will take place on **Christmas Day, Tuesday, 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 St. Matthews on Monday, December 31st at 7:00 pm**. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

You may remember that we had a similar blurb in our bulletin over the summer. It was a time when our offerings seemed to be tapering off a little bit, which often happens in the summer months. However, we continue to see a decline in those offerings. The church council has had to dip into our line of credit to continue to pay our bills. We are very blessed to be able to offer God's word through our church and school programs, and want to continue to do so. Please consider how God has blessed you through the good news of Jesus and the peace, joy, and hope you have in him. Consider how God has blessed you with many material resources as well and then prayerfully consider how you can give a special gift to help get us back on track. No special envelopes required, just add it to your regular basket offerings. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Patrick Ruehrdanz or Jeff Hawk.

Sunday Bible Study

Adult Bible Study continues our study on the book of Revelation. This theme of this somewhat mysterious book is “Jesus Wins” and is intended to bring comfort and encouragement to believers living in troubled and evil times. We meet on Sunday morning at 9:15 am in the back of the sanctuary.

Women’s Bible Study

St. Matthew’s Women’s Bible study group invites the women of Jerusalem to join them for a monthly Bible study. Our next meeting will be here at Jerusalem on December 3rd at 7:00 pm. We will be continuing a Bible Study called, “Prepared to Answer” focusing on how to respond to questions or objections many people have to the Christian faith.

Sunday School

Sunday School for kids ages 3 through high school meets at 9:15 am. Parents, consider bringing your kids so they grow in the good news of Jesus. While the kids are in Sunday School, you could also attend adult Bible study.

There will be no Sunday School on the morning of December 30th.

Wednesday Morning Class

During advent, Wednesday morning Bible study meets from 1:00 – 2:00 pm in the downstairs auditorium. We are continuing a study of the book of 1 Peter. 1 Peter speaks of the hope that we have in Jesus even in hurtful times. Come and join us.

Advent Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, December 1st
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! Cost is \$10 per person.

Please RSVP in the church entryway by Wednesday, November 28th. You may also call (847)965-4750 or email the church office (secretary@jerusalemlutheran.org) to let us know that you are coming.

Bring a friend!

Please also consider how you can help at this event and sign-up in the entryway.

Christmas Caroling

Join us at the Abington of
Glenview on Monday,
December 17th 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. Some items currently needed are gently-used or new children’s boots, jeans up to size 10, pajamas, winter clothes, etc., diapers in sizes 4-5-6 plus wipes always a big need. Gallon sized zip locks bags are needed to repack the diapers. Children’s Bibles and religious story books (they have tons of other books). Cash donations are always appreciated to help pay the rent and keep our doors open to provide help to those in need. All donations should be left unwrapped. Thank You!

Children's Christmas Programs

All the children of the congregation (3K-Grade 8) are invited and strongly encouraged to be involved in the December 16th Christmas Programs. Let's give our children the wonderful opportunity to join their voices to the angel chorus in announcing the birth of our precious Lord who comes to save us. Speak to Pastor for more information.

Rehearsal for grades 1-8 will be on Saturday, December 15th from 9:30-11:00 am.

Cookie Exchange

A cookie exchange will be held during the rehearsal of the Children's Christmas Service on Saturday, December 15th from 9:30-10:30am. This is a great way to spend time while the children rehearse. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church, or you can email Carol Ruehrdanz at caricon16@gmail.com and let her know that you'd like to participate. The number of cookies you need to make will depend on how many people participate.

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 16th. 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 15th 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 8th at 4:00 pm. Their creations will be up for auction in the church entryway on the morning of Sunday, December 9th. Place your bid on a unique centerpiece 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 9th.

Community Service Opportunity

Jerusalem church members are invited to join Jerusalem students from grades 3-8 for a community service opportunity at Feed My Starving Children located at 742 East Park Ave., Libertyville, IL, 60048. Participants will be hand packing nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children in other countries. We will be leaving Jerusalem at 8:30 am on Thursday, December 13th and returning at 12:30 pm. There is no cost involved. If you are interested please speak to Deb Felsing or Duane Vance or contact them at dfelsing@jerusalemchurch.org or dvance@jerusalemchurch.org



School News



Eagles of the Week

Congratulations to recent Eagles of the Week:

- Madison S.
- Joseph Y.
- Trinity V.
- Guofo S.
- Nicholas K.
- Makayla V.
- Sarah F.
- Giorgio G.



FORENSICS

They did it again! Congratulations to the Jerusalem forensics team on their third championship in three years! Great work everyone!

**Parents' Club Christmas Party
School and Church Families
Preschool through 8th Grade
Saturday, December 15th
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.

Volunteers are needed! See the sign-up sheet in the school entryway!

The Ukulele Cart

By: Joonhwa Hong, Sarah Felsing, Ryan Freytes, Sunjae Lee

The 7th and 8th grade have been learning how to play the ukulele in music class, and we *used* to have to put the ukuleles in their boxes and put them on top of a shelf. But thanks to Mr. Paul Grosse, a ukulele cart was built and donated to the school to store our ukuleles, which looks pretty awesome. He volunteered his time and supplies to donate this cart to the school. It can hold all 20 of the ukuleles while looking like a ukulele itself. On behalf of the 7-8th grade class, we would like to thank him for this incredible donation.



Precious Child Early Learning Center and JELS Kindergarten will be holding two Open House events this year! Invite your friends and neighbors to come and visit and learn about our programs.

Tuesday, December 4th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Friday, February 1st from 9:00 to 11:00 am

Applications will be accepted beginning December 4th at the Open House.

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”*



Christmas at Jerusalem

Midweek Advent Services	Wednesdays, December 5 th 12 th and 19 th	2:15 pm and 7:00 pm
Children's Christmas Services	Sunday, December 16 th Preschool and Kindergarten Grades 1-8	2:00 pm 4:00 pm
Christmas Eve	Monday, December 24 th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Service of Nine Lessons and Carols	7:00 pm 10:30 pm
Christmas Day Worship	Tuesday, December 25 th	10:00 am
New Year's Eve	Tuesday, December 31 st Evening Worship with Holy Communion St. Matthews, Niles	7:00 pm