

Christ Calls

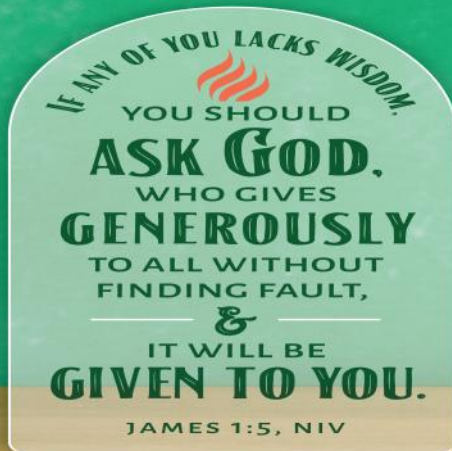
The Monthly Newsletter of Memorial Lutheran Church
August 2026

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Dates To Remember

August 2	Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
August 7	Vacation Bible School - 10:00 am
August 9	Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am Children & Youth Group Roller Skating
August 10	Church Council Meeting - 6:30 pm
August 16	Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
August 23	Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
August 29	Corn Festival Parking Lot Fundraiser and Water Bottle Handout
August 30	Worship/Live Stream Service - 9:00 am Church Picnic at Britton Park - 12:00 pm
August 31	First Day of Preschool



Memorial Lutheran Church

34 E. Orange Street

Shippensburg PA 17257



PASTOR

Rev. Godfred Effisah
pastor@memluth.org



PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Emily Crider
preschool@memluth.org



BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR

Kathy Kerr



ORGANIST

Nancy Fogelsanger



PARISH COORDINATOR

Amy Piper
office@memluth.org



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

717-532-4614

www.memluth.org
office@memluth.org

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace be with you, and welcome to the month of August. August is an interesting month and was originally the sixth month, called Sextilis, on the Roman calendar. It was renamed by the Roman Senate in 8 BC in honor of Augustus Caesar, the first emperor of Rome. The emperor during the birth of Christ, as he is mentioned in our Christmas story (Luke 2:1).

August used to be counted among the summer months; a kind of continuation of July, and back-to-school sales were held at the end of the month. But that has changed, and back-to-school sales started in mid-July because many communities start their school year in early or mid-August. I therefore wonder if August is still summer or the beginning of fall? I don't have an answer as to how the month should be classified to reflect the changing social scene.

What I do know as your pastor is that August is a time when we should be looking ahead to how we're going to actively serve as disciples and stewards of God through Memorial, our faith community, once the fall routines begin. This is very important because through the unwrapping of our Gifts of Discipleship sermon series during this summer, we have reminded ourselves of the need to live among God's faithful people, hear the word of God, and share in the Eucharist (communion). Gifts that invite us into active, full, and conscious participation in the life of our Memorial faith family as disciples and stewards of the gospel.

As we prepare for the fall season, please spend time in prayer; maybe the Lord is inviting you to help teach Sunday school, join the bell choir, work with the youth, visit shut-ins, call or send cards to our homebound members, sing in the choir, or join our various ministries, etc. As we go through August and wait for summer to be over, let us use this period to discern how God is calling us to be better Memorians, better stewards, and better disciples as we seek to disciple others.

God bless you and your family as you enjoy the rest of your summer,

Godfred, Pastor.



COUNCIL

Church Council met Monday, July 13, 2026. The meeting was called to order and Concerns and Thanksgivings were shared. Thanksgivings and appreciations were given for the children enrolled to-date, preparation of and Amy's administrative help with the Preschool. Thanksgivings and appreciations were given for Matthew Creek for leading the youth hike and picnic at Fuller Lake and Matthew's daughter's advancement to the district horse show in August.

Devotions were led by Jan Nichols. Vicky shared a reading from *The Word in Season* titled "Pray and Believe" and read scripture from Psalm 85:13. Jan followed by opening with a prayer.

Pastor Godfred reported on several upcoming key events and their dates. Jess Alspaugh will be received into membership on Sunday, August 23 during the 10:00 am worship service. The Memorial Leadership Retreat will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Rev. Dennis Beaver will lead the retreat. All council members and two leaders from each committee/ministry and prospective leaders are to participate. The purpose of the retreat is "How to Grow". Pastor requested vacation for September 28 – October 22. A pastor will be supplied for October 4 and 18, and Susan Lyons will fill the pulpit on October 11.

Finance Ministry shared that June was a better month with a starting balance of \$17,387.85 and an ending balance of \$21,234.75. Giving for the first Sunday in July was only half of the normal contributions but this may have been due to the July 4th holiday and people traveling out of town. There will be extra expenses in July for the new HVAC units for the church office, Preschool and Fellowship Hall. Monies in the TruNorth account and the Building Fund can be used for the HVAC expense. In June, two CD's with a 4.99% interest rate were renewed for 3 years at 3.99% and there are four CD's due in July that currently have 4.571% interest rates that will be renewed for 3 years at a 3.99% interest rate.

Christian Education/Youth/McCracken Award Ministry reported that Robert Creek was awarded the McCracken Award on Sunday, July 19 during the 8:00 am worship service. The Youth Group enjoyed a hike and picnic led by Matthew Creek at Laurel Lake. Group leaders are needed for VBS on Friday, August 7th; VBS is 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Church Property reported the door knob on the sacristy door is loose and in need of repair. The HVAC is being replaced in the church office, Preschool room and Fellowship Hall. The tower clock is not working and needs to be repaired. Committee will be reaching out for clock repair services. The AED units need to be mounted to the wall in their respective areas and we are purchasing a third AED unit.

Fellowship/Fair Stand opened and cleaned the fair stand and cooked chili and chicken with gravy for the fair. Sunday, August 30th will be the Church Picnic.

Continued from page 4

Outreach Ministry will have sign-up sheets for handing out water on Saturday, August 29th for the Corn Festival and also the parking lot fundraiser for the Corn Festival.

Stewardship Ministry reported that the Chipotle fundraiser was not approved as Chipotle does not support religious organizations. Planned fundraisers include September 15th Dine to Donate at Jersey Mike's, October 24th Smith's Chicken BBQ from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm – note: volunteers are needed to assist and we will also hold a Bake sale there too which we will be needing donated baked goods. Additional fundraiser ideas being investigated are Pizza Hut, Hoss's, sale of Weis or Giant store cards.

Archives Committee continued work on setting up the museum. The Archives open house is scheduled for September 13th following the Community Lunch.

Preschool Committee prepared the preschool room. The first day of Preschool will be Monday, August 31st. This will be a shortened day with the preschool student's caregiver being invited to stay for the first day of preschool with their child

Women of the ELCA reported that the convention will be held at Memorial Lutheran Church on August 14th. Approximately 32 people will be attending.

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, August 10, 2026

Respectfully submitted,
Karin Vargo
Congregation Vice President



Remember to submit your nominations for the 2027 Church Council. Forms and collection box are on the counter across the hall from the church office and in the sanctuary.



2026 MEMORIAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT

All Council members, two leaders from each committee/ministry in our faith family, are invited to participate in our **2026 Leadership Retreat scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2026**. The retreat director is The Rev. Dennis Beaver, the former pastor of Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waynesboro. The program will be held at our Fellowship Hall from 9:00 A.M to 12 noon. Lunch will be provided.

KEEP IN PRAYER

Rachel Diaz Debias
Pamela Hamilton
Mary Mensah

Ed Pearson
Ron Shuey
Wendy & Ross Thoman

August Prayer Focus:
Cancer Patients &
Researchers



Please pray for Larry & Linda Basler and family in the death of their daughter, Elizabeth Wilson, on June 19th.

Memorial's Prayer Chain - To have your prayer request placed on the prayer chain, please contact Jean Goldthorpe (223-386-7283), or you may give your request to the church office.

FINANCES



May & June 2026				
FUND	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE	YTD
CURRENT	\$49,875	\$49,019	(\$856)	(\$9,046)
	Income	Paid		Needed to be paid
BENEVOLENCE	\$8,280	\$1,875	\$6,405	\$6,075

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Michael White	8	Tanner Robinson	21	Amanda Cloud
1	Demaree Deardorff	8	Mackenzie Alosi	21	James Freeman
1	Kyle Hilbinger	9	Diane Shenton	24	Susan Lyons
2	James Robinson	12	Kaitlynn Frater	24	Jane Motter
2	Scott Smith	14	Sofia Kyle	24	Katy Murr
3	Amelia Welsh	15	Mary Pearson	24	Marlin Gruver
5	Gerilee Davis	17	Fran Horst	25	Mark Buterbaugh
6	Michael Pimental	17	Kory Alspaugh	26	Jennifer Andelin
8	Ciera Booz	21	Linda Eves	30	Kevin Cloud
8	Craig Perdew	21	Leah Cox		

CHURCH PICNIC



Memorial Lutheran's 2026 Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 30, 2026. We will have **ONE WORSHIP SERVICE** at 9:00 am in our sanctuary and then we will regather at 12 Noon at the Shippensburg Township Park on Britton Road, for food, fun, games and fellowship. Please invite your family and friends to join us. Fellowship Ministry will provide Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Mac 'N Cheese and Beverages. Please bring: a hot or cold dish to share, your place settings/table covering, and a "white elephant" gift for the prize table.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR TO START SOON

The opportunity for our children to sing in the Church will demonstrate a profound sense of stewardship. This is because Children's choirs bring joy, build community, and help young people learn about music and faith. Here at Memorial, we are blessed with more than enough children to start a children's choir. **THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE HAVE A VOLUNTEER WHO IS WILLING AND READY TO DIRECT OUR CHILDREN'S CHOIR.** These three reasons are some of the reasons we want to start a children's Choir.



Music Appreciation: As a liturgical church with music as our liturgical character, music appreciation is always enhanced by music education, and children's choirs can and should be fertile ground for some basic music education for our children. **Rehearsal time will be part of our Sunday school time.**

We will raise them up: Singing in a choir at an early age helps develop self-esteem, studies have shown. Children performing in front of church imprints a powerful positive impression on the child.

The children shall lead us through music: Every time the children's choir sings in a worship service, it's a special event. Uncles, aunts, cousins, and others who might not be regular churchgoers come to church to hear their special one sing. We all want more people in our pews whose lives can also be positively impacted, so let us do this together.

By singing in a worship service, children feel the power of God's presence in the context of the liturgy. It makes them better worshipers as they start to grasp the impactful beauty of the worship experience and gives them a deeper sense of belonging.

Let us encourage our children to be part of this wonderful discipleship and stewardship ministry.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION FOR SUMMER

August stewardship awareness challenges us to focus on shifting from summer routines to seasonal renewal. As we bring summer to an end, we are called upon as stewards of the good news to evaluate our priorities and guard against material greed by sharing invisible gifts like love, mercy, forgiveness, patience, etc.

During this August, I want to invite you to pay attention to these three important themes below;

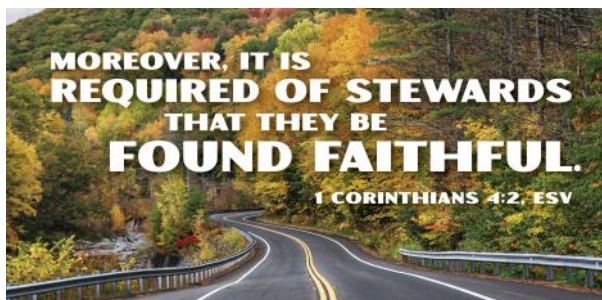
Investing in Heaven: Examining how we spend our time and resources, shifting focus from temporary material wealth to eternal priorities.

Faithful Transitions: Using the end of summer as a time of spiritual renewal to prepare for active ministry and service as we enter the last phase of our parish Year of Discipleship.

Stewardship of Influence: Recognizing that our daily actions, words, and attitudes powerfully shape and influence the people around us for good. Just be mindful of your neighbor and be like Christ to others.

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER FOR AUGUST

Lord Jesus Christ, as we begin to shift our thoughts from summer schedules to the anticipated demands of the next season, teach us to recognize you, and help us follow you amidst our busy lives and the challenges of each day. Amen



Sign-up sheets will be soon be available for our
Saturday, August 29th Corn Festival
parking lot fundraiser and to
help give out water bottles to festival goers.

OUTREACH

Venezuela Earthquakes, Texas Flooding, Wildfires, West Virginia Flooding - all disasters needing our caring support. **SAVE** your coins for the August 16th Noisy Offering to be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response.



God's Work, Our Hands Sunday Ingathering, September 13 - Items to be collected include 3 ring binders, dry erase expo markers, and Play Doh. In addition there will be a monetary collection for black shoes for the children of Hope Academy, Guatemala. All items will be a "huge help" for the school children.

Thanks to all to helped with the fair. It was a good week. We had a lot of young members helping this year and they did a wonderful job. They are our future and I welcome them to help. Liam and Evan Kyle are my great morning guys and have been since they were little. Liam has graduated to cooking now. We missed Sophia helping but so proud she is our queen. Again thanks to working a shift or two or more, cooking chicken, making chili, making gravy, opening and closing the stand and keeping us all in prayer.

Jean Robinson



AD 2026: MEMORIAL LUTHERAN YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP

From July 12, we began our five-week sermon series reflecting on the five Gifts of Baptism. These are actions listed in the Affirmation of Baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

These five gifts can be divided into two categories: **inward and outward gifts.**

The inward Gifts: The first two actions are inward gifts that help us grow in faith. Living among God's faithful people allows us to learn about God at work in our world. We witness how others deal with the joys and sorrows of life. We have opportunities to forgive, show mercy, and share hospitality among God's faithful people. We hear the word of God as proclaimed through music, worship, education, and fellowship. We receive the gift of bread and wine with a community shaped by the love of Christ.

The outward gifts: These gifts shift the focus from us to others. We are sent to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. We are sent into our neighborhoods and communities but also into our families, schools, workplaces, and churches.

The truth is that these five actions may not always feel like gifts. Living among God's people isn't always easy. Sometimes there are conflicts within the church. The Bible isn't always easy to understand. Not all of us have the skills or interest to proclaim good news. Serving others can be exhausting. Striving for justice and peace is a never-ending process. That notwithstanding, each of the five actions has the capacity to draw us closer to the one who claims us in baptism-God. Some of these gifts nudge us out of our comfort zone and invite us into an expanded view of the reign of God.

When we affirm our baptism, we respond, "We do, and ask God to help and guide us."

This is critical. For it's by the grace of God that we unwrap these gifts and explore the Spirit at work in our lives in Christ. Take a moment to review each of the five gifts of discipleship:

What do you think about these gifts as a disciple of Jesus?

What do you think can draw you to these gifts?

What prevents you from receiving these gifts?

How might you further unwrap each gift in your journey as a disciple in the coming year?

Discipleship is the active, lifelong journey of learning from Jesus and transforming one's life to be more like Him.

ARCHIVES



The Archives Committee invites you all to the Memorial Lutheran Church Archives and Museum Dedication and Open House on September 13th following the Community Lunch. Memorial Lutheran Church turned 250 years old in 2021 and celebrated this milestone in 2022. Today our church is 255 years old, older than the United States of America which is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year, 2026.

Memorial Lutherans date their founding to 1770 when the birth of Johannes Kauffman on Oct. 13 was recorded in the earliest known reference to the Reformed-Lutheran Union Church. The church was chartered in 1771 by the Lutheran Synod, and later in that year a log church was erected on the corner of South Queen Street by an article of agreement between the Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Churches. The oldest archive of this congregation is recorded in a book entitled, "Tauf Buch vor die Kirch in Shippenstaun" which in English translates to "Baptism Book for the Church in Shippenstown (Shippensburg)." The book was purchased on June 13, 1775, for the sum of 5 pounds, 12 shillings and six-pence, or \$27 dollars, 22 and one-half cents in United States gold exchange at the time. This 251-year-old baptism book is still in our church's archives today along with numerous other interesting archival documents and artifacts.



The Archives Committee was established circa 1960 by Libby Nispel and Dorothy Cresler. Throughout the years the various committee members have cared for, collected and cataloged the numerous documents and artifacts within our archives. It is our joy and honor to invite you all to the new Memorial Lutheran Church Archives and Museum to peruse the documents and artifacts on display. We encourage you to inquire about the various interesting artifacts housed there as you may find many of them may have ties or links to past family members and/or friends.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Children & Youth Group will meet on Sunday, August 9th for Roller skating. Time to be determined. Invite your friends to join you!

Pray for our new Preschool students and staff as they start their school year on Monday, August 31st.

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL MINISTRY PRESCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

LAWRENCE BASLER

CINDY PIMENTAL

BETH HOUSER

EDWARD STRALEY – FINANCE REPRESENTATIVE

DEBORAH LUFFY- PERSONNEL REPRESENTATIVE

EMILY CRIDER - DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL

ONE PARENT

Memorial is grateful to these children of God for willingly accepting to serve as our Preschool Advisory Committee. We continue to hold you all in prayer as you play this stewardship role.

ENROLL NOW

for MLC PRESCHOOL!

A Ministry of Memorial Lutheran Church
34 E. Orange Street, Shippensburg, PA 17257

Christian Faith Education

Learning Through Play

Class for 3-5 Year Old Students
Monday - Wednesday
8:30 am - 11:30 am
Follows SASD calendar

To request a Preschool Application:
Contact the church office at 717-532-4614
OR
by email at office@memluth.org

More information on Camp Activities can be found at www.lutherancamping.org

Kirkenwald Camp-K-Tion

Family Camp
August 2-7, 2026

Family Camp II (Nawakwa)

August 9-14, 2026

Nawakwa Work Day

August 4 at 9:00 am



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.

Corn and cantaloupes and cucumbers, oh my!! SPO is always grateful for the growing season, the influx of fresh produce and our ability to share this abundance with our neighbors. Our gleaners have been brought bins of fresh produce. Once again Otterbein church has planted and is preparing to harvest and bag corn for all our families. We also never really seem to know which crops will flourish each growing season, leaving the gardener with excess. One year you may get one cucumber a day and the next year you might get twelve a day. If you or someone you know has extra vegetables or fruit, we invite you to drop them off at SPO any Tuesday morning to be distributed later in the day.

With one in 10 people in central Pennsylvania facing food insecurity, including one in 7 children, we work in collaboration with partner agencies and programs to help through programs aimed at children, veterans, seniors and more. Although we currently have 1,113 registered families, in the last three months, SPO served 734 unduplicated households. Every week we receive 8 to 10 new families averaging 40 every month. With rising prices for groceries and gas, many families just cannot keep up.



Gleaning and sharing can be such a blessing whether we encounter it by visiting a thrift shop, refinishing a piece of furniture, or depending on the kindness of strangers at a food pantry. Most of us are a serious illness, an unexpected emergency, or a sudden crisis away from needing help. We never know when we may need to rely on the kindness of others. The moral lesson of Matthew 25:31 - 46 is that our ultimate destiny is determined by how we treat the most vulnerable. Jesus teaches that true faith is inseparable from compassionate action; whenever you feed the hungry, clothe the naked, or visit the sick and imprisoned, you are serving Christ himself.

We offer prayers of gratitude for the generosity of the Giver and the gifts we can share. As we reap and sow, may we be reminded to glean and give back.

Every Tuesday we have set up at 10:00 am, lunch, and distribution from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm. If you can't join us, please include us in prayer.

PRESCHOOL

Hello!

My name is Emily Crider, and I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new Director and Head Teacher for Memorial Lutheran Church Preschool. I am honored to join this wonderful community and look forward to rebuilding a strong preschool program for our community.

A little bit about me - I live in Shippensburg with my husband, David, and our three children. We have a 9 year old daughter, Isla, a 6 year old daughter, Macy, and a 4 year old son, Jack. Isla will be entering 4th grade and Macy will be entering 1st grade at GBLUES. Jack will be in PreK at MLC along with me! I enjoy spending my time volunteering at my girls' school, traveling with my family, being outdoors, and cheering my children on in their sports and activities. I spend a lot of my evenings at the soccer field or the dance studio, and somehow even ended up as the head cheer coach for Macy's team this year!



I grew up near Cleveland, Ohio, and attended college at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. I have a degree in both Special and Elementary Education and have a true passion for early childhood education. I have taught 4th grade, 1st grade and spent the last 2 years teaching preschool in Chambersburg. Working with young children has always been a passion of mine. I love creating a nurturing, safe, and engaging environment where children feel valued, encouraged, and excited to learn through play, exploration, and meaningful experiences.

I am excited to bring fresh ideas, creativity, and enthusiasm to our preschool while continuing the traditions that make MLC Preschool such a special place.

Thank you for welcoming me into your church and preschool family. I can't wait to meet each of you and make this a joyful year for the children in our community!

Blessings, Emily Crider



GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Please keep our homebound in your prayers.

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

Pamela Hamilton
19 Lantern Lane
Shippensburg, PA 17257

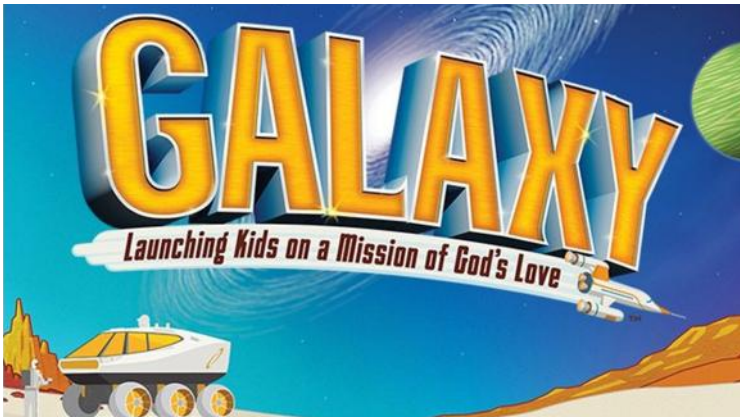
Doug & Pat Maun
211 S. Washington Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257

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

Wayne Widney
Chambersburg Skilled Nursing &
Rehab
1070 Stouffer Ave
Chambersburg, PA 17201



Vacation Bible School
Friday, August 7, 2026
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Preschool to Youth

Register by Sunday, August 2nd using one of these options:

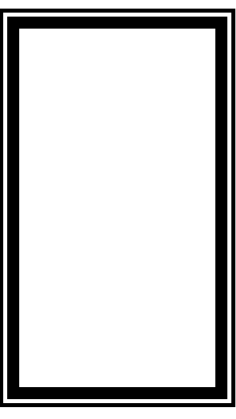
1. Calling the church office at 717-532-4614.
2. Using the following online registration link:
<https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/11243916>
3. Placing a completed registration form in the VBS box across from the church office.

**Register your
children
today!
Invite your
relatives and
friends to
join you!**

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.