

From the Pastor

Is Change too Difficult?

My baseball career was just long enough for me to learn that I couldn't hit a changeup. In batting practice, the pitcher was consistent. Fastball after fastball, right down the middle of the plate. It was easy to get into a rhythm. Pitch. Swing. Hit! Pitch. Swing. Hit! However, once it was time to get into the batter's box during a game, the pitcher seemed to do whatever he wanted. Fastball, curveball, slider, changeup; it was impossible to know what was next. Getting into a rhythm? Forget about it. Pitch. Swing. Foul... Pitch. Swing. Miss.

The changeup seemed to get me the most. I could deal with the ball being in a different spot over the plate. But a different speed? That was tricky. The ball would leave the pitcher's hand and my swing would come much too early, much too fast. There was too much change! It was too difficult.

How do you handle change? Are you like me in 8th grade, walking back to the dugout after that third strike? Is too much change too difficult? If it is, you are not alone. Rosabeth Kanter wrote an article in *Harvard Business Review* that proposed ten reasons people have a hard time with change. Loss of control, excess uncertainty, and surprises topped her list. There are certainly many reasons to have a difficult time with change.

Right now, things are changing at Jerusalem, aren't they? We are moving into a new school year. Change. We are calling a new pastor. Change. We are using slightly different liturgies, prayers, and songs in worship. Change. You have a different pastor currently leading Sunday services. Change. How are you handling those changes? Is it too much and is it too difficult?

The thing is, we will never be able to get away from change. Each day is new and different. Each season of life brings new changes. Each season of the year does too! We can argue until our faces turn blue if change is fundamentally "good" or "bad," but there is no getting around the fact that everything changes.

Except, that is not true. Change might affect all of us, but it does not affect everything. The writer to the Hebrews put it this way, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*" James put it this way, "*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*" God put it the most succinctly in the book of Malachi, "*I the Lord do not change.*"

Can it be any clearer? In our world and lives that change rapidly, our God stays the same. This means he loves you the same. This means he saves you the same. This means he forgives you the same. This means he cares for you the same. This means he has the same heaven prepared for you in the next life. Want to know what that "sameness" looks like? Read this paragraph again and substitute words like, "eternal," "infinite," "good," "wise," "beautiful," "completely," or "freely" for the word "same." This is the same God who calls us his own.

In my life, it has helped to remember that no matter how much things change, I have a God who stays the same. Remembering this has helped me so much that I can honestly say I welcome change. I thrive on it. Change is not too difficult when God stays the same. If change is hard for you, start your day with Hebrews 12:8 or James 1:17 or Malachi 3:6. I promise you, every time you open your Bible, those words and the truth expressed in them will never change.

Pastor Spaude

PASTORAL CALL ISSUED

On August 10th, Jerusalem congregation called Steven Hahm to be our next pastor. Pastor Hahm currently serves at Christ our Savior in Rockford, Michigan. He and his wife have four children ranging in age from 14 through 25. Please keep both congregations in your prayers as Pastor Hahm seeks input over the next few weeks to determine where he can best serve our Lord.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Jerusalem Lutheran and St. Matthew's Lutheran

Jerusalem Lutheran and St. Matthew's Lutheran are two sister churches serving the Morton Grove and Niles communities. Regardless of which location, you will sing the same songs and hear the same readings and message. For your convenience, three service times are offered on Sunday morning at the times and locations below.

8:00am – Jerusalem Campus
9:30am – St. Matthew's Campus
11:00am – Jerusalem Campus

We continue to livestream the 8:00 am service at Jerusalem:

Here is the link to our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWzPzwN7HAE3BLM4ZpybHkQ>

Here is the link to our Facebook page:

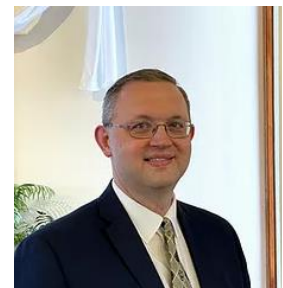
<https://www.facebook.com/JerusalemMortonGrove/>

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL September 12

Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School start up again on September 12th and will run between services from 9:45 until 10:30 am.

We will have a special guest pastor on September 12th. Our former pastor, Peter Prange, will be filling in so that Pastor Spaude can be at St. Matthew's 125th anniversary celebration. Pastor Prange will also be leading a bible class that day to start us out. It will be based on Ephesians 4 "United in Christ".

On following Sundays, elders will be in a rotation leading a bible study called "One-by-One" that is an evangelism activity based on a presentation given by Pastor David Rosenau.



One by One is a Bible Study based on Pastor David Rosenau's keynote presentation at the *WELS National Conference of Lutheran Leadership* in January of 2020. Using powerful personal stories and drawing from his wealth of experience both as a detective and a parish pastor, Pastor Rosenau helps Christians understand why it is so important to see every soul as a treasure and why we want to be willing to spend the time and effort necessary to share the gospel with each one.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school for children age 3 through 5th grade will be starting up on Sunday, September 12th. Class will be held from 9:45 until 10:30 am, the same time as adult Bible Study.

For now, the teen class (6th grade through high school) will join the adult Bible Study.

We are looking for volunteers to teach Sunday School for a rotation (one month on and one month off) for two grade levels (prek-2 and grade 3-5). Curriculum and materials are provided by Jerusalem Church. If you are interested, please contact Alex Buetow at alexbuetow@swbell.net.



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship time resumes on Sunday, September 12th. Snacks and beverages will be available between services and for Bible Study at 9:45 am. Join us on September 12th to visit with former Jerusalem Pastor Peter Prange who is our guest preacher/Bible Study leader that day.

Hosts are needed that day and on following Sundays to bring pre-packaged, individually covered, or individually served snacks (for now for Covid prevention measures). Volunteers are also needed to make coffee (training provided). Please sign up in the church entryway if you would like to bring treats or make coffee..

BAPTISMS

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

June Dianne Cooper, daughter of Chris and Mollie Cooper, was baptized at Jerusalem on July 25th. June was baptized by her grandfather, Mike Zuberbier, who was our guest preacher for the day.

Jaden Benjamin Reed Rivera was baptized at Jerusalem on August 15th. Jaden is the son of Kelly Reed and John Rivera and grandson of Terri Reed.



We welcome new member, Eliza Punzel, to our Jerusalem Family. Eliza has just started her first year here at Jerusalem School as our 1st and 2nd grade teacher.

ADULT CHOIR

Join us in helping glorify our Lord in song. No prior singing or musical experience is needed. Rehearsals will last around 30 minutes. Our first rehearsal is Sunday, September 12th after the 8:00 am service. Contact Emily Buetow with any questions.



JESUS CARES MINISTRY RESTARTS – SEPTEMBER 7TH

Jesus Cares Ministry is a ministry that shares God's word with people who have disabilities. In the past, St. Matthew's and Jerusalem have provided a Jesus Cares ministry to the residents of Golf View Developmental Center in Des Plaines, IL. On September 7th at 7:00 pm we will bring God's Word with a simplified service to our brothers and sisters in the faith at Golf View. If you would like to join us in that ministry, please contact Pastor Spaude at paul.spaude@smniles.org for more information regarding this important ministry.

ST. MATTHEW'S INVITES JERUSALEM TO THEIR 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Our sister congregation, St. Matthew's in Niles, IL is celebrating their 125th year of Gospel ministry on September 12th. The service is at 10:00 am with a picnic luncheon to follow. Former Pastor Glen Schaumberg will be preaching. St. Matthew's would love to have us, their Jerusalem brothers and sisters, join in this celebration. If you will be attending the luncheon, please RSVP by Friday, September 3rd to Phil Felice at philfelice@aol.com or (847) 863-1598.



WELS
in
Indonesia



LWMS FALL RALLY

You are invited to the 2021 Fall Rally of the Chicago Area Circuit of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society on Saturday, September 18th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at St. Matthew, 9081 N Maryland St, Niles, IL 60714. All women in an LWMS member congregation (confirmation age and older) are members of LWMS and are encouraged to attend. Guests are also welcome. If anyone needs a ride, please contact Tanya Kalbach at tanya_kalbach@sbcglobal.net.

Our theme is "WELS in Indonesia" and our speaker is Greg Bey. Plan to bring friends and family and join us at St. Matthew, Niles for fellowship, fun, and food as we worship and learn how God is working in Indonesia. You won't want to miss it!

LWMS PILL BOTTLE COLLECTION

The Central African Medical Mission is collecting pill bottles. Please leave clean, empty pill bottles in the box in the church entryway. Labels should be removed or have personal information blacked-out. Contact tanya_kalbach@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

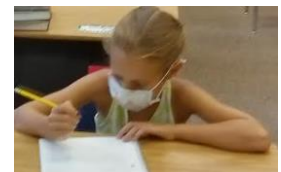
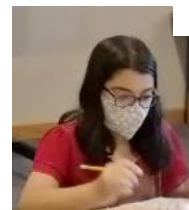
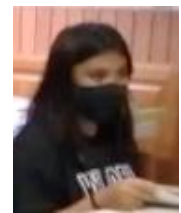
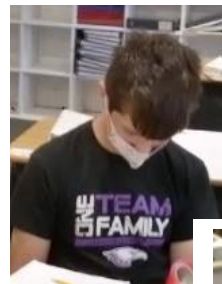




School News

BACK TO SCHOOL

Jerusalem School welcomed about 100 preschool through 8th grade students back to the classroom for in-person learning! Students and faculty will be masked and practice covid protocols. We thank parents, teachers, and students for their cooperation as we work to keep everyone safe and healthy. God's Blessings on the new school year!



Our Preschool director, Mrs. Vicki Burger, is one of the founding members of the Niles Township Early Childhood Alliance. The group supports area public schools, local private early childhood providers, non-profit organizations, and libraries. Their vision is to see that all young children and their caregivers have healthy relationships, safe environments, and high-quality learning experiences in order to reach their full potential. The ECA advocates for and coordinates comprehensive, community-based supports for children, parents, caregivers, teachers, and directors.

www.nilestownshipECA.org

Check out the website to see their many activities and services including parent resources, teacher workshops, programs and services for centers/schools, quarterly meetings, and networking. Precious Child Early Learning Center has endorsed the ECA.

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6218 Capulina Ave
Morton Grove, IL 60053

Vacancy Pastor: Paul Spaude
Phone: 847-965-7340
Email: pastor@jerusalemlutheran.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 8:00 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”*



Save the Date!
Sunday,
September 26th
Noon-3:00pm