



the Voice parish newsletter



Thanks be to God for our 100th Year!

The holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom. --Daniel 7:18

Suicide often is met with silence. Obituaries are not written; survivors often comfort themselves, saying the death was accidental; unintentional. The hardest thing to do is to contemplate the truth that a person made a rational choice to end life.

Beloved children's book author, Robert Munsch, who wrote the iconic *Love You Forever* (1986), recently revealed his intent to die a medically assisted death, legal in Canada, due to dementia and a Parkinson diagnosis. He's been approved to end his life when he decides it's time. At age 50, Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy famously faced the question of suicide. What drew him from the brink was gaining a clear view that God wanted him to do better; that God is the shoreline of life. He wrote, "*Oars were the freedom given me to pull for the shore and unite with God. The force of life was renewed in me and I again began to live.*"

November is a month when the church celebrates God as the force of life, the safe shoreline pulling us homeward. The festival of *All Saints* begins the month. We remember loved ones who endured to the end, who chose faith, hope, and believed that our life in Christ is worth living. *Christ the King* comes near the end of November, a liturgy celebrating the victory of Jesus over chaos and death.

Life is hard. We don't deny this truth during *All Saints* and *Christ the King*. The wider truth we celebrate, however, is that God is greater than all that besets us and has given us the hope Tolstoy finally discovered. He kept rowing his boat toward God at the shoreline rather than ending his life.

Join the church in worship this month as we anticipate Advent and Christmas. Keep believing in the face of all things that life is worth living; that in life and death God is with us. God is always with us; we are never alone. *The holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom* that is coming for all.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy



November, 2025

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Daniel 7-12

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

This Bible study is a weekly group discussion.

November 3	Daniel 7
November 10	Daniel 8
November 17	Daniel 9-10
November 24	Daniel 11-12

Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss the second half of the book of Daniel. All are welcome. This study will conclude November 24 and will be followed by an Advent Bible Study in December. Weekly attendance is optional; come when you can!



Depiction of the four beasts and the Ancient of Days in the book of Daniel

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10:00 am- 11:00 am

FOUR OLDER WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss the faith witness of older women in the Bible. In dialogue together, we will discover applications for life and remember women of our congregation who worshiped and served here during the last 100 years.

November 6 Naomi

November 13 Lois

November 20 Elizabeth & Anna

November 27 Thanksgiving Day (no class)

*Bibles will be provided or bring your own. All are welcome.
Weekly attendance is optional; come when you can!*

Naomi



Lois



Elizabeth



Anna



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Assessing Debt in Relationship

For many couples, when a partner reveals that he or she has significant personal debt, it's often met with a whole range of emotions: doubt, disappointment, embarrassment, discouragement. The big question often becomes, can we overcome this?

Dealing with a partner's debt can be daunting.

Consider this real-life example: An engaged couple, two years into dating, were excited about what was next for them. They were discussing home ownership, travel, and starting a family. Then, the gentleman revealed he had more than \$10,000 in credit card debt – it was the first time his debt had been quantified aloud. His partner was stunned; she began replaying his spending decisions in her head. His short-term spending had left them with long-term consequences. He'd been making minimum payments only, allowing debt to continually increase.

Ninety percent of people in a serious relationship — married or living together — choose to combine finances. This means that the old saying “what's mine is yours” often includes debt. And debt can be uncomfortable!

Open conversation and full financial disclosure are key to building a healthy relationship.

But all is not lost on those who enter a relationship with money issues. Every couple needs to evaluate whether the benefits of being together outweigh the challenge of lingering debt. The best course of action, of course, is to engage on the issue early and often so you can assess what role debt will play in your future together.

Digging into the Details

Once you and your partner are ready to discuss debt on a deeper level, it might be helpful to create a spreadsheet that outlines how much each person owes, to whom, how often you plan to make payments, repayment plans, and an achievable payoff deadline. Populate the spreadsheet together while you talk. Here's a list of questions for discussion: 1. How much do we each owe? 2. What is our plan to pay off our debts? 3. How do repayments fit into our overall budget? 4. Once we pay down our debt, how will we allocate that money (discuss short- and long-term goals)? 5. How does personal debt impact the life we envision sharing? 6. Will the process of paying off our debts strengthen or weaken us as a couple?

Now What?

After you've finished discussing debt and its implications, you may want a break from finance talk. Financial conversations aren't easy, but they're essential for couples to move in the same direction. What you learn may give you the confidence that you've got your debt under control. Or you might find you're faced with consequences that complicate life together. Regardless, getting debt details out into the open is a necessary step for the health of any loving relationship.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2 ONE LITURGY 9:30 AM

On Sunday, November 2, we will celebrate the *Festival of All Saints*. Members of the church and other loved ones who have died during the past year will be remembered in prayer. Their names will be read during worship followed by bell chimes. The departed saints of the church are dearly remembered. By faith we believe we remain as one. Though separated by death for a time, we will be reunited at last in the heavenly home.

**Please join the congregation in worship at 9:30 AM on Sunday,
November 2, for this solemn remembrance of all the saints.**



All Saints Sunday November 2

One Festive Liturgy at 9:30 AM



Members of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

Bognar Grandparents
+1960, 1962, 1974, 1978

Edwin Bognar Sr.
+03-11-1992

Nadine Bognar
+01-11-2018

Gerald Elm
04-22-2023

Dr. George Schein
+11-09-2024

John Frank Pujia, Jr.
+02-08-2025

Robert Edward Fischer
+02-27-2025

William Sommerfield
+07-03-2025

Mary Elizabeth Elm
+09-04-2025

*Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine;
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*



All Saints Sunday November 2

One Festive Liturgy at 9:30 AM



MY
LORD
AND
MY
GOD!

Bishop George Bashore
+12-13-2024

Arlene Peterson
+12-15-2024

Thomas Ryan Nesbitt
+01-03-2025

Betty Morrison
+01-14-2025

Donna Viehman
+02-10-2025

Mark Teter
+03-25-2025

Vickie Zippay
+02-28-2025

Robert Maxwell Dowling
+04-03-2025

John W. Viehman
+04-28-2025

Eva Andrascik
+05-24-2025

David C. Bohn
+05-27-25

David Gregory Noël
+06-05-2025

Michele McGrath Aravich
+06-09-2025

William Vieth
+06-11-2025

Kristin Morrell Humphreys
+06-19-2025

Timothy Teter
+07-24-2025

Chris Lester
+08-13-2025

Kari Mäkinen
+09-28-2025

Rosemarie Walters
10-02-2025

Father John Moineau
10-25-2025

All Saints Sunday November 2
One Festive Liturgy at 9:30 AM

**Military Veterans
and all First Responders
who served for Peace.**

+

*Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine;
All are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*



*Much effort has been made to compile these lists. Any omissions or misspellings are regretted.
Please notify the church office.*

SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: NOVEMBER, 2025

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please switch with another server. If you cannot get a substitute call the church office at 412-563-0300 or Pastor Doug at [412] 901-0155; or email the church at: mtleboluth@aol.com

November 2-Crucifer

9:30 Xavier Graybill

November 9-Crucifer

8:30 Easton Darcy

10:00 Gabriel Provins

November 16- Crucifer

8:30 Sam Wetzel

10:00 Paige Gentzel

November 23—Crucifer

8:30 Ewan Keplar

10:00 Quin O'Brien

November 27- Thanksgiving-Crucifer

10:30 Dylan Solomon

November 30- Crucifer

8:30 Henry Keplar

10:00 Madalena Provins



The Bible



The Bible is a collection of sixty-six books. These books were written by a number of authors. They tell a story that covers centuries of time. All types of literature, recounting the rise and fall of many nations and the varied experiences of multitudes of people are written into their pages.

As we turn the pages of the Bible, we can hear God speaking to us through his chosen witnesses in the past. The message they proclaimed, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, was a message from God. When the time was ripe, the message took the form of a complete final revelation in Jesus Christ. He is the heart of the Scriptures and his redemptive work is the central fact in them. He is the living, dynamic message of salvation which God is now speaking to us and to all mankind. He is the everlasting Word of God.

BLOOD DRIVE November 3, 2025 2:30 pm to 7:00 pm Church Social Hall

To schedule an appointment to donate:

-Go to vitalant.org and search with Account Code UG0030043

-Call 1-87-25VITAL

-Sign up in the Narthex.

-Call the Church Office 412-563-0300

****Appointments Recommended**



The worship links to Facebook & You Tube can be found on our website:

www.mtlebanonlutheran.org

Sunday's
8:30 AM & 10:00 AM
Virtual Worship 8:30 AM Facebook LIVE
Posted later on our YouTube channel

The Word of the Lord

November 2	All Saints Sunday Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Psalm 149 Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31
November 9	22nd Sunday after Pentecost Job 19:23-27a Psalm 17:1-9 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38
November 16	23rd Sunday after Pentecost Malachi 4:1-2a Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19
November 23	Christ the King Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 46 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43
November 30	Advent 1 Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

Thursday, November 27th, at 10:30 AM
Festive Worship Liturgy for a
National Day of Thanksgiving



The last Sunday of the Season of Pentecost

Festival of Christ the King

Sunday, November 23

8:30 and 10:00 AM

The last Sunday of the long Pentecost Season [over a half-year long, 24 weeks] and indeed, the Church Year is celebrated as the Festival of Christ the King.

Of rather recent origin among festival days [1925], this day marks with awe and reverence our Lord Jesus Christ as the King of the universe and thus, His kingship is to be understood as the goal of both the church's liturgical year-end and of our earthly pilgrimage.

In the reign of Christ, the King does not 'use' others or intimidate the weak, but cares for them. We proclaim Christ our King, as he goes to the throne of the cross. We acclaim Him our ruler as he sheds his blood. We acknowledge Him as our Lord as He gives himself to us in bread and wine.

Crown Him with many crowns!

Global Links November 2025:

Tuesday, November 11—1:00-3:00 pm
 Volunteers Needed to Help Pack Surplus Medical Supplies for those in need.

If you are interested in volunteering, please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please contact Allan Copenheaver at allancope@yahoo.com with any questions.

The Annual Stewardship mailing will be arriving shortly. It will include the 2026 Commitment Cards and Time and Talent Sheets. Informational pages will be emailed separately.

Please read the information carefully and return your giving cards to the church office in the envelopes provided. All financial information will be kept confidential and is seen only by the financial secretary. Also please review and fill in your Time and Talent sheets. They also may be turned in to the church office. Offering envelopes for 2026 will be available for pick-up in the south hallway of the church beginning



WE REMEMBER in our prayers:

Lord of healing, thanksgiving fills our hearts as we rejoice in you. We who live in the midst of storm and sickness, who are daily exposed to evil of every sort, rejoice that in angelic attention you watch over, cradle and keep us safe. We pray for:

Craig Elias; Andy Kelemen; Linda Larkin; Bill Young; Shari Ehrlich; Dave Young; Robert Hordage; Patrick Brown;

Advent Candle Lighters

Every year we have members of our congregation volunteer to light our Advent candles at the beginning of each Liturgy service every Sunday. If you and/or your family have an interest, please email or call the church office. Due to only four Sundays in Advent, we will determine the candle lighters by order of submission. If you are not chosen this year, we will put your name on a list for future upcoming Advents.

A Note from the Treasurer:

For many members, the e-offering platform has been a useful tool and we thank you for using it. This is a reminder that if you use your bank account directly, the fee is 30 cents. If you use a credit card, the fee is 3.25%. Please use the bank account direct debit if at all possible.



DST Ends November 2 - Set your clocks BACK one hour to be timely for worship on Sunday, November 2nd, All Saints' Sunday.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the December issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by November 16th. Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.



You're Invited...To the Sunday Morning Fellowship Sunday Morning Fellowship in the Foyer.

Every Sunday please join us in between the early and late Liturgies to share greetings and conversations with friends and visitors. Refreshments are available for all.

The Sunday Morning Fellowship also provides opportunities to volunteer:

- * Sponsor the Coffee Project of Lutheran World Relief, helping small growers, their families and communities through the fair trade of coffee.
- * Volunteer to set up and clean the Fellowship refreshments table. It's easy to do and a member of the Hospitality Committee will show you how. Also, written instructions are available.
- * Provide sweet (or healthy) treats for all to enjoy. (Gluten free and nut free treats are also welcomed) If you'd like to help you can sign up in the foyer outside the church office, or contact the church office.

Daily Bread Ministries November 23

A traditional Turkey Dinner is the menu for the next *Daily Bread Meal*. We are now accepting cash donations for the purchase of turkeys and other miscellaneous ingredients. Sign up sheet is located in the Narthex. We are thankful to all our donors and volunteers for their participation in serving those in need on the Northside.



YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, November 2 – Service Day: Neighborhood Cleanup (11:15 AM–1:00 PM)

Led by Julia Nelson. We'll meet after church for a short training, then walk as a group to collect litter. Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided when we return. Gloves and bags will be supplied. Please wear long pants, sleeves, and closed-toe shoes. Because we'll be leaving church property, please provide a phone number for each student.

Sunday, November 16 – Friendsgiving Youth Night (Tentative 6-8 PM)

A potluck-style meal, gratitude devotional, and a night of community and reflection.



November Liturgical Themes

The festivals of All Saints [November 2] and Christ the King [November 23] along with the Sundays between them, form a liturgical bridge from one year into the next.

Throughout much of North America, November is a time for remembrance. We think back to the past growing season and the warm weather of summer with a kind of wistfulness as the cold, earlier darkness swallows the sun more each day.

November also calls to mind those who have served our nation [Veterans' Day]. *Pastor Doug will lead the prayers during the November 11 Veterans Day event in Mount Lebanon.*

Here in the northeast, there is a withering, shedding, scattering, stripping, burrowing, and freezing. Fields we remember as full of fruit, are now stubble. Even so, November heralds that the baptized are to be awake and actively enacting our remembering of Christ as the goal, not simply of the year, but of all time.

On November Sundays, Christians gather around God's word and Christ's cup to remember all the saints of every time and every place who have died in the faith; to remember, to watch, and to wait in hope and love; to remember who is sovereign of all that is and ever shall be. Such remembering is deeply imaginative and profoundly collaborative. It is not merely a remembering of the past, but an active recollection of the future, and thus a participation in Christ's remembering a world beloved to God.

All Saints Day calls to mind all the faithful in history, into the vortex of unity with all those who have gone under the waters of death to be delivered into the life of God. The mind of Christ, as proposed by our November texts—imagines saints as refugees, undistinguished by denomination, race, or creed.



And on the festival of Christ the King, the assembly stands by the sea of glass, at the throne of Christ who is, who was, and who is yet to come.

Right around the corner... The Jesse Tree of Advent

Just as the Christmas Season has its own special tree, so Advent has its special tree: the Jesse Tree. It is in a prominent place in our Narthex so it can be seen up close.

It is a bare, and not particularly attractive tree, because in Advent, we are reminded of the incompleteness of the fulfillment of God's promises in the Old Testament.

In Advent, we wait for their fulfillment. Many of our Advent hymns, include the favorite "Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel," speak of the "strong branch of Jesse."

But who is this Jesse of whom Jesus is called the "Branch" and whose name is given to the Advent tree?

Jesse was the father of King David. The Gospel of Saint Matthew begins with the words "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David." The Gospel of Saint Luke is also careful to establish that Joseph was of the "house and lineage of David" and it was for that reason that he went to Bethlehem, the city of David, for the census. It was there, of course, that Jesus was born.

Since Jesse was David's father, Jesus was also a descendent of Jesse. He was the "Branch" or "Rod" which grew from the stump of Jesse. So the Jesse Tree is a kind of family tree of Jesus, which gives all of our congregational family an opportunity to appreciate the mighty acts of God in preparation for the fulfillment of the prophetic promise in the birth of Jesus.

The decorations on the Jesse Tree, which have been made by the children of our Sunday School, symbolize the important people, and events of the Old Testament leading toward the birth of Jesus. They include a globe symbolizing creation, the serpent and an apple from the Garden of Eden, the ark which Noah built and the rainbow sent by God, the flaming torch and burning firepot, the lamb and the blade from the near-sacrifice of Isaac, Jacob's ladder, Joseph's coat of many colors, the burning bush through which God spoke to Moses, and the lamp of Samuel.

Please take time this Advent to look closely at the Jesse Tree in the Narthex and remember our loving God's work to redeem His creation.

The Jesse Tree will be on display for Advent. If you would like to help decorating the Jesse Tree, contact Debbie Hazlett at drhazlett@verizon.net

Giving Market Helpers

Many thanks to our Sunday School students for staffing our Giving Market to unpack and sort all the Thanksgiving food donations for our basket project: Leo Bucher, Grant Kegel, Annabelle Kegel, Brooks Vargo, and Mila Vargo volunteered in October; more students will volunteer in November, including Yanliang Zahn, Walter Croom and Samantha Croom. Kids and congregation members also made cheerful craft projects to include in the Thanksgiving baskets. Thanks to all who helped, and to all who donated food and gift cards.



Presentation of Bibles



It is our tradition on Reformation Sunday to present first graders and new students with their very own Bibles. First graders Walter Croom, Brooke Larson and Mila Vargo and fourth grader Yanliang Zhan were presented with their Bibles on October 26. We always have new Bibles on hand to make available to new students if they join later in the year. These Bibles are gifts from their congregational family to encourage them as they continue to grow in Christian faith. Students are encouraged to bring their Bibles to Sunday School each week. These particular Bibles coordinate with the Lectionary-based curriculum used in class.



Kids' Choir Schedule

Our Sunday School kids are led in Music each week by Carol Vogeley and Barb Heagy. They are learning a song to sing in Worship on November 16. They are also learning songs for our upcoming Advent Pageant. All kids are welcome to join us! **We practice in the Opening Room, last room downstairs during or after Sunday School.** Please contact MBTrivilino@verizon.net for more info.

Kids' Choir schedule for the coming weeks:

Nov. 2 – *Sunday School starts at 9:30 this day* -- All Saint's one Liturgy

Nov. 9 – Sunday School 10:00

Nov. 16 – Kids sing in Worship at 10:00, then go to Sunday School

Nov. 23 – Sunday School 10:00

Nov. 30 – No Sunday School – Thanksgiving Break

Saturday, Dec. 6 – Advent Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 – 11:00 am – *Social Hall*

Dec. 7 – Advent Pageant Rehearsal 9:45 – 11:00 am

Saturday, Dec. 13 – Advent Pageant Rehearsal 9:30-11:00 am – *Social Hall*

Dec. 14 – Pageant Dress Rehearsal 9:45 am

-- Advent Pageant Performance 11:15 in Social Hall, followed by Luncheon

Dec. 21 – Sunday School 10:00 am





Advent Pageant

For the whole congregation!
Mark your calendars for the annual Advent Pageant!



“Everywhere it’s Christmas”

From Abingdon’s Christmas Dramas for Children, by John and Nina Bates

Join us as we take a tour of different Christmas customs around the world.



Sunday, December 14

In the Church Social Hall

Performance at 11:15 am; followed by a Luncheon at 11:30

All are invited!

Rehearsals:

Saturdays, Dec. 6 & 13 - 9:30 - 11:00 am

Sundays, Dec. 7 & 14 - 9:45 - 11:00 am

Kids and Teens invited to participate. Adults need to help with rehearsals.

To participate or volunteer, please contact MBTrivilino@verizon.net



Advent Luncheon for Entire Congregation!

Sunday, December 14 – 11:15 am

Please bring a traditional dessert or cookies that represent your family’s heritage.

RSVP by December 7 –

Name: _____

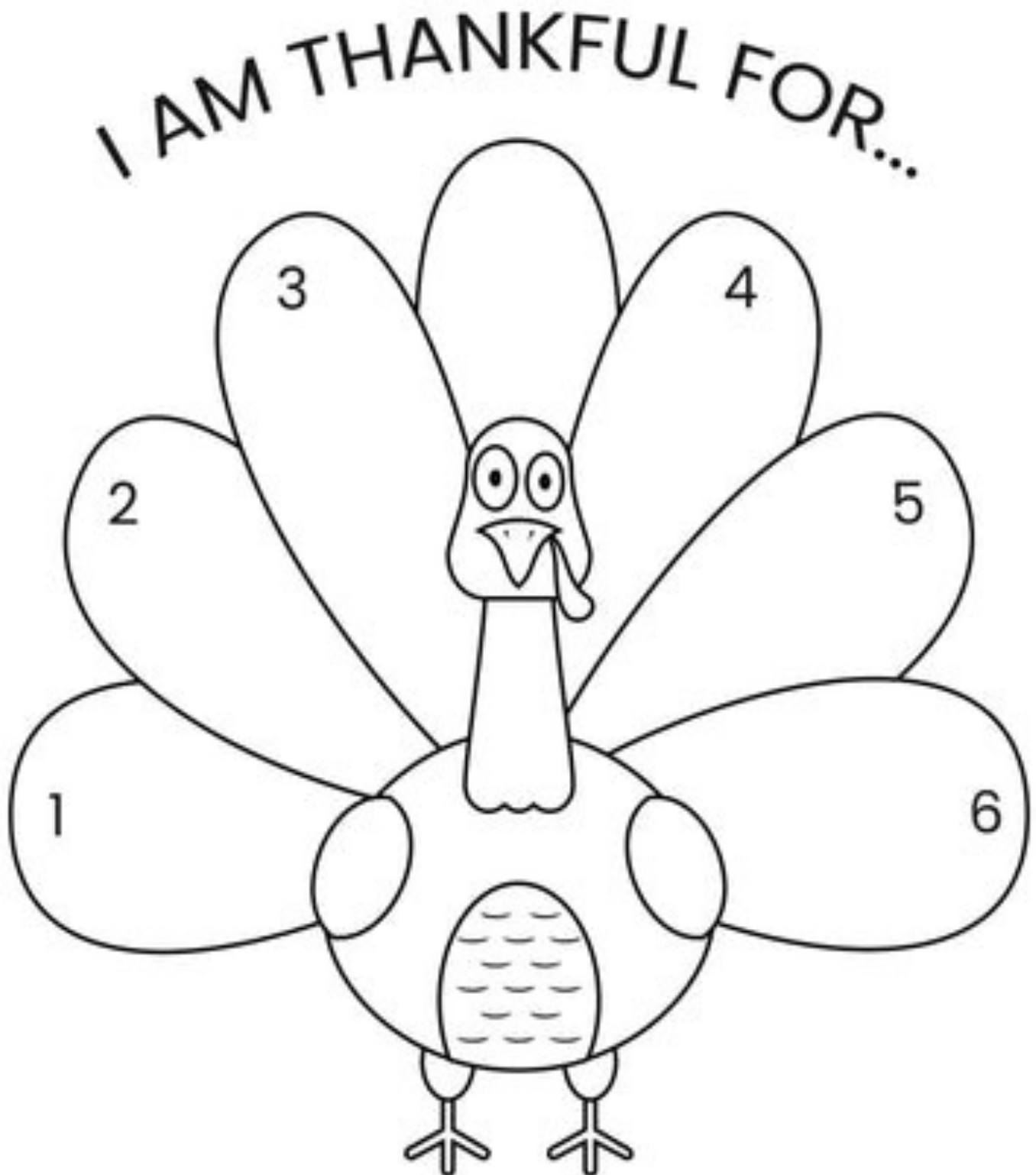
Number of adults: _____ Number of kids: _____

Food allergies? _____

Please contact the Church office if you are able to help with the luncheon.



Thanksgiving Coloring Page





ONLINE GIVING

Is now available in association with



www.mtlebanonlutheran.org

WHAT IS myEoffering?

myEoffering is a service we've teamed up with to give you the ability to send your offerings online in the same way that many of you already pay bills and purchase products. We chose to use myEoffering because they are part of a trusted, Christian family-owned company, who have been serving the needs of churches for nearly 100 years. Their product is solid, secure, easy, and convenient.

WHY SHOULD I USE myEoffering?

Many of you already pay for most of your purchases electronically, whether online or with a credit or debit card. So we have decided to offer this service as a convenience to you - you can stop writing checks or having to remember to bring cash every Sunday. Simply log in to our service and set up your offering. You can set the donations to match your pay periods, and even send your one-time donations to the special offerings we may have from time-to-time. This new service allows you to give any amount, at any time, from home or on the road, with your computer or even your mobile device. Now you can control how and when you give your tithes.

HOW DOES IT HELP?

Online giving is the future. In the lifetime of our young people, we will see electronic payments overshadow traditional methods of paper payments. In order to position ourselves to continue doing the work of God in the future and to make it as convenient as possible to be a cheerful giver to God's work, we have decided to offer online giving to you. In addition to easier access to giving and more engagement with young stewards, online offering has many benefits for the church. It allows us to more easily track contributions for budgeting. It saves us from manually tracking those contributions every week. It saves us from large fees on check processing and allows us to more accurately forecast expenditures and needs.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Signing up is as simple as going to our church website listed above and look for the green computer mouse icon. That button will take you to the myEoffering page for our church. Simply sign up and begin giving online today! Or scan the code to the right with your mobile device to get started now.



SCAN THIS
CODE WITH
YOUR MOBILE
DEVICE NOW



MOUNT LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH 2025 ANNUAL MEETING VOTING RESULTS

Our Annual Meeting was held by both email and In-Person. Thanks to all who cast votes by email, postal mail, or during our meeting. A quorum was attained, validating the results below. Percentages have been rounded.

MOTION ONE – COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP - 100% YES (with 1 abstaining)

Elected:
Sara Dougherty
Ryan Solomon
Rick Spickard
Tom Ultsch

MOTION TWO – CHURCH BUDGET – 100% APPROVED

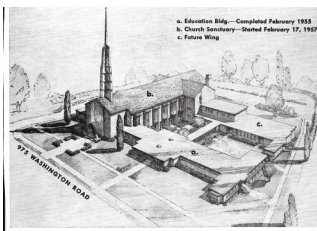
The proposed church budget for 2026 was approved.

MOTION THREE - Endowment Fund - 100% APPROVED

Thanks to all members who participated in the meeting.

The Executive Committee

100th Anniversary—2025 Mount Lebanon United Lutheran Church



2025 Annual Thanksgiving Outreach Project

THANK YOU for your generous support and participation for our Congregation's Annual Thanksgiving Project to help local food pantries provide holiday meals for their families.



You are invited help assemble Thanksgiving "Baskets" on **Sunday, November 16 at 11:05am** in the Social Hall. Please plan to participate in this fun event to help our neighbors, and fellowship with members. Light refreshments served.

We are asking for donations of specific nonperishable food items, and Giant Eagle Gift Cards. This year's project will benefit families using Dormont Food Pantry and families using St. Michael's Food Pantry.

Please bring your donations to **The Giving Market by Sunday, November 9.**

Please donate any of the following; however, NO Glass Jars:

CANS: veggies, fruits, cranberry sauce, yams, pie filling, gravy

BOXES: cornbread, potatoes, stuffing, rice, pie crust mix

ENVELOPES: gravy

Giant Eagle gift cards (\$10. to \$25. range preferred)

Thanksgiving Craft kits are now available at **The Giving Market** to take and make at home. Please return completed crafts by **Sunday, November 9.**

Please contact Deb Hazlett drhazlett@verizon.net if questions.



Have a Very Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving
From the staff at
Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church



A Table Liturgy for The Feast of Thanksgiving (November 27)



*[The family stands in prayerful silence around their table, upon which there are two unlighted candles.
After a few moments, begin the prayer]*

Leader 1: Come, let us welcome the Feast of Thanksgiving with joy and with light. Light is the symbol of the divine. The Lord is our light and our salvation. May the light of gratitude burn brightly in our hearts, and around this table, not only for the Feast of Thanksgiving, but all meals. *[The candles are now lighted]*

Leader 2: In the silence of our hearts, let us give thanks for all the many gifts that are ours. *[pause for silent reflection]* Let us also be mindful of those today who are without food or even a home. *[pause for silent reflection]*

Leader 3: Lord of Gifts, from Your holy heart has come a food of blessings to us. With uplifted hearts, we have gathered around this table to thank You with prayer and the worship of feasting. We are grateful not only for the gift of life itself, but all the gifts of friendship, love, devotion, and forgiveness that we have shared. On this Feast of giving thanks, Lord God, we thank You for showing us how to return thanks by lives of service, by deeds of hospitality, by kindness to strangers, and by concern for each other. *[We thank you for the presence of our guests _ _ _ _ _ who by their presence in our home have added to the brightness of our celebration.]* We are most grateful this Feast day, for the way You have become visible to us in one another, in countless daily blessings, and in the marvels of creation.

Leader 4: Come, Lord of Blessings, bless our table and all the food of this feast.

All: Bless the Lord, Amen. Happy Thanksgiving!



STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The Annual Stewardship mailing will arrive shortly to the homes of members and friends if it hasn't arrived yet. Please read everything carefully and prayerfully. Return your pledge cards by Sunday, November 23! Below is a helpful summary of how our tithes and offerings bless the world locally and globally. Thanks for your faithful giving and service!

Your offering at work

When you give to your local congregation, a percentage of that money is shared with your synod and with the ELCA churchwide organization. The portion of your offering that is shared with the wider church is called Mission Support. As members of the ELCA, we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor, open to the Holy Spirit's invitation to be active in the world. Through sharing your time, talents and financial resources, you are actively participating in God's work throughout the U.S. and around the world.



Your support of God's mission and ministry through the ELCA churchwide organization provides

- Global and ecumenical relationships
- Stewardship and mission funding
- Supporting congregations and evangelical outreach
- Governance
- Bringing forth and supporting leaders
- Stepping forward as a church serving others
- Coordination and support of ministries in the U.S. and throughout the world



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Third Quarter Financial Giving Statements will be mailed shortly. Use these statements prayerfully to reflect upon your year-to-date proportionate financial giving. If you have any questions about your statement please contact our Financial Secretary, Alan Copenheaver. The Church Office does not keep giving records and is not able to assist with questions.



Angel Tree for Glade Run Foundation



Each year, Glade Run Lutheran Services (Glade Run) provides life changing services to over 4,000 individuals throughout Western PA. Children, adults and families being served by Glade Run often have many challenges in addition to mental and behavioral health issues and autism. During this special time of year, Glade Run is grateful that we can help secure not only gifts for the youth but also the basic necessities and tools that make a difference in the lives of those in their care. Our gifts will support the children and families who would otherwise do without. More than just a present under the tree, donated items received through the annual drive provide joy, relief and comfort all throughout the year — well beyond Christmastime. Some gift requests may seem strange but all are incredibly needed and will mean so much to the youth and their families.

*We will once again be participating in the Angel Tree project supporting our friends at Glade Run Foundation in Zelienople, PA. The Angel Tree will be set up in the narthex starting **Sunday, November 30th**-the first week of Advent . We will have 75 tags to choose from plus there will also be the on-line version available again this year. As always, the need is great and all our support is truly appreciated.*

All gifts need to be returned UNWRAPPED under the tree in the narthex by Sunday, December 14th as they will be delivered to Glade Run the next day.



Continued...

Glade Run is currently updating their online shopping sites for Amazon, Walmart and Target. This information will be included in the weekly bulletins.

Also, if you would rather, Glade Run is always in need of gift cards and those can be brought to the church and I will deliver them with the gifts.

Suggested gift cards: Walmart, Target, Giant Eagle, Aldi, Amazon, Dollar Tree, Dollar General, The Home Depot, Lowes, Sheetz, Walgreens, Dick's Sporting Goods

Any questions, contact Allan Copenheaver at allancope@yahoo.com

Thank you for participating in this wonderful mission!!



The History of The Salvation Army Angel Tree



Along with the familiar Red Kettles, the Angel Tree program is one of The Salvation Army's highest profile Christmas efforts. Angel Tree was created by The Salvation Army in 1979 by Majors Charles and Shirley White when they worked with a Lynchburg, Virginia shopping mall to provide clothing and toys for children at Christmas time.

The program got its name because the Whites identified the wishes of local children by writing their gift needs on Hallmark greeting cards featuring pictures of angels and placing them on a Christmas Tree at the mall. Thanks to the Whites, who were assigned by The Army to the Lynchburg area at the time, more than 700 children had a brighter Christmas that first year.

Three years later, when the Whites were transferred to Nashville, Tennessee, Angel Tree was launched in Music City during the 1982 Christmas season. WSM radio, which airs the Grand Ole Opry, came on board that year as the first Angel Tree co-sponsor in the U.S.

Because of the on-air promotion on WSM in Nashville, as well as national publicity on CNN and the Larry King Show, news of Angel Tree spread across the country like wild fire. Since that time, the program has grown to include Angel Trees throughout the Carolinas.

ALTAR FLOWER CHARTS

Altar Flower and Bulletin Reservation Charts for the Year 2026 will be available in the Narthex starting on All Saints Sunday. *If you have a particular Sunday or Festival Day* on which you wish to reserve Altar Flowers or bulletins, please **reserve early** to avoid disappointment.

The cost of donating is \$30.00 per vase of Altar Flowers, or \$25.00 per Sunday or Festival Day for worship bulletins.

Please remember:

- **No reminder notices are sent** and so you must be responsible for paying for the items you reserve.
- If both vases are already taken for the Sunday you would have preferred, please find another date. [Do not simply add your name to a name already there.]
- Call the Church Office by Tuesday with the exact wording you prefer for the acknowledgment.



Christmas Poinsettias & Fine Arts



The beautiful poinsettias which adorn our Sanctuary for the celebration of the Holy Nativity of our Lord [Christmas] and the Epiphany of our Lord [the arrival of the Magi at the birthplace of Jesus] as well as contributions to the Fine Arts Fund, are the memorial and honor gifts of our congregational family. *

You are invited to participate by contributing a poinsettia [s] or to the Fine Arts Fund by placing the form below in the offering plate, or by mailing to the Church Office **to arrive no later than Sunday, December 7th.**

Poinsettia Plants
Fine Arts Fund

Acknowledgements will be made as desired in an insert to the worship bulletins for Christmas Eve/Day and on the Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord.

We will be decorating our Sanctuary on Saturday December 20th at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

****If your donation is made through E-Offering, please continue to fill out the order form below with where your donation is to be placed or quantity of flowers and return to the office. Thank you.**

I/We wish to donate:

(Please indicate quantity)

#_____ Poinsettia[s] - 6 " plant (Prices to be published in upcoming bulletin inserts)

#_____ Poinsettia [s] - 8.5 " pot (comes with 3 assorted plants in one pot)
(Prices to be published in upcoming bulletin inserts)

_____ Fine Arts Fund for Christmas Music

Donor: _____

Acknowledgement: _____

_____ Paid through E-Offering

Christmas



Due by December 7th



I would like you to consider participating in our online giving designed to simplify weekly giving in our congregation.

Electronic giving will enable every household or individual to make their church offering using electronic funds transfer or credit card. You may already be using online bill pay for your mortgage, car payment, or insurance premium through an automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account. Many of you also have used your credit cards to purchase goods online through Amazon, eBay, or a number of other sites.

We have teamed up with myEoffering to enable you to use the same process to give your offering electronically from your bank account, credit or debit cards.

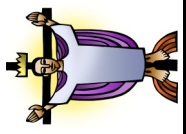
There is no cost to you for this new giving option. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue uninterrupted.

You can participate in the electronic giving program immediately. Just visit our church website and look for the "Donate Now" button.

Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.



November 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 All Saints Sunday 9:30 Worship Liturgy 9:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:15 Youth Neighborhood Cleanup Program **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS FALL BACK!	3 9:00-2:00 ESL Blood Drive—Social Hall 7:00 Bible Study	4 12:00-2:00 ESL 3:30 Catechetics 2	5 9:00-2:00 ESL 4:00 Catechetics 1 7:00 Choir	6 12:00-2:00 ESL 9:30 Bible Study	7	8
9 Pentecost 22 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School Thanksgiving Donations Due	10 9:00-2:00 ESL 7:00 Bible Study	 11 Veterans Day 12:00-2:00 ESL 1:00 Global Links	12 9:00-2:00 ESL 4:00 Catechetics 1 7:00 Choir	13 12:00-2:00 ESL 9:30 Bible Study	14	15
16 Pentecost 23 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Kids Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting 11:15 Annual Thanksgiving Project-Social Hall 6:00 Youth Group Friendship	17 9:00-2:00 ESL 7:00 Bible Study	18 12:00-2:00 ESL 3:30 Catechetics 2	19 9:00-2:00 ESL 4:00 Catechetics 1 7:00 Choir	20 12:00-2:00 ESL 10:00 Bible Study	21	22
23 Christ The King 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 2:00 Daily Bread Meal	24 9:00-2:00 ESL 7:00 Bible Study	25 12:00-2:00 ESL 3:30 Catechetics 2	26 9:00-2:00 ESL 4:00 Catechetics 1 7:00 Choir	27 10:30 Worship Liturgy 	28	29
30 Advent 1 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship						



1 All Saints Day Today we remember, honor and pray for saints, those people of faith in the cloud of witnesses — past and present, known and unknown — who have died and now rest in the mercy of God.

2 All Saints Sunday Who have you lost in your life? A family member, spouse, friend, neighbor, co-worker, a fellow congregant? Reflect on their significance in your life and community, and give thanks, praying that their memory and influence endure.

3 “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you” (Luke 6:27-28). Ask God for the faith and courage to follow Jesus when he implores us to resist human nature and social influences that drive us to vengeance, malice and judgment. Pray that our words, actions and decisions reflect God’s boundless love for us—for humanity.

4 Pray for the Spirit to temper our emotions and actions when we experience conflicts of opinions, values, religious belief or political ideology. Ask God to help us relate to one another without violence or belligerence—despite our differences—and to engage one another with attention, respect, attentive listening, dialogue and, when possible, reconciliation and compromise.

5 The Rev. Lucille “CeCee” Mills is the new secretary of the ELCA. Ask the Spirit to strengthen and prepare Rev. Mills for her ministry of supporting and equipping ELCA leaders in congregations, synods and the churchwide organization.

6 Praise God for helping us respond with love and generosity to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. Give thanks for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, a ministry of our church that manages our generosity, resources and partnerships with other organizations for maximum immediate and long-term impacts.

7 Give thanks to God for the promise of an eternal inheritance, attained not by the quality of our faith or good deeds but through God’s undeserved gift of love and redemption through Jesus Christ, our one true Savior.

8 “Dear Lord God, I want to preach so that you are glorified. I want to speak of you, praise you, praise your name. Although I probably cannot make it turn out well, won’t you make it turn out well?” (Martin Luther). Pray that we will have an unquenchable desire to tell others about our faith and God’s boundless love—in our own words, inspired by the Spirit.

9 We are children of God and children of the resurrection! Pray for the Spirit to help us comprehend and celebrate our life in Christ, which is not limited to our short life on earth but extends into eternity with God.

10 Remember in prayer those attending the Outdoor Ministries Connection Great Gathering in Lake Junaluska, N.C., an ecumenical conference for outdoor ministry leaders and board members to help them strengthen their networks, develop their skills and be inspired for ministry with children, youth and adults.

11 Veterans Day Remember and pray for military veterans who have engaged in the causes of pursuing peace and justice, defending freedom and responding to natural disasters. Give thanks for their sacrifices and service on our behalf.

12 Pray for the ELCA Church Council as it gathers to advise, guide and support our churchwide organization in its mission and presence in the world to spread the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

13 Pray for those who suffer memory loss and dementia, and for the spouses, families and others who surround them with love, care and support. Give thanks for health care workers and care providers involved in memory care, treatment and research.

14 “As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent. My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped” (Psalm 17:4-5). Pray that it be so!

15 Pray for the families and spouses of veterans and those currently serving our country in the military, that their faith will be strong and resilient, they are supported during times of deployment and that they are surrounded by gratitude and encouragement.

16 Pray that our faith in God’s enduring promises about our future is strong and that we respond to God’s persistent call to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to love and serve our neighbors. Ask the Spirit to free us from fixation, fear, prediction of signs and speculation about when and how Jesus will return, bringing God’s kingdom to Earth.

17 Pray for the Spirit to teach and embolden us to be tireless advocates and bearers of peace, mercy and compassion into our communities, nation and world.

18 Pray for the ELCA initiative Sumud: For Justice in Palestine and Israel. Ask God to bless and further its work with partners in the Holy Land and congregations in the United States to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in establishing and supporting the justice required for peace.

19 How has God’s presence and activity in the world surprised you? Pray that we might open our hearts and minds to work of the Spirit that we don’t expect, imagine or even understand.

20 Praise God for the 20 new ELCA missionaries now serving alongside our global companions in 11 countries as pastors, teachers, Horizon International interns, ministry coordinators and other roles.

21 “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord” (Psalm 98:4-6). Let joy and praise permeate your prayers today. Acknowledge God as the source of all good things, especially the boundless, life-giving love we experience through Jesus Christ.

22 Give thanks to God and pray for those who attend to our physical, emotional, social and spiritual health, helping us to live life as fully as possible: doctors, nurses, medical technicians, hospice workers, researchers, pharmacists, therapists, social workers and others.

23 Lift up prayers of thanksgiving for 25 years of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program, which has sent over a thousand young adults on yearlong journeys of global fellowship, ministry and service with our companion ministries. Pray that we continue to generously support for the YAGM program, that it might thrive as young adults continue to do God’s work in the world.

24. In 2024, 673 million people in the world faced hunger; 2.3 billion people experienced moderate or severe food insecurity; and 2.6 billion people could not afford a healthy diet. Pray for our neighbors here and throughout the world who suffer hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Ask the Spirit to inspire us to support and join existing endeavors and to develop new ministries that will provide relief and address the root causes of hunger.

25 Ask God to help us be grateful, wise and effective stewards of creation, understanding our connection to all living things and teaching others to care for our environment and natural resources — life-sustaining gifts from God entrusted to our use and care.

26 Give thanks for ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, the Lutheran World Federation and other partner agencies that work on our behalf to address the causes of hunger and poverty worldwide and to provide our neighbors with relief, care, support and hope.

27 Thanksgiving Day Praise God for the gifts that sustain our body and spirit — food, shelter, family, friends, faith communities, the bounty of creation, God’s love and forgiveness, and so much more. Remember and give thanks for those who plant, cultivate, harvest, prepare and deliver the food that nourishes us.

28 Pray for our neighbors and siblings in Christ who lack safe shelter and wonder how their basic, daily needs will be met. Ask God to help us be attentive to their immediate and long-term needs and be diligent in seeking solutions to the dearth of affordable housing and access to social services in our communities — solutions that respect the value, rights and dignity of our neighbors in need.

29 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6). Have faith that God listens to prayerful conversations that express our gratitude, needs, worries, questions, excitement and hopes — today and every day!

30 First Sunday of Advent Pray that, in the upcoming month, we will turn our attention to anticipating and rejoicing in the gift of God’s son, Jesus Christ, brought into the world to shine a light on God’s awesome love and forgiveness.

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

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The Reverend Yehiel Curry

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Melissa Stoller

Bishop

The Reverend Douglas M. Heagy

Senior Pastor

Dr. Christopher Keenan, DMA

Director of Music and Organist

Mr. Larry Allen

Director of Music and Organist Emeritus

Mrs. Kris Malia

Parish Secretary



Festive Worship Liturgy
for

Our National Day of Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 27

10:30 AM

O Lord, maker of all things, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature.

We praise you for crowning the fields with your blessings and enabling us once more to gather in the fruits of the earth.

Teach us to use your gifts carefully, that our land may continue to yield her increase, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Give Thanks to the Lord,
for He is good.
Psalm 107:1*

