Christ Calls

The Monthly Newsletter of Memorial Lutheran Church December 2025

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Memorial Lutheran Church 34 E. Orange Street Shippensburg PA 17257





PASTOR Rev. Godfred Effisah



PARISH COORDINATOR
Amy Piper
office@memluth.org



BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTORKathy Kerr



ORGANISTNancy Fogelsanger

717-532-4614 www.memluth.org office@memluth.org

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

ELDERS DEACONS

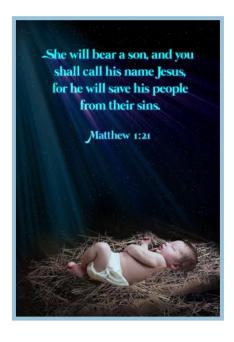
Linda Basler Demaree Deardorff

Mary Cox Linda Eves
Mary Beth Fishel Beth Houser

TRUSTEES
Matthew Creek
Bill Drake
Galen Piper

Tasha Koenig
Ron Luffy
Jane Motter
Jan Nichols
Galen Piper

Bob Snyder – Treasurer Susan Wenger



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Christmas is waiting to be born; in you, in me, and in all humankind."
- Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman

The period of waiting for Christmas to be born in us is Advent, and I hope your Advent has started well, with the hope that you will be ready for Christmas to be born into you, your family, and our community. These few weeks leading up to Christmas require us to slow down from the business of the holidays, which can easily distract us from what we are waiting for.

The Advent season invites us to wait, wonder, and worship as we prepare for Christmas. But what does it mean to wait for Christmas as Christians if not for Christ to be born into us again, renewing and transforming us to be ready for his second coming? Since we do not know when Christ is coming for the second time, waiting for Christmas to be born into our heart means understanding that the true spirit of Christmas is not just a date on a calendar or what will happen during this holiday season leading to the new year rather a transformation created and realized in us by our prayerful preparation, worship with others and generosity towards others during this holiday season and all throughout the year.

We are always waiting for Christ to come again, and so the church from all generations cries, "Maranatha." As Christmas is waiting to be born in us, let us focus on the opportunities this Advent season offers by getting our hearts ready for the coming Lord. Advent is indeed a grace-filled season that invites us to prepare and wait for the coming of Christ with great hope and purpose. Christmas is always an extraordinary holiday, but nothing can compare with the celebration we will have one day when we celebrate with Jesus when he comes again. Through a faithful preparation this Advent, we will be ready to celebrate that ultimate Christmas when Christ arrives.

May the joy and wonder of Advent refresh your spirits and illuminate your life. I wish you and your household many blessings and good times this Advent as we reflect, prepare, and wait for the coming of our Savior.

Godfred, Pastor



COUNCIL NEWS

Church Council met Monday, November 10, 2025. The meeting was called to order and Concerns and Thanksgivings were shared. Thanksgivings were expressed for the nice attendance at the Pork & Sauer-kraut dinner Friday evening November 8th, and that the Katie's Place's purchase of the Hendersen property has been finalized.

Devotions were led by Beth Houser. Beth shared a reading from Luke 10:38-42 followed by the opening prayer.

Pastor Godfred noted that Memorial is the only local churching offering a Thanksgiving Eve worship service. A sandwich board sign has been placed on the corner of Orange & Penn Streets to invite the public to worship with us. The community Christmas Carol Historical Walking Tour will be on Friday evening December 5th from 5 -7 pm. A handout of the history of Memorial will be given to guests. Information on our stained glass windows, altar cross and organ will be displayed as well. Light refreshments will be provided.

Pastor reviewed the upcoming themes for the Advent season: Sundays' sermon series will be "Journeying the Way of Love;" the midweek Wednesday services' series will be "Voices of Advent." Pastor Godfred will lead a Youth (and anyone else who wants to join) Advent Sunday School class on the theme "God speaks in the Bible." There will be one Worship service on Sunday, December 21st at 10:00 am. The Children's Christmas program will be during this service. Our youth will read the narration while the younger children act out the story. Youth and Children's Ministry met Sunday evening November 9th. December's activity will be bowling; January's activity will be video games.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be The Year of Discipleship. How do we invite people to come to church? Pastor Godfred will preach Sunday morning January 11th; he will begin his vacation time following the worship service through January 29th. We will have two different supply pastors fill the pulpit for Sunday, January 18th, and January 25th. Pastor Godfred will be back for worship Sunday, February 1st.

Appreciation was expressed to the members of the Nominating Committee: Bill Drake, Susan Lyons, and Edie Wright. Council was reminded of the procedure for the December council meeting. The newly elected members to the 2026 Church Council will be asked to attend the regular December meeting. After the adjournment of that meeting, those members going off council will leave and a special Council meeting will be convened for the purpose of electing the officers for 2026.

Church Property reported that work continues on the boilers. They are operational but one circulator is experiencing problems at times. The situation will continue to be monitored. Dan Mast repaired the light outside of the elevator on the Mezzanine level. Galen Piper is handling the issue with a non-functioning drain in one of the women's bathrooms. An engineer is to be contacted regarding the condition of the parking lot's retaining wall. The Safety and Security Task Force discussed moving ahead with the installation of security cameras outside of the church at their meeting. Also, the task force is considering AEDs for the main floor, the 2nd floor, and possibly one on the Mezzanine level. (It is recommended that an AED unit be available within a 90 second walk of your location.)

The Finance Ministry shared that the F.A.I.T.H. line on the offering envelopes, which stands for "For All In This House," is being used for Current expenses at this time. It was noted that if you want to designate a specific cause where you want that money to be used, you must write that cause on the envelope at the F.A.I.T.H. line. There was a discussion about removing the 'F.A.I.T.H.' line from the envelope. To do this, proper procedure dictates that the Stewardship Ministry, together with the Finance Ministry, would bring a recommendation to Church Council for an action item. (The F.A.I.T.H. line was previously created by a recommendation to Council.)

The Stewardship Ministry reported that \$658.00 was cleared from the Pork & Sauerkraut dinner. Many thanks to Susan Lyons and Jane Motter for making the sauerkraut, which was enjoyed by all. Stewardship's focus for the new year will be "Nurturing the Culture of Generosity." A monthly article will be placed in the newsletter reflecting this. (We are not sending out intent cards like last year.) Their next meeting will be November 18th. The Outreach Ministry suggested the "Homecoming Sunday" be an annual event. Needs of the homeless in Shippensburg and the stocking of the "Little Free Pantry" was discussed at their meeting. While there are so many in need of food in our community, it is a blessing that MLC and our community residents work to keep the pantry stocked with food.

Archives is settling in to their new home. The scouts were a great help assisting the Archives Committee in moving their materials from the old Archive's Room to the new Archive's Room. They are planning to meet each Thursday morning, (with exception to the holidays) through December. Women of the ELCA will have their monthly meeting Wednesday, November 19th. Katie's Place plans to host the annual "Better Together" event Saturday, September 19, 2026. The Thrift Shop recorded 491 volunteer hours in October.

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, December 8, 2025.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Cox Congregation President

The 2026 Church Spending Plan was approved at the November 16, 2025 Congregational Meeting.

Elected 2026 Church Council Members are:

Elder: Susan Lyons; Deacon: (3 year term) Vicky Conner, Jacob McCole, Cindy Pimental and (1 year term) Ron Luffy; Trustee: Ryan Leach



WHAT'S FOR LUNCH on Sunday, December 7th - Nothing warms the body and soul than lunch with family and friends. On the menu for our December 1st Sunday Lunch is Chicken Corn soup, Beef Vegetable soup, tossed salad, and fruit. Your contributions of pasta salads and desserts are welcomed to complete the menu. So, on this 2nd Sunday of Advent, please join us for good food, good fellowship, and warm smiles. †

KEEP IN PRAYER

Mary Jane Adams Christian Black Gordon Chen Jerry Cramer Mary Kay Dagenhart Rachel Diaz Debias Karen DeShong Cheryl Drake

David Eves Cricket Force Betsy Haller Pat Haller Pamela Hamilton Gary Hawbaker Pat Maun Andrew McCole

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

Bill Robinson

Jill Rotz Ron Shuev Lynn Slowey Tony Stoops Wayne Widney



HOMELESS PEOPLE



Please pray for Brittany Drake and family in the death of her father, William "Bill" Wilson. Jr. on November 13th.

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



Sept. & Oct. 2025				
FUND	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE	YTD
CURRENT	\$41,619	\$40,199	\$1,420	\$20,461
	Income	Paid		Needed to be paid
BENEVOLENCE	\$7,617	\$7,053	\$564	\$6,243

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ron Kerr
- 1 Liam Kvle
- 3 Christine Clark
- 3 Noelle Clark
- 4 Rianon McKee
- 5 Thomas Enderlein 8
 - Ellen McBride (91)

- 9 Elaine Shughart
- Nellie Kelley (91) 9
- 13 Norma Phillips
- Misty Gruver 15
- 19 Jacob McCole
- 20 Logan Hayes
- 20 Erika Kyle

- Riley Evan 20
- Sheri Anderson 24
- 25 Hope Alspaugh
- 26 Carla Haller
- 29 **Emily Cloud**
- 31 Jeanne Naugle (96)



Join us this Advent and Christmas Season!

Sunday Morning Advent Worship Services

"Journeying the Way of Love"

November 30 and December 7 & 14 8:00 am & 10:00 am

December 21 - 10:00 am

Children's Christmas Program

Wednesday Midweek Advent Services

"Voices of Advent"

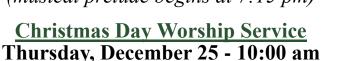
December 3, 10 and 17 at 7:00 pm.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24 - 7:30 pm

(musical prelude begins at 7:15 pm)



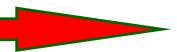




Memorial Lutheran Church is participating in the First Annual Christmas Carol Historical Walking Tour Open House on Friday, December 5th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Each church organist will play traditional Christmas Carols while guests sit and sing along. Each church will provide historical information about their church. Some churches may provide light refreshments. Other participating churches are: First Church of God Shippens-



burg, St. Andrews Episcopal, Presbyterian Church, Grace United Church of Christ, Messiah United Methodist and Christ United Methodist. **Guests will travel to each church at their own pace.**



Many volunteers are needed to serve our community at the Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 6th from 8 am - 11 am. A sign-up sheet for

volunteers is on the bulletin board across from the church office. <u>Donations Needed</u>: Water only pancake mix, Hot cocoa packets, Hershey kisses, Mini marshmallows, Full size candy canes, Mini size candy canes, and Small gifts for door prizes - place

donations in kitchen & mark Santa Breakfast. Breakfast with Santa posters and handouts are on the counter across from the church office. Please share or post in our community (with permission) to help advertise this event.

The Towne Singers Holiday Concert at Memorial Lutheran Church Sunday, December 14th at 4:00 pm. Free Will Offering. Join us for an uplifting afternoon of music!





Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 6, 2025 8:00 am - 11:00 am Memorial Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall Corner of Orange & Penn Streets, Shippensburg

FREE!



Pancakes, Sausage, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee

Reservations appreciated by contacting the church at 717-532-4614 or email at office@memluth.org. Didn't make a reservation? Just drop in anyway!

Come celebrate the spirit of the season with a delicious breakfast and, of course, a visit with Santa! Bring your camera!

NURTURING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

As you consider your giving to Memorial next year, please consider how you can grow in your own 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** 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 a percentage each year, it is achievable over the long-term. If you currently give away 3% of your 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 member of our church family, growing in generosity together will have a tremendous overall impact.

If you are interested in automatic giving, please contact Amy Piper, Parish Coordinator, or Pastor Godfred.



AD 2025 YEAR OF PRAYER

As we bring our congregational Year of Prayer to an end, I would like us to reflect on what prayer is and how we can deepen our prayer life beyond the Year of Prayer.

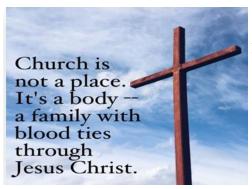
WHAT IS PRAYER? Prayer is a surge of the heart. A conversation with God. It is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy. Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God through heartfelt conversation.

As Christians, it is paramount that we develop a personal relationship with God. A personal relationship with God is like a close relationship with your parent, spouse, or friend, just that the one with God is better. A personal relationship with God involves true joy, fellowship, and love. God is committed to us, and we, in turn, must be committed to God. The goal and primary purpose of our lives is to have a relationship with God.

How To Continue to Deepen Our Relationship with God?

Spend time with him through prayer and by reading his word: Prayer is the link that connects us with God and helps us to know God's plan for us. To continue developing our personal relationship with God, we must keep praying and reading the Word of God regularly. Take time to read scripture and learn about God's will. Pray and begin to experience his love.

Talk to God everywhere: We are to pray without ceasing (1 Thess 5:16-18). Praying without ceasing means that we have a mindset of prayer and throughout our day, God is on our hearts. He isn't far away from us. He listens to us and cares about even the small needs of our hearts.



Pursue a relationship with other Christians: Another way to develop a personal relationship with God is by pursuing a relationship with other Christians. We need each other. Learning and growing together with like-minded Christians helps us to grow closer to God.

Let us keep deepening our relationship with God through prayer, and we will continue to experience his presence in our lives.

OUTREACH

Outreach Ministry "Little Free Pantry" Update: Donations of food items are always welcome from the congregation. Each Sunday bring ONE item and add it to the shelf on the table by the inside parking lot entrance. Our goal is to always have food available to fill the pantry as needed. A yellow handout with a list of suggestions will be in the church bulletin and on the counter, please <u>no glass</u>. 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.

Members who are volunteering for a month to stock the "Little Free Pantry" are to use these donated items. Please do not over fill the pantry, add a few items at a time. With the colder weather upon us, please DO NOT place items that may freeze once weather temperatures drop. A list of items that shouldn't be placed in our pantry for safety reasons and during the winter months are on a small bulletin board above the table and yellow handouts on the counter.

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



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

Tuesday AM Work Day

Nawakwa December 2 9:00 am

Advent / Christmas in the Barn

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



Advent Day Apart

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

Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald

January 2-4, 2026 Grades 3-9 Cost: \$170



Women of the ELCA will meet on Wednesday, December 17th at 12 pm. Bring a packed lunch. Dessert is provided. WELCA is open to all women. Invite your friends to join us.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

PASTOR'S ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL

During this Advent season, Pastor Godfred will be leading a Sunday school class for our youth and adults on the theme, "GOD SPEAKS IN THE BIBLE." This conversational and educational class will cover basic biblical topics, such as how the Bible came to be, why some books are accepted in the Bible and why others are NOT, how the Bible is divided and classified, etc. Come with your questions and let us crack open the basics of our book of faith together.





The Children and Youth Group are going bowling at Midway in Carlisle on Sunday, December 14th. Please sign your name to the sign-up sheet on the counter across from the church office if you will be going. The church will cover the cost of bowling for each participating child/youth.



The Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 21st during the 10:00 am worship service. There will be several practices prior to the program.

The program will be a non-speaking skit. The children will wear costumes and will walk from the back of the church to the front of the church at the appropriate time. Please sign up your child to participate in the

program by speaking with Pastor Godfred, Hope Alspaugh or contacting Amy Piper, Parish Coordinator, in the church office at 717-532-4614 or office@memluth.org. Please contact Hope Alspaugh or Pastor Godfred with questions. Thanks!

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.

One of the greatest challenges left to us is to cut through all the glitz and glam of a season that has grown increasingly secular and commercial and be reminded of the beauty of the One who is Christmas. Christmas is not as much about opening presents as it is about opening our hearts. The holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek ways to make life better for



those around us. Through the Holy Spirit let us renew our minds so we can shift from commercialism and focus on the true meaning and joy of the birth of Jesus.

SPO again will be offering our Blessing Basket. 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.



This has been another year of growth and change for SPO as we have seen the need for food and services increase and at the same time, we continue to strive to implement our long-term strategic plan. This year 551 families received Thanksgiving baskets. The parking lot was filled with neighbors, volunteers, mascots, cheerleaders, a Dairy Princess, a DJ, and even the Chick-fil-a

Christmas cow as we celebrate the many ways our community steps up to help others.

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



GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Please keep our homebound in your prayers.

Remembering
Our Homebound

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

2026 YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP

When Jesus called his disciples, he was very clear with them, and they understood their mandate as disciples. After the resurrection and before he ascended into heaven, he commissioned them to go and make more followers for him (Matthew 28:16-19). Like the early disciples, we are also called by Jesus to be his disciples with a similar mandate. Discipleship is an invitation from Jesus into a personal journey of faith that involves surrendering one's life and will to him. This relationship must lead to our transformation. It is a call to participate in Christ's mission by bringing others to Christ (John 1:35-55).

The good news is that we have responded to the invitation from Christ, resulting in our journeying with him, but we struggle to make disciples for Christ. That is why we are going to dedicate 2026 as a YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP here at Memorial. Throughout the coming year, we will seek to deepen our understanding of discipleship and explore practical and creative ways to invite others to Jesus through our Memorial Lutheran church family.



The Greek word translated as disciple is "mathetes," and it refers to "a learn or a student". Etymologically, "disciple" relates to someone who learns by submitting to a teacher in order to become like the teacher. During our Year of Discipleship, we will learn together, grow together, so that we can courageously invite others to join our faith family here at Memorial

The Year of Discipleship is for all of us, and we will inaugurate it during our service on Sunday, January 4, 2026. **WE ARE CALLED BY CHRIST TO BE HIS DISCIPLES AND NOT JUST MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.**

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.

