

Christ Calls

The Monthly Newsletter of Memorial Lutheran Church
February 2026

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Memorial Lutheran Church
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PASTOR
 Rev. Godfred Effisah



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 Amy Piper
 office@memluth.org



BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR
SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR
 Kathy Kerr



ORGANIST
 Nancy Fogelsanger

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All 2025 Financial Giving Statements that were not picked up at church were placed into the mail on the afternoon of Saturday, January 24th.
 Contact Amy Piper in the church office with questions.

2026 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

ELDERS

Linda Basler
 Mary Beth Fishel
 Susan Lyons

TRUSTEES

Matthew Creek
 Ryan Leach
 Galen Piper
 Bob Snyder – Treasurer

DEACONS

Vicky Conner
 Linda Eves
 Beth Houser
 Tasha Koenig
 Ron Luffy
 Jacob McCole
 Jan Nichols
 Cindy Pimental
 Karin Vargo



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Siblings,

Growing in our relationship with Christ as a disciple during this Lenten Season: What Will You Put On or Give Up?

Lent has always been a very special time of centering for me. This is simple because the spirit of Lent offers me the opportunity to check in with my spirit. For some time now, I have decided that instead of “giving up” something during Lent, I would rather try to adopt a new spiritual practice or technique during this grace-filled season. What is your plan? What are you “giving up” or “putting on” during this Lent?

Lent is a season of reflection and renewal that draws us closer to Christ. In this our congregational Year of Discipleship, our Lenten theme is **“Come, Follow Me (Matthew 4:19): A Disciple’s Journey Through Lent.”** Throughout these 40 days of prayers, fasting, and almsgiving, we will be invited to journey alongside Jesus, reflect on some special moments at the beginning of his earthly ministry, and see how those stories could help us become faithful and committed disciples of Jesus. Through these momentous stories of Jesus, we’ll rediscover that our challenges are no different from his, even though he is God. As we walk along, he continues to help us, our family members, and those in our communities right where we are with grace and truth that could lead to our individual and congregational transformation.

The hope is that, as we follow Jesus as his disciples during our Lenten journey, we will be transformed to be resurrected people, with Alleluia as our new song. These Lenten reflections on the stories of Jesus will remind us again that no one returns the same after a walking encounter with Jesus Christ. Because he invites us to come follow him for something more profound and transformative, regardless of the problems or burdens we bring along as we respond to his invitation.

I invite you and all our family and friends to join our Lenten journey this year, so that, together, we may follow the Lord into the wilderness of our hearts in preparation for Easter.

With the joy of the Incarnation still around us, let us open ourselves to fresh encounters with Jesus because he is still in the business of transforming lives and bringing people into his church through us, the disciples of today.

Peace, Godfred.



2026 LENTEN SEASON

Come, Follow Me
A Disciple's Journey Through Lent



Sermon Series

**THEME: "Come, Follow Me (Matthew 4:19)
A Disciple's Journey Through Lent"**

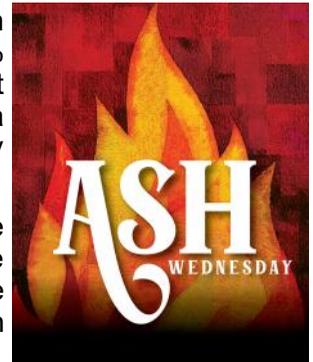
Our call to discipleship is simply a call to follow Jesus. Discipleship is a lifelong commitment and journey of going closer to Jesus and walking with him.

The season of Lent always offers us the opportunity to reflect on this journey with Christ, examining how we are doing on it. During this year's Lenten season, we will reflect on some special moments at the beginning of Jesus' ministry and see how those stories could help us become faithful and committed disciples of Jesus. May the Lord increase our passion to follow him dedicatedly throughout this Lent and beyond.

WHAT IS ASH WEDNESDAY?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent in the Western Christian church and a wonderful opportunity to make yourself 100% available to God. A prayerful, somber day that reminds us that we are mortal and need to reconcile with God. It begins a period of almsgiving, fasting, and prayer until sundown on Holy Thursday.

This 40-day period also recognizes the time Jesus resisted the devil's temptations in the wilderness. On Ash Wednesday, we participate in services of penance, such as giving up creature comforts or vices. Ash Wednesday's roots date back to the 11th century and stem from Jewish fasting and penance practices.



The use of ashes in liturgical practices can be traced back to the Old Testament. Ashes symbolize mortality, mourning, and penance. How available to God are you as a disciple of Jesus? 50%? 75%? 96.4%? No matter what your answer is, Ash Wednesday is an excellent time to decide to spend this Lent increasing that number prayerfully. **Our parish Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, starting at 7:00 pm.**

"REMEMBER YOU ARE DUST AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN" Genesis 3

THEME: LENT: ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

An encounter with the Lord is always a personal and transformative experience, leading to life-altering changes, including a new identity as a beloved child of God, deep inner healing (emotional, spiritual), and a transformed heart that brings forgiveness and peace with oneself and God. Reflecting on these encounters, we will discover our call as disciples of Jesus.

LENTEN SUNDAYS SERMON SERIES

- February 22:** First Sunday of Lent: **The Baptism of Jesus**
(*Matthew 3:13-17*)
- March 1:** Second Sunday of Lent: **Wilderness and Temptations of Jesus**
(*Matthew 4:1-11*)
- March 8:** Third Sunday of Lent: **The Beatitudes, Salt and Light**
(*Matthew 5:1-16*)
- March 15:** Fourth Sunday of Lent: **Prayer and Attitude**
(*Matthew 6:1-18*)



LENTEN MIDWEEK WEEKLY THEMES

- February 25:** First Wednesday of Lent: **Jesus and the Man Born Blind**
(*John 9:1-12*)
- March 4:** Second Wednesday of Lent: **Jesus, Mary, and Martha**
(*Luke 10:38-42*)
- March 11:** Third Wednesday of Lent: **Jesus and Nicodemus**
(*John 3:1-21*)
- March 18:** Fourth Wednesday of Lent: **Jesus and the Woman at the Well**
(*John 4:1-26*)

KEEP IN PRAYER

Mary Jane Adams
Christiana Black
Gordon Chen
Jerry Cramer
Pattie Creek
Rachel Diaz Debias
Karen DeShong

Cheryl Drake
Pat Haller
Pamela Hamilton
Rose Harris
Gary Hawbaker
Sandy Jones
Pat Maun

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

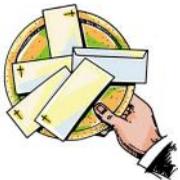
Bill Robinson
Jill Rotz
Ron Shuey
Lynn Slowey
Wayne Widney
**RESPECT FOR
HUMAN LIFE**



Please pray for the families and friends of Marshall Mailey, Cricket Force and Alicia Schaeffer who passed away in January.

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



December 2025				
FUND	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE	YTD
CURRENT	\$42,979	\$24,460	\$18,519	\$38,565
	Income	Paid		Needed to be paid
BENEVOLENCE	\$5,416	\$10,200	\$4,784	\$5,287

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Larry Basler	17	Wayne Widney	21	Stacy McCole
4	Lauray Koenig	17	Bente Cloud	21	Heather Brown
6	Patrick Creek	18	Brittany Carr	24	Michael Hayes
10	Abram Luffy	18	Gavin Szabara	26	Mia Garcia
11	Elizabeth Howland	19	Jerry Cramer	28	Susie Miller
15	Rachel Snyder	20	Susan Wenger		
16	Donald Brown	20	Lucille Andelin		

AD 2026: MEMORIAL LUTHERAN YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP

We are called by God to be disciples of Jesus and to help drive the church's core mission: making disciples. But before we can actively and fully participate in this great mission, we need to understand who a disciple of Jesus is. "What is a Disciple of Jesus?"

A disciple of Jesus is someone who follows Jesus, is changed by Jesus, and is committed to Jesus' mission on earth. In fact, the Mission of Jesus actually continues in the life and ministry of the disciples. As disciples of Jesus, we are required to keep, live, profess, bear witness to, and spread our faith in Jesus with others. Mark 1:17 (Matthew 4:19) can help us understand what it means to be a disciple.

When does discipleship start?

Discipleship starts when one is baptized and welcomed into the family of God. Through the waters of baptism and anointing with Sacred Chrism, we are called to live as Christ in three roles:

Priest: Making our lives holy through prayer and faith formation.

Prophet: Living and sharing our faith through words and actions.

King: Supporting the mission of the Church through generosity and service.

How are we called to discipleship here at Memorial Lutheran?

In this Year of Discipleship, let us pay attention to these three ways through which we can ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE in our faith life as disciples of Jesus. Each of the following leads us to an essential aspect of our faith:

Faith in Action: Committing to serve in ministries and parish life.

Prayer & Presence: Strengthening our spiritual lives through prayer, participating in faith formation, and attending parish events that foster community and spiritual growth.

Generosity: Supporting the Church and those in need through giving and stewardship.

What happens during each phase of discipleship?

In each phase of discipleship, we will prepare ourselves for Covenant Weekend, where we will make a covenant with our Lord to help us live as His disciples throughout the year. This commitment will be followed by a special celebration as a community.



Sunday, February 1st is Scout Sunday during the 10:00 am worship service. Please come support the Scouts and Scout leaders.



WHAT'S for LUNCH TODAY, FEBRUARY 1st? It's SOUP-ER Sampler Lunch Sunday. The Fellowship Ministry will provide turkey noodle, ham bean, and cheddar broccoli soups. Tossed salad and bread will be offered also, along with fruit, and beverages toward our meal. You may bring a crockpot of soup to share &/or a dessert or salad. Come enjoy good food and fellowship with our church family and friends. **See You There!**



Children and Youth Group will meet on Sunday, February 8th at 6:00 pm. All Children and Youth are invited! Bring a friend!



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

Tuesday Morning Work Day

Nawakwa
February 3, 2026
9:00 am

NWK Paren's Group

Nawakwa
February 7
10:00 am



Women of the ELCA will meet on Wednesday, February 18th at 12 pm. Bring a packed lunch. Dessert is provided. WELCA is open to all women. Invite your friends to join us.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Please submit annual reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting to the church office by 8:00 am on Friday, February 6th. Thank you!

**The Annual
Congregational
Meeting will be
Sunday,
February 15, 2026
at 9:00 am in
Fellowship Hall.**



I just want to reach out and say THANK YOU! for the breakfast items Memorial Lutheran provides to Hound Packs. The food bank has not had individually packaged breakfast items in stock, and with our increase in registration (268 kids this week, 277 was the high), the program needs donations more than ever. Each time I write a menu and wonder if we'll have enough cereal cups or oatmeal to make it, another donation from your congregation shows up at the warehouse! Your efforts make such a large impact on the Hound Packs program.

Thank you. Emily Fox, SCRC Coordinator

SHIPPENSBURG PRODUCE and OUTREACH

SPO Mission Statement:

Called by the grace of God to love one another, we reach out to those in need

Lara worked as a waitress to support her two children ages 2 and 6. She often found herself struggling to make ends meet, especially at the end of the month when rent was due. Sometimes she would even skip meals so that there would be enough food for her daughters and enough money to pay the rent. Eventually, even that was not enough. Faced with possible eviction, Lara asked everyone she knew where she could get some help. A friend told her about SPO that gives food to low-income families. At first, she hesitated, not wanting to ask strangers for help, but eventually her desire to feed her children won. She began receiving bags of groceries every week and no longer skipped meals. She also received referrals to partner agencies who could help. *“I never dreamed that just going to get food could change my life forever,”* says Lara. *“I will always be grateful to the kind people who provided not only food, but the guidance and hope that helped me to make a better life for my children.”*

Over the past four years, SPO has experienced an unprecedented growth in the number of neighbors (registered client households) it serves. Many of them are single mothers struggling to get basic essentials and senior citizens on Social Security. As of December 2025, SPO had 960 registered client households, of which approximately 45% attend the food pantry each week. By the end of 2026, SPO projects having 1,200 registered households and will be serving 60,000 people annually which equates to nearly 400,000 meals.

In 2025, SPO expended \$103,000 to purchase food for distribution which equated to over 350,000 meals reaching 56,856 people; the resultant cost of food per meal served in 2025 was \$3.39.

TABLE 1	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Households on roster (in December)	380	597	752	798	960
Average new registrations per week	7	20	19	23	28
Annual \$ spent per person served	\$4.47	\$2.16	\$2.49	\$2.46	\$3.39

Thank you for helping us provide healthy food to so many of our neighbors.

Mark your calendars for our annual **Lasagna Dinner on March 6**. More details next month.



GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Please keep our homebound in your prayers.

Mary Kay Dagenhart
Magnolia of Chambersburg
Room #20
745 Norland Avenue
Chambersburg, PA 17201

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

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

Dorothy Railing
117 Cleversburg Road
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Trina Ruth
509 Westover Road
Shippensburg, PA 17257



Inclement weather - To find change of service details on inclement weather days, please check: your Email inbox; Memorial Lutheran Church Shippensburg Facebook page (*you don't need a Facebook account to see the church's Facebook page*); Memorial Members Facebook page; or the Church website (www.memluth.org).

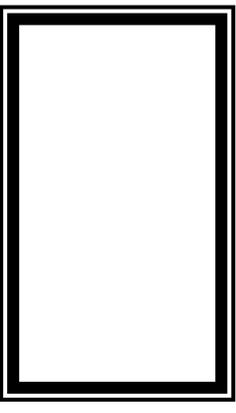
To receive a text message alerting you to weather related church schedule changes, please contact Amy Piper in the church office (office@memluth.org or 717-532-4614) **or write "OPT IN" on a Connection card to receive text message alerts from the church.** You **MUST** give written/verbal consent to Amy Piper to be placed on the text message list. **Please confirm your cell phone number with Amy Piper also.** After you "OPT IN" you will receive a text message asking you to accept text messages. You must approve this request before you can receive a text message from the church office. This phone number will only be used for church text messaging unless you give permission for it to be published in the church directory.



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.