

the Voice parish newsletter



Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church
975 Washington Road Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228

...contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. –Jude 1:3

Experiences of departure change us. Life, after all, is holy. Prenatal life matters to God. During seminary, while serving as a chaplain in a trauma center, a nurse called me to the OB-GYN. Labor had been induced for a certain stillbirth. The couple had chosen a name for their child and wanted him to be baptized. He fit in the palm of my hand; his resting place is in the cemetery of a small, central Pennsylvania town.

O come, O come, Emmanuel. I prayed these hymn words at the interment of a Maryland mother who died during Advent after a long life. Next to her grave was her son, who'd died young. After enrollment at WVU, he went to Vietnam. A missile hit his barracks. The town lined the road when his casket was brought to the cemetery in a horse drawn carriage.

James Metzmaier, who died this year on Easter Sunday, is one of our members to be remembered during All Saints on Sunday, November 6. We will worship at ONE service on this day at 9:30 AM. During high school, James held a summer job performing stunts as a high diver at Pittsburgh city pools. He regaled me with stories from this time and with other memories up to last days of his life. He built with his own hands a getaway in Clarion County along the Allegheny River, where he enjoyed long, summer days with family.

The saints we remember never leave us. They rest in Christ and we will see them again. During Holy Communion we believe a mystery unfolds whereby we're united with them. In the All Saints' Proper Preface, we hear these words, "*And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn....*" The underlined words in the last sentence reveal a truth of our faith: *we believe in the communion of saints.* We believe those who've gone before us are with us, urging us on to heaven each time we commune.

Please come to All Saints worship at 9:30 AM on Sunday, November 6, for our ONE service as we remember departed loved ones and members. In Christ, we're on a journey with a glorious end. *The golden evening brightens in the west; soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest; sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia!*

Eternal peace is ours in Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy



November, 2022



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6 ONE LITURGY 9:30 AM

On Sunday, November 6, 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 6, for this solemn remembrance of all the saints.**



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

A Budget is a Statement of Faith

What does your church's annual budget represent?

Is it a proud menu of the hopes, dreams, and missionary ministries your congregation wants to accomplish in the year to come?

Or is it a life-support prescription for how the congregation expects to pay the staff, keep the lights burning, and the property maintained?

In a workshop when she was stewardship officer for the Episcopal Church, the late Terry Parsons gave this "Devil's Dictionary" definition of a church budget: "It is the means by which we notify the Lord of the limitations we intend to impose on his gifts for the coming year."

If we view the budget — and present it to our congregations — as an administrative necessity to ensure proper financial management, then we shouldn't be surprised to wind up with bare-bones measures that are grudgingly funded. If funded at all.

But if we present the budget to our congregations as opportunities to invest in the Reign of God and stretch ourselves to see how much we can do with even the nickels and dimes God has given us, then the possibilities increase.

In the end, a budget is a statement about how a congregation views the future. Do we trust that ours is the God of abundance who rewards faithful stewards and will stand behind servants who proclaim the Reign of God? If an outsider looked at your budget, what would he or she conclude about your congregation's faith?

And what would be a "God's Dictionary" definition of a church budget? How about, "It is the means by which we make the most of the abundance the Lord is giving us." Hmmm. That will look nice on the cover of the annual report.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2016, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission.



All Saints' Sunday

November 6

One Festive Liturgy at 9:30 AM



Members of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

Janice Fullerton

+11-09-2021

David Rosser

+02-23-2022

James Metzmaier

+04-21-2022

John Bozick

+05-14-2022

*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 6

One Festive Liturgy at 9:30 AM

Cassandra Leigh Sabo

+11-18-2021

Ross David Gittleson

+11-24-2021

Sharon Walsh

+11-25-2021

James McCue

+12-20-2021

Erika Rich

+02-14-2022

Ryan Michalski

+02-19-2022

SSGT. Tyler Sansonetti

+03-21-2022

Alexander "Sandy" Nesbitt

+04-20-2022

Carol Worsinger

+06-10-2022

Ronald Johnson

+07-22-2022

David Critchfield

+10-01-2022

John Gula

+10-01-2022

Anthony McKeown

+10-01-2022

Will Forester

+10-13-2022

George Dumaine

+10-15-2022

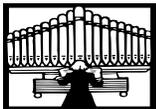
Roberta K. Trivilino

+10-15-2022

Colette Locke Brown

+10-20-2022

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



Musical Musings

November, 2022

On the 1st Sunday of November, we celebrate All Saints with churches throughout the world. What may be surprising to some, is that the focus of this day is NOT the saints, but our Lord Jesus Christ. On All Saints, we dwell not on the virtues of the saints but on the love of Christ, who works in people throughout time to accomplish God's purposes. The chief value of remembering the saints is the recognition of Christ, who worked through their lives and never leaves us without a witness.

For All the Saints, the traditional hymn of All Saints' Sunday, was composed by William H. How in 1864 and is based on Hebrews 12:1. Some of his original eleven stanzas were not included in most hymnals. Here are a few of the stanzas that did not survive the edits...

*For the Evangelists, by whose blest word
Like fourfold streams, the garden of the Lord
Is fair and fruitful, be thy name adored, Alleluia.*

*For martyrs, who with rapture-kindled eye
Saw the bright crown descending from the sky,
And died to grasp it, thee we glorify, Alleluia.*

Interestingly, William How, the hymn's composer eventually became a bishop in the Church of England, and was known as the "poor man's bishop." When we sing the hymn, it is a practice of good piety for us to remember the composer's sensitivity to the plight of the poor. In gratitude for his hymn, let us serve the poor saints in the world—those near to us and faraway.

SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: NOVEMBER, 2022

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] 926-5440; or email the church at: mtleboluth@aol.com

November 6-Crucifer

9:30 Dylan Snyder

November 13-Crucifer

8:30 Chase Lutz

10:00 Xavier Graybill

November 20- Crucifer

8:30 Luke Dwulit

10:00 Milo Bucher

November 24 Thanksgiving-Crucifer

10:30 TBD

November 27—Crucifer

8:30 Henry Keplar

10:00 Luke Frankovitch



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 6 All Saints Sunday

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
 Psalm 149
 Ephesians 1:1-23
 Luke 6:20-31

November 13 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Malachi 4:1-2a
 Psalm 98
 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
 Luke 21:5-19

November 20 Christ the King

Jeremiah 23:1-6
 Psalm 46
 Colossians 1:11-20
 Luke 23:33-43

Thursday, November 24th, at 10:30 AM
Festive Worship Liturgy for a
National Day of Thanksgiving

November 27 Advent I

Isaiah 2:1-5
 Psalm 122
 Romans 13:11-14
 Matthew 24:36-44

Sunday School at 10:00

*Remember the Sabbath Day
 to keep it Holy!*

Presentation of Bibles

On Reformation Sunday, Leo Bucher, Nolan Erikson, Crawford Harlacher, Lily Harlacher, Taylor Larson, and Madelyn Nichols were presented with their very own Bibles as gifts from their congregational family to encourage them as they continue to grow in Christian faith.



Sunday School Students made crafts and table graces to benefit our friends at the St. Michaels Food Pantry on the Northside.



Thanks to all who participated.

Advent Program

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



Sunday, December 11

Lunch-Theatre style in the Social Hall

Pageant at 11:00 am;

followed by a Luncheon at 11:20

All are invited!

Rehearsals 9:30-10:45 am Saturdays,
 December 3 & 10 and during Sunday School

To participate or help out, please contact

MBTrivilino@verizon.net



Advent Luncheon for Entire Congregation!
Sunday, December 11

Baked Ham Sandwiches & Scalloped Potatoes
 will be served

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

RSVP by December 4:

Name: _____

Number of adults: _____

Number of kids: _____

Please contact Jeff McGraw at

tjeffmcgraw@gmail.com if you are able to assist with the event.



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; Deb Cecotti; Scott Halapin; Patty Pavlak; Kalie Radigan; Amy Budner; Cheryl Poenisch; Rian Dankert; the family of Annabelle Santos; Aurora Schultz; Janice Seigle; Elena Getz; Nancy Ingles;

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the December issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by Sunday, November 17th. Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.

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



DST Ends November 6 - Set your clocks BACK one hour to be timely for worship on Sunday,

Daily Bread Ministries November 20



A traditional Turkey Dinner is the menu for the next *Meal with the Poor*. We are now accepting cash donations for the purchase of turkeys and other miscellaneous ingredients. Sign up sheet will be in the Narthex beginning November 6. We are thankful to all our donors and volunteers for their participation in serving those in need on the Northside.



Holiday Market

Saturday, November 13th - 9 am - 2 pm
Presented by the Mt. Lebanon Junior Women's Club in our Social Hall.

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

Each Sunday worshippers have the opportunity to greet one another and welcome visitors at our:

Sunday Morning Fellowship in the Narthex. 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 on the bulletin board in the main hallway, or contact the church office.

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.



NOVEMBER BIBLE STUDIES

MONDAY NIGHT / 7:00 PM—8:00 PM

Remembering the Saints

Led by Pastor Heagy, we will read scripture together and discuss the following saints...

November 7: John Christian Frederick Heyer
Bartholomew Ziegenbalg
Ludwig Nommensen

November 14: Martin, Bishop of Tours
Soren Aabye Kiergegaard

November 21: Elizabeth of Hungary

November 28: Clement, Bishop of Rome
Miguel Agustin Pro

THURSDAY MORNING / 10:15 AM— 11:15 AM

Stories of Thanksgiving in the Bible

Led by Pastor Heagy, we will read and discuss *grateful* Bible characters.

November 10 (Old Testament story)

November 17 (Old Testament story)

November 24 **Happy Thanksgiving!** (No class)

December 1 (New Testament story)



November Liturgical Themes

The festivals of All Saints [November 6] and Christ the King [November 20] 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].

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.



The last Sunday of the Season of Pentecost

Festival of Christ the King

Sunday, November 20

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!



The Annual Stewardship mailing

will be arriving shortly. It will include the 2023 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 2023 will be available for pick-up in the south hallway of the church. We are awaiting their arrival.



ONLINE GIVING

Is now available in association with



myEoffering

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
2022 ANNUAL MEETING
VOTING RESULTS**

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

MOTION ONE – COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP - 100% YES

Elected: Julia Nelson, Rick Spickard, Tom Ultsch

MOTION TWO – CHURCH BUDGET – 100% APPROVED

The proposed church budget for 2023 was approved.

MOTION THREE – FINANCIAL REVIEW – 99.999 % YES

Elected: David & Martha Hudak to perform a review of our financial statements. There were 2 ‘abstaining’ votes

Thanks to all members who participated in the meeting.

The Executive Committee



Annual Thanksgiving Service Project

Our Congregation will once again provide Thanksgiving food to families who participate in the St. Michaels Food Pantry.

Please help by donating any of the following food items by **Sunday, November 6**. Please see collection display in the Narthex.

Items we are collecting:

CANS: vegetables, fruits, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes/yams

BOXES: cornbread, mashed potatoes, and stuffing mixes

ENVELOPES or CANS : gravy

Eliminating glass jars due to breakage during travel ... thank you!

Giant Eagle gift cards in any amount up to \$50.



THANKSGIVING SERVICE PROJECT ASSEMBLY

Sunday, November 13 11:15 am

We will be meeting in person as a congregation to put together the Thanksgiving Service Project this year!!

Please join us in the social hall after the late liturgy on November 13 for some light refreshments while we work together to create beautiful baskets for our friends at St. Michaels. Any questions, contact Deb Hazlett at 412-849-2472

St. Michaels Food Pantry is very grateful for our support. Thank You!



A Table Liturgy for The Feast of Thanksgiving (November 24)



*[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 27! 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 have been mailed. 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. Please look for the tree in the Narthex starting Sunday, November 27. 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 will need to be returned **UNWRAPPED** under the tree in the narthex by **Sunday, December 11** as they will be delivered to Glade Run the next day.*

****If you prefer to shop on-line and send the gifts directly to Glade Run, follow the links below. This is a type of registry program where you pick the gift from their list, purchase it and it will ship directly to Glade Run. This was very successful last year so Glade Run is repeating it again this year.*

Purchase gift on line: Shop our Wish List on Amazon or Walmart & Ship Directly to Glade Run

Amazon — Visit www.smile.amazon.com Sign into your account. Under Accounts & Lists, scroll down to AmazonSmile Charity Lists, in the Search Bar, type in “Glade Run Lutheran Services” and then choose “Glade Run Holiday Drive” and start shopping!

Walmart — Visit <https://rb.gy/kbqevk> Sign into your account and shop.

Also, if you would rather, they are always in need of gift cards and those could 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 Sara Dougherty 412-523-1499 or tjdsjd@verizon.net

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 2023 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, Wreaths and Trees

The beautiful poinsettias, wreaths, and trees to 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], wreath[s] tree[s] or 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 4th.*

Poinsettia Plants

Wreaths to be hung on the doors and glass
Narthex/Nave divider

Trees—2 large trees on sides of altar
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.



I/We wish to donate:

_____ Poinsettia[s] at \$9.00 each

_____ Wreath[s] at \$20.00 each

_____ Tree[s] at \$75.00 each

_____ *Fine Arts* Fund for Christmas Music

Donor: _____

Acknowledgement: _____

Christmas



Due by December 4th



I would like you to consider participating in a 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 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 4:00 Catechetics 2	2 7:30 Choir	3 10:00 Bible Study 4:00 Catechetics 1	4	5
6 All Saints Sunday 9:30 Worship Liturgy 9:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Sunday School <i>Donations for Thanksgiving Service Project Due Today</i> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS FALL BACK !	7 7:00 Bible Study	8 4:00 Catechetics 2	9 7:30 Choir	10 10:00 Bible Study 4:00 Catechetics 1	11 Happy Veterans Day God Bless America	12 9:00—2:00 Holiday Market
13 Pentecost 23 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Thanksgiving Service Project Assembly Event <i>December Voice Articles Due</i>	14 7:00 Bible Study	15 4:00 Catechetics 2	16 7:30 Choir	17 10:00 Bible Study 4:00 Catechetics 1	18	19
20 Christ The King 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting 2:00 Daily Bread Outreach Meal	21 7:00 Bible Study	22 4:00 Catechetics 2	23 7:30 Choir	24 Office Closed	25	26
27 Advent I 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship	28 7:00 Bible Study	29 4:00 Catechetics 2	30 7:30 Choir			



1 All Saints Day Give thanks and praise to God for saints who have helped enrich our faith in Christ, inspired us to lives of service, cared for us, demonstrated grace when we needed it most, taught us life skills, influenced our values and stirred our hope and joy.

2 Native American Heritage Month Praise God for Native American and Alaska Native neighbors and siblings in Christ, who represent a rich diversity of gifts, backgrounds, tribes, regions, communities and congregations, and whose history long predates the colonization of North America. Pray for the work of ELCA Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations in seeking justice and reconciliation for all people, celebrating diversity within Christ's unifying love and supporting Native congregations and ministries.

3 "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow" (Isaiah 1:17-18). Pray that we will respect the word and desires of God, seek the Spirit's guidance in responding to our neighbors in need, and trust God to create and renew a spirit of compassion and generosity within us.

4 Pray for those affected by wildfires, flooding, droughts and hurricanes, especially people struggling through immediate and long-term recovery. Ask the Spirit to inspire our generosity toward and involvement in the work of Lutheran Disaster Response and its partners to bring relief, support, hope and resources to our neighbors in need.

5 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Pray that, in every challenge we face, the Spirit will increase our trust and confidence in God's presence, care and help in our lives.

6 Praise the teachings and example of Jesus, who calls for us to be caring disciples, unafraid of being involved in the lives of those suffering injustice, persecution, isolation, grief, poverty or illness.

7 Pray for our outdoor ministry leaders as they gather for the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry conference in Boise, Idaho. Pray that their time together in the presence of the Spirit will be rich in mutual care and encouragement, ideas and resources, and opportunities to nurture their skills for serving in camp and retreat ministries.

8 Election Day Pray that our elected leaders will respect and serve all people, and that the Spirit will inspire and guide them in mending divisions, creating unity and encouraging constituents to work together for the well-being of all.

9 Ask the Spirit to deepen our understanding of Jesus and how the gift of God's son has the power to transform our lives and identities in amazing and unimagined ways.

10 Give thanks and pray for leaders of our church as they gather for the ELCA Church Council, that the Spirit will inspire faithfulness, wisdom, vision and creativity in their deliberations, decisions and guidance.

11 Veterans Day Honor and give thanks for those who have served in the military to secure freedom, justice, peace and security for our country and other nations. Remembering the sacrifices they have made on our behalf, pray for their families, their congregations, federal chaplains, and organizations that support and care for returning veterans.

12 Give thanks for the ELCA Lay Schools for Ministry Network and for the Select Learning program, through which our church and its partners provide laity with opportunities to deepen their faith, study Scripture and apply their skills and life experiences to following Christ and serving the church, their communities and the world.

13 Pray that the Spirit will help us live our baptismal journeys in anticipation of the return of Christ, with confidence in God's grace and without fear, worry or obsession over when or how that day will come.

14 Reaffirm to God our commitment to equal employment opportunity for all citizens, especially our neighbors and siblings in Christ who live with disabilities but whose gifts enrich our communities and nation.

15 Pray for a peaceful end to the war in Ukraine, and that the millions of people displaced from their homes and communities might find comfort, healing, hope and stability, returning to the daily lives and routines they once knew.

16 Pray for the ELCA's Homeless and Justice Network, a coalition of ministries called to serve those on the margins who experience homelessness, poverty and injustice.

17 "Do not be weary in doing what is right" (2 Thessalonians 3:13). Pray that our assurance of eternal life in the kingdom of God will free us to live in the here and now, fully engaged with our lives and vocations, sharing the gospel, serving our neighbor and working for justice.

18 Pray that we might confess our role in the climate change wreaking havoc throughout the world and might grasp the urgency of managing and caring for the earth, its resources and all living things — fragile gifts that God has entrusted to our use, care and restoration.

19 Pray for the ELCA's advocacy network and the work it empowers us to do for justice, equity and the well-being of society.

20 The love and mercy of God, which we experience in the life, suffering and sacrifice of Jesus, are for our sake and salvation. Pray that the Spirit will deepen our faith in Christ and help us reflect God's unconditional, sacrificial love for humanity.

21 Give thanks for Lutheran Men in Mission, Women of the ELCA and congregational ministries that attend to the spiritual, physical, emotional and relational needs of all ages, and that nurture leaders for the church, our communities and society.

22 Remember the people of Puerto Rico, who have suffered multiple natural disasters and endure ongoing, extensive recovery work. Ask the Spirit to renew their faith, hope, stamina and resilience; pray that they will make progress in restoring their infrastructure and regaining access to food, water, shelter, sanitation and medical services.

23 Give thanks to God for rescuing us from the power of darkness through the gift of Jesus Christ—our teacher, our truth and the light illuminating our complicated lives.

24 Thanksgiving Day Remember that everything we have to sustain and renew us, physically and spiritually, comes from God. Let us promise to be generous with all we have and to tirelessly bear the good news that Jesus Christ, the bread of life for the world that is never depleted, is our hope and salvation.

25 Native American Heritage Day Give thanks for the cultures, values, accomplishments and spirituality of Native Americans that have shaped our nation and church. We commit to learning more about Indigenous people and tribal nations and to working together to correct inaccuracies of history.

26 Pray that we will be responsible in what we consume and how we spend our money, knowing that our neighbors suffer hunger and poverty amid abundance.

27 First Sunday of Advent We will not be disappointed in our confidence in God's love and forgiveness, our anticipation of Christ's return or our welcome in the kingdom of God. Praise God!

28 Give thanks for the diverse work of the 28 ELCA missionaries accompanying 18 church bodies and 18 companion organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. Ask God to bless and guide our ministry together so that we might respond to the needs of our neighbors in need who are most vulnerable and might spread the good news of Jesus Christ, far and wide.

29 Pray that the Spirit will deepen our generosity in sharing our resources and financial assets for the sake of our neighbors and the well-being of the world.

30 Pray that we will be generous and respectful in responding to and caring for those who cannot find secure shelter, pay for food or medical care, or support the children or older adults dependent on them.

GET READY—ADVENT IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER



6 Advent traditions you may not have heard of

Since the sixth century, the season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation for Christ's coming. The word itself is Latin for "coming towards" ("ad" meaning towards and "vent" meaning "to come.")

Through the years, Lutherans have celebrated Advent through a variety of traditions like the Advent wreath, a hearty symbol of the everlasting God on which four candles symbolize Christ's light, or the Advent calendar, which often displays a colorful Christmas scene with each date of the Advent season printed upon a flap.

In other cultures and Christian faith traditions, though, there are some interesting Christmas and Advent traditions, some with deep cultural roots and others with curious beginnings.

Here are some traditions you may not have heard of:



1. Posadas — The word "posada" means "shelter" or "lodging." This Advent custom, popular throughout the Spanish-speaking world, re-enacts Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their search for lodging along the way. The ritual lasts for nine days (Dec. 16-24). A group of people travels from house to house on a route, taking the role of pilgrims seeking lodging. Those inside the homes are innkeepers who refuse them. At the last home all are invited in for prayer and refreshments.

2. Jesse Tree — a family tree to the extreme! Each day of Advent a homemade ornament is added to the Jesse Tree, a small tree or simply a bare branch. These symbolic ornaments can each represent a prophecy foretelling of Christ. Other variations include creating ornaments that represent the ancestors in the lineage of Christ.

3. The Advent candle — In the late 19th century, Advent clocks or Advent candles began to make an appearance in many homes in Germany. Dates are marked in a row down the side of the Advent candle. Every day, the candle is lit and then burned down to the next date. By Christmas Day, the entire candle has been used.

4. Santa Lucia (St. Lucy) — is remembered on the 13th of December. On the morning of St. Lucia's Day, the eldest daughters in households dress in white robes with red sashes and wreaths with lighted candles on their heads. They carry a breakfast of coffee, gingerbread cookies and sun-colored "St. Lucia" saffron buns to their parents' bedrooms. The younger daughters of the household follow them carrying a single candle. Their brothers, called "star boys," wear tall, pointed caps.

5. Paper lanterns — A tradition most likely adopted from Christian missionaries, in China, Christians light their homes with decorative paper lanterns. They might also decorate a "Tree of Light" with paper chains or flowers.

6. Candy canes — Did you know that candy canes started as a way to teach children about Jesus? Legend has it that candy canes were invented by a cathedral choirmaster as a way to keep children quiet during a Christmas Eve service. The design of the candy, though, was meant to help children remember the shepherds who visited Jesus.



Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

975 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15228
Church Telephone: [412] 563-0300
www.mtlebanonlutheran.org



The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Kurt Kusserow

Bishop
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

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

Mr. Azmuddin Baraki

Sexton



Festive Worship Liturgy
for

Our National Day of Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 24

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*

