

Christ Calls

The Monthly Newsletter of Memorial Lutheran Church
December 2021

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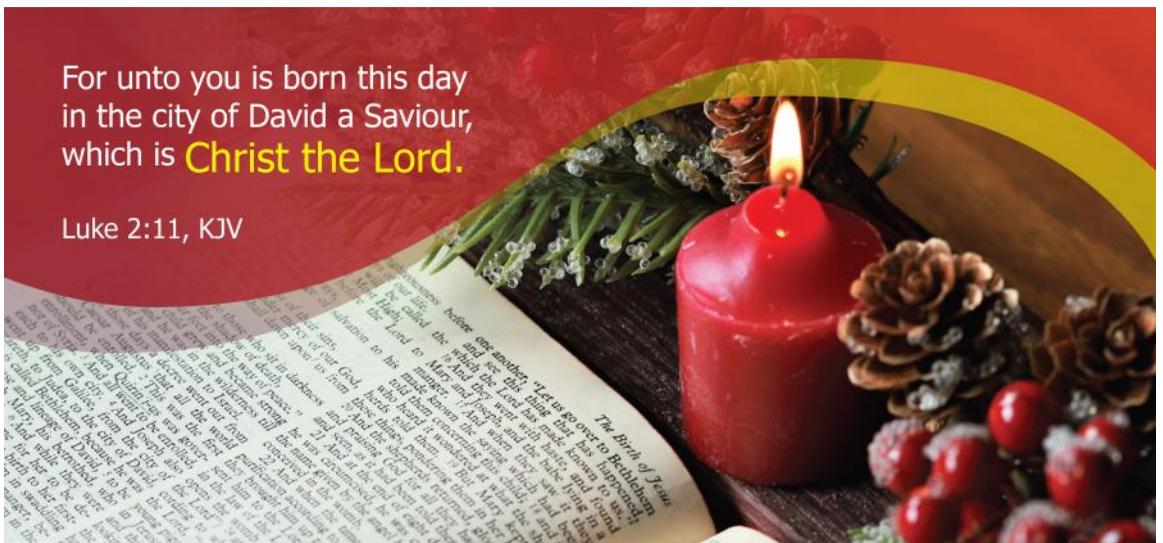
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Dates To Remember

December 5	Sunday School / Coffee Hour - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
December 12	Sunday School / Coffee Hour - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am Gingerbread House Event - 3:00 pm
December 13	Church Council Meeting - 6:30 pm
December 16	Newsletter Deadline
December 19	Sunday School / Coffee Hour - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
December 24	Christmas Eve Services at 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm
December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!
December 26	Sunday School / Coffee Hour - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am

For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Saviour,
which is **Christ the Lord.**

Luke 2:11, KJV



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SENIOR CHOIR
 DIRECTOR
 Blaine Shover



BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR
 Kathy Kerr



ASSOCIATE ORGANIST
 Brad Drake

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS	
ELDERS	DEACONS
Bob Snyder-Ass't Treasurer	Hope Alspaugh
Mary Cox	Linda Eves
Nancy Thompson	Jim Robinson
	Larry Basler
TRUSTEES	Nancy Widney
Ed Straley	Mary Beth Fishel
Bill Drake	Ron Richards
John Drake	Wendy Tomczak
	Ron Luffy
Jean Goldthorpe – Treasurer	



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FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

A book of the origins of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham.
-Matthew 1:1

This month I'm taking a break from my usual Ecclesiastes verse for a Christmas special: the first words of the New Testament! It's a bit of a slow start if you ask me. We get a bunch of genealogy before we get to the story. Genealogy isn't a hobby of mine, but this is important preparation for the story of Jesus.

December is marked by the contrasting feelings of anticipation and celebration. In the sanctuary, we decorate with boughs and blue. In homes and around town, candy canes and Christmas trees appear. Then Christmas arrives – the time of celebration!

A single line of a radio Christmas tune has been stuck in my head. The Beach Boys' 1963 song "Little Saint Nick," where they describe Santa's sleigh as a souped-up hotrod. The line that bedevils my brain is just a filler line of countermelody, but they repeat the phrase "Christmas comes this time each year." Well yes – of course it does! It feels strange to build up so much anticipation for a celebration that comes at the same time every year.

It can also feel strange to celebrate at all. The day I'm writing this, children in elementary schools are wearing blue, and I expect many of them might not know why. It's not blue for Advent, but for Children's Grief Awareness Day. The other contrast of this year is between celebration and sorrows. Many people find this time of year challenging for all sorts of reasons – including finances, grief, loneliness.

In the midst of joy or grief, let us look for God's blessings and work in our lives. If we have blessings to share, let's go for it – even if that means just picking up the phone to let someone know we're thinking of them. "Christmas comes this time each year," and it brings out a whole lot of feelings and memories. As we prepare, let's pay attention to the blessings and needs all around us.

Peace,
Pastor Chris
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COUNCIL NEWS

Church Council met Monday, November 8th in Fellowship Hall.

The meeting began with the sharing of 'Concerns and Thanksgivings.' Thanksgivings for London Shover sharing a musical selection at our worship service on Sunday, and for adding the names of those most recently baptized. Ron also expressed the happiness in hearing his granddaughters' names announced with the list of those baptized on Sunday.

Pastor Chris was pleased that our Reformation/Confirmation service went well. There will be a meeting Sunday, November 14th with the new group of Confirmation students and their parents.

Bill Drake reported for Church Property that due to the change in time, there was an issue with the unlocking setting to the parking lot door on the 7th. The settings have been corrected in the computer. The boilers need to be checked as we move into the colder temperature season and the need to hire a new snow removal contractor was reported from Church Property. The Outreach Ministry shared that the Church brochure needs updated. Perhaps this is an item for Public Relations to consider? The Stewardship Ministry met and reviewed notes from 2019 and discussed what is the best way to move forward. *Again*, this committee would appreciate additional members joining this ministry and sharing their talents and time for this important mission. Christian Education stated that the adult Sunday School class has a faithful attendance. The children's class has a small core group but beyond that, attendance is limited. SPO will distribute their Thanksgiving turkeys on Tuesday, November 16th. An insert will be placed in the newsletter and in Sunday bulletins for the SPO "Blessing Basket" fundraiser for this season of giving.

Kathy Kerr will oversee the scheduling of the Communion Bread Providers (new name instead of 'Bread Bakers'). The volunteers may either bake the bread themselves or see that bread is provide for communion at worship services. There is still a need for additional acolytes and ushers and usher captains. Special musical offerings are planned for the Advent/Christmas season from the Bell Choir, with soloists and duets as well. There will be no Christmas Choral program this year. This year we will offer a daylight worship service at 2:00 pm for those who may prefer the earlier time due to the earlier sunset and family schedules. Our Christmas Eve candlelight service will begin with special music at 7:15 pm and worship to start at 7:30 pm as in past years. The question of singing with or without masks was discussed. It was noted that some members are singing with their masks in place during the hymns. It was concluded that no change in the Covid Policy should be made at this time. Any changes should be determined by the Covid Task Force. Further discussion of worship and other details for the season will be addressed at the November 15th meeting of Worship & Music.

It was asked why the 'Words of Institution' at the beginning of communion are not printed in the bulletin. It was explained that at the time of the blessing of the bread and wine/the body and blood of Christ, worshipers should have their eyes focused on the cross and the presentation of the Elements and not looking down at the reading. The words are familiar to us all and need not be printed to for us to hear and follow along with blessing.



John Drake submitted a letter of resignation from the Church Council due to changes in his work schedule. His resignation was accepted, with regret. Because of this vacancy, two people will be elected to the position of Trustee at the November meeting. One will serve a full three-year term and the 2nd will complete John's unexpired term of two years. Four names for the position of Deacon will be placed on the ballot for the election to council. Three will be elected to serve a three-year term each and one will be elected for one year to complete the unexpired term of Scott Smith. The Call Committee has submitted the Mission Site Profile to Synod to Pastor Richard Jorgensen for final approval. With that approval, our Call process can move forward and the position at Memorial will be posted.

As I write this, we are two weeks away from Thanksgiving and two weeks from the start of the season of Advent and the beginning of the church year. These words from the hymn *Now Thank We All Our God* came to mind:

Oh, may this bounteous God,
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all harm,
In this world and the next.

(LBW 534, v2)

I am thankful for my church family and friends. I am thankful for all of you who take the time to pitch-in, *attend all those meetings*, ask questions, help find solutions, notice the little things that make a home (our church home) welcoming, greeting each other with smiles, hugs, tears and laughter. For together we are the body of Christ, each with his/her gifts to share.

We've accomplished a lot. Always there is more to do. But as long as we can find thanks, as long as we share the light of Christ with others, we can make a difference.

May the coming season bring you blessings and make you a blessing as well.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a blessed season of Advent.

Mary



Results of the November 21st Congregational Meeting

2022 Spending Plan – passed

Council Election - Elder: Elaine Shughart; **Trustees:** Ed Straley (3-year term), Matthew Creek (2-year term fulfilling unexpired term of John Drake); **Deacons:** Ron Luffy (3-year term), Jane Motter (3-year term) Galen Piper (3-year term), Hope Alspaugh (1-year term fulfilling unexpired term of Scott Smith)

KEEP IN PRAYER

Wanda Brown
Dot Coy
Jerry Cramer
C. Eugene Creek
Robbie Creek
Dan Dorty
Beverly Florig
Robert Florig

Susan Frirsz
Brian Helman
June Hile
Mary Kendall
Bernita Killian
Jerry Lyons
Ray Luffy
Miles Moore

Erin Nollenberger
William Porter
Dot Railing
Rich Railing
Ron Richards
Bill Robinson
Dave Schriener
Ed Shade

Polly Sherman
Blaine Shover
Clint Wright



Many of you have inquired about Jeff's mother, Dot Coy, and how she is doing. The news I received this week is sad but not surprising for someone who is 102 ½ years old. She has declined quite a bit both mentally and physically. Skilled nursing care has been suggested, but the memory care facility where she lives wants to continue to work with her. Please keep Dot in your prayers.

Thank you, Jo Anne Coy



ADVENT DAY APART - December 4, 2021 9:00 am - 2:00 pm The Wittel Farm
Join us for an Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm, a day of Bible study, worship, and prayerful reflection as we seek to prepare for the coming of the Christ. Registration fee includes lunch.



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS IN THE BARN - December 19, 2021 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm The Wittel Farm
Join us at the farm for our 4th annual Advent/Christmas night. This year, we'll gather around the outdoor fire and have cookies and cocoa in the barn. Lights and decorations!

FINANCES



OCTOBER 2021				
FUND	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE	YTD
CURRENT	\$14,521	\$20,366	-\$5,845	-\$52,462
BUILDING	\$1,731	\$0	\$1,731	\$16,422
	Income	Paid	Needed to be paid for budget	YTD Paid
BENEVOLENCE	\$2,523	\$1,876	\$3,350	\$32,970



**“Gumdrops, Goodies, Gingerbread & More”
Sunday, December 12, 2021 ~ 3:00 pm ~ Fellowship Hall**

The history of Gingerbread dates back to 11th century Europe, when the crusaders returned from the Middle East with spicy ginger cakes. Another early Christian legend attributes the use of Ginger as the gift of the fourth wise man, who was unable to make the journey to Bethlehem. In his last days, he lingered in Syria, under the care of a Rabbi. This Rabbi told him of the birth of a great king who would be born in Bethlehem (which means House of Bread). As a gift of appreciation for the care he was given, he gave his chest of ginger root to the Rabbi, so that young students could add this zesty spice to the houses of bread that were created to nourish the hope for the coming of the Messiah.

Gingerbread as we know it today descends from Medieval European culinary traditions. Nuremberg, Germany is known as the “Gingerbread Capital of the World”, when in the 1600’s baking guilds started to employ master bakers and skilled workers to create complicated works of art from gingerbread. And so, the tradition continues throughout the world during the Christmas season.

And so ... our 5 year tradition of decorating gingerbread houses at Memorial continues to be a part of our holiday celebration. In 2019, we gathered over 75 family members designing 35 gingerbread houses. Please enjoy the pictures of the creative houses made by our “Master Craftsmen” on the bulletin board beside the Pastor’s office and consider joining us this year again for this event at 3:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. Please reserve your spot at the Gingerbread House Event by completing the sign-up sheet on the counter across the hall from the church office. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us on December 12, 2021 for the fun & festivities.

**The church office will be closed on
December 27 and 31 for the
Christmas & New Year’s Holidays.**



**Poinsettia orders are due to the
church office by Sunday, December
5th. Cost is \$7 each. Poinsettias may
be taken home with you after the
7:30 pm Christmas Eve service.**





Women of the ELCA ~ The December meeting of Women of the ELCA will be held on **Wednesday, December 15 at noon in Fellowship Hall.** Bring a sandwich or salad for lunch and the monthly

hostess or hostesses will provide dessert and drinks. Hostess for November will be Sue Piper.

Susan Lyons will lead the Bible Study, *Women of Advent*. We will look to the women of the Bible, especially the strong, bold, outspoken women directly connected to Jesus' birth: Hannah, Mary, Elizabeth and Anna. Collectively they dealt with the death of a son, the death of a spouse, harassment, infertility, fear, anxiety and grief. We can think of them as our spiritual grandmothers, our guides in traversing difficult ground. If we ignore their stories, we miss out on a host of resources – and perhaps, a richer Advent.

The service project for December is the Christ Among Neighbors.

Women of the ELCA is open to all women, regardless of church affiliation. We welcome all women to join us for fellowship and Bible study.



Food Ministry Weather Reminder: With the colder weather upon us, please DO NOT place items in the Little Free Pantry that may freeze once weather temperatures drop. There are handouts located on the counter inside the parking lot entrance with a list of suggestions.

Hats, gloves, mittens and small scarves during the cooler weather can also be placed in the pantry in a plastic bag to protect from moisture.

School supplies are always a welcome addition.

If you have volunteered for the "Food Bank" (located in the green bins by the preschool information table) please fill our "Little Free Pantry" before taking down to King's Kettle. There is a list of items that should NOT be placed in our pantry for safety reasons located on a small bulletin board above the bins.

Our "Little Free Pantry" was established in May of 2018 to assist our neighbors in need. Thank you for your support.





Christmas Eve ~ Friday, December 24, 2021

2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Musical prelude before the start of each service.

A Christmas Eve full of Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love!

This year we'll have two opportunities to worship on Christmas Eve! If you'd like to celebrate the light of Christ while the sun is still up, we will have a **Daylight Service at 2:00 pm**. If you prefer a classic evening service, we'll have the **Candlelight Service with musical preludes starting at 7:15 pm**. Both services will have Holy Communion and Christmas hymns. The Daylight Service will have a special message for children (and those young at heart!) The Candlelight Service will include (you guessed it...) candles and the singing of Silent Night. We look forward to celebrating and worshipping with you!

250th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CELEBRATES 250 YEARS!

This issue of *Christ Calls* highlights our altar cross.

(The following information shared here is from the previously published booklet 'for the Rededication of the Renovated Interior of the sanctuary, June 17-24, 1956' by Henry E. Luhrs.)



OUR ALTAR CROSS



The Cross is the world's best-known religious symbol. Its weight was carried by Jesus from Jerusalem to Golgotha. This Cross, as we have it in our Church, is properly seen to be the central and dominant symbol that catches the attention and excites the worship of all who enter our beautiful house of prayer. It is central and dominant to remind us that we belong to the Church of Jesus Christ.

Our altar Cross is unique. It was conceived by Pastor Sammel, designed by Architect Scheuringer, and carved by John Fritz, of Philadelphia. The purpose of the Cross is to tell the total story of our Savior's Passion and suffering at the hands of men and to present the universal sinfulness that crucified Christ and that was forgiven and overcome by the Crucifixion and Resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, as the saving gift of our Heavenly Father. Thus, our Cross presents visually the Christian doctrine of the Atonement.

The Cross is made of wood, as was the original Cross; after which it is patterned. It is finished in natural oak to conform to the other woodwork in the Church. There are twenty-four carved medallions selected to tell the complete story of the Passion of our Lord as revealed in the Four Gospels. These medallions are poly-chromed to heighten interest in the twenty-four symbols. As the worshiper faces the Cross, the symbols are presented chronologically beginning at the bottom, going to the left arm, then the right arm, and finally the upper arm pointing to God.

Each symbol marks an event by which people, then as now, contribute to the suffering of Jesus Christ, and the worshiper can sense the meaning best if he will in all humility and reverence see himself rejecting Jesus Christ, in one or more of these many ways.

Memorial Lutheran Church History: Weathering the Great Depression

From 1926-1945, our church was blessed with the services of Dr. William W. Barkley. It seems that during the 1920's, following World War I, many people had "grown careless" in their church attendance. "Life was held cheaply – the inevitable result of a World War which snuffed out nearly ten million souls, and a readiness to 'eat, drink, and be merry' in the fabulous boom which followed" the war. Rev. Barkley "endeavored in his preaching to steady those who wandered, and who may even have tended to waver in their pursuit of Christian Ideals."

In 1915, before the war and Rev. Barkley's arrival at Memorial, the church had undergone a renovation, restoration, and redecoration. At that time, plans to enlarge the Sunday School area had been considered, but set aside due to costs. With a new pastor, it was decided to take another look at these plans. "A building, not only to provide adequate Church School facilities, but also looking to a youth, not too well provided for on a seven day a week program, of growth, activity and development—a fine gymnasium activity room suitable for moving pictures, lectures, social and luncheon occasions, pastoral office facilities...on the west side of the Chapel...was to be developed." In July, 1927, the work started and pledges were secured from the congregation, and a full week, June 10-17, 1928, of dedication services were held.

As members began to pay their pledging obligations, times began to get tough and earnings began to shrink. Pledges could wait. The Great Depression came crashing down on, not just our nation, but the whole world. "When business slowed down, little or no work was available, and even farmers found little demand for the products as prices that gave them even a bare living, pledges were rejected by their makers." Some of the more financially secure church members, who had already fulfilled their pledges, picked up the obligations for others, even though they had also been impacted by the Great Depression.

Church attendance fell also, with people using various arguments. "Many felt their clothes, which had to serve [in these times] not good enough to be seen in church; others, embarrassed by [their own] conditions, thought to avoid the appearance of [being able to] do little by avoiding services. Others used the time-worn objections to criticize the personal habits of some who tried to render what service they could, but who may not have lived as uprightly as they should, and still others used the occasion to blame the condition upon their spiritual leader."

It became a divisive time in our church. And to add to the world's economic situation, dictators began to spread their evil ideas upon the European continent. During World War II and in the following years, "a more urgent need to develop our spiritual life arose." Eventually the course of the church seemed to move in a positive direction, not just with Rev. Barkley, but with the pastors who succeeded him.

As we weather the hardships brought upon us by the pandemic and the current inflation, we need to look back and know that we are not alone, that our faith and church community can help us through these struggles.

PRAYER CRAFTERS MINISTRY

“Joy to the World the Lord has come” ... Wishing Peace, Hope, Joy and Goodwill to all of our Memorial family and friends. Prayer Crafters continue to meet in our upstairs workroom. Please consider joining us when time allows, no specific skills are necessary. With many new projects underway, we can use extra hands to sort, iron, measure, cut, wrap and package.

Meeting Dates and Times: (2nd & 4th Thursdays)

December 9 and *possibly December 16* - 10 am in our upstairs workroom (elevator available)

No meeting on December 23 - Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas

Thanksgivings:

- Thanks to all who created so many beautiful scarves for our troops. The total sent will be shared in January’s newsletter. A special “thank you” to Jane Holtry for all her time and talents to bless us with over 100 scarves this year.



Upcoming New Projects:

- **“Breast Cancer Pillows”** for Cumberland Valley Breast Cancer Alliance. These are post surgery lumpectomy support pillows and will be donated to the Wellspan Radiation Center in Chambersburg.
- Handmade items such as blankets, scarves, hats, mittens, etc. to be donated to the new Community Cares’ Family Shelter at 206 E. Burd Street in Shippensburg. More information in future newsletters.

Donated materials or projects can be placed in the Prayer Crafters’ blue bin in the church office. Thank You.

“God’s work. Our hands”

SHIPPENSBURG PRODUCE and OUTREACH

SPO Mission Statement:

Called by the grace of God to love one another, we reach out to those in need with food and/or services.

³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35

What embodies the Christmas spirit more than “Love one another”? The world around us seems to grow more negative and more contentious every day. Sometimes it is hard not to respond or not be discouraged by all the strife. Let’s take some time this holiday to reach out with a kind word or a thoughtful deed to all those around us.

The pandemic has affected jobs, education, worship, and the supply chain. Gathering together and sharing food is a holiday ritual that has been drastically curtailed. Unfortunately, food is not readily accessible to many of our neighbors. Feeding America reported that about 2 million Pennsylvania residents, including 630,000 children, did not have access to adequate healthy food. We cannot solve the state or national problems, but we can reach out and make a difference in our own community.

Shippensburg Produce and Outreach again will be offering our Blessing Basket. We are a non-profit in which 100% of donations are used to purchase food for members of the Shippensburg community. Your contribution will help to fill a family’s basket with eggs, grains, dairy, fruits, vegetables, or protein in prices ranging from \$5 to \$150. Look for the bright green forms and the descriptions of the items which can be found in our church bulletin or in the church office.



Like every nonprofit you know, we remind you that SPO is also a 501c3 nonprofit and donations are tax deductible.

From all of us at SPO thank you for your generosity again this year. We are obviously grateful for your financial support, and we are equally grateful for your time, your good wishes and your prayers. May God bless you!

Love one another

PRESCHOOL

Merry Christmas from MLC Preschool!

Our children are so excited for this Christmas season. Are you excited to celebrate the birthday of our King?

We have been busy with Christmas songs, Christmas crafts and Christmas activities. But the most important time of our day is spent hearing the Bible stories leading up to the birthday of Jesus. We look forward to sharing the songs and the nativity with our parents at our Christmas Program.

Bible Verse for December is "He is the light of the world" John 8:12.

We have started our "lunch bunch" with our first pizzas this month. It is amazing how these kids love pizza and love having lunch together. Thank you to our parents who donate the pizzas.

May each one of you feel the love of Jesus this Christmas season and may your New Year be blessed.



1st Place Winner for our Parade Float!



SANTA'S BAKERS are on duty!

The youth group will be taking orders for homemade cookies! **Cookie choices are chocolate chip, sugar, molasses, peanut butter, and peanut butter blossoms.** Cookies are \$3 for a half dozen; \$5 for a full dozen. Please leave your order on a piece of paper in the office. Include your name, phone number and the amount and kind of cookie. Orders can be left in Stacy's mailbox or called in at 717-372-6703, there is also a link coming soon for orders. It will be posted on the Facebook page! Please have all **orders in by Saturday, December 4.** Cookies will be baked Saturday, December 11, and will be available for pick up following church on Sunday, December 12.



Thank you for your support!

GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Please keep our homebound in your prayers.

Jackie Bishop
3500 Fairview St, Apt. 4
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Evelyn Fuller
630 Brenton St
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Jeanne Naugle
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Carlisle, PA 17013

Grace Commerer
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Delores Henry
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William Porter
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Shippensburg, PA 17257

Dorothy Coy
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Ponte Vedra, FL 32081

June Hile
Elmcroft of Shippensburg
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Shippensburg, PA 17257

Dorothy Railing
117 Cleversburg Road
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Charles Fleming
11088 Hurley Dr
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Bernita Killian
Elmcroft of Shippensburg
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Shippensburg, PA 17257

Betty Reilly
(resides at Orrstown PC Home)
(mailing address)
948 Baltimore Rd
Shippensburg, PA 17257

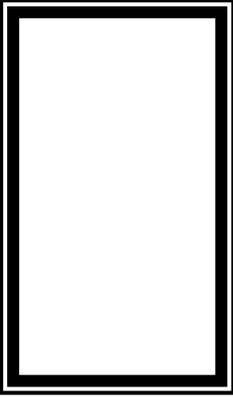
Robert Florig
710 Fireside Drive
Shippensburg, PA 17257



MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
34 E ORANGE ST
SHIPPENSBURG PA 17257-1993

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



Welcoming all.

Reaching out in love.

Growing together in Christ.

Worshipping and serving in Jesus' name.