



the Voice parish newsletter



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

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song, and hearts are brave again and arms are strong. Alleluia!
For All the Saints (stanza 4), Evangelical Lutheran Worship 422

My father was a strong man, physically and spiritually. For many years, he worked in a stove burner manufacturing plant. He stood in an assembly line and was paid for how fast he worked. Management treated the workers like oxen to maximize production. My father took the chances for overtime, working 12-hour days because he had a family to feed. He came home from his shift exhausted.

I have a photograph of my dad standing on a beach. His arms are ‘jacked’. I’ve never achieved his muscular, chiseled appearance in that photograph. On summer days when my father returned from work, he made time to hit fly balls in the backyard so my brothers and I would learn to track a baseball in the air and catch it. He took us to church every Sunday. We were expected to wear suits, ties, and dress shoes in worship and we did.

All Saints Sunday will be celebrated on November 3 in one liturgy at 9:30 AM. We will sing *For All the Saints* as we do each year. The 4th stanza describes the joy of resurrection and heaven in this way: “*and hearts are brave again and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!*” My father died in 2006. I remember looking at his arms in the final moments. His muscle mass was gone. His arms did not appear as they do in the beach photograph I cherish. Every All Saints when stanza 4 of *For All the Saints* is sung, I think of my father’s arms at the words, “*and hearts are brave again and arms are strong.*” After all these years, I fight the tears.

I encourage all of you to remember the saints dear to your hearts on All Saints. Sing with vitality and joy; do not hold back. All Saints is as much of an Easter Sunday as Easter itself. We celebrate that we will see our family and friends again. Let us give thanks for the saints on November 3 at 9:30 AM. They blessed our lives in many wonderful ways. Let us give thanks all the more for Jesus, who died for our sins and who has made us saints. He has given us the hope and promise of heaven. *For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed, thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Doug Heagy



November, 2024



MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

JEREMIAH

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

This **8-session** course explores selected passages from Jeremiah and one from Lamentations.

1. Has God Called Me? (Jeremiah 1:1-19)
2. Why Has God Done All These Things to Us? (Jeremiah 5:1-31)
3. Where Is the Disconnect? (Jeremiah 7:1-8:3)
4. What Makes God Cry? (Jeremiah 8:14-9:1)
5. Can God Love Rags? (Jeremiah 13: 1-14)
6. How Certain Is Our Future? (Jeremiah 31: 27-40)
7. Can You Imagine a Different World? (Jeremiah 31:27-40)
8. Will God Turn to Save Us? (Lamentations 3:1-39)

Each participant will receive a learner's guidebook for personal use. Bibles will be provided or bring your own. Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss key passages from the book of Jeremiah. All are welcome. This study group begins in November and will conclude in early January.



THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

THE BOOK OF ACTS

10:00 am- 11:00 am

This 8-session course explores selected passages from Acts.

- 1. The Spirit Creates Community (Acts 2:1-47)**
- 2. The Empowering Spirit (Acts 4:1-37)**
- 3. The Spirit on the Margins (Acts 8:1-40)**
- 4. The Conversion of Peter (Acts 10:1-48)**
- 5. World Upside Down (Acts 17:1-34)**
- 6. A Riot in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-41)**
- 7. On Trial for the Resurrection (Acts 24:1-27)**
- 8. And So We Came to Rome (Acts 28:1-31)**

Each participant will receive a learner's guidebook for personal use. Bibles will be provided or bring your own. Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss key passages from the book of Acts. All are welcome. This study group begins in November and will conclude in early January.



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Thanksgiving Giving

Gratitude is the right attitude for November – the month when we take inventory of our blessings and thank God for them. And how much do you have to be thankful for this year? For many of us, it's a lot – a decent place to live, enough nutritious food, nice clothes and people who love us.

These are the huge everyday blessings that many of us take for granted. Are you one of them? After all, though many of us sit down on Thanksgiving to a table brimming with turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie and more, lots of our neighbors will have a meager meal.

This Thanksgiving, why not do more than just raise up a prayer of thanks. Instead, express your gratitude with a gift that would benefit someone who has much less than you? No doubt your church could make good use of a special contribution for their feeding ministry or other social outreach. Certainly, there are other community charities that would appreciate a donation.

This year, thank God for your blessings and take the extra step of blessing someone else.

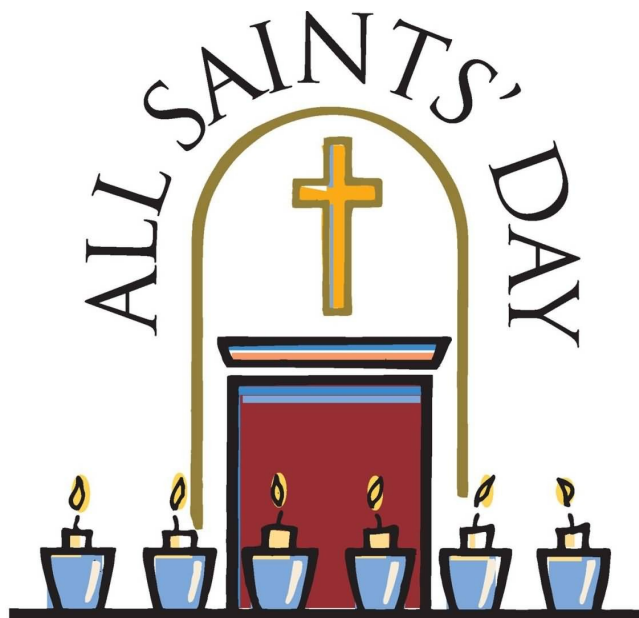
--Robert Blezard



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3 ONE LITURGY 9:30 AM

On Sunday, November 3, 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 3, for this solemn remembrance of all the saints.**



All Saints Sunday November 3

One Festive Liturgy at 9:30 AM



Richard Drake Hayes, Jr.
+02-19-2024

Dale Richard Opeka
+02-29-2024

Ronald L. Oakes
+06-07-2024

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

All Saints Sunday November 3

One Festive Liturgy at 9:30 AM



Jackie Farst
+06-07-2023

Frances (Aunt Franny) Mosesso
+11-19-2023

Christy Fabus
+12-05-2023

Daniel Goff
+12-18-2023

Ronny Hogan
+01-08-2024

Michael D. Homberg
+02-15-2024

Jessie Mumau
+04-21-2024

Norma J. Homberg
+05-12-2024

Yvonne Moulton
+06-18-2024

Declan Justice Hicks
+08-03-2024

Marlott Schocker
+08-17-2024

Winifred Mary Charlton
+08-23-2024

Lorilla May Spurgeon Schultz
+08-28-2024

Nicholas Cassissi
+09-01-2024



MY
LORD
AND
MY
GOD!

All Saints Sunday November 3

One Festive Liturgy at 9:30 AM

Judy Brennan
+09-16-2024

Jennifer Meyer
+10-05-2024

Robert O’Gara
+10-06-2024

Robert Smith
+10-06-2024

Hjalti Gudmundsson
+10-07-2024

Margot Strong
+10-07-2024

Roland Camille
+10-10-2024

Frances C. Speck
+10-13-2024

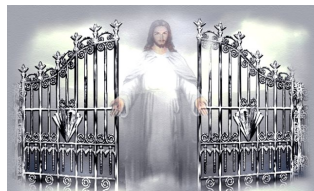
Tom Atkins
+10-17-2024

Lynette Croom
+10-18-2024

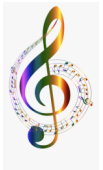
**Military Veterans
and all First Responders
who served for Peace.**

+

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



MUSICAL MUSINGS – Reformation Sunday



On Sunday, October 27, we celebrated in worship the Reformation, which began on October 31, 1531. 500 years ago, Martin Luther, a monk and professor in Wittenberg, Germany, nailed 95 theses to the castle church door for the purpose of debating the church about the sale of indulgences and other matters. We were blessed in worship on Reformation Sunday by beautiful prelude and postlude music performed by two students at Mount Lebanon High School. **Charlotte Nielson**, the granddaughter of church council member James Brentzel, played the violin. She was accompanied by pianist, **Maya Kashlan**. Both girls are members of the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra and this past summer enjoyed performing in several cities in Germany and in Prague. The congregation is grateful for their talents and extends its gratitude to them and to James Brentzel.



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 3-Crucifer

9:30 Ewan Keplar

November 10-Crucifer

8:30 Dylan Solomon

10:00 Gabriel Provins

November 17- Crucifer

8:30 Sam Wetzel

10:00 Luke Frankovitch

November 24—Crucifer

8:30 Addy Wetzel

10:00 Annaleigh Dwulit

November 28- Thanksgiving-Crucifer

10:30 Chase Lutz





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 3	All Saints Sunday Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Psalm 119:1-8 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34
November 10	25th Sunday after Pentecost 1 Kings 17:8-16 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:24-28 Matthew 25:14-30
November 17	26th Sunday after Pentecost Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25 Mark 13:1-8
November 24	Christ the King Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Psalm 93 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

Thursday, November 28th, at 10:30 AM
Festive Worship Liturgy for a
National Day of Thanksgiving

Sunday School at 10:00

*Remember the Sabbath Day
to keep it Holy!*



The last Sunday of the Season of Pentecost
Festival of Christ the King
Sunday, November 24
 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:

There will be 2 Global Links events in November

- Wednesday, November 6—1:00-3:00 pm
- Saturday, November 23—10-12:00 pm

Any questions, contact Sara Dougherty at
 412-523-1499 or tjdsjd@verizon.net

The Annual Stewardship mailing will be arriving shortly. It will include the 2025 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 2025 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

A Special Note...



Our family would like to thank the members of our congregation for their caring thoughts and prayers over the past five years as my sister,

Jennifer Meyer, battled cancer. *We appreciate the cards and condolences sent to us. We are grateful that her struggle is now over, and she rests in God's loving embrace.*

Matt, Melodie and Luke Frankovitch

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.



Holiday Market

Saturday, November 16th - 9 am - 2 pm
Presented by the Mt. Lebanon Junior Women's Club in our Social Hall.



DST Ends November 3 - Set your clocks BACK one hour to be timely for worship on Sunday, November 3rd, All Saints' Sunday.

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

Please join us for a special celebration on Sunday, November 10 at 9:30 in the Foyer, to celebrate Martin Luther's 541st birthday with a piece of birthday cake and coffee.



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

Daily Bread Ministries November 24



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.

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



November Liturgical Themes

The festivals of All Saints [November 3] and Christ the King [November 24] 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.

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 beginning the first Sunday in Advent, December 1. If you would like to help decorating the Jesse Tree, contact Debbie Hazlett at drhazlett@verizon.net

YOUTH GROUP MEETING Sidewalk Sweep Meeting

Hey Youth Group—Don't forget to come to our Youth Group Sidewalk Sweep meeting. We will be treating our environment to a nice clean up and treating ourselves to something warm and cozy as well. We will meet from 12-2:30 pm on November 10th.

If you would like to join us right after the 10 o'clock service on November 10th, we can prepare some college care packages for our members who've graduated from high school. We will provide some snack as well.

Please contact Julia Nelson to RSVP with any questions jmnelson26@comcast.net or text Julia at 814-574-5689.



***"I have no greater
joy than this,
to hear that my children
are walking in the truth"***
3 John 1:4

Special Thank You...

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: Grant Kegel, Samantha Croom, Edith Koval, Leo Bucher, Kyle Timmons, Madelyn Nichols, Annabelle Kegel, and Liliana Croom. Students 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 Grant Kegel and Sterling McCombs and third grader Kyle Timmons were presented with their Bibles on October 27. 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.

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 10. 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:

November 3 – *Sunday School starts at 9:30 this day -- All Saint's one Liturgy*

November 10 – Kids sing in Worship at 10:00 am

November 17 – Advent Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 am

November 24 – Advent Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 am

Saturday, Dec. 7 – Advent Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 -11:00 am – *Social Hall*

December 8 – Pageant Dress Rehearsal 9:30 am

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



You are cordially invited to the
Annual Advent Pageant & Congregational Lunch
Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 11:15 am



On stage in the Social Hall:

"Destination Bethlehem" by Steve Trott



Take a Road Trip filled with Christmas journeys.
Lunch after performance for participants and attendees.
Please bring a dessert for Grandma's Sweet Shop Table.



Don't miss out on this family adventure!
Watch for Sign-Up in the Narthex or email the Church Office
at mtleboluth@aol.com or call the office at **412-563-0300**
by December 1.

Volunteers needed after lunch to help with clean-up.

Annual Advent Pageant and Lunch "Destination Bethlehem"



Sunday, December 8 at 11:15, Social Hall

Name: _____

Number Attending: _____ Adults _____ Children

I/We will bring a dessert: yes _____ no _____

Please RSVP by December 1 in one of the following ways:

- Sign-up in the Narthex
- Email the Church Office at mtleboluth@aol.com
- Call the office at 412-563-0300



Volunteers Welcome!

Annual Advent Pageant "Destination Bethlehem"

**Sunday, December 8, 2024, after Late Liturgy
Pageant at 11:15, followed by Lunch**

Calendar Dates and Times

Sunday School Rehearsals: November 17 & 24, December 8
9:30 – 11:00 am

One Saturday Rehearsal: December 7
9:30-11:00 am

**To participate or help, please contact: MBTrivilino@verizon.net
Look for Advent Pageant Participation Form in the VOICE!**

Thanks to:

Julia Nelson (Director and Set Design)

Mary Beth Trivilino (Script editing and Casting)

Carol Vogeley & Barb Heagy (Music)

Melodie Frankovitch (Publicity and Decorations)





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 2024 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

Elected:
Allan Copenheaver
Karen Pfeil
Ryan Solomon
Alan Trivilino
Carol Vogeley

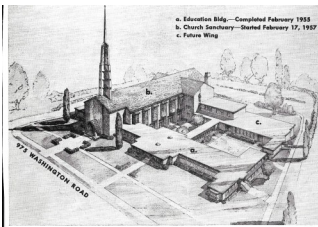
MOTION TWO – CHURCH BUDGET – 100% APPROVED

The proposed church budget for 2025 was approved.

Thanks to all members who participated in the meeting.

The Executive Committee

Looking Ahead...
100th Anniversary—2025
Mount Lebanon United Lutheran Church



2023 Annual Thanksgiving Outreach Project



Thanksgiving “baskets” will be assembled on Sunday, November 3. Thank you to those who donated food, Giant Eagle gift cards, and to those who helped create the crafts to be included. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by those served by St. Michaels Food Pantry and Dormont Free Pantry.

The entire Congregation is invited help assemble the Thanksgiving “Baskets” on **Sunday, Nov. 3 at 10:35am in the Social Hall** (after the All Saints worship service that begins at 9:30). Light refreshments and Fellowship!

Please contact Deb Hazlett drhazlett@verizon.net if questions. Thank you for your generous support!

Thank you for your support! St. Michaels Food Pantry is extremely grateful for our Congregation’s continued help throughout the year, especially during the Thanksgiving season.



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 28)



*[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!





Coffee, Cookies and Coloring!

November 17th, Coffee Hour



*Stop by the Foyer café for
Coloring and Conversation.*



Seasonal coloring sheets will be provided with crayons.



Experience this *Art and Faith Initiative.*

Let us know what you think.

Julia Nelson and Melodie Frankovitch



Special Holiday Coffee Hour

Sunday, December 15th, in the Foyer
Coffee, Cupcakes



...and Creches

Browse a display of creches in the café while enjoying a treat.

Another Art and Faith Initiative by Julia Nelson and Melodie Frankovitch



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 24! 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, December 1-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 15 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.



Continued...

To purchase gifts 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, 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 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 2025 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 8th.*

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 21st at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

** Artificial trees are the generous gift from the Seiler family, and artificial wreaths were purchased from last year's donations.*

I/We wish to donate:

_____ 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: _____

Due by December 8th

Christmas



COLUMBARIUM - South Chancel Wall

Interment continues in the new columbarium and open to church members and extended families. The policy for the columbarium niches is available upon request from the church office.

The cost of each niche is \$1,000 for interment of a single individual and \$1,500 for the interment of two.

Please contact the church office to indicate your interest.



*The South Chancel Wall Columbarium
was completed July 2022*



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.

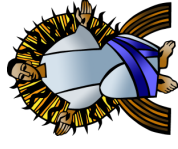
There is no cost to you for this new giving option. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings 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 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 All Saints Sunday 9:30 Worship Liturgy 9:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Sunday School <i>10:30 Thanksgiving Project Assembly</i> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS FALL BACK !	4 7:00 Bible Study	5 3:30 Catechetics 1	6 3:30 Catechetics 2 7:00 Choir	7 10:00 Bible Study	1	2
10 Pentecost 25 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 "Kids singing in worship" 10:00 Sunday School 12:00 Youth Group- Highway Clean Up	11 Happy Veterans Day God Bless America  7:00 Bible Study	12 3:30 Catechetics 1	13 3:30 Catechetics 2 7:00 Choir	14 10:00 Bible Study	15	16 MTLJWC Holiday Craft Fair 9:00-2:00
17 Pentecost 26 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Advent Pageant Rehearsal - In Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting	18 7:00 Bible Study	19 3:30 Catechetics 1	20 3:30 Catechetics 2 7:00 Choir	21 10:00 Bible Study	22	23
24 Christ The King 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Advent Pageant Rehearsal -In SundaySchool 2:00 Daily Bread Meal	25 7:00 Bible Study	26 3:30 Catechetics 1	27 7:00 Choir	28 10:30 Worship Liturgy 	29	30



1 All Saints Day Remember and give thanks for saints who are now in God's eternal, loving care. Praise God for their significance in your life — their influence, example and faith.

2 American Indian Heritage Month Give thanks for our Indigenous neighbors and siblings in Christ, whose diverse gifts, traditions and wisdom help shape and enrich society and the church. Pray for the work of ELCA Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations and the Association of American Indians and Alaska Natives of the ELCA. Ask God to guide and further the work of our church and society to build better, right and just relationships with Indigenous peoples.

3 Pray that we will love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and that God's abundant love and mercy will be reflected in our love for others.

4 Praise God for the wonders of the heavens, which stir our awe, curiosity and gratitude for God's infinite power and creativity. Give thanks for scientists, astronomers and explorers who deepen our knowledge and respect for creation and its mysteries.

5 Election Day Pray for our nation and its newly elected leaders.

6 Pray for the Spirit to inspire us to share the good news of Jesus Christ and teach every generation about God's word, loving ways and active presence in the world, today and throughout history.

7 National Homeless Youth Month Remember and pray for young people who have no shelter or place where they feel safe, secure and cared for. Pray for community programs and ministries of our church that provide shelter, food, resources and support for developing self-sufficiency, and physical, emotional and spiritual care for youth.

8 Give thanks for the joy and certainty we experience when we walk in God's ways and follow God's commandments as revealed to us in Scripture and the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

9 Pray for those in the Gulf Coast and other regions of the Southeast who are grieving loss and recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Helene. Pray that their hope, faith and determination will remain strong and that we will offer generous support and assistance through Lutheran Disaster Response, communities of faith, volunteers and disaster recovery agencies — for as long as needed.

10 Pray for outdoor ministry leaders gathering for the Leadership Training Event and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries conference in Baltimore, Md. Ask God to equip and renew them for ministry with people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

11 Veterans Day This is a day when we remember, honor and give thanks for the service and sacrifice of veterans of the armed forces who have defended our country and worked for freedom and justice in the world. Pray that their families, caregivers and survivors will receive the support and care they need. Give thanks for the work of Federal Chaplaincy Ministries of the ELCA and of congregations with ministries serving veterans and their families.

12 Praise God for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who took upon himself the burden of our sins and human weaknesses so that we can know true freedom, be renewed for doing God's work in the world and take comfort in the promise of eternal life with God.

13 Remember in prayer our ministries in seven countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Pray for ELCA Global Mission personnel, including the missionaries, teachers, International Women Leaders and Horizon seminary interns working alongside companion churches to spread the gospel, grow the church and respond to community needs.

14 Pray for ELCA Church Council members meeting in Chicago to oversee and govern the ELCA churchwide organization. Pray for the Spirit to guide their discussions, their counsel and their decisions for the well-being, vitality and growth of the church.

15 Pray for Lutheran and Episcopal school leaders gathering in collaboration at the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) Biennial Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Give thanks for the ministries of the NAES and the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association that equip, inspire and support Christian educators.

16 Ask God to help us welcome and treat immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers with respect and compassion, accompanying them through the complex process of rebuilding their lives in our country.

17 Jesus warned that being his disciple is never easy or safe, but we are never alone or ill-equipped for doing God's work in the world — we are accompanied by the Spirit and our siblings in Christ. Praise God!

18 Give thanks for those who work in hospice care and attend to the comfort and quality of life of people as they approach the end of life, and who provide emotional and spiritual support for their families.

19 Ask the Spirit to nurture and sustain the confidence, wisdom, humility and faith of leaders in our church, synods, congregations and special ministries.

20 "You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy" (Psalm 16:11). Express your gratitude to God, the light that guides us through life and brings true joy and fulfillment.

21 There are approximately 369,000 infants, children and youth in foster care in our country. Pray that foster families will provide them with stability, love, support and encouragement so that they thrive. Give thanks for foster parents and pray for the Spirit to equip them with wisdom, empathy, strength and skills for parenting.

22 "Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another" (Hebrews 10:24-25). Pray that we — individually and as communities of faith — will be catalysts for love, kindness and inspiration in the church, our society and the world.

23 Remember in prayer our ministries in nine countries in the Latin America and Caribbean regions. Pray for ELCA Global Mission personnel, including the missionaries, teachers, International Women Leaders and Young Adults in Global Mission working alongside global companions to spread the gospel, strengthen and grow the church, and respond to community needs.

24 In a world of force, intimidation and superiority, pray that we will take to heart the leadership of Jesus Christ, whose power manifests in humility, love, mercy and justice.

25 Give thanks for the people and experiences that break into our daily routines, interjecting joy and laughter.

26 Ask God to make us enthusiastic witnesses to our faith through words, kindness, love for our neighbors in need and commitment to justice and peace. Pray that we will be mindful of opportunities to invite others to become followers of Jesus Christ and to welcome them into our communities of faith.

27 Praise God for gathering our collective gifts and resources through ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response to respond to the needs of our neighbor and end hunger and poverty.

28 Day of Thanksgiving Give thanks today — and every day — for what God provides to strengthen and sustain us and for those who work to feed the world, including farmers, agricultural workers, ranchers, commercial fishermen, food pantry staff and administrators of hunger relief programs such as ELCA World Hunger.

29 Native American Heritage Day "Let us remember the Indigenous peoples and tribal nations who were the first to love, pray, grow, celebrate, cry, drum, dance and sing upon these lands" (land acknowledgment from the 2022 Churchwide Assembly). Give thanks for the cultures, values, accomplishments and spirituality of Native Americans that continue to shape our nation and church. Pray that we will be persistent and sincere in learning more about Indigenous peoples and tribal nations and in working together to correct inaccuracies and injustices of history.

30 Andrew, the Apostle Andrew was the first of the 12 disciples to drop what he was doing and accept Jesus' invitation to follow him. Ask the Spirit to stir our faith and courage to respond to the call to do God's work in the world, wherever it takes us and whatever it requires of us.

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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



Festive Worship Liturgy
for

Our National Day of Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 28

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*

