

**FROM THE PASTOR**

**Saying "Thank you" to God**

One day a father took his daughter along with him to an auto parts shop. It was a hot summer day, and while they were waiting to be served, his daughter was standing next to the Coke machine, hoping Dad would take the hint and buy her some. She knew from past experience that if she begged for it, she probably wouldn't get it, so she just stood there playing with the buttons on the machine and hoping.

After a few minutes, a lady from the shop walked over and asked the little girl, who was three years old at the time, "Would you like a can of soda?" The little girl replied with an enthusiastic, "Yes!" The lady put the money into the machine and told the little girl to make her choice. When the can came out, she went to her father to get help in opening the can. When she did, her father asked her, "Now what do you tell the nice lady?" At that, with her big blues eyes shining, the little girl looked up and said, "Please."

Being a father of a couple of children, I know this story well. It is much more difficult to teach a child to say "thank you" than it is to teach them to say "please."

I think that it's because we are still hoping to get something when we say "please" and you already have what you want when it's time to say "thank you". It doesn't take a child long to learn to say "please" since they know that is vital to getting what they want. There just isn't that same incentive when it comes to saying "thank you."

It is good that our nation has set aside a special day for Thanksgiving. We need that reminder to say "thank you." We also need to be reminded whom we are to thank. Thanksgiving is not just 'turkey day' as it is often referred to today. It is not just a day to be thankful without knowing whom to thank. It is a day set aside to give thanks to God for the blessings we enjoy. It is a day to recognize that we would have nothing without God.

Without God's blessing, there would be no turkey, mashed potatoes, nor pumpkin pies. We would have no cars, homes, TVs, or microwaves. Friends, family, parents and children are all gifts from our Creator. We would be nothing and have nothing without him.

But let us not just thank God for the physical or material blessings we enjoy. They would mean nothing if not for another gift he has given us. It is the gift of his Son.

God loved this world, he loved YOU so much that he gave his us only Son, Jesus Christ to be our Savior, to redeem us from our sin. God punished Christ in our place. When Jesus died, He died for you and me - in our place, so that we might have eternal life. These are the greatest blessings we could ever have and we didn't even have to say please.

We have opportunity to gather together for worship on the evening before Thanksgiving to say, "Thank you" to God for all his blessings to us. But saying "Thank you" to God is not reserved for one day a year. We say "Thank you" to God by how we live our lives everyday. We say "Thank you" to God by turning to his Word everyday for strength and guidance. We say "Thank you" to God by striving to follow his will in our daily lives – at home, at work, in the world. Let's say "Thank you" to God for all he has done for us.

*Pastor Kehren*

## IN-PERSON WORSHIP

**Worship is on Sundays at 8:00 am and 10:30 am.**

We will livestream our Sunday 8:00 am morning service on the internet.

It is important for our life of faith to gather for worship as the Scriptures tell us (Hebrews 10:25) so that we can encourage each other and be encouraged in Christian living. At the same time, we want to be concerned for each other's health and well-being so we follow proper health and safety protocols.

If you are coming to worship, please register in advance by e-mail ([secretary@jerusalemlutheran.org](mailto: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.

## ONLINE WORSHIP

We continue to offer online worship even as we reopen in-person worship services.

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.

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

## STREAMING OUR SERVICES

Do you have an interest in video recording? We are looking for people to help with recording our Sunday service so we can livestream them. If the Lord has blessed you with this interest, please contact Chiseon Kim to learn more [ckim@jerusalemlutheranschool.org](mailto:ckim@jerusalemlutheranschool.org)

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our next congregational/voters meeting will be Sunday, October 25th after the 10:30 am service. No food will be offered and we will practice social distancing. It will be held in the church sanctuary.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**We welcome Mollie and Chris Cooper  
of Chicago to the Jerusalem family.**

## THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Our Thanksgiving worship service will be here at Jerusalem on Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00 pm. Attendance will be limited to 50 people. Please let the church office know in advance if you are coming to Thanksgiving worship. 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 service will also be livestreamed.

Unfortunately, this year we will not be able to have our traditional pie fellowship following the service.

## MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Begin Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Advent services will be held on December 2nd, 9th and 16th at 7:00 pm only. We regretfully will be unable to hold our afternoon advent services with our school children this year because of COVID-19 guidelines.

Attendance will be limited to 50 people. Please let the church office know in advance if you plan to attend. The service will also be livestreamed.

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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. Contact the church office by phone or e-mail if you would like the at-home Sunday School materials. The lessons focus on Old Testament stories.

## WEDNESDAY ZOOM BIBLE CLASS

We continue our study of the book of Ecclesiastes called "Living a Life that Matters." Ecclesiastes shows us how meaningless life is without God, but also how God and his blessings give us true meaning and purpose. We will meet over Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 7 pm to 8 pm. A link will be e-mailed on Tuesdays.



Daylight Saving Time 2020

ends Sunday, November 1

## WELS CONNECTION

Missing the WELS connection video newsletter? We are unable to show editions following worship due to time limitations as we sanitize the church following each service.

Episodes are available online at our synod's main website page <https://wels.net/>. Scroll down to find the WELS connection. October's edition is currently available.



## GOD BE WITH YOU AS YOU DECIDE FOR WHOM YOU SHOULD VOTE.

(Excerpts from October 2020 Forward in Christ, Questions and Answers with David Scharf)

Christians are citizens of two Kingdoms: the church (i.e. the kingdom of God) and the state (i.e. civil government).

What a blessing that in our government, we have a voice to determine who we want setting policies for us! Certainly our Christian faith will guide us in our choice.

God is not a Republican. God is also not a Democrat. We need to be careful we do not give the impression that there is only one political party for a Christian. Rather, as citizens of the state, Christians will be guided by God's Word and seek the good of their neighbor, even with the choice of candidate for public office.

We can make all the laws in the world, but if people's hearts and minds are unconvinced to follow them, laws do no good. Laws do not change hearts, the gospel does. It is you and me, holding out God's loving hand of truth and proclaiming what he's done for us. Then the Holy Spirit can change hearts.



## School News

### ESL Program

We are blessed to have a very culturally diverse student population. Some of our students are from homes where English is not the primary language.

Jerusalem Teachers will be working with these students during the school day to help build communication skills and growth in social and academic vocabulary in the English Language. Each student enrolled will receive English language support in the regular classroom using the school curriculum and will not be required to leave the classroom. This is a free service provided to students enrolled in Jerusalem Lutheran School and Precious Child Preschool.

### School Sign Fundraising

Our new school sign is being manufactured and we hope to have it **installed around Thanksgiving**. We are very close to having this paid in full. We still need ~\$8k in donations to avoid taking out a loan. We know many of our families are struggling during this challenging time. If you are able to donate toward the sign (above your normal giving), please give it prayerful consideration. This sign will serve as the first opportunity to create awareness to neighbors about the Lord's wonderful gracious gift of salvation offered at Jerusalem Lutheran Church & School.

REMINDER: Make any checks payable to Jerusalem Lutheran School. If you have questions, please contact Patrick Ruehrdanz at [patrick.ruehrdanz@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.ruehrdanz@gmail.com)

### 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:

Belle Ng  
 Jim McGuire  
 Madison Siscar  
 Nathan Mette  
 Zoe Botten  
 Nick Kalbach  
 Peony Wu  
 Trinity Vo  
 Giorgio Georgian  
 Sebastian Flores  
 Owen Epperson  
 Savannah Streiff

### 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.

### Thanksgiving Feast

As with many of our favorite events, our annual Thanksgiving Feast will look a little different this year. We regretfully will **not** be able to invite family and friends to join the school children for lunch due to COVID guidelines. We hope to bring back this fellowship event next year!

# Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6218 Capulina Ave  
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Pastor Jonathan Kehren  
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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”*

## *Thanksgiving Eve Worship*

*Wednesday, November 25th  
7:00 pm  
Jerusalem Lutheran Church*

O give  
*thanks*  
unto the LORD, for he is good;  
*for his mercy endures forever.*