

Christ Calls

The Monthly Newsletter of Memorial Lutheran Church
March 2026

<u><i>In This Issue</i></u>	<u><i>Dates To Remember</i></u>
Staff page 2	March 1 Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School/Coffee Time - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am First Sunday Luncheon - 11:30 am
Pastor's Corner page 3	March 4 Midweek Lenten Service - 7:00 pm
Lenten Spiritual Retreat page 4	March 8 Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School/Coffee Time - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am Children and Youth Group - 6:00 pm
Bunny Breakfast page 5	Church Council Meeting - 6:30 pm
Prayer, Finances, Birthdays page 6	March 9 Midweek Lenten Service - 7:00 pm
Year of Discipleship page 7	March 14 Spiritual Lenten Retreat - 9:00 am
1st Sunday Luncheon page 8	March 15 Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School/Coffee Time - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
Children and Youth page 9	March 18 Midweek Lenten Service - 7:00 pm
SPO page 10	March 22 Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School/Coffee Time - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
Homebound page 11	March 25 Midweek Lenten Service - 7:00 pm
	March 28 Breakfast with the Easter Bunny - 8:00 am
	March 29 Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School/Coffee Time - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am



“Hosanna!
Blessed is He
who comes in the name
of the Lord, indeed, the
King of Israel!”

John 12: 13, NASB

**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 DIRECTOR**
Kathy Kerr



ORGANIST
Nancy Fogelsanger

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

Linda Basler, Mary Cox, Matthew Creek and Mary Beth Fishel were elected as the 2026 Nominating Committee at the February 15th Congregational Meeting.

2026 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

ELDERS Linda Basler Mary Beth Fishel Susan Lyons	DEACONS Vicky Conner Linda Eves Beth Houser Tasha Koenig Ron Luffy Jacob McCole Jan Nichols Cindy Pimental Karin Vargo
TRUSTEES Matthew Creek Ryan Leach Galen Piper Bob Snyder – Treasurer	



**Celebration of Life Service
for Jacquelin Bishop
on Wednesday, March 4th
at 11:00 am at Memorial
Lutheran Church.**

FROM THE PASTOR

Lord, Prune us into faithful disciples after your heart this Lent!

Dear Siblings,

How is your Lent going so far?

Whether you're going strong or wondering what you have gotten yourself into, you are on the path of the journey with Christ as his disciples, and therefore, you are on the path to surrender. At the very core of this lifelong journey of surrender to God is our willingness to always listen to the voice of Jesus, especially during this season of grace called Lent.

Lent is a time of repentance and pruning. A perfect time for us who are disciples of Jesus to engage in specific penitential prayers and disciplines to help deepen our spiritual renewal and preparation to share the gospel of Jesus.

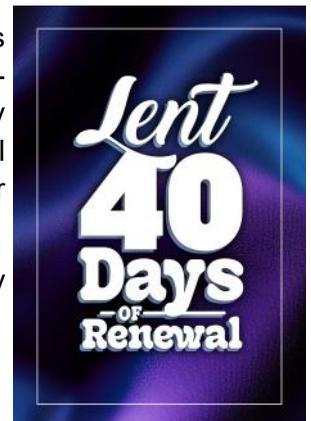
When we focus on prayer, spend time with scripture, fast not just from food but on all those things that prevent us from following Christ closely as his disciples during this season of Lent, we allow Jesus to prune our shortcomings so that we can bear more fruit as his disciples after the joyful celebration of his resurrection.

Siblings in Christ, Lent serves as a profound, and at times uncomfortable, pruning season designed by God to remove spiritual hindrances, fostering deeper growth and closer adherence to Jesus as disciples. By shedding distractions, sin, and attachments to materialism, we, like pruned vines, are enabled to listen to Christ attentively with our hearts and minds, bear more fruit of discipleship, and strengthen our relationship with God and our neighbors by living the gifts of discipleship.

As we continue to journey with Christ as his disciples during this season of pruning and abiding, let us open ourselves to the opportunity that this season offers us and allow God to graciously prune away anything that is hindering us from growing in our call to discipleship so that we can better go and make disciples for Jesus, the Christ.

Continue to have a spirit-filled Lenten Season with your family and loved ones.

Peace, Godfred.



2026 LENTEN & EASTER SEASON

Join Us for our Lenten and Easter Worship Services.

Theme: Come, Follow Me (Matthew 4:1-9) - A Disciple's Journey Through Lent

<u>March 1</u>	Quiet Service - 8:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
<u>March 4</u>	Midweek Lenten Service - 7:00 pm
<u>March 8</u>	Quiet Service - 8:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
<u>March 11</u>	Midweek Lenten Service - 7:00 pm
<u>March 14</u>	Lenten Retreat - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (Lunch provided)
<u>March 15</u>	Quiet Service - 8:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
<u>March 18</u>	Midweek Lenten Service - 7:00 pm
<u>March 22</u>	Quiet Service - 8:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
<u>March 25</u>	Midweek Lenten Service - 7:00 pm
<u>March 29</u>	Palm Sunday Quiet Service - 8:00 am Palm Sunday Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
<u>April 2</u>	Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 pm
<u>April 3</u>	Good Friday Service - 7:00 pm
<u>April 4</u>	Easter Vigil Service - 7:30 pm
<u>April 5</u>	Easter Day Sunrise/Quiet Service - 7:00 am Easter Day Breakfast - 8:00 am Easter Day Sunday School - 9:00 am Easter Day Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am

LENTEN SPIRITUAL RETREAT: SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2026 - Lent is the season for repentance, reconciliation, and renewal. Lent during our Year of Discipleship offers us the opportunity to dive deeper into seeking to understand who we are as disciples of Jesus and what Jesus requires of us who have come to follow him, not just as members of Team Jesus but DISCIPLES OF JESUS. During Lent, we rededicate ourselves to prayer. That is why we are all invited to our Annual Spiritual Retreat on Saturday, March 14, 2026, for a time of prayer and a period to deepen our understanding of who we are as disciples of Jesus sent to go and make disciples for Jesus.

Our theme for this year's Lenten Spiritual Retreat is **"FOLLOWING JESUS: WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CALLED TO DISCIPLESHIP."** The retreat, which will be held at the Fellowship Hall, will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 1:00 PM. Lunch will be provided for all participants.

It is Lent, come and let our souls' journey towards the cross and beyond.



BREAKFAST with the EASTER BUNNY

Saturday, March 28, 2026
8:00 am to 11:00 am

Join the Easter Bunny for a
FREE Breakfast including:
Pancakes, Sausage, Fruit Cup,
Donut Holes, Milk, Juice
and Coffee.

DOOR PRIZES!
BRING YOUR EASTER BASKET!



Memorial Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall
34 E. Orange Street, Shippensburg (Corner of Orange & Penn Streets)
Reservations appreciated but not required by contacting the church
office at 717-532-4614 or office@memluth.org.

KEEP IN PRAYER

Mary Jane Adams
 Christiana Black
 Sue Cline
 Pattie Creek
 Rachel Diaz Debias
 Cheryl Drake
 Pat Haller

Denny Hamilton
 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



WOMEN IN THE CHURCH



Please pray for the families and friends of Karen Larson who passed away in January and Gordon Chen who passed away February 8th.

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



January 2026				
FUND	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE	YTD
CURRENT	\$15,965	\$23,755	\$7,790	\$7,790
	Income	Paid		Needed to be paid
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,849	\$507	\$1,342	\$1,342

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Savion Forrester	17	Donald Haller	24	Megan Shirk
1	Courtney Hayes	18	Magdalena Kegerreis	24	Nancy Fogelsanger
3	Helen Burkhart	19	Cindy Pimental	25	Janet Nichols
5	Scott Bolton	19	Kate Cloud	25	Ethan Stouffer
9	Sarah Killian	19	Joan Smith	26	Harry Mundorff
10	Noah Varner	21	Zora Frank	28	Patrick Davis
10	Ellen Razzi	22	Ron Shuey	28	Sean Miller
11	Bill Drake	22	Doug Maun	28	Graysen Gregory
14	Francine Ritter (91)	23	Rylee Drake	28	Kaiden Estep
16	Jaxon Alosi	23	Vera Reber	30	Alexandra Booz

AD 2026: MEMORIAL LUTHERAN YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Five years ago, I was invited to give a presentation in a congregation in our Synod. Before I started my presentation, a man asked me a basic but important question. Why the need for discipleship? And my answer was simple: The church cannot grow if Christians are not actively discipling new believers. But we can not go out there to make disciples for Jesus unless we **UNDERSTAND WHO A DISCIPLE IS AND WE ARE MADE DISCIPLES**. The good news is that we are disciples interested in growing our understanding and life of discipleship. With that said, I would like us to think about these four reasons why discipleship matters to God, and it must matter to us.

Discipleship is important because Jesus called us to make disciples. The first reason it is important for Christians to be involved in discipleship is that Jesus called us to make disciples. He modeled it by discipling the twelve, and then he gave us the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. As our Lord and Savior, we obviously need to listen whenever Jesus calls us to do something. Jesus wants to give us an abundant and fulfilling life, and discipleship is part of His vision and mission. By responding to the call to be his disciples, we are mandated to go and make other disciples for Jesus.

Discipleship Strengthens Our Relationship with Jesus: The second reason discipleship is important for us Christians is that it strengthens our relationship with Jesus. As we walk with him, we develop a deeper, intimate relationship and obedience to his word that transforms us into Christlike people of God. Through our journey with Jesus, we are mentored by him, both in word and in action, to be like Christ to others. Discipleship indeed impacts our lives and the way we live as children of God.

Discipleship positively impacts how we live: This is crucial because many believers today are not known for being different. We are called to be “light” and “salt” in the world. We are identified as “citizens of Heaven” and “God’s chosen ones.” We have the sacred obligation to love and care for all people, irrespective of their skin color, creed, or ethnicity. Our lives should be noticeably different, and yet for many Christians today, that simply is not the case.



Discipleship builds a stronger church family (congregation): Not only can discipleship transform our lives as Memorians, but it can also transform our entire church family. This happens when we move our congregational culture from an inward-looking community to a mission-centered one. This move helps us develop a discipleship mindset rather than a membership mindset. Fostering unity and excitement within our community and leading to active participation in the congregation's mission and ministry. Like Jesus, we are called to recognize that life's everyday moments offer extraordinary opportunities to invest in discipleship both as individuals and as a community of faith.

2026 LENTEN SEASON

HAVE YOU OBSERVED THAT “GLORIA” AND “ALLELUIA” ARE OMITTED FROM THE LITURGY DURING LENT? WHY?

During Lent, we are called to enter the spiritual desert with our Lord in preparation for Easter through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. But it looks like our Lenten liturgy is “fasting” in preparation for the glorious season of Easter.

The Gloria is no longer sung, and the Alleluia disappears. One may say that the church has become “sad” during Lent. The answer is no; the Church has entered a time of waiting. The Gloria is a hymn of joyful praise that celebrates the coming of the Lord using words from the angels at Christ’s birth. The church during Lent returns in spirit to a time when the people of God were in exile, waiting for the Messiah to come and save them, but instead of waiting for Christ’s birth from the womb of Mary, the Christian people this time await Christ’s second “birth” from the womb of the sepulcher. Alleluia, on the other hand, is rooted in a Hebrew expression that means “Praise the Lord.” Hence, both Gloria and Alleluia express full joy in our liturgy. Lent, however, is not primarily a season of celebration or rejoicing, but rather penitential in spirit. During these forty days, the Church sets aside the Alleluia, a precious acclamation, so that it may return with greater power at the Easter Vigil, when the Resurrection of Christ is proclaimed with joy.

Therefore, the omission of Gloria and the Alleluia from the Lenten liturgy is not sadness but a form of spiritual pedagogy. The omission of Gloria and the Alleluia create a more sober liturgical atmosphere for us to contemplate the way of the cross. It helps us enter the penitential spirit of Lent, enabling us to reflect on the cross of Christ and the path of discipleship before we sing the victory after the resurrection of Christ. It is like holding one’s breath before a great announcement.

As the Church’s liturgical tradition teaches, Lent invites us to walk with Christ toward Calvary. Victory is not sung before the battle. When the Alleluia returns at Easter, we will understand it more deeply and appreciate its great significance in our life of faith. Today’s silence “fasting” on the Gloria and Alleluia will make tomorrow’s proclamation more resounding and meaningful.

WHAT’S for LUNCH on Sunday, March 1st? – *‘Eat, drink and be Irish’* at our 1st Sunday



Lunch. We may not know if March will come in like a lion or a lamb, but one thing is for sure, sharing in the fellowship at our church family luncheon is always an enjoyable time. **Menu is: pulled pork, mac ‘n cheese, veggie tray, fruit, and beverages.** Your contributions of desserts and salads are always appreciated. So, no matter the winds and weather, please join us for good food and fellowship with our church family and friends. †

CHILDREN & YOUTH



**We appreciate our
Scout troops!**

**Scout Sunday,
February 1st.**

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



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

Tuesday Morning Work Day

Nawakwa
March 3
9:00 am

NWK Parent's Group

Nawakwa
March 7
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Summer Camp Open House

Nawakwa & Kirchenwald
March 15 from 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Quilting Weekend

Kirchenwald
March 20-22

Spring Equinox Campfire

The Wittel Farm
March 20 at 7:00 pm



Women of the ELCA will meet on Wednesday, March 18th at 12 pm. Bring a packed lunch. Dessert is provided. WELCA is open to all women. Invite a friend!

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.

Match Madness is here! The first \$1,500 we raise will be matched dollar-for-dollar - your gift goes twice as far! SPO is pleased to put "A SPOLight on Giving" as we continue our participation in Partnership for Better Health's annual Match Madness Campaign, which is our largest single fundraising event of the year. Our goal is \$50,000, which will provide a significant boost in paying for our growing budget of nutritious food we distribute each week. Every single gift brings us closer to a community where no one has to suffer from hunger, and with your support, we'll receive 100% of the donations made in our name, plus a share of the matching funds! Make your gift go further during Match Madness!

Join us for a Lasagna Dinner Social on Friday, March 6, from 4 pm – 7 pm at Memorial Lutheran Church! Enjoy a homemade lasagna dinner prepared with love, classic Italian tunes from our DJ, and a chance to tour our local food pantry. This fun, welcoming evening is a great way to connect with neighbors and learn more about SPO's mission to provide healthy food and helpful resources every Tuesday. Donations are welcome, and every gift counts toward Match Madness (March 1 –31)!

How can you help SPO get a heaping serving of the Match Madness campaign funds? Thank you for supporting us in our mission as Shippensburg's primary food pantry. Donate online by card or stock transfer between March 1-31. Give through the Partnership for Better Health's online portal listed below or visit <https://shipout.org>. For check donations, make payable to "Partnership for Better Health" and mail to 274 Wilson Street, Carlisle, PA 17013 before March 31. "Designated to SPO" must be written on the memo line. SPO can forward donation checks to the campaign center that are received at 130 S. Penn Street, Shippensburg, PA 17257 before March 31.

DONATE TODAY!



Scan QR code
or visit:

fbh.fyi/Match26



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

Trina Ruth
509 Westover Road
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Pamela Hamilton - Room 123
Menno Haven Rehab Center
2055 Scotland Avenue
Chambersburg, PA 17201

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

Wayne Widney - Room #16
Chambersburg Skilled Nursing &
Rehab
1070 Stouffer Ave
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Dorothy Railing
117 Cleversburg Road
Shippensburg, PA 17257



We are in the process of purchasing one or two new AED units for the church at an approximate cost of \$1,700 each. If you would like to contribute toward this purchase, you may designate "AED" on your offering envelope or check memo line. Thank you.



Lasagna • Music • Community!
A SALUTE TO SHIPPENSBURG PRODUCE AND OUTREACH
providing healthy food and helpful resources every Tuesday

Lasagna

PLUS BREAD, SALAD & DESSERT

DINNER SOCIAL

FEATURING DINNER, DJ, AND SPO TOUR
MARCH 6 4-7PM
DONATIONS WELCOME



GLUTEN FREE VEGETARIAN CHOICES WHILE QUANTITIES LAST

HOSTED BY AND SERVED AT THE
MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
34 E ORANGE ST



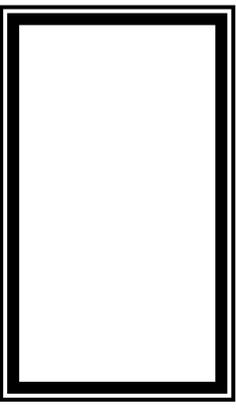
All gifts count toward Match Madness (Mar 1-31)



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.