

Christ Calls

The Monthly Newsletter of Memorial Lutheran Church
November 2025

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Dates To Remember

November 2	Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am All Saints Sunday Luncheon - 11:30 am
November 8	Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner - 4:00 pm
November 9	Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am Children & Youth Group - 6:00 pm
November 10	Church Council Meeting - 6:30 pm
November 16	Quiet Service - 8:00 am Congregational Meeting - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
November 19	Women of the ELCA - 12:00 pm
November 23	Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
November 26	Thanksgiving Eve Service - 7:00 pm
November 30	Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am

Bless the LORD,
O my soul,
and forget not
all his benefits.

Psalm 103:2, KJV

Memorial Lutheran Church
34 E. Orange Street
Shippensburg PA 17257



PASTOR
Rev. Godfred Effisah



PARISH COORDINATOR
Amy Piper
office@memluth.org



BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR
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Kathy Kerr



ORGANIST
Nancy Fogelsanger

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2025 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

ELDERS

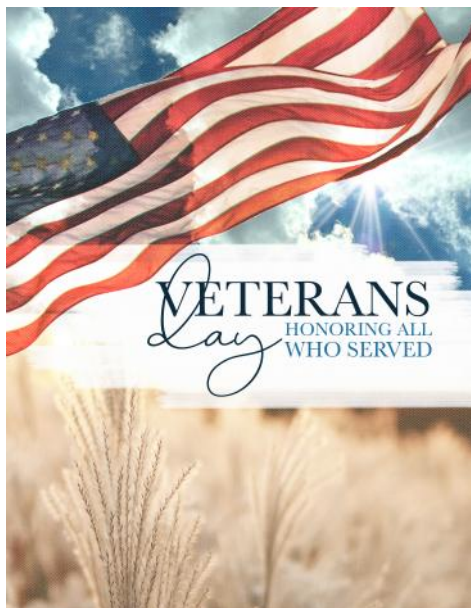
Linda Basler
Mary Cox
Mary Beth Fishel

TRUSTEES

Matthew Creek
Bill Drake
Galen Piper
Bob Snyder – Treasurer

DEACONS

Demaree Deardorff
Linda Eves
Beth Houser
Tasha Koenig
Ron Luffy
Jane Motter
Jan Nichols
Karin Vargo
Susan Wenger



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Siblings,

“But those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” – Isaiah 40:31

Grace and peace be with you all. Welcome to November and the season of Advent. This month, traditionally, especially in Europe, has been referred to as the month of death. This is because at this time of year leaves wither and fall, crops are harvested, livestock is butchered for winter food, and trees are cut for firewood. As we have already noticed in our part of the world, the sun is sinking lower in the sky, daylight is shortened, and darkness is lengthened. As we go through all these climatic and environmental changes, there is hope that the sun will return, leaves and grass will regrow, and that the world around us will be beautiful again. But none of these will happen now; they will happen later in the Spring. So, we have to wait. Unfortunately, waiting of any kind is not easy and it requires patience and much more. And that is what our Advent season is about.

Advent is about waiting in anticipation for the coming of Christ. Unlike the spring season, in which we must wait passively for the leaves and everything else to return, Advent is not pointless waiting. It is a waiting that requires faith, trust, and hope in God’s abiding presence. So, the question is, ***how can we wait, and what does Advent Waiting involve?*** Advent waiting requires active preparation. But what does this mean? It means that we wait while staying engaged in prayer and in the word of God rather than passively hoping for the coming of Christ. I would therefore like to share two suggestions to help you engage during this Advent season.

Text or talk to a family member and friends about a weekly Advent theme (hope, peace, love, and joy). Engage a family member or a friend during the weeks in Advent with a simple question like, “What is something you are hoping for?” “How have you felt God’s peace this week?” or “Where do you need God’s peace in your life right now?” How have you received or shown love this week? What brings joy to you, your friend, or your family nowadays?

As you wait, engage the Lord through his word. Reading the Christmas story is one way to wait for the coming of Christ during Advent. By reading, especially, the nativity stories found in the gospels of Luke (chapters 1-2) and Matthew (chapters 1 and 2), or in Isaiah 9:1-7, we experience what we have experienced anew, even as we prepare to hear it again. By reading these biblical stories in preparation for the coming of Christ, we open our hearts for Christ to be born into us.

People of God, faithful waiting during Advent is a mark of discipleship, and it requires faith, humility, patience, courage, and prayer. As we await and prepare for the second coming of the Lord during this Advent season, let us slow down and make room in our hearts for Christ.

Godfred, Pastor.

COUNCIL NEWS

Church Council met Monday, October 13, 2025.

The meeting was called to order and Concerns and Thanksgivings were shared. Thanksgivings were expressed for the wonderful Bell Choir concert presented by the choirs of Middle Spring Presbyterian Church and Memorial Lutheran ringers. A reception followed the concert for a time of fellowship. Thanksgiving was given for Jessi Alspaugh's *Welcome to Memorial* bulletin board design for fall. The announcement of Pastor Richard Jorgensen's transition from his role as Director for Evangelical Mission for synod to Intentional Interim Pastor at Camp Hill Presbyterian Church was shared. Thanksgiving was given for his assistance to MLC. Mary Beth Fishel noted that we should make a point of welcoming visitors to Memorial on Reformation Sunday, October 26th for our "Homecoming" celebration event.

Devotions were led by Tasha Koenig. Tasha shared a reading from the devotional booklet *Word and Seasons*, followed by prayer.

The names of those nominated for the 2026 Church Council election at the November 16th congregational meeting were approved as follows: Elder, Susan Lyons; Trustee, Ryan Leach; Deacon, Vicki (Gimmi) Connor, Ron Luffy, Jacob McCole, and Cindy Pimental. Chairman Bill Drake thanked his fellow committee members Sue Lyons and Edie Wright for serving on this committee. The Finance Ministry presented the proposed 2026 Budget to Council; Council approved it without changes. Treasurer Bob Snyder and the committee were thanked for their hard work on this and all the financial duties they oversee. The real estate property tax that MLC has been assessed for on the upper parking lot on South Penn Street, across from the church, has been removed. Thanks to Ed Straley for his diligence and hard work getting this resolved.

Church Property reported that the boilers have been checked and are ready to go and the kitchen stove has been serviced. Estimates are being sought for the retaining wall project. The Safety and Security Task Force is checking with Lehman's about a handicap entrance for the Orange & Penn Street location. Dan Mast is preparing a proposal for lighting in the Archives Room. Galen Piper is handling the property maintenance for the winter season's ice and snow conditions.

Worship & Music Ministry reported that as we return to a fall worship routine some changes will be made to the order of the service. Special music by the choirs will be offered, introits, benedictions, as well as communion hymns, on selected Sundays. Invitations will be sent out by the Outreach Ministry to former members for the *Homecoming* Celebration event for Reformation Sunday, October 26th with a reception to follow. Pastor Godfred shared a questionnaire, Church Council's Fall Considerations for thought and discussion. He was unable to be at the meeting as he was attending the Lead Pastors Development Program seminar at Camp Lutherlyn.

Women of the ELCA will hold its monthly meeting Wednesday, October 15th. Linda Eves attended the district board meeting. She shared that the group is looking at new programs; more information to follow. Archives will have the assistance of our Boy Scout Troop #120 for moving their collection to their new 2nd floor Archives Room on Tuesday, October 21st.

Reminders: Church Council Workshop meeting for the MLC Ministry & Organizations Handbook Saturday, October 18th and the Pork & Sauerkraut community dinner Saturday, November 8th (dinner cost is by donation).

With no further business to be brought to the table, the meeting was adjourned with the praying of the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting of the Church Council will be Monday, November 10, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cox

Congregation President



November 2nd is our “All Saints Sunday” Service during the 10:00 am worship service when we will remember those who have joined “The Church Triumphant” in the past year. Family members of those being remembered are encouraged to bring a photo of their loved one to display during the “All Saints Sunday” fellowship meal which will follow the 10:00 am service.

During the All Saints Sunday Service we will remember: William “Bill” Porter, Ralph Thompson, Caroline “June” Hile, Jacquelin Bishop, Bernita Killian, Gerald “Jerry” Lyons, Jack Watson, Brent Connor, Lloyd Hade, Sylvia Schrader, Eleanor Baker (Seibold), and John Offner.



WHAT'S for LUNCH? – Sunday, November 2nd

This month we will be serving baked ham, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, vegetable du jour, fruit, and beverages. Contributions of your desserts are all always appreciated as well. *As we gather on this All Saints Sunday for lunch, let us give thanks for all those members of our church family, past and present. Sharing their life stories keeps them and their example of their faith alive for us. †*

KEEP IN PRAYER

Mary Jane Adams
Gordon Chen
Jerry Cramer
Mary Kay Dagenhart
Rachel Diaz Debias
David Eves
Cricket Force

Betsy Haller
Pat Haller
Pamela Hamilton
Gary Hawbaker
Sandy Jones
Pat Maun
Andrew McCole

Mary Mensah
Mindy
Earl Nollenberger
Ed Pearson
Chris Pivnickny
Sarah
Francine Ritter

Bill Robinson
Jill Rotz
Ron Shuey
Lynn Slowey
Tony Stoops
Wayne Widney
WORLD PEACE



Memorial's Prayer Chain - To have your prayer request placed on the prayer chain, please contact Jean Goldthorpe (717-532-9482), or you may give your request to the church office.

FINANCES



2025	Will be reported next month			
FUND	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE	YTD
CURRENT	\$	\$		\$
	Income	Paid		Needed to be paid
BENEVOLENCE	\$	\$	\$	\$

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Scott Railing	10 Linda Lyons	15 Leea Booz	24 Kiersten Linn
4 Keri Evans	10 John Cox	16 Madeline Goodhart	24 Joshua Buterbaugh
6 Dorothy Railing (92)	10 Karen Still	18 Makenzie Drake	24 Terri Hilbinger
7 Karin Vargo	11 Jackson Perdew	19 Jane Foust	27 Richard Brincle
7 Hailey Robinson	11 Alaina Perdew	20 Kay Heller	28 Benjamin Barklow
7 Patricia Cleck	12 Chad Brindle	23 Douglas Lyons	29 Connie Schneider
7 Evelyn Fuller (101)	14 Kaycee Cox	23 Andrew McCole	30 Kurtis Vargo



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 19th at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. The agenda for the meeting is to vote for the 2026 Church Council nominations and the 2026 Spending Plan.

2026 Church Council Nominations are:

Elder: Susan Lyons

Deacon: Vicky Conner, Ron Luffy, Jacob McCole, Cindy Pimental

Trustee: Ryan Leach

NURTURING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

As you consider your giving to the church next year, please consider how you can grow in your generosity.

An idea for someone whose income has gone down in the last year:

Even if the total dollars given decreases, people can still grow in generosity. Consider this: if before your income decreased you were giving away 2% of your income, with income being less, can you find a way to grow the percentage of giving to 3 or 4%. There are people in our congregation who will need to decrease the total dollars given because of loss of work or other reasons.



Other ideas:

1. Systematic giving leads to generosity: For most people, we can grow significantly in our giving just by making our gift on a regular basis. Sign up for automatic giving by contacting Amy in our church office or just add an amount each week or month. Growing giving by \$1 per day equates to significant growth over the course of the year.
2. An extra gift or two during the year: A story was shared from a congregation that participated in this program last year about someone who said, "I'm not sure what the future holds for me, but for now I am doing okay, so I will double my giving in the month of April". Well, what if we decided to double our giving one month or even two months next year?
3. Grow by a percentage each year: For some, the idea of a tithe is unachievable in a single year, but something people would like to reach someday. By growing giving by percentage each year, it is achievable over the long-term. If you currently give away 3% of income, perhaps you can reach 4% next year and 5% the year after. This takes discipline, but over the long-term is effective for some.

You may have your own ideas for growing in generosity. As a church family, growing in generosity together will have a tremendous overall impact.

AD 2025 YEAR OF PRAYER

PARISH YEAR OF PRAYERS

Prayer is a conversation with God that involves both human response and divine action. This communication is at the very core of our relationship with God as disciples of Jesus. Yet we must understand that prayer is our response to God's initiative and promises, designed to help us build a personal relationship and align our will with God's. What we say in prayer is always a deeper reflection of our beliefs about God. As children of God, prayer allows us to participate in God's mission in the world actively and to experience God's presence among us.

Friends, I would like to share a poem on prayer by Michelle Butler with you this month. Hopefully, you will be inspired to write your own short prayer poem(s) and share them with us one day.

A Wing And A Prayer

Under the wing of an angel, we feel protected,
Through prayers to God, we feel connected.

Peace is said to be offered on the wings of a dove,
Prayers can bring peace along with hope, faith, and love.

Wings of a jet plane provide steady flight.
I pray you remain steady and strong through this fight.

Butterflies have wings to fly playfully free.
And free from this monster is what I pray you'll soon be.

Birds spread their wings as they may leave their nest.
We're spreading our prayers that you'll always be Blessed

Go fight and win this battle you didn't start
On the wings of an angel and prayers from my heart.

By Michelle Butler



PORK & *Sauerkraut* DINNER

Saturday, November 8, 2025

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Memorial Lutheran Church

Cost: By Donation



34 E. Orange Street • Shippensburg, PA 17257
717-532-4614 ~ memluth.org

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

HAPPY THANKSGIVING CHURCH!

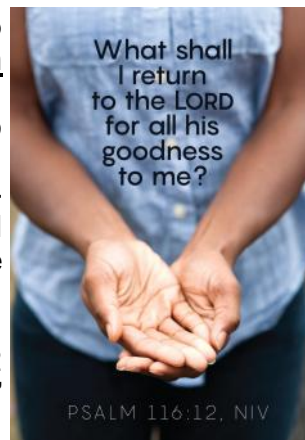


November is Thanksgiving month, and the perfect time to count our many blessings. We are so thankful that you are an essential part of our church family. We are incredibly grateful to you for the many ways you support God's mission through Memorial.

As we approach this holiday season, we invite you to join us for our annual Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Thanksgiving is a time when many families come together to celebrate and to thank God and each other. We invite you, your family, and your friends to join us on the Eve of Thanksgiving to adore and praise God. Thanking and honoring God is always the perfect way to begin the holiday season. Come as you are and leave your worries behind as we unite with gratitude and adoration to God.

When introducing the action of thanksgiving, Psalm 116:12 asks, "How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?" How I wish we would ask ourselves this question always.



EMPOWERING VOLUNTEERISM HERE AT MEMORIAL

Empowering volunteers in a congregational setting is one of the great opportunities for congregants to grow in stewardship, and we are blessed and grateful to all those who continue to volunteer. Memorial has always discovered the unique contribution of our trusted volunteers.



Because we understand and appreciate that our dedicated volunteers help alleviate staff workload and promote a culture of stewardship in our church community.

So, thank you to all the many brothers and sisters who continue to play a very significant role in supporting our mission and vision. You are the main reason why Memorial continues to have such a presence in our community and beyond. I am a believer in the saying that "***When you raise up the body of Christ to do the work of Christ, your ministry becomes much richer.***" We are in ministry together, and our ministry can grow, and that is why we are encouraging those who are not actively involved in our ministries to discern where God is calling them to serve. Thank you very much for all that you do, and remember that here at Memorial Lutheran, we are all EMPOWERED by the Holy Spirit to serve after the heart of Christ.

ADVENT SEASON



Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from the Latin "ad-venire," meaning "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time, even as we commemorate Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation.

Advent is a time of hopeful preparation for the coming of the Lord. During Advent, the mother church invites us to enter more deeply into the prayerful nature of the season. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Luke 21:34-36). The four weeks of Advent always offer us the opportunity for congregational discernment and individual examination or assessment of our faith journey as we prepare to commemorate the birth of Christ with our eyes firmly fixed on his second coming in glory. Our theme for this coming Advent season is **"Journeying the way of love through the voices of Advent"**.

SUNDAYS IN ADVENT: SERMON SERIES

We shall have a sermon series during the four Sundays in Advent on the theme **"Journeying the way of Love"**. This series will offer us the opportunity to explore how biblical figures demonstrated love to God's call as we bring our Year of Prayer to an end. We will also learn that saying yes to journey with the Lord involves not just the individual but our family and friends, our community, and the world.

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES – VOICES OF ADVENT

During our Advent Wednesday night services, we will be listening to the voices of faithful people who anticipated with great joy the magnificence of Jesus's birth and praised God when Christmas dawned. By hearing the hopeful messages in their voices, we will be invited and challenged to contemplate not just the historic celebration of Christmas but, most importantly, the second coming of Christ, asking ourselves what we must do to prepare for it. Through our Advent Wednesday night services, we will be hearing the voices of:

John the Baptist: Preparing the way of the Lord.

The Virgin Mary: Proclaiming hope and justice

Zechariah and Elizabeth: Clarifying new discoveries with old insights



OUTREACH

Reminder: When shopping remember the Little Free Pantry. It has become very challenging to keep food supplies available. Your help is NEEDED. Each Sunday bring ONE item to add to the shelf on the table by the coat rack. We are entering the time of year when cold weather will be upon us and scarves, gloves, mittens, and hats are often appreciated in the Little Free Pantry too.



St. Andrews Episcopal Church is collecting new or used coats, hats, gloves and blankets to help people locally that are homeless. Donations can be delivered directly to St. Andrews or you can place them in the designated box near the preschool room. Thanks!



Women of the ELCA will meet on Wednesday, November 19th at 12:00 pm. Bring a packed lunch. Dessert is provided. WELCA is open to all women. Invite your friends to join us.

Do you own a roadworthy car that you would be willing to donate in order to change the life of a woman in need? If so, contact **Wheels for Women** at 717-532-6900 or info@wheelsforwomen.org for more information. Wheels for Women helps to improve the lives of women in need of transportation in the Cumberland Valley who are battered, abandoned, or single mothers. All recipients go through a strict vetting and application process. 100% of all donations go toward providing reliable used transportation to these women. The Wheels for Women board is made up of all volunteers. They will pick up your used vehicle and you can use it as a tax write off.



Dirk Baumgardner, Founder of Wheels for Women

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



**Children and Youth Group will meet
Sunday, November 9th at 6:00 pm.**

**All children and youth are
encouraged to attend.**

Children's Christmas Program - We are planning to have a nativity program with the children on Sunday, December 21st during the 10:00 am worship service. We need to know if parents and children are interested in participating. Eight or more children are needed to hold the nativity program. Please contact Amy Piper, Parish Coordinator, in the church office at 717-532-4614 or office@memluth.org if you would like your child to participate. Please contact Hope Alspaugh or Pastor Godfred with questions.



More information on these activities can be found at www.lutherancamping.org

Annual Quilt Auction

Nawakwa
November 2 at 2:00 pm

Advent Day Apart

Wittel Farm - Cost: \$15
Saturday, December 6
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Women's Craft Retreat

Nawakwa
November 7-9, Fee \$185

Advent in the Barn

Wittel Farm
December 21
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

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.

Although we continue to serve over 400 families every week, we celebrate the blessings that have come our way – a new full-time staff member, awesome volunteers, grants, donations, partners, supporters, and prayers.

As a reminder, the Thanksgiving distribution will be held November 18th, and we are planning for 600 families. On that date we will distribute a box of traditional Thanksgiving food plus food for the week. Our families will also receive a gift card to a Weis to select the meat or alternative of their choice. Traffic will be very heavy from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, so we encourage everyone to avoid the area during this time. OR – come help us. Join the Greyhound, Shippo the Hippo, Big Red, the Chick-fil-A cow, a dairy princess, and some surprises. No live animals will be included this year.

SPO again will be offering our Blessing Basket during this holiday season. 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.

As we head into the holidays, this has been a hectic time for us as we have had over 80 new families registered since the beginning of September, prepared for Thanksgiving distribution, worked with SU on a documentary about SPO, and onboarded our new director.

In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with the richness of gratitude!



GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Please keep our homebound in your prayers.



Evelyn Fuller
630 Brenton St
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Doug & Pat Maun
211 S. Washington Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Dorothy Railing
117 Cleversburg Road
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Karen Larson
1070 Stouffer Avenue
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Jeanne Naugle
442 Walnut Bottom Road, F2
Carlisle, PA 17013

Trina Ruth
509 Westover Road
Shippensburg, PA 17257

ARCHIVES UPDATE

We have moved!

It has been a year since we have outgrown our small Archive office. Bob Gimmi, Susan Lyons, Karin Vargo, and Jan Nichols (Archivists) have had the daunting job of moving 250 years worth of documents housed on the first floor to a room on the second floor.

We selected a large room with a beautiful stained glass window. Much had to be done to bring the room up to archival standards. This was a costly operation. Next, we had to outfit the new office with archival shelving, equipment, supplies as well as setting up the goal of digitizing documents. At the back of the room we have set up a small museum to showcase artifacts and interesting documents of the 250 years of our church history.



At the end, it has cost \$19,000 to complete the project. We must thank all the people who have helped us along the way. Most importantly we are fervently thankful for all our donors who have generously gifted us with \$19,514.

A special thanks to the 6 Boy Scouts that helped us moved our artifacts from the old Archives room to the new Archives room. They were fun, full of energy and amazing helpers. We couldn't have done it without them.

We remember and thank God as He has guided us along the way. We feel BLESSED!

PS. We hope to have an Open House as soon as we are more settled.

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.

