Christ Calls

The Monthly Newsletter of Memorial Lutheran Church

October 2026

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Dates To Remember

October 4	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
October 11	Quiet Service - 8:00 am
	Sunday School/Coffee Time - 9:00 am
	Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
October 12	Church Council Meeting - 6:30 pm
October 18	Quiet Service - 8:00 am
	Sunday School/Coffee Time - 9:00 am
	Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
October 25	Quiet Service - 8:00 am
	Sunday School/Coffee Time - 9:00 am
	Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am



Memorial Lutheran Church
34 E. Orange Street
Shippensburg PA 17257



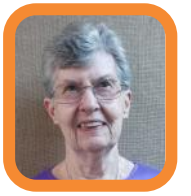
PASTOR
Rev. Godfred Effisah
pastor@memluth.org



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

Pastor Godfred will be vacation September 28 through October 22. If you have a pastoral need during this time, please contact Amy Piper, Parish Coordinator, in the church office and she will contact the Pastor covering emergencies for you. You may contact Amy Piper at any time at 717-491-6850 during Pastor Godfred's vacation.

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

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FROM THE PASTOR

Siblings in Christ,

From the book of Ecclesiastes, we are reminded that, “For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven…That which is already has been, that which is to be already is, and God seeks out what has gone by” Ecclesiastes 3:1-15. This famous passage from the bible is about the fixed seasons of life and God's eternal control over time.

People of God, summer is over, and we are in the harvest season. Soon, restaurants will be filled with pumpkin-spice-flavored beverages and foods of all kinds. Months of work for farmers and gardeners are finally paying off with all kinds of delicious fruit and vegetables. Some of you have blessed Michelle and me with fruits from your fields, and we are very grateful for your generosity. As we enjoyed the fruits of the earth, we thought of the time you spent caring for and nurturing your plants.

In the same way, our spiritual life requires much care and nurturing. Just as the largest plant begins with a tiny seed, our spiritual growth begins with small seeds planted in our lives by the Holy Spirit at our baptism; through the journey of discipleship, they grow and mature. Like sharing your produce with us, we must share the fruits of our relationship with Christ with others so people will come to know Christ, who accompanies us on our daily journey.

There is indeed a time for everything, and now that summer is over, church life has started in full swing, and it’s the perfect time to refocus on our spiritual growth and renewal as disciples of Jesus as we transition into a new season. The truth is, there is beauty in every season, and sometimes we just need to look for it more deeply. Whether we know it or not, each season offers us a great opportunity for growth both as individuals and as a congregation. ***So, what changes are you planning to make during this season to help you become a better disciple of Jesus?***

What about reading Scripture daily? Spending time reading the Bible daily can help us learn about God's character and let His teachings guide our thoughts.

Consistent Prayer? Set aside quiet moments to talk and listen to God, sharing our gratitude, struggles, and requests for wisdom and direction. If you have no special plan for this changing season, then I invite you to check one of the two above. With the summer behind us, I think it's time to concentrate on our journey with Christ as his disciples.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry through all the seasons. My prayer for you this season is that God will continue to work within and around us, in order that we may grow more deeply in our love for God and one another. May our life produce abundant fruit throughout this harvest season.

Peace, Godfred



COUNCIL

Church Council met Monday, September 14, 2026. The meeting was called to order and Concerns and Thanksgivings were shared. Thanksgivings were given for a previous member's grandson, Bryce Comman, who saved the life of a police officer in a recent crash. Thanksgivings were also shared that the McCracken Award gift was increased and for the Memorial Lutheran Church Archives Open House. Thanksgivings and appreciations were given for the health improvements and medical care for Bob Gimmi, Karin Vargo's daughter-in-law, and Ed Pearson. Health concerns were raised for Pastor's mother, Linda Eve's son David, and Nancy Fogelsanger.

Linda Basler led devotions reflecting on Holy Cross Day, September 14, and gave the opening prayer.

Pastor Godfred reported several of the church youth attended the Uprise Festival and it was well received. The Memorial Leadership Retreat is Saturday, 9/19/2026 starting at 9:00 am; attendees need to park in other areas as the Better Together Festival will be using the church parking lot. The Annual Congregational survey has been reviewed by Mutual Ministry and will be distributed on a Sunday morning with instructions for completion that day. A new confirmation class will begin Sunday, November 1st; there will be a sign-up sheet available. The Preschool Classroom will be closed Sunday mornings; discussions are underway of where children can worship on Sunday mornings. Discipleship Sunday will be Sunday, November 22nd; everyone is encouraged to bring family and friends to church that day. Pastor Godfred will be on vacation September 28-October 22. Pastor Neinstedt and Susan Lyons will lead church services and Pastor Christopher Frey from St. Luke's will provide emergency pastoral coverage. Amy Piper will be on vacation September 28 and 29. The new printer was placed into service in the church office on September 9th. Pastor's Conference will meet at Memorial Lutheran Church on December 8th and a meal will be provided by the FaHoLo class.

Finance Ministry reports will be reviewed next month.

Nominating Committee reported that a ballot will be submitted to Council at the November church council meeting for approval.

Church Property reported that a contractor site visit was held and we will be able to reuse and repurpose our existing door with modifications and install an aluminum ramp at the Orange St/Penn St door. They are awaiting a proposal from the contractor and would like to obtain a proposal from another contractor. In early 2027, a sub-committee will be formed to address a new church sign along Orange St; a family noted an interest in assisting with the cost of the new sign. The elevator door is closing too quickly; a service call will be placed to address this. Key fobs will be reviewed to grant access vs. access and disarming the alarm system; updates will be made as appropriate.

Continued from page 4

Safety Task Force reported that all AED units have been mounted, a 3rd unit is being purchased and placards will be ordered for the 2nd floor. The Life Vac choking device is hung on the wall in Fellowship Hall.

Stewardship Ministry reminded everyone of the 9/15/2026 Dine to Donate fundraiser at Jersey Mike's and the upcoming BBQ/Bake Sale on Saturday, October 24th at H&H – baked goods and volunteers are needed for the October event.

Archives Committee Open House was held Sunday, 9/13th after the community luncheon. The event was well attended and received. The Committee extended a special thank you to Amy Piper and Matt Creek for all their help preparing for the open house. The Archives Committee was asked to hold an open house each quarter of the year. Individuals wanting to submit items to the Archives should remember to put their name on the item and to provide names/dates for photos submitted. Archive donations can be placed into the church office Archive mailbox. Committee members are available to meet with and assist members with finding archived records as needed.

Preschool Committee reported currently there are 10 students and 5 people are on the substitute teacher list. The Preschool Advisory Committee needs one preschool parent to join and the Preschool Advisory Committee will begin holding meetings. The Committee reported everyone is settling in well to the classroom and new routines. Their first learning unit is "All About Me" where the students learn about who we are and what makes each of us special. They will be learning about the five senses (sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch) and will also explore and learn about apples through books, art and of course some delicious apple fun!

SPO/Katie's Place reported that the Hound Packs will now be working with SPO out of Katie's Place building. They will prepare on Wednesday evenings and distribute on Thursdays.

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 Councill will be Monday, October 12, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Karin Vargo
Congregation Vice President

CHURCH COUNCIL

KEEP IN PRAYER

Rachel Diaz Debias
Paula Ford
Pamela Hamilton
Sandy Jones

Mary Mensah
Ed Pearson
Francine Ritter
Ron Shuey

Wendy & Ross Thoman
Whitney Vargo
Sue Williams

Prayer Focus: Farmers & Harvest



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



August 2026				
FUND	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE	YTD
CURRENT	$26,280	$29,888	($3,608)	($13,384)
	Income	Paid		Needed to be paid
BENEVOLENCE	$3,996	0.00	$3,996	$4,502

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Hayden McCole	9	Deb Luffy	24	Betsy Haller
2	Wendy Buterbaugh	10	Linda Basler	26	Ron Madison
3	Eva Nye	12	Liam Creek	27	Ed Straley
5	Jess Alspaugh	16	Alyvia Kyle	30	Eleanor Povilaitis
6	Evan Kyle	17	Tyler Gossert	30	Cynthia Unger
6	Robert Creek	17	Bella Sailhamer		

FAITH FORMATION



Faith formation encompasses the process by which we grow in our faith. It is an on-going spiritual journey at our parish that offers us the opportunity to ask questions and find answers, so we can grow in understanding the daily invitation to deepen our relationship with God and neighbors through learning, reflection, and action. Faith formation is for all of us who are called to follow the Lord.

The primary purpose of the physical Church is to nurture and form its members' faith, helping them live it out in the world. Worship, as the central communal act, is the most common and impactful experience of faith formation, where we encounter God through liturgy, prayer, and sacraments. Beyond worship, faith is also shaped through educational programs, small groups, fellowship activities, and service projects, all of which foster deeper understanding, personal reflection, and communal support. These experiences, whether through learning or building relationships, contribute to well-rounded spiritual development that encourages us to live out our faith in everyday life as disciples of Jesus. The church, therefore, serves as a spiritual home where faith is continually formed, lived, and shared. Here at Memorial, we have many faith formation opportunities, and I hope you will be involved in our many ministries. You are also invited to join us for;

Sunday School: This faith formation for children and adults begins at 9:00 A.M. every Sunday to 10:00 A.M

Weekly Bible Study: Our Bible study class meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 A.M., where we study, learn, and share the knowledge and splendor of Scripture. Starting Sunday, November 3, 2026, come, let us "walk with Mary, the mother of Jesus, *through a biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross of Jesus Christ*. This will be an interesting study, and I invite available parishioners to join.

New Confirmation Class: Confirmation is an opportunity for candidates to affirm the promises their parents made for them during their baptism. Confirmation celebrates the fullness of the Holy Spirit conferred upon the individual at baptism. Confirmation classes offer middle school students and anyone who has not been confirmed the opportunity to learn about their faith as they prepare to become mature, active members of their faith community.

In this new confirmation class at Memorial, Pastor and other adults passionate about youth formation will serve as mentors and Confirmation leaders. During Confirmation classes, candidates and their leaders will explore together deeply how to be a faithful disciple of Jesus. We will study Luther's Small Catechism, which includes the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession, and more. We will also study the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Martin Luther's life. Last, but not least, we will learn about what it means to become an active adult member of Memorial Lutheran Church.

Our New Confirmation Class will begin on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. Classes will be held at the Parlor or Library. Contact Pastor Godfred or pick up a registration form from the table at the church entrance.

FUNDRAISING



Meal tickets will be sold here on these Sunday mornings: October 4, 11 & 18 and also on the day of the fundraiser. Bake Sale donations are needed. Suggestions are: pies, breads, sticky buns, cookies & brownies. Bake Sale donations should be brought to the church on Friday, October 23rd between 8:00 am – 1:00 pm or by 8:00 am on Saturday, October 24th. A car wash will also be offered, weather permitting at $10 per car. All supplies being provided by H & H Chevrolet. Volunteers are needed to sell meal tickets and baked goods and assist with washing cars. Please sign up to volunteer to help and to indicate you will be bringing baked goods. Sign-up sheets are on the counter across from the church office.

OUTREACH

WHAT'S for LUNCH? – ***SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th***



Cooler temperatures outside = the gathering of warm hearts with family and friends around the table for good food. On the menu this month is turkey tetrazzini, pasta with sauce and meatballs, tossed salad, bread, fruit and beverages. Sweet treats and delectable donations from your kitchen are always most welcomed. *Please join us for this special time of fellowship*! ✝



Memorial Lutheran is joining in this year's effort to fill backpacks to be given out at the 2026 Homeless Memorial Blanket Initiative in New York City on Dec. 21st, the longest night of the year. Memorial has several backpacks available to fill to contribute to this effort. A box will be placed in the front of Fellowship Hall for your donated items. Here are suggested items: warm socks, fast-food gift card, hats, granola bars, scarves, can opener, gloves, toiletries, hand sanitizer, pain relievers, reuseable water bottle, sunscreen, Ziploc bags. Please bring items by Sunday, November 15th. <u>See insert for complete details.</u>



THANK YOU for your generous contributions to our God's Work, Our Hands Ingathering for Hope Academy, Guatemala.

AD 2026 PARISH YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"
Acts 1:8

The message above from the second volume of St. Luke's gospel called Acts of the Apostles leads us to three truths, namely;
The Holy Spirit: Believers receive inner strength and spiritual power from God.
Being Witnesses: Followers share the message and story of Jesus with others.
Global Mission: The spread of the gospel starts locally and moves outward to the whole world

Like the disciples, you and I have been chosen to act as witnesses, telling the truth about what we have come to know and believe about Jesus and his salvific plan for all humanity.

As we gradually bring our Parish Year of Discipleship to an end, I wonder how ready we are, as members of Memorial, to be the disciples willing and ready to respond to the message in Acts 1:8, the MISSIONAL MANDATE?

How many people in your circle have you shared the joy of the gospel with? How many people have you tried to invite to Church?

What Are the Personal Responsibilities of Disciples?

Personal Evangelism and Witness
Share the Gospel: Believers have a personal duty to talk about their faith and tell others about Jesus.
Live an Example: Actions and daily behavior should reflect Christian teachings, so others see a positive difference.
Pray for Others: Members should pray for the salvation and spiritual well-being of friends, family, and neighbors

Welcoming and Hospitality
Invite People: Actively invite neighbors, coworkers, and acquaintances to attend church services or events.
Be Friendly: Greet first-time visitors warmly, learn their names, and help them feel comfortable.
Assist Guests: Guide visitors to their seats, introduce them to leaders, and answer basic questions.

Discipleship and Integration
Build Relationships: Foster genuine community connections so newcomers feel like a part of the church family.
Disciple New Believers: Help guide new members as they learn the basics of faith and integrate into church life.

AD 2026 PARISH YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP

ARE YOU READY FOR DISCIPLESHIP SUNDAY?

What Is Discipleship Sunday?



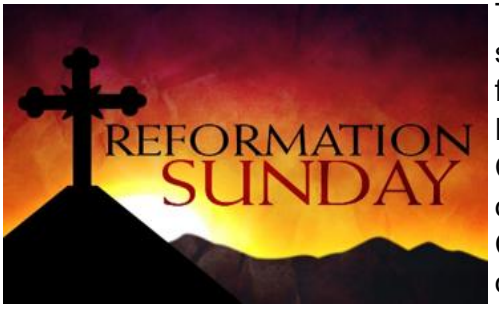
Discipleship in our ELCA tradition is a lifelong journey of following Jesus Christ, living out the good news in daily life, and serving others in community. It also involves helping someone become like Christ. To be a disciple of Christ is to become like Christ in everything. Throughout this liturgical year, we have talked about our call to discipleship and the mandate to make disciples for the Lord.

As we bring our parish Year of Discipleship 2026 to an end on the last Sunday of the liturgical year (**November 22, 2026**), we have to remember and understand that the year of discipleship may come to an end, but our call to discipleship is a lifelong walking with Christ and therefore does not end.

That said, on Sunday, November 22, 2026, the Solemnity of Christ the King, each of us is expected to invite someone to church in thanksgiving to God and in celebration of our common call to discipleship. *Mark your calendar and start thinking about who you plan to invite to church.*

WELCOME THE REV. RUSSELL ROCKWELL ON REFORMATION SUNDAY

Reformation Sunday in 2026 falls on October 25, 2026, the last Sunday in October, which is the traditional date ELCA congregations observe it. Memorial Lutheran church and all ELCA churches will use this day to remember Martin Luther's 95



Theses and the ongoing call to reform, with special music, red vestments, and readings focused on grace, faith, and Scripture. The Rev. Russell Rockwell, a son of Memorial Lutheran Church who just retired from our Lower Susquehanna Synod's Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church in Lancaster, will be our guest preacher during this year's Reformation Sunday liturgy.

ARCHIVES



We want to thank the Fellowship Committee for the very nice meal on September 13th and for everyone who joined us at the Archives Open House. Hopefully, you may have found an ancestor and learned more about Memorial's long history.

At this point, we are asking Church members to submit any articles that may be of use to our documents collection. Please submit your name, the date of the article, names of people involved and any background information. Please place the articles in the Archives' mailbox in the Church Office.



Women of the ELCA

The October meeting of Women of the ELCA will be held on Wednesday, October 21 at Noon in Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch, and hostess, Jan Nichols will provide dessert. Susan Lyons will lead the Bible Study. September's offering will be given to Lutheran World Relief.

The 3-part Fall Bible study is entitled "Bold Faith on an unexpected journey." October's study, "Choosing Loyalty, Finding Love" focuses on Ruth, a Moabite widow, chooses to remain with her mother-in-law Naomi and step into an unknown future. Her bold faith is revealed in loyalty, courage and openness to God's provision. In Ruth's story, we see how God weaves love, community and promise through even the most uncertain paths. This session invites participants to reflect on the risks of faith, the gift of relationships and the ways God works through everyday loyalty to bring forth extraordinary love. Scripture for this Bible Study can be found in Ruth 1:1–22; 2:8–12; 4:13-17.

Women of the ELCA is open to all women, regardless of church affiliation. We welcome all women to join us for fellowship and Bible study.

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.

Have you heard of Summer-ween? Summer is barely over, and Halloween items have been on the store shelves for weeks.? Holidays seem to crowd closer together every year. SPO has already begun Thanksgiving planning and ordering. Last year we served almost 500 families; this year with the increase in new registrations plus rising prices for groceries and gas, we are preparing for 600 families. Our distribution date is set for November 10 with an inclement weather date of November 17.

Better Together was a huge success with agencies, churches, food, entertainment and a petting zoo. The mayor issued a proclamation for Hunger Action Month thanking the many volunteers who strive to reduce food insecurity in our community.

SPO has joined with Shippensburg Community Resource Community Coalition to provide space and support for the Hound Packs Program which provides a backpack or bag containing seven meals to food-insecure K-12 students in the Shippensburg Area School District. Food bags are given to students at the end of the day on Fridays at school. Alternative pickup options exist for homeschooled or remote students. Children ages 18 and under (Kindergarten through 12th grade) living within the Shippensburg Area School District are eligible. We look forward to this partnership.

Our Client Choice program opened in June and will continue every Wednesday from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The program looks a lot like SPO prior to the huge influx of families during covid. Our 60+ population can come to the warehouse and select their food items from the same choices provided on Tuesday. This process reduces waste and allows clients to select food that best fits any dietary restrictions.



We continue to appreciate the abundance of the growing season and all the healthy produce we can gather for our neighbors. Come join us any Tuesday! We welcome your support and prayers.

PRESCHOOL



"Our first month has been filled with fun, discovery, and getting to know one another! We have been learning our classroom routines, making new friends, and becoming comfortable in our classroom community. We have also been exploring our five senses through hands-on activities, discovering how we use our eyes, ears, nose, hands, and mouths to learn about the world around us. A favorite activity was when we used all five senses to make and enjoy popcorn! It has been a wonderful first month of learning, growing, and building our classroom family."











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



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

Capture the Flag Spectacular - Kirchenwald
October 4 at 3:00 pm

Tuesday AM Work Day - Nawakwa
October 6 at 9:00 am

Adult Study Retreat - Nawakwa
October 6-8
"Becoming All Things" & "The Mostly True Story of Tanner & Louise"

Fall Foliage Day - Nawakwa & Kirchenwald
October 18 at 1:00 pm

Autumn Dinner Church - The Wittel Farm
October 25 from 5 pm - 7pm

Annual Quilt Auction - Nawakwa
November 1 at 2:00 pm

CHURCH Camp

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.