

† Jacob's Ladder †

Volume XLI Issue Two

February 2025

*PURPOSE: To keep the members and friends of Jacob's Church informed of the ministries and happenings at our church and in the surrounding community to be **The Church on a Hill, Shining Forth for Jesus Christ***

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828.243.5388
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† From the Pastor's Study †

You Can't Have...

Leading up and into the Lenten season we are going to investigate the New Testament for some things as Christians we can't have, things we can't have unless we have something else. For instance, have you ever thought that you really can't have love without hate, strength without weakness, or a promotion without a demotion? Sounds crazy doesn't it, but it is true.

The secret is in plain sight all over the Bible, yet it remains hidden to many. There are many reasons why. One of those reasons is because we read the Gospels too much. What!? I can hear people thinking as I write this, "How is it possible to read the Gospels *too much*?"

Now that I have backed myself into a corner let me see if I can get out of this jam. Think about it...what do we see so often in the Gospels? Jesus showing up in someone's town and healing them. He heals the blind, the lame, the mute, and the deaf. Lepers who have been kicked out of their communities are welcomed back in when Jesus heals their disease. The special part of all that was not just that lepers were healed, but after Jesus healed them, those healed could once again sit down with others in community and have a meal, play a game, laugh over a joke, or pray together, something entirely forbidden to them while they suffered from leprosy.

Jesus' Gospel miracles are so dominant it leaves readers with the impression that our main interactions with Him are to be requests for the spectacular to happen, when what Jesus is really seeking to accomplish in our lives is a complete transformation of our hearts and minds. NB: Jesus need not die on the cross to perform miracles, but He necessarily had to die to open the opportunity for life transformation. This possibility is what gets played out in the rest of the New Testament: the letters of Paul, John, Peter, James, and the rest. In a word they are saying, "Jesus' resurrection has now made it feasible for you *to be like Him*, now get busy pursuing it."

Of course, transformation from who we once were into the likeness of Jesus is not something we can accomplish on our own. The Holy Spirit is God's agent for life change, and we cannot change apart from the Word (John 17) or the community of faith (Ephesians 4); an act of seeking obedient faith is necessary for the whole thing, but I digress, so now back to my main point: the Bible reader who is too heavily Gospel oriented keeps asking for God to fix something here rather than to be fixed here (i.e. made new). We ask for healings for our cancer, broken limbs, failing eyes, and diabetes, but do we ask for God to deal with our anger, our lack of forgiveness, our depression and anxiety, or are fears? Have you ever prayed, "LORD, heal me of my fears and send me out to share the Good News of Your salvation?" It is exhilarating!

In essence, all this comes about because we generally do not believe we live in two worlds: the old world, which is passing away, and the new world which Jesus is bringing into existence. Peter said, "we are pilgrims/exiles" in this land (1Pet 1:1). Paul said we have been transferred to the kingdom of the Son He loves (Col 1:13), that our true citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:20), and that we are ambassadors for the Kingdom of God (2Cor 5:20). In other words, once born again we are no longer from here, and therein lies the rub. We keep living like we are from here, so we keep rejecting what God so richly provides.

Is it possible to maintain a friendship with the world and love for God (James 4:4)? Can light have fellowship with darkness (2Cor. 6:14)? John says, "no," (1John 1:6). So, for Lenten season, what we are going to look at together in the New Testament are several things that hold believers back from fully embracing their new position in Christ, things incongruent with our heavenly citizenship, things that need to be jettisoned so we can fully walk in a manner worthy of the calling we have received in Christ. *Soli Deo Gloria*

◆ Jacob's Church Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes ◆

December 1, 2024

1. The annual congregational meeting was held immediately following the worship service on December 1, 2024. Membership was acknowledged by hand raise and the needed quorum of 42 members was verified by three church board members. Dave Zoghby (president) chaired the meeting.

2. Election of Church Board Members

The Elder completing his 2nd term of service is Mike Madtes. Ron Belknap was nominated by the board to fill the position of elder. No other nominations were offered from those present at the meeting. Motion to accept Ron Belknap as elder was made by Ed Sawyer and was 2nd by Jared Hermany. Motion carried by voice vote. The deacon(s) completing their terms of service are Ed Sawyer and Kayla Fusselman.*.

*Kayla had finished a term of another deacon who had stepped down.

Kayla Fusselman and Solomon Johri were nominated by the board to fill the positions of deacons.

No other nominations were offered from those present at the meeting.

A motion was made by Jared Hermany to accept Kayla Fusselman and Solomon Johri as deacons and was 2nd by Mile Bailey. Motion carried by voice vote.

Amendment to Election of Deacons: A special congregational meeting was held on December 29th during the morning worship service to make a correction of term served by Kayla Fusselman. Kayla's terms of service is not yet completed as she is still in her first term. Instead, Katie Sacks' is finishing her 1st term of service. A motion was made by Mike Bailey to accept Katie Sacks for her second term of service and was 2nd Faye Foulk. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Discussion of adjustment of 2024 budget specific to Missions. A proposal was made to withhold monetary support designation of \$3500.00 previously approved in the 2024 budget to Spade International (\$2000.00) and Voice of the Martyrs (\$1500.00) due to varying difficulties pertaining to operational transparencies. Questions were raised from the audience. Tom Foulk addressed current operational obstacles of Spade International and Mike Bailey addressed those issues pertinent to Voice of the Martyrs. A motion was made to withhold the previously designated support of \$3500 and redistribute to existing missions by Solomon Johri and 2nd by Tina Bailey. Motion carried by voice vote The monies will be redistributed to the other missions per direction of Mission's Committee.

4. Projected Expenses- Salary Expenses

- The youth minister position will be vacated by Will Dellicker at the end of January 2025 in order for Will to pursue a Seminary education at Reformed Theological Seminary Orlando, Florida. The youth minister is responsible for those students in middle school and high school, assisting with confirmation classes and organizing youth retreats.

- Salaries were increase across the board by approximately 6%.

- Jared Hermany and Carla Newton raised concern in regard to insufficient funding for the positions of a Praise & Worship pianist as well as Praise and Worship leader. Jared Hermany also questioned the absent of funding for a new sound system in the budget. Dave explained that due to absence of a demonstration by both companies under consideration, a proposal for this expense will need to be determined at a later time and approved by a special congregational meeting.

- Several questions were posed in regard to the new position of Children's Minister currently held by Kaley Fusselman. Kayla explained the current program offered to children grades K-5th grade twice a month for three hours. In addition, she will continue to be VBS director. Oversight of this position is under the direction of the Christian Board of Education. Children's Church will continued to be directed by Jane Wessner.

5. Projected Expenses- Mission Expenses

Two new missions were added for 2025: Hands in Service and Bright Hope Pregnancy Center of Allentown. Questions were raised in regard to the criteria used in the selection process of the ministries current and new. Mike Bailey responded to the questions; Diane Wertman also directed the people to read the Mission Committee Report which states the criteria used and also to be aware that every month we will have a mission moment highlighting each ministry and opportunities for congregational involvement. Several concerns were voiced that the amount of money designated for missions were inadequate. To take into consideration, several

ministries were moved to another part of the budget and also the monies collected for love offerings is not reflected under the mission budget line items. The mission committee will continue to move toward increased giving in the future.

6. Projected Expenses - Property Expenses

Dave reviewed the expenses, and no questions were posed.

7. Projected Expenses - Church Programs and Committee Expenses

- Mission's Crafters was a new addition.

- A concern by Ned Rauch Mannino noted the unequal funding for the men and women's ministries.

Dave stated that additional monies can be approved on an as needed basis.

8. Projected Expenses - Computer and Technical Services

- Sound system- (As noted above in #4) We are waiting for demo's from two companies and then a special congregation meeting will be held to approve any spending over \$15,000.

9. Projected Expenses – other

- Melinda Kelly expressed a need for an increase in the budget item “organ and piano” stating that the current amount would not cover the tuning of the piano in the sanctuary as well as the piano in the basement.

10. Capital Project Expenses - no discussion.

11. Preschool Budget - Income and expenses balance as the preschool presides over their own budget.

12. Questions were raised as to why the income from investments is not disclosed on the budget. The reply is that the income generated gets placed back into the investment. Kelly Mease treasurer was able to provide the amount generated up to the current month of October.

Weekly offering income needed to balance budget for 2025 is \$6,555.00.

A motion was given by Kayla Fusselman to approve the budget as presented with a total projected expense of \$401,660.00 and was 2nd by Charlene Silva. Motion carried by a majority raise of hands.

A motion was made to close the meeting by Melinda Kelly and 2nd by Solomon Johri. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Diane Wertman Church Board Secretary

At our December 3, 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting, we voted to contribute \$5,351.00 per week in order to meet our 2024 budget.

The following tithes and offerings were collected in December 2024:

December 1	\$5,559.90
December 8	\$8,948.90
December 15	\$6,627.90
December 22	\$9,408.45
December 24	\$1,357.00
December 29	\$5,942.20

Budgeted Tithes and Offerings for January-December	\$278,252.00
Actual Tithes and Offerings for January-December	\$313,606.40
Surplus for December 2024	\$ 35,354.40

◆ Jacob's Church Board Meeting Minutes ◆

December 2, 2024

Present: Pastor Stan Newton, Elders: Dave Zoghby, Mike Follweiler, Youth Minister: Will Dellicker
Deacons: Mike Bailey, Tom Foulk, Kayla Fusselman, Kaitey Sacks, Ed Sawyer, Diane Wertman
Treasurer: Kelly Mease
Visitors: Jill Sabo, Kevin Dellicker, Jen Mease, Ron Belknap

Visitor: Jill Sabo. Jill announced that she will be stepping down from the leadership of Little Lamb's Preschool and the plans to close will be May 2026 unless another person is willing to lead this ministry. The preschool opened in 2006. All new teachers and helpers will also be stepping down. Presently, the plan is not to enroll any new children into the 3year old class for fall of 2025.

Enrollment consists of approximately 12 students in each class. (a 3-year-old class and a 4-year-old class).

There is one teacher and one helper for each class.

The Board thanked Jill for starting and running the preschool and that we want to work with her to find a new leader and teacher to keep the program going. Jill will develop a job description and will meet with the elders for their assistance in advertising and selecting the person to lead this ministry.

Visitor: Kevin Dellicker. Kevin presented a teaching on Stewardship, Leadership and Church Doctrine.

Stewardship: Matthew 25:29 Encourages the church to move forward boldly in stewarding resources.

Leadership: Titus 3, 1 Peter 5. Encourages us to evaluate the appearance of having paid employees serving on church board with voting privileges.

Doctrine: Ephesians 4:11-16. Equipping the saints. Theme of family and treating each other like family and growing in every way more like Christ. Looking closely at the meaning of Baptism and Holy Communion and conveying this to congregants as disciples of Christ.

Opening Prayer and Devotion

Pastor Stan's selected devotion was from 1 Samuel 2:11-17. The story of Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, serves as a stark reminder of the devastating consequences when those in positions of spiritual leadership disregard God's commands and prioritize personal gain, teaching us today that even in our own lives, we must diligently guard against complacency and actively nurture our spiritual walk to avoid similar pitfalls.

Treasure's Report

The November Treasurer Report was reviewed and a motion to accept the report was given by Ed Sawyer and 2nd by Mike Bailey. The motion carried.

Total Income for November = \$106,295.61

Total Expenses for November = \$28,682.04

Net Profit (Loss) for November = \$77,613.57

Less: Restricted Income for November = \$69,531.68

Add: Restricted Expenses For November = 0.00

*Net Unrestricted Profit/(Loss)for November = \$8,0831.39.

*Net Unrestricted Profit/(Loss)for the 11-mo. period 1/1/2024 - 11/30/2024 = \$ 51,633.90

**Note: Net unrestricted Profit (Loss) represents the profit (loss) of the General Fund excluding any Unrealized Gains (Losses)*

Church board recognizes that a discussion of Jacob's Church Cash Balances needs to be part of the Budget Meeting as well as the Annual Congregational meeting for next year. This should also include JMS

Investments: Hermany Memorial Fund, Lintz Memorial Fund, and Wormkessel Endowment Fund.

Also, to take a closer look at total ministry percent disbursements to include all outreach ministries(not only missions or charitable contributions) but also including VBS, Children's Church, Stephen's Ministers, Love Offerings etc. to help evaluate our churches financial stewardship of all incomes and investments.

November Minutes

The November Board Minutes were reviewed for accuracy and corrections made to reflect that Donna and Paul Richardson have not become members of Jacob's Church.

A motion was made to accept the minutes with noted corrections by Kayla and 2nd by Ed Sawyer. The motion carried.

Old Business

Pastor Stan reports that new member classes will be held twice a year. In addition, confirmation classes are going well, and each child has received an “adopted grandparent.”

Finance Committee:

At the Annual Congregational meeting, Dave Zoghby notes that an error was stated in regard to the terms served by Kayla Fusselman and Katie Sacks. Kayla is in the process of serving her first term and Katie Sacks has completed her 1st term this year (2024) with plans to serve a 2nd term. An announcement to this effect will be communicated to the congregation two weeks prior to the installation service of Elders and Deacons on December 29, 2024. Also noted to share the year’s Cash Accounts and JMS investments at the Congregational meeting next December.

Property Committee:

Tower Leak - All outside repair finished on tower and chimney; will now start on the inside repair.

Organ Repair - will start Feb/March.

Wuchter House - Tom Foulk reports he is still continuing with outside improvements; not sure if the weather (high winds and cold) is going to cooperate for the use of the sky lift. This may be postponed until spring.

Capital Projects for 2025 - will be finalized at the next property meeting.

Christian Ed Committee - Pastor Stan reports no update.

Children’s Minister - Kayla plans to send out invitations to the children that attended VBS in the summer encouraging attendance at our children’s programs. Also plans to conduct survey regarding children’s interest in new programs.

Youth Minister - Will Dellicker will be resigning from his position the end of January in order to attend Reformed Theological Seminary - Orlando in Oviedo, Florida. The church will be posting his position.

Music Committee /Worship Team - Service is planned through to Easter.

Sound/IT Committee - still waiting for companies to schedule a demo before making decisions to purchase.

Missions Committee - will decide as a committee how to disperse the \$3500 to existing missions’ ministries for this 2024 year. The money that was not paid out to Spade International and Voice of the Martyr’s totals \$3500 and the congregation approved not to disperse this money originally allocated for the 2024 budget year. (See Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes.)

Special Events - Thanksgiving Family Meal was held 11/24/2024. Thank you to Tom Foulk for preparing six roast turkeys and Brian Fusselman for assisting.

Doctrine Committee - Pastor Stan reports no update.

New Business:

Christmas Eve Church Service moved to a new time of 6 pm instead of 7 pm. Announcement of time change made in Church Newsletter and Bulletins.

Next Elders Meeting - December 9, 2024

Next Board Meeting – January 6, 2025

Motion to Adjourn made by Ed Sawyer and 2nd by Mike Follweiler
Closing Prayer by Pastor Stan

Recorded and Submitted by Diane Wertman, Church Board Secretary.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for 7:00PM, Monday, February 3, 2025.

Next Elders Meeting is scheduled for 7:00PM, Monday, February 10, 2025.

✠ Jacob's Church Commitments for February ✠
✠ THANK YOU FOR SERVING! ✠

Flowers for February

February 2 In memory of Lance Cpl. Brandon J. Van Parys, Van Parys Family
Anniversary on 2-5-2007 Operation Iraqui Freedom ~ 18 years

February 9 Wedding Anniversary of Dick and Joan Oswald ~ on 2-14-2025

February 16 In memory of Ruth Kaley, husband Charles (floral stand)

February 23 In memory of Pearl Follweiler & Hattie Smith, Follweiler & Foulk

Cost of Flowers for Sunday Service:

(2) Altar Vases \$30.00

(1) Floral Stand \$20.00

Bud Vase \$5.00

Bulletins \$5.00

The 2025 chart is posted in the east vestibule on
the Church Bulletin Board. Sign Up Today!

Any questions contact Pam Zoghby
(610.298.3002)

February Scripture Readers

February 2 Bill Dellicker

February 9 Joan Oswald

February 16 Jim Moyer

February 23 Cindy Kuhns

February Greeters/Ushers

February 2 Jacob's Church Board

February 9 Jacob's Church Confirmation Class

February 16 Faye Billig and Michael Kelly
Tom and Faye Foulk

February 23 Jim and Rose Moyer
Ron and Donna Smith

Sunday Morning Greeters arrive by 9:45am

Puppet Ministry

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Rose Moyer and Joan Oswald

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Kayla Fusselman and Rose Moyer

Jacob's Church Closing

Announcement due to inclement
weather can be found: On our website,
jacobschurch.org, on Facebook, and
broadcasted on WFMZ-TV CHANNEL 69
NEWS STORM CENTER. If you prefer,
please do not hesitate to call, email or
text Church Secretary, Faye Foulk at
610.751.5742,
secretary@jacobschurch.org

Online Giving!

Jacob's Church offers the option to give securely online.

You can opt to give by ACH or credit
card on a one time or recurring basis.

To sign up visit:

<https://jacobschurch.org/give>

FMI Contact Kelly Mease at
treasurer@jacobschurch.org

February Acolyte
Braedon Klitsch

◆Membership News◆

✠ Celebrating with...

*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11*

Congratulations and Best Wishes to The Following
Couples Celebrating February Wedding Anniversaries:

*Ben and Emily Blotz
Bruce and Cheryl Fidler
Neil and Mary Ann Oswald
Richard and Joan Oswald
Jay and Rachael Scheffler*



✠ Births...

*“That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” John 3:6*

Congratulations to Collin Williams and Heaven Pratz! Their bundle of joy, William Scott Williams was born on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. Little William weighed six pounds, eight ounces, eighteen and three-fourth inches long. William’s older sibling, Riley cannot wait to teach him some tricks. William’s Great Aunt Leann Shoemaker and Great Uncle Dennis Shoemaker cannot wait for sleepovers. Cousins, Rebecca Shoemaker, John Shrawder and Olive Shrawder, cannot wait to snuggle the little one! Congratulations Collin and Heaven from your Jacob’s Church Family.

Congratulations to Ethan Kemp and Tillana Foulk! Their bundle of joy, Lawson Andrew Foulk was born on Thursday, January 9, 2025. Little Lawson weighed six pounds, twelve ounces, nineteen and three-fourth inches long. Sending many blessings to the maternal grandparents, Andrew and Katie Foulk, paternal great grandparents, Tom and Faye Foulk! Lawson’s Uncle Bryce, Uncle Riley, and Uncle Greyson cannot wait to spoil him. His Great Uncles, Great Aunts and cousins cannot wait for first time visits. Congratulations Ethan and Tillana from your Jacob’s Church Family.

† Mourning the Loss of...

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away, Revelation 21:4

Our Deepest Heartfelt Condolences

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of Bobby Briner, who entered eternal rest on Friday, January 3, 2025. Bobby is survived by his son, Michael Briner. Bobby was the son-in-law of Charles P. (1906-1987) and Beatrice Lillian nee Herber (1920-2007) Fenstermaker (Beatrice was Jacob's Church Sexton 1986-1994). Please keep the Briner family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Condolences.

Our Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of Larry C. Fox, who entered eternal rest on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at the age of 82-10-15. Larry is survived by his brother, Ronald (Gail) Fox, Jacob's Church neighbor, and his cousins Ron (Donna) Smith, and families, Faye (Tom) Foulk and families. Please keep the Fox family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy.

Our Deepest Heartfelt Condolences

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of Richard W. Greenawald, who entered eternal rest on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at the age of 85-3-24. Richard is survived by his sister, Sandra A. (Roy) Follweiler of Kempton. Services were held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 in the Nester Funeral Home, interment in Ebenezer Union Cemetery, New Tripoli, PA. Please keep the Greenawald family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Condolences.

Our Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of Marlene Mae (nee Dougherty) Hess, who entered eternal rest on Sunday, January 12, 2025 at the age of 88-11-23. Marlene was the widow of William J. Hess (1934-1974). Marlene's service was held on Thursday, January 16th in Jacobs Union Cemetery, buried alongside her loving husband and family. Please keep the Hess family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy.

Our Deepest Heartfelt Condolences

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of John R Worman, who entered eternal rest on Monday, January 13, 2025 at the age of 71-8-3. Private services were held on Saturday, January 17, 2025 in Jacobs Union Cemetery, New Tripoli, PA. Please keep the Worman family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Condolences.

◆ Choir Corner by Melinda Kelly ◆

During Lent, the choir will be presenting an anthem entitled, “Behold the Love, The Grace of God. The text was written by Barton Warren Stone (December 24, 1772 – November 9, 1844). He was an American evangelist during the early 19th-century in the United States. In this setting, his words are paired with an American folk and gospel hymn tune, “The Wayfaring Stranger” written about 1858.

The text expresses God’s love and grace:

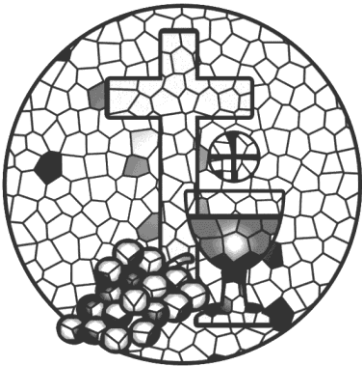
Behold the love, the grace of God, displayed in Jesus’ precious blood. My soul’s on fire, it yearns to prove the fullness of redeeming love. Our God is love, O leap my soul! Let alleluias freely roll! Love gave a Son to save our race, and Jesus died through Sovereign grace.

If you are considering singing with the choir, you might want to try singing with us during the Lenten and Easter seasons in March and April. During rehearsals, we work on how to sing correctly with vocal, physical and breathing exercises. Please let me know and I will prepare a folder of music for you. We would be happy to welcome you into the choir family!

May God bless you and keep you in His Grace!



◆ February Happenings at Jacob's Church ◆



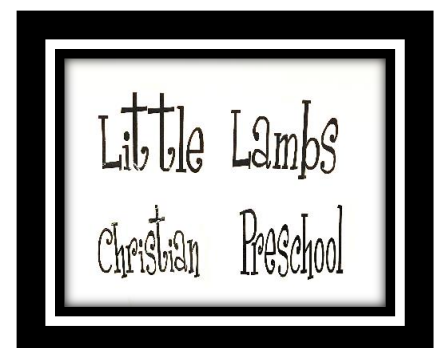
Holy Communion will be served on Sunday, February 2, 2025 during the 10:15am worship service. *"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" I Corinthians 10:16*

2025 Flower chart is posted in the east vestibule of the church on the Church Bulletin Board. (2) Altar vases will be \$30.00; (1) Floral stand will be \$20.00; the budvase and bulletins are \$5.00. Please sign up for altar flowers on your special date. FMI contact Pam Zoghby (610.298.3002).



Mission Moment, Dave and Katie Brindley, Cru United Philly ~Sunday, February 9th ~ Please join us! Our missionary, Dave Brindley will deliver the sermon! Love offering envelopes will be available in the church bulletin on Sunday, February 2nd and Sunday February 9th for the Cru United Philly Ministry. After worship a time of fellowship in the Activity Center with the Brindley's, a potluck lunch will be served. A signup sheet is posted in the church parlor area for attendance, bring your favorite side, the church will supply paper products, drinks and the main entrée. Please join us for a wonderful time of fellowship with your Jacob's Church Family.

Jacob's Church Little Lambs Preschool teachers are retiring after twenty years of service. Jacob's Church would like to continue this ministry. If interested in filling this position, please contact David Zoghby (610.597.4369).



Community Chosen Movie Night ~ Hosted by Ron and Susan Naddeo and Phil and Julie Conte at the Conte residence ~ 2756 Route 737, Kempton. Come and join us each Friday at 7:10pm. If you cannot attend weekly, please join the group the following week. BYOF (food). FMI please contact Ron (rnaddeo1@gmail.com) or in person.



Stephen Ministry ~ Christ caring for people through people. Everyone faces periods of difficulty. During these times, someone who will listen, empathize, pray, and encourage with Christ's love and care can be a tremendous benefit. If you need a listening ear, FMI please contact, Cindy Kuhns (484.529.2835). Stephen Ministers meetings will be held on Thursday, February 6th and Thursday, February 20th.

Cards Of Encouragement Ministry ~ "Thinking of you" cards to be sent are in the parlor area, please take the time to sign each card before or after Sunday worship. FMI, please contact Rose Moyer (484.769.7926), or to offer a name in need.

Thinking of you



Sisters Of Esther ~ Come and share in wonderful fellowship with Sisters in Christ every Tuesday morning from 9:30am to 11:30am in Jacob's Activity Center! FMI, please contact Donna Shay (610.739.1867).

Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer ~ Join us as we explore the word of God together and pray for each other on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm in the Church Parlor. FMI, please contact Pastor Stan (828.242.5388).

Ladies Night Out! Will meet on Monday, February 17th at 6:30pm in the Activity Center. FMI, please contact Kayla Fusselman (610.844.1567).

IMPACT ~ will be held on the first (2/1) Saturday, and on the third (2/15) Saturday of February at 8:00am at New Tripoli Hotel. IMPACT Men target their home, work, and community. Breakfast will be served! FMI, please contact Pastor Stan (828.242.5388).

Mission Crafters ~ Welcomes Woman of all Ages ~ Friday, February 14th, 9:30am in the church basement. FMI, please contact Linda Besch (484.707.0877).



Youth activities

Kids Night Out! ~ Make your Valentine's Day reservations today, because the kiddos have a place to hang out! A fun night for the kids on Friday, February 14th in the Activity Center, 6:00pm ~ 9:00pm. No sign up necessary! FMI, please contact Kayla Fusselman at kemptoncountry@gmail.com or (610.844.1567)

Free event open to youth in
Kindergarten through 5th grade.
Bible lesson, games, crafts, movie and snacks

The Christian Meaning of the Snowman

The White Snow represents God's forgiveness of our sins.

The Circular Snowballs show the everlasting life God promises us.

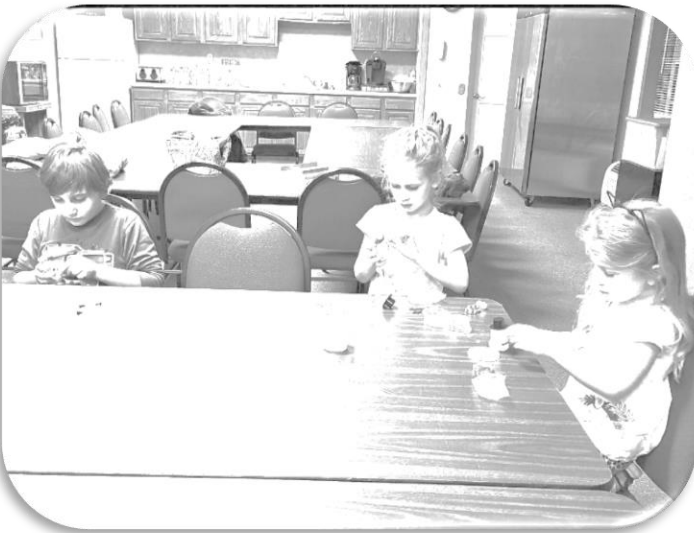
The Carrot Nose shows us that God has given us the Earth and all living things

The Black Coals Mouth reminds us to give God praise.

The Scarf keeps us warm just as God's love does.

The Top Hat reminds us to honor God above all things.

The Twig Arms are open to hold us the way God does whenever we need him.



JACOB'S CHURCH FASTNACHTS

\$11.00 One Dozen of Fastnachts

\$6.00 Half-Dozen of Fastnachts

Choose plain or brown sugar cinnamon

Pre-Order your Fastnachts by Sunday, February 24, 2025

To order call Leann Shoemaker at 610.739.6896

Faye Foulk at 610.751.5742

or visit the Jacob's Church website

Jacobschurch.org/fastnachts

For your convenience Fastnachts order sheet
is also posted in the parlor area
of the church and Activity Center

PICK UP Friday, February 28, 2025

From 3:00pm – 5:00pm

PICK UP Saturday, March 1, 2025

from 9:00am – 12:00pm

PICK UP Sunday, March 2, 2025

From 9:00am -11:00am

Fastnacht helpers

Please sign up on the sheet posted in the church parlor area.

Please indicate which day/days you are able to help,

**Thursday, February 27th, Friday, February 28th
and/or Saturday, March 1st**





GOD DOESN'T MAKE MISTAKES

*"I've made a lot of mistakes and have a lot of regrets...
But my children are nowhere on that list." - LC Client*

The Bible teaches that every life is precious and has a purpose, regardless of how that life began. A baby is never a mistake, even when mistakes have been made, or regrets occur.

At LC Medical and Support, our services focus on helping new moms and dads experience all the blessings of parenthood, whether the pregnancy was planned or unplanned. All our services are provided at no cost, with no judgment or strings attached. We are able to do this because of people like you, who partner with us through financial, material and prayer support.

Because of you, a new mom can see her baby's flickering heartbeat on ultrasound, evidence of a brand-new life growing inside of her.

Because of you, a new dad can learn to take responsibility for his family through our parenting education.

Because of you, babies are given a chance to live and grow and become all God made them to be!

WE PROVIDE:

- Pregnancy tests and ultrasound confirmation of pregnancy
- Parenting Education
- Material Support
- Healthy Relationship Education in Local Schools
- Post Abortion Counseling and Small Group Support

JOIN US IN SHARING LOVE TO MOMS, DADS AND BABIES.

HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Volunteer
- Become a Financial Partner
- Donate Services
- Scan the QR Code to Learn More!



BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER STARTS TODAY!

Bottles are available to take with you at the door. Fill one with coins, bills, or a check and return it to the church by the specified date. Thank you for investing in LIFE with your generous donation.



◆ Looking Ahead at Jacob's Church ◆

Ash Wednesday - We begin our Lenten season of preparing our hearts for the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior by recognizing our brokenness, and need for turning our hearts to God. Join us at Jacob's Church on Ash Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00pm. Communion will be served at the altar.

Daylight Saving Time Begins on Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 2:00am. Please remember to turn your clocks ahead before retiring for the night, otherwise you will arrive at Church School and/or Family Worship an hour too LATE!

Lenten Season Series ~ Wednesday, March 12th and continues through Wednesday, April 16th with a soup/salad dinner at 6:00pm and the series titled, "Key Moments in Church History" at 7:00pm by Pastor Stan Newton. The church will provide salad/bread and the congregation will provide their best soups! At a later date, a signup sheet for Wednesday nights best soups will be posted in the parlor area.

Easter Extravaganza a celebration of our risen, Lord will be held on Saturday, April 12th at 1:00pm.

Palm Sunday commemorates the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem, during which palm branches were placed in his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent. Join us on Sunday, April 13th, as we reflect on Jesus' journey into Jerusalem and celebrate by the blessing and distribution of palm branches.

Good Friday is a Christian holy day observing the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary. It is observed during the Holy Week as part of the Paschal Triduum. It is also known as Black Friday, Holy Friday, Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord. Join us on Good Friday, April 18th at 7:00pm as we reflect on the sacrifices Jesus made for us as we lay our burdens at his cross. It is Friday, but Sunday is coming!

Easter "Resurrection" Sunday marks the glorious celebration of Jesus' resurrection, the cornerstone of the Christian faith. The empty tomb and Jesus' appearances to his followers confirm his victory over death and his identity as the Son of God. Join us on Resurrection Sunday, April 20th at 9:00am as we celebrate our risen Lord, Jesus. Hallelujah, Jesus is Alive! No Confirmation and Sunday School that Sunday.



◆ Jacob's Church Little Lambs Preschool ◆

Little Lambs
Christian Preschool

We have begun our winter fun lessons this month! We love all the beautiful glitter snowy crafts allow us to use this time of year!!! We will spend these cold winter months cozy in our classroom reading books, playing games, singing songs and growing closer to Christ through our Bible lessons. It may be cold outside but our hearts are so full and warm.

2024-2025

Thursday, February 13th
Valentine's Party



Dear Jacob's Church Family,

After much prayer and reflection, we have decided it is time for the current core teaching staff of Little Lambs Preschool (Jill Sabo, Mandy Conti, Dorenda Bogert and Karin Bowman) to announce our retirement in May of 2026.

We have been blessed beyond measure being part of the Little Lambs Preschool Ministry. So many of you were here with us from Day One ~ almost twenty years ago when the idea of starting the preschool was proposed!

Since that day the Jacob's Church Family, members, board, elders, Pastor Shay and Pastor Stan have been the biggest and best support system we ever could have dreamed of. We know our ministry has been in your prayers all these years and we are so very grateful for that.

We have done our best to serve the Lord every day ~ "feeding His Lambs," ~ building a strong Christian foundation for our students as they began their life of walking with Jesus. Our first group of students will be graduating from college this year! Which is just incredible!

Each and every student from that first day to today will forever be cherished in our hearts. We are eternally grateful for the opportunity that was given to us as we were called to this ministry and we will be forever blessed.

We will be finishing our teaching career next school year. We are currently opening enrollment for the three-year-old class and conducting interviews to fill the new three-year-old teacher position!! If you know of anyone who would be interested in interviewing as a three-year-old teacher or aide (starting in September 2025) or PreK teacher or aide (for September 2026, shadowing in 2025) please have them reach out to us and we would love to talk to them!

They would not be sorry ~ this amazing ministry is so very special to be part of! Contact:
Jill Sabo ~ jsabo615@gmail.com or David Zoghby (610.597.4369)
With Sincerest Gratitude ~ In Him, Jill, Mandy, Dorenda, Karin



◆ Missions ◆

2024 Panama final report

As the hours wind down on 2024, I wanted to look back and give thanks to our gracious God who allows me to be a part of His ministry here in Panama.

I know many people are trying to push 2024 out the door for a fresh new start in 2025, but that is not my plan. This year was a very good one, again. God continues to bless the ministry in many ways, as well as curing a health issue that could have turned out badly if not addressed on time. Thankfully, I am very healthy for a man my age.

We did not add any new churches in 2024, but that is a good thing as keeping up with 6 congregations is a chore in itself.

We did start off 2024 with a 12-hour all-night church service that included some people giving their life to Christ. Amen. We heard a touching testimony of a man in a wheelchair that now has become a 'soldier of Christ'. Between church services, food deliveries, movie nights, kids activities and Hikes for Christ, we kept the ball rolling in bringing the gospel to the people in many different ways.

January 2024 is when 11-year-old Eysbel had her operation to repair her esophagus so she could eat by mouth for the first time in 7 years. The operation was a success and she is doing excellent. We went out to eat last week and she continues to put the food away, making up for the 7 years of liquids only. I am so proud of that little girl.

A legally blind pastor came to me for help, and help he got. He can now read his bible without eyeglasses. Praise God. Unfortunately, for him, his wife just passed away after battling with cancer.

I officiated another wedding, this time another blind pastor that I know finally tied the knot. It's a big deal here because the Indians almost never marry.

Support wise, it has been a very good year. God continues to raise up good people to support His mission to reach all the world with the Gospel. More churches want to get involved after seeing the progress here.

We were able to help kids with their education, some with health issues, some with solar panel installations, some with water systems, some with wheelchairs, food and clothing. We gave out a ton of bibles again.


Right now I am helping a widow of 8 children, from my church, with their basic needs, including food, beds and mattresses. They are all sleeping on the floor. Mom is about to have her 8th child. Her husband died about a month ago.

2025 will bring the return of visitors from the USA. Two friends will come down in January to help teach English classes as well as helping with the ministry. We haven't had any mission teams since before Covid.

I have much to be thankful for and so many friends to be thankful for, but I can't possibly mention them all here. You know who you are. God has put you in my path for a reason. Keep up the good and Godly work.

For 2025, pray for my 'Timothy'. It has been difficult to find someone willing to take my place when I am not here. God has a plan, He just hasn't told me yet.

Have a very Happy New Year and continue to pray and read your bible.
Remember that ...'with God, all things are possible'.
Joyfully Serving Him, Bobby Mo



A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16*

BARNABAS BENEFIT

CONNECTING CARING HEARTS WITH NEEDS WORLDWIDE

January 1, 2025 New Years 2025 blessings to you our friends!

I am so thankful for all your prayers and gifts to Barnabas Benefit in 2024. I look forward to doing an even better job bringing hope to the poor and hopeless in increasing numbers of villages in 2025. I appreciate many of you who have been with me since my first visit in 2008 and all who have newly partnered in 2024.

I just had the privilege of connecting with 22 individual refugee orphans one by one as they braved the cold around an outside fire in the ravaged state Manipur, India. As the mobile phone was passed from child to child, they each gave their names and ages and thanks for the clean water, solar panel for lights to study, and especially the warm blankets you provided. I wish you could have looked into each of their eyes and heard their voices. I have to admit I needed to wipe my eyes during the conversation. I spent two weeks in an area like that in January a few years ago and know there is no heat there in the houses and shelters that pass for houses.(or even the few cars). Their joy warmed my heart and I am sorry that you couldn't experience it with me since your gifts and prayers made it possible.

We have provided vast amounts of varying of qualities and quantities of blankets throughout India and Nepal through numerus disasters this winter. This ranged from a brother and sister passing out 60 affordable blankets to homeless children in the slum areas to 50 high quality blankets to the widows and elderly with little body fat and poor circulation. They live high in the Himalayan Mountains of Nepal and other areas.

Countless wells have been drilled in 2024 and we are continuing at an increasing pace and that has reduced our cost dramatically. (I am sure we are one of our long-time drilling partners best customers and we no longer have to negotiate for prices not normally available). Most wells are now funded by at least 25% locally. We experimented and funded a request for equipment such as pipes and pumps to facilitate a group of young men to go from village to village in the tea garden areas of Assam drilling as they went. (with the help and partial funding of villagers) They drilled an amazing number of wells and connected with so many elders and villagers that we are doing it again in a different district.

Christmas is a very special occasion in India and we joined in providing a celebration and gift boxes of food, warm socks, etc. for the impoverished people of all faiths and backgrounds. For many, it is the first gift of love they have personally received and it has a huge impact. We also provided small amounts so leader's children could have a crayon box or even a new dress.

Many of our leaders have experienced more personal setbacks this year than in the past. We have stood by, encouraged, and provided for their varied unexpected needs, (M\medical, jail, robbery, etc.) We do not pay any of them; we just support their projects and occasional personal needs. They are deeply committed and sacrifice much. (Several have Masters degrees and even Doctorates and could be well off if they so choose) We are working with them to achieve self-support and teach others to do so as well. The possibility exists that changes in government policies could stop our support from reaching them to fund their causes. Most of them have mentored disciples and their effects are multiplying exponentially.

Our microloans for small businesses are doing well and are in high demand especially with single mothers trying to support their children. As I mentioned, our first male sewing/embroidery school graduate now has his own machine and doing well with patterns for male clothing. We hope to do more teaching on Biblical financial principles for these folks.

We are working to equip and, in many cases, re-equip & try to repair projectors for our Jesus Film outreaches for villages where the elders welcome them. We recently purchased 3000 Telugu language Book of John booklets for those interested in knowing more about Jesus without violating increasing “anti- conversion” laws and sentiment.

We will continue to seek expert guidance and purchase proper bikes when appropriate since many of the new generations of leaders walk long distances.

We are committed to encouraging our leaders to get to know, pray, and share together in 2025. We are working on the logistics to make sure this is technically possible. We have been blessed to team up with folks who are experienced in doing this as well as team building expertise as well. They have been supporting Natalie and me administratively and in many other ways during our personal challenges. We look forward to working as a team with them. We also appreciate many of you who offer valuable professional and personal expertise, insights, and encouragement.

Thank you again for “being you” and sharing with us so we can share with others who deal with hands-on day-to-day needs and opportunities. Together, with prayer, wisdom, and compassionate funding we can bring more hope than ever before in 2025. Many exciting developments soon.

Your friends, John, Natalie, and team

*We love because he first loved us.
1 John 4:19*



◆ Thank You! ◆

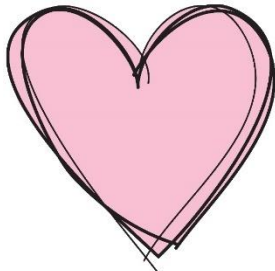
*Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever. Psalm 106:1*

Dear Jacob's Church,
Thank you for the thoughtful Christmas gifts.
We appreciated them and your kindness very much.
It's so nice to belong to a caring church family.
Wishing you all many blessings in this new year and
the wonders of His love every day.
Dave and Dee Stepan



Dear Jacob's Church,
Thank you so much for your gift of 750.00.
Your generous donation helps us feed, shelter
and provide programs to help end homelessness.
We are so grateful for your support.
With sincere gratitude, Lori Novak, Development Manager

*Dear Jacob's Church Family,
Dave and I are so grateful for your special year-
end gift. We are so grateful for your partnership
and prayers in ministry. We love the work God
has called us to in the city and we rely on folks
like you to lift us up. We look forward to coming
to visit in February!
With gratitude, Katie and Dave Brindley*



*See what kind of love the Father has
given to us, that we should be called
children of God; and so we are. The
reason why the world does not know us
is that it did not know him
I John 3:1*

*A special shout out to Joel and Betty (Fields) Matthias to include us
in their Christmas greeting each year. It is always a delight to hear
from our friends in Covington, LA.
FYI... Joel was confirmed by Rev. Rahn on 3 Oct. 1965. Joel and
Betty were married at Jacob's Church on 19 Aug. 1981 union
officiated by Rev. Potteiger*

JACOB'S CHURCH ACTIVITY CENTER REPORT

"THE CHURCH ON A HILL, SHINING FORTH FOR JESUS CHRIST"

January 24, 2025

Happenings in Jacob's Church Activity Center during the month of January.....

Sisters of Esther held their meetings on Tuesday, January 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th; starting at 9:30am and ending approximately at 11:30am.

Stephen Ministers held their monthly meeting on Thursday, January 2nd and Thursday, January 16th.

Jacob's Church Board meeting was held on Monday, January 6th in the church basement. Missions Crafters gathered on Friday, January 17th and Mission Committee held a meeting on Friday, January 10th.

Private celebrations were held on Saturday, January 11th, January 18th, and January 25th, and Sunday, January 12th.

Kutztown Twirlers practiced on Friday, January 3rd, 17th, 24th, and 31st, 5:00pm ~ 9:00pm in the gym. NWL Twirlers practiced on Monday, January 13th, and 27th, 4:30pm ~ 9:00pm. NYAA Basketball season continues, the group used the facility each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday approximate times 5:30pm ~ 9:00pm. NYAA Volleyball started their practice sessions on Sunday, January 5th, 6:00pm ~ 7:30pm, this group will practice at this time every Sunday, their season ends on Sunday, April 27th. NYAA Soccer held shoot arounds, Sunday, January 5th, Tuesday, January 14th and Sunday, January 26th.

Abiding Arrow Home School held their sessions on Wednesday, January 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th, 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm. The group also had a time of prayer on Wednesday, January 8th, and 29th, 11:00am ~ 12:30pm. The Harvest Homeschool women held prayer meetings on Wednesday, January 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th, 4:00pm ~ 5:30pm. NWL-FCA held meetings on Wednesday, January 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.

IMPACT continues to meet the first and third Saturday of each month at the New Tripoli Hotel.

God Bless You,

Faye M. Smith Foulk



February

2025

Scheduled Church Activities

*“But you, O Lord, are a shield around me;
you are my glory, the one
who holds my head high”.
Psalm 3:3*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 SS 9:00 Catechism Class 10:15am Worship Holy Communion	3 Church Board Meeting 7pm	4 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am	5 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am 7pm Bible Study/Prayer	6 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	7	8
9 9:00 SS 9:00 Catechism Class 10:15am Worship	10 Elders Meeting 7pm	11 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am	12 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am 7pm Bible Study/Prayer	13 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	14 Twirlers 5:00-9:00pm	15
16 9:00 SS 9:00 Catechism Class 10:15am Worship	17	18 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am	19 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am 7pm Bible Study/Prayer	20 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	21 Mission Crafters 9:30am	22
23 9:00 SS 10:15am Worship	24	25 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am	26 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am 7pm Bible Study/Prayer	27 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	28	

February

2025

Scheduled Activity Center Activities

“For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken”.

Psalm 62:5-8



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 IMPACT at New Tripoli Hotel Private Celebration
2 SS 9:00am Softball 1-4pm VB 6-7:30pm	3 Twirlers 4:30-9pm	4 Sisters of Esther 9:30-11:30am BB 6-9pm	5 B. S./Abiding Co-op 11:00am-1:30pm P. G. 4-5:30pm FCA 6-7pm BB 7-9pm	6 Stephen Ministers 9:30-12:00pm BB 6-9pm	7 Twirlers 5:00-9:00pm	8 Private Celebration
9 SS 9:00am Potluck Soccer 4:15-5:15pm VB 6-7:30pm	10 Twirlers 4:30-9pm	11 Sisters of Esther 9:30-11:30am Girl Power 5-6pm BB 6:00-9:00pm	12 Abiding Co-op 1:00-4:00pm P. G. 4-5:30pm FCA 6-7pm BB 7-9pm	13 BB 6:00-9:00pm	14 Youth Group 6-9pm	15 IMPACT at New Tripoli Hotel Private Celebration
16 SS 9:00am Softball 1-4pm VB 6-7:30pm	17 Ladies Night Out! 6:30pm	18 Sisters of Esther 9:30-11:30am Soccer 5-6pm BB 6:00-9:00pm	19 B. S./Abiding Co-op 11:00am-1:30pm P. G. 4-5:30pm FCA 6-7pm BB 7-9pm	20 Stephen Ministers 9:30-12:00pm BB 6-9pm	21 Twirlers 5:00-9:00pm	22 Private Celebration
23 SS 9:00am Softball 1-4pm VB 6-7:30pm	24 Twirlers 4:30-9pm	25 Sisters of Esther 9:30-11:30am BB 6:00-9:00pm	26 Abiding Co-op 1:00-4:00pm P. G. 4-5:30pm FCA 6-7pm BB 7-9pm	27 Fastnachts BB 6-9pm	28 Fastnachts 3-5pm Twirlers 5:00-9:00pm	

