



**Meet me at...
Jerusalem Lutheran Church**

252 Dock Street

Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

570-385-2657 (Church Office)

Fall 2017

Jerusalem Lutheran Church
252 Dock Street
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-2657
www.jerusalemchurch.com
FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Return Service Requested
Dated Material - Please do not delay

**Two Services Starting September 10, 2017:
8:00 Worship
9:15 RALLY DAY SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30 Worship**

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JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
252 Dock Street
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
www.jerusalemchurch.com
<https://www.facebook.com/252DockStreetSchuylkillHavenPA17972/>

Staff, Leaders, and Their Contact Information:

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Beverly Eiche Kriner, Deacon & Director of Music Ministries
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Gina Cappel, Child Care Director
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Michael Sausser, Sexton
570-739-4803

Pat Johns, Church Council President
570-739-1887

Deborah Reed, Church Council Vice President
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Jerusalem welcome's new members received during the summer:

Benjamin Kuhar & Mackenzie Umstead through Holy Baptism
James Ziegelbein by letter of transfer

Jerusalem remembers in thanksgiving those who died:

Arlene Krebs and Anna Yoder

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you noticed the big brown circle with green lines painted on the concrete inside our covered front walk? This is the labyrinth, or pray path, that we have talked about for several years, and it has now taken shape!



We are delighted that Bishop Samuel Zeiser will be with us on Sunday, October 15, for worship, conversation, and at the end of 10:30 service, to help dedicate the labyrinth. We look forward to both using the labyrinth ourselves, but also with its entrance right off the public sidewalk, drawing passersby into prayer. As the prophet Isaiah says, "...my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. [57:7]"

This project began after several young people and their leader returned from a synod youth event, excited that they had walked and prayed a labyrinth. They asked, "Could the church make one?" We looked at several places, along with the property committee, and decided that the area out front would be both visible and inviting. Meanwhile, the organization Sister in Scouting disbanded, and when they gave their residual funds to us, the church council used this opportunity to designate most of that money for the labyrinth. Youth and adults considered several labyrinth designs, property members consulted concrete painting experts, and the initial layout, cleaning, and painting took place in the fall of last year. Then paint, and more importantly the caulk in the cracks, weathered well through the winter. This year Mark and Sheila Conville have led the ongoing painting process throughout the summer. All that remains to be done now, is to finish the sign out front to invite and explain the labyrinth, and install some solar lighting.

If you want to try out the labyrinth, or prayer pathway even before its dedication, be our guest – the path will of course lead you to Christ's cross. May the new labyrinth, along with other forms of worship, deepen our prayer lives, and encourage the prayer lives of others in the years to come. I am

Yours in Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pastor David Rowe".

Pastor David Rowe

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE NEWS: WELCOME IN THE 2017-2018 SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR!

Join us on **Sept. 10th at 9:15am**, all ages will meet in the Social Hall to start off the year with a service project (helping others is a great way to start the year!) We will be helping the Social Ministry Committee with a special project and then enjoy an ice cream breakfast (yes – we said ice cream). Following that, there will be time to gather in classrooms and greet your teachers and friends.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Attention all Confirmation age students (6th, 7th, and 8th grade) AND THEIR PARENTS.

All parents and youth involved in confirmation ministry in the coming year are asked to meet in the nave with this year's teachers and Pastor Rowe on Sunday, September 10 at 9:15. We will review expectations (some of them have changed, come and see!), introduce teachers, and hand out Bibles (Yes that's another change – Bibles of your own to use now, not to receive later at confirmation.). There will also be a new curriculum this year that will not only use workbooks and discussion, but also use videos, so that material will be shared in several ways, since both younger and older people have a variety of learning styles! Over the course of three years young people will encounter God in both testaments of scriptures, and through Luther's Small Catechism. This is for all parents & students – both those that are new to confirmation and those already in the program!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH 2017

The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who donated personal care items or monetary donations for Gaudenzia Rehab Center in Fountains Springs. As a thank you for those who made donations, everyone is invited to join us for **Ice Cream for Breakfast on September 10 at 9:15 am** in fellowship hall.

Please wear your yellow "God's Work, Our Hands" tee shirts so that we can take a big group picture! We do need your hands to fill the bags of personal care items. We will also be writing out little cards of encouragement for the residents at Gaudenzia.

A big thank you also goes out to Thrivent Financial! Our "God's Work, Our Hands Project" is working in conjunction with the Thrivent Action Team program. Thrivent has given us "seed money" to help us in funding such things as our display, purchasing packing products, and funding our "thank you" Ice Cream Breakfast! Thrivent, as well as the ELCA's God's Work, Our Hands initiative, encourages us to reach out in our communities and "Live Generously!"

"OLD AND NEW" FIELD TRIP



On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, fourteen travelers from Jerusalem took a day-trip to four sites to learn

about both historical and contemporary ministry. The fourth annual trip – it was awesome!

The Henry and Ann Marie Muhlenberg home in Trappe, PA, was the restored house of the Lutheran missionary and patriarch, during and immediately following the Revolutionary War. This stop gave us an opportunity to learn about their lives, as well as that of three of their sons – one of whom became a general in the Continental Army, another who then became the first Speaker of the House after the adoption of the constitution, and the youngest who became not only a pastor in Lancaster, but also a world renown botanist.

The nearby Augusta Trappe Lutheran Church is the oldest unaltered Lutheran church building in America. We not only had the chance to see the old building, but also to talk to our guide about the current ministry of Augusta Lutheran Church.

Down the Germantown Pike, we toured the Philadelphia campus of the United Lutheran Seminary. We not only heard about the new merger between the Gettysburg and Philadelphia seminaries, but we also heard from a very promising senior seminarian about both the academic preparation, and the process of certification for a candidate for church ministry.

Finally we travelled to nearby St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Philadelphia where we met with the pastor. He shared about his congregation, but also engaged us in conversation about Jerusalem's ministry. Despite the very different settings of Philadelphia and Schuylkill Have, our congregations actually have much in

common! Some of those insights were even shared at a recent council meeting.

We look forward to another trip next year. The fellowship and sense of broader church enriches our vision. Why not join us?

JERUSALEM CHILD CARE CENTER NEWS

Little Critter Preschool 3 and 4 year olds openings available. If you want to learn more about the Jerusalem Lutheran Child Care Center visit their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Jerusalem-Child-Care-and-Learning-Center-1441082059457970/>, visit the church website at: www.jerusalemchurch.com, or call the child care center at 570-385-4244.

The JCCC is looking for substitute teachers!!! Are you retired, bored, and/or good with children? Contact Gina Cappel at 570-385-4244 for information. Thank you!

CALLING ALL NEW SINGERS!

If you enjoy singing and if you like the way our Chancel Choir supports the congregational singing and offers music that enriches our scripture readings, then you should take some time and prayerfully consider becoming part of our choir family.

Choir rehearsals will resume weekly beginning on **Wednesday, September 6** at either 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in giving choir a try, please sign the sheet at the Sign-Up Center.

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**THE CHURCH NOW HAS AN
AUTOMATED EXTERNAL
DEFIBRILLATOR (AED).**



Every year, more than 350,000 Americans experience Sudden Cardiac Arrest (without warning, their hearts stop beating). Immediately calling 911, starting CPR and using an AED significantly increases the chance of surviving this event. Many churches and other public places now have AEDs. Every week, many adults and children enter our church to worship, work, attend meetings and social gatherings and receive care at our Child Care Center. We are grateful for the Legacy Endowment Fund that has funded the AED so that we will be prepared if an adult or child has a cardiac arrest while in the church. The AED is stored in a wall cabinet in the center hallway. Please take a moment to find it. The AED that we purchased is easy to use and will provide audible step-by step instructions. Two registered nurses from the Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pottsville will instruct us on the use of our AED at workshops **at the church on Thursday, September 7 at 5:30 pm and Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30 pm.** Both workshops will be held in a Child Care Center classroom and should last 1 to 1 and 1/2 hours, dependent upon the number attending. We are inviting any interested members to the classes; however, we are encouraging key personnel, such as church staff and those in leadership roles, to attend

one of the workshops. We are hoping to have a group of members who are prepared to use the AED if needed. Please sign the sheet at the Sign-up table if you will be attending one of the classes.

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**SOCIAL MINISTRY WILL BE
SELLING BOSCOV'S FRIENDS
HELPING FRIENDS SHOPPING
PASSES. HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:**

*Boscov's gave us shopping passes to sell for \$5.00 each. There was no expense or investment on our part to get the passes.
*The Friends Helping Friends pass is a 25% discount shopping pass. Customers who purchase a pass can use it at any Boscov's on Friends Helping Friends Day, Tuesday, October 17, 2017. (Not valid online)
*The entire \$5 stays with us at Jerusalem.
*We will pass on the proceeds of the shopping pass sales to Servants To All in Pottsville. Servants To All provides shelter to the homeless in our area. Friends Helping Friends Day is October 17. That is just before the weather turns chilly. Our donation will give the shelter a boost in being able to get people off the streets and sheltered from the cold of winter. **As a bonus, those who purchase a 25% discount shopping pass are eligible to win a \$100 or \$500 gift card when you fill out the entry stub and drop it in the ballot box at Boscov's on Oct. 17. ***After Friends Helping Friends Day, each Boscov's location will award \$100 to an organization selected by random drawing from all ballots submitted on Oct. 17, 2017. It could be us!!! **Shopping passes will be available for sale from September 17 - October 15 in the church lobby.**

2017-2018 CONCERT SEASON BEGINS

The first concert of the 2017-2018 Concert Season will be held on Sunday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m. and will feature the Russian Choir, LYRA, from St. Petersburg, Russia. These 5 powerful singers are all professional musicians and graduates of the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music. Their program will include traditional Orthodox chants, hymns and liturgical music as well as Russian folk songs and other traditional music. All of their music is performed without instrumental accompaniment. All concerts are free and open to the public. Plan to attend and support our Concert Series!

Jerusalem Concert Series News: Refreshments and Servers Needed!

Refreshments are needed for our first concert on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Donations of finger foods such as cookies, brownies, cupcakes, cheese, veggies and dips, pretzels, etc. are needed for the reception. We also need several servers to help with set up and clean up of the reception. Please sign the sheets at the Sign-Up Center if you can help in either way.

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

We will celebrate Harvest Home on Sunday, October 1, 2017. When you come to worship that morning, we are asking that you bring gifts of non-perishable, in-date food with you into the sanctuary, which will be given to the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry. If you prefer, you can give a monetary gift (checks payable to Jerusalem

Church and note that it is for the food pantry). On this day when we thank God for our many blessings, let us remember those who are less fortunate and are in need of food.

THESE ITEMS ARE ALWAYS IN DEMAND AT THE SCHUYLKILL HAVEN FOOD PANTRY – CAN YOU HELP?

- ❖ Spaghetti sauce
- ❖ Elbow macaroni, Lipton or Knorr (or similar) seasoning and noodle packets, other noodle types
- ❖ Canned meats (tuna, spam, canned stew, etc. – **NOTE: Only items that DO NOT require refrigeration**)
- ❖ Canned fruits – ANY VARIETY – always desired
- ❖ Canned vegetables (as well as canned beans) – ANY TYPE – tomatoes, corn, green beans, peas, potatoes, carrots, sweet potatoes, sauerkraut, mixed veggies, or other combinations
- ❖ Cereal – by the box
- ❖ Crackers
- ❖ Cake or pancake mixes
- ❖ Canned milk or cream
- ❖ Coffee – tea – hot chocolate mixes
- ❖ Juice – apple and orange are chosen first, but any flavor is acceptable and useful at the pantry
- ❖ **Non-perishable food products** (such as bagged or boxed rice, lentils, beans, peanut butter, Mac & cheese, hamburger helper, jelly etc.)
- ❖ Paper products (bathroom tissue; Kleenex type tissues; paper towels)

Please DO NOT INCLUDE OUT-OF-DATE CANNED GOODS. The food pantry is not allowed to distribute out-of-date items. *Thanks! Frank Mahoney, Food Pantry Lead Volunteer*

**CROP WALK, SUNDAY, OCTOBER
1st, 2017. REGISTRATION AT
12:45PM!**



The annual CROP Walk to raise money for local, national, and international hunger projects, will be held on October 1ST, 2017 with registration at 12:45pm. Sponsored by our local Council of Churches, usually over 100 walkers stroll or jog over a route through Haven. Our church often has over 20 walkers, and we get to meet people whom we do not know from other churches! One quarter of the funds raised will benefit our local food pantry. Meanwhile we need walkers, and walkers need sponsors. Walkers can get a walking form from either Linda Covert (Social Ministry chair) or Pastor Rowe.



**ANNUAL BLESSING OF OUR
ANIMALS – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8**

At 1:00, Sunday, October 8, you are invited to bring your pets and critters to the annual blessing at the sidewalk next to the front parking lot. Held on a Sunday close to the commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4) who according to legend preached to the creatures in the forest, the blessing gives us an opportunity to give thanks to God for our creature companions, and to give them a blessing as well.

The prayer and blessing will last about 15 minutes, but please hold or leash you critters.



**REFORMATION ANNIVERSARY
ART SHOW**

As part of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation which is going on all of this year, and which we will celebrate here at Jerusalem on Reformation Sunday, October 29, we will be having a 500th Anniversary/Luther Art Exhibition! We are asking all of YOU to participate! We are inviting you to bring in things that you may have to exhibit which might include artifacts, art items, souvenirs, wall hangings, jewelry or even original art that you would create in honor of this very special celebration. Such original art might include your own design of Luther's rose, drawings or paintings of Luther or events in Luther's life pertaining to the Reformation. Use your imagination! The skies the limit! Everything to be exhibited needs to be brought into the church library no later than Sunday, October 22 so that it can be displayed. All items will be returned to you. Please include your name and any other pertinent information. If you have any questions, please see Bev Kriner.



**NEWS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP
COMMITTEE**

What are you Thankful for? It's something To think about when placing your offering envelope in the plate. This act of giving is how you Thank God for your daily blessings-For your church, your family, your house, the food you eat--Really anything and everything in your life! Think of it as not just giving to the church, but a Thank you to God for your relationship with Jesus Christ. Back in March we made

commitments to give. How's it going? I know at times it tough, but then He never lets us down. Look around our church, so many Great things happened this summer like VBS returning, the labyrinth project, and even the sunshine through our beautiful stain glass windows! Thank you for your time, talents and treasures!

The stewardship committee is always looking for new people to join us!

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COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE AND CHOIR FESTIVAL



Sunday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m. is the date of our third annual Community Thanksgiving Service and Choir Festival to be held right here at Jerusalem Lutheran Church. Church choirs from throughout the Schuylkill Haven and Cressona areas have been invited to participate. Plan to attend this beautiful musical service which includes hymns, scripture, preaching, choral music, hand bells, and brass!

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YOUR OFFERINGS AND HOW THEY HELP OTHERS

Your generous offerings of \$898 for the Disaster Relief Trip to NJ this year was greatly appreciated and needed to continue helping those in need. Thank you so very much for your support of this special outreach to people who were affected by hurricane Sandy. Let's see if we can do even better next year as so many homes still need assistance! Did you know that Jerusalem has

so far sent to the ELCA \$8600 from your benevolence offerings to help with the church's missions? You have also contributed \$1670 to World Hunger and \$1532 to our local food pantry as of mid-August. What a wonderful way to share our gifts with others! Keep up the good work!

If you read our bulletin each week, you will see that many local organizations use our church on a regular basis. We are so pleased to be able to provide a clean and safe space for various groups from our community. Another example of reaching out to others who are in need.....from the different levels of Boy and Girl Scouts, the day care, the Senior Citizens organization, the Garden Club group, the Divorce Support group, the Red Cross for blood donations, family events such as showers, funerals or birthday parties, musical events and so on. We are a welcoming church to everyone! Our church building is in constant use...not just on Sundays, but every day. Your increased offerings to the Building Fund are so greatly needed to make necessary repairs and keep our beautiful building clean and secure so that we can continue our mission helping others and spreading God's love.

At the August council meeting, the treasurer's report included information on where we stand at this point compared to last year. At the end of July 2016 we were almost \$15,000 in the red compared to \$7500 for this year. We are doing much better compared to last year but we still have a way to go to meet our financial obligations without "borrowing" money from our other accounts. What has made the biggest difference? Your **increased offering** following the Stewardship program this past Spring! Thank you for supporting the missions of our church!

Jill McCloy, co-treasurer

TITHING IN 10 BABY STEPS

