

FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus' Compassion and Ours

When he (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36

Do these adjectives describe you? I think lately in one way or another we have all felt a little harassed and helpless especially given the events happening in our world lately. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus shows us one of his strongest traits: His compassion.

The compassion of Jesus here in this account moved him to do something about the hurt that was so prevalent- He sent his 12 disciples with power and authority, He sent them carrying his Word, his life-changing message of salvation through faith in him as the Son of God and Savior of the world.

This message is unlike anything the world can provide and, in a way, we can say that it is exclusively inclusive. We're told that in one sense, Christianity is the most exclusive religion in the world in that there is only one single way to be saved. Jesus himself says in John chapter 14, "*I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.*" Salvation is found in no one else. It's only Jesus. It isn't giving enough money, doing enough good, trying hard enough, it's only Jesus. It's only belief that he is the Son of God and that through his perfect life and sacrificial death on the cross our sins are forgiven and we get to enter through that narrow gate that leads to eternal life.

But in another sense, we can also say that Christianity is the most inclusive religion in the world. Because while there is one way to heaven, that way is open for all, it's not dependent on anything we are or anything we do- it depends on Jesus.

God's Word, the Bible, clearly teaches that all are perfectly equal- we each deserve exactly the same treatment. Because of sin, we are all equally deserving of hell. And that hard-to-stomach truth is not dependent on the color of your skin or what country your ancestors were born in. But just as we are all equal in deserving damnation, we are also equal in how valuable we are in the eyes of our God. When you look at someone who is different than you remember that God loves them in exactly the same way He loves you, a love so deep that it moved him to send his one and only Son to suffer hell in their place, so that narrow path to eternal life could be open to them as well, just as it has been opened to you.

This is the powerful message that changes hearts and we are blessed to be able to share it! Pray that the Lord would send out workers into His harvest field. Pray for the workers already there. Pray that God would use you to share his compassion with others. Continue to look for opportunities to talk about your compassionate, loving Savior with your friends and neighbors. Let them see his compassion in you. During difficult times that cause us to feel harassed and helpless, our Savior brings us the joy of our salvation and reminds us that while in this world, we will have trouble - but that we can take heart because he has overcome the world, and through faith has made his victory ours! See his compassion for you and for all and let his compassion show in all you say and do.

- Pastor Kehren

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

In-person worship continues at Jerusalem. For those who may not feel ready to return to worship yet, we will continue to provide online worship on YouTube and our Facebook page.

Worship is at 7:00 pm on Thursday evenings and 8:00 am and 10:30 am on Sunday mornings. If you are coming to worship, please 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. Communion will be on our regular 1st and 3rd weekend of the month schedule.

This schedule will continue at least through Labor Day, September 7th. The fall worship schedule will be determined later in August as guidelines for worship gatherings continue to evolve.

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

At our congregational/voters meeting last Sunday, we ratified the call extended to Ginny Kehren to teach at Jerusalem and renewed preschool teacher calls to Tanya Kalbach and Laura Boughton. We also approved the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Reports discussed at the meeting are available for those who were unable to attend. Contact the church office at secretary@jerusalemlutheran.org or 847-965-4750. Let us know if you would like electronic or paper copies.

STREAMING OUR SERVICES

Do you know how to edit and post videos on YouTube or Facebook? We could use your help creating our online service each week. We are looking for people to help during the service to do the recording on Thursday evenings. We are also looking for people to help edit the service before posting. If the Lord has blessed you with either of these skills and interest, please contact Chiseon Kim to learn more ckim@jerusalemlutheranschool.org

CHURCH/SCHOOL FALL CLEANING

Traditionally we schedule a cleaning day in August to tidy up our church and school for the start of the school year. We will be doing things a bit differently this year, but your help is still needed! To keep our volunteer cleaners safe, we will limit the number of people working in the building at one time. Helpers will be asked to sign up for a time slot and task from the list of chores. More information will follow later in August. Contact the church office for more information or if you would like to volunteer. (secretary@jerusalemlutheran.org or 847-965-4750).



JERUSALEM CHURCH ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving Details

- We've added the ability for our membership to donate using your credit card. We'd like to note that when you do this, the church will have to pay 2.2% of the donated value to the company handling our transactions. The donor might want to consider this when using this service and 'build in' a little extra to help defray costs.
- The donor will also be expected to keep their own giving records for using online giving. We don't see this as a problem since our service gives you 2 easy opportunities to receive a receipt for your gift.

Online Giving Instructions

- On Jerusalem's home page (www.jerusalemchurch.org) there is a tab on the main title bar called **'Donate Online'**. Follow the link and you will be prompted to put in a value or the **Other** tab for a value you decide. Choose how often or **Once** for a one-time gift. Choose **Donate** and you will then move to the payment information page. Fill in the information and notice here, you can put in your email address for a receipt to be emailed to you for your gift. Choose **Checkout** and the transaction will be complete.
- Donor Login- There is the ability to create your own login for your online giving to Jerusalem. The link is in the upper right corner of these pages. With this typical simple login you create a portal for the record keeping of your online giving to Jerusalem. This would help on recurring use of this service and better yet, allows you to have a record, including a year-end report of your online giving record to Jerusalem.

If there are any questions, please direct them to Steve Mueller (smuell@ameritech.net)
Financial Secretary.

JERUSALEM SOCCER CAMP

Our Soccer camp was a huge success despite the pandemic. Our staff carefully planned for safety precautions in order to keep the students safe and still have fun! About 35 students from our school and from the community gathered at Linne Woods in Morton Grove from Monday to Thursday (July 13-16) to hear the Word of God and play soccer! We thank God for this opportunity and look forward to next year's camp!



MASKS FOR JELS STUDENTS

Thanks to the volunteers who have stepped up to sew a combined total of 75 masks for our school students and to those who have donated toward this project. We will probably need more masks as the school year progresses. If you are willing to provide donations of money, fabric, elastic or would be willing to possibly sew some masks at a future date, please let the school office know at secretary@jerusalemlutheran.org. Thank you!



WELS CAMPUS MINISTRY

Is there a young adult in your family returning to or starting college this month? Encourage them to register with WELS Campus Ministry. Find out more about what WELS Campus Ministry has to offer and sign up at wels.net/cm100. Campus Ministry will also mail/e-mail free copies of *Meditations* devotions and *Forward in Christ* magazine to college students.

SCHOOL SIGN FUNDRAISING CONTINUES

We only have about \$9k to go for our sign to be fully funded.

REMINDER: MAKE ANY CHECKS OUT TO JERUSALEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL. If you have questions, please contact Patrick Ruehrdanz at Patrick.ruehrdanz@gmail.com.



School News

Jerusalem School and Preschool are scheduled to reopen for in-person learning on Wednesday, August 19.

The faculty is eager to see everyone again. Some changes have been implemented this year to help keep everyone healthy and safe. Health and Safety Guidelines for the 2020-2021 school year have been sent home to families. Temperature checks will be performed before any student or parent can enter the building. Children, faculty and staff will be required to wear masks. Enrollment size has been limited to allow social distancing in the classroom.

Executive Committee: A committee consisting of Pastor Kehren, Chiseon Kim, Deb Felsing, Vicki Burger, and Emily Buetow was formed to delegate the principal responsibilities and help form decisions regarding the school. Pastor Kehren is principal by name on documents regarding the school, but he will have minimal responsibilities regarding principal duties.

Faculty Updates: Ginny Kehren will be serving as our 7th-8th grade home room teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. She will be teaching social studies, physical education, English language tutoring (as needed), and filling in for other classes as needed.

Remote Learning Plans: Jerusalem faculty members are also working on the potential need for remote learning plans in the event that school closures happen again. A combination of learning packets/Zoom meetings/YouTube lessons will be used if closures happen.

New Carpet in Mr. Kim's classroom:

New carpet has been installed in Mr. Kim's classroom and the principal's office! We are excited for a brand-new look in Mr. Kim's classroom and excited to have our students in our school again!

Important School Dates:

School Registration: August 16 Families will sign up for a time slot

Back to School Night: August 17 5:00 – 7:00 pm

First Day of School/Half Day **without** Cookout: August 19

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Morton Grove, IL 60053

Pastor Jonathan Kehren
Phone: 847-965-7340
Email: pastor@jerusalemlutheran.org

Summer Worship Schedule

Thursday 7:00 pm

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”*



We will have in person worship on Thursday at 7:00 pm and Sunday at 8:00 am and 10:30 am.

It is important for our life of faith to gather together 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 for 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.