Christ Calls

The Monthly Newsletter of Memorial Lutheran Church

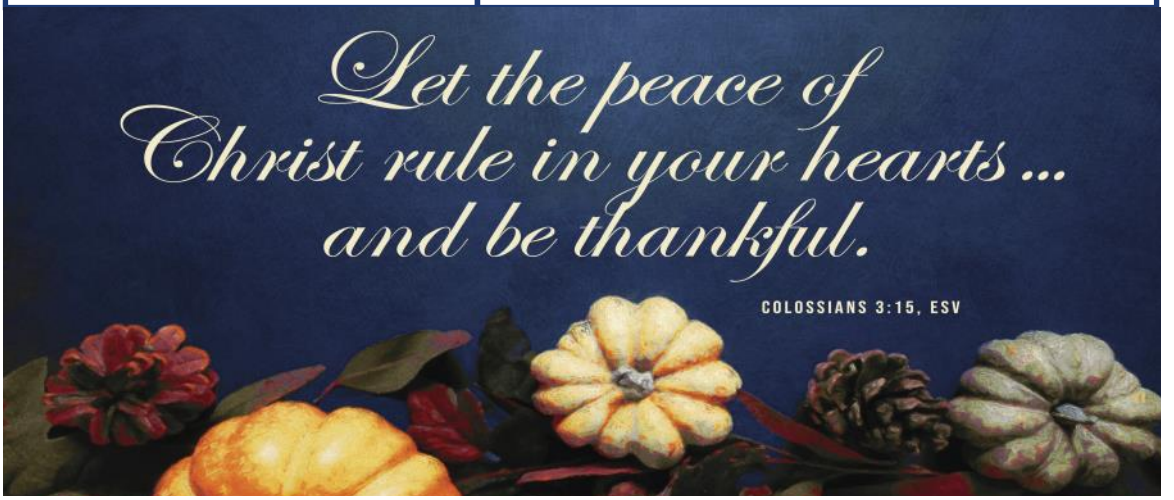
November 2026

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Dates To Remember

November 1	Quiet Service - 8:00 am
	Sunday School/Coffee Hour- 9:00 am
	Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
	All Saints Sunday Luncheon - 11:30 am
November 7	Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner - 4:00 pm
November 8	Quiet Service - 8:00 am
	Sunday School/Coffee Hour - 9:00 am
	Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
	Children & Youth Group Roller Skating
November 9	Church Council Meeting - 6:30 pm
November 15	Worship/Live Stream Service - 9:00 am
	Congregational Meeting - 10:30 am
November 18	Women of the ELCA - 12:00 pm
November 22	Quiet Service - 8:00 am
	Sunday School/Coffee Hour - 9:00 am
	Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am
	Fellowship & Refreshments - 11:30 am
November 25	Thanksgiving Eve Service - 7:00 pm
November 29	Quiet Service - 8:00 am
	Sunday School/Coffee Hour - 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



717-532-4614
www.memluth.org
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

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Blessings and welcome to the month of November. As the liturgical year ends with the Feast of Christ the King and we transition into the Advent season, I think it is only right that we focus on the themes of gratitude, thanksgiving, and stewardship.

Gratitude can make our lives more peaceful and meaningful. Gratitude means appreciating the people, moments, and little things we often take for granted. Gratitude helps us to notice the good things that already exist in our lives. Sometimes we focus so much on what we don't have that we forget to value what we do. A grateful heart finds happiness even in simple moments. Gratitude also makes our relationships stronger. Saying thank you, appreciating, and recognizing their efforts can make people feel valued and respected. Life becomes more beautiful when we learn to appreciate what we have instead of always wanting more. For this reason, I come to you with a heart filled with gratitude for our ministry together and the many ways you enrich my life and faith as your servant leader.

As we prepare to celebrate our National Day of Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 26, we are reminded, both as individuals and as a congregation, to be thankful not only in good times but through all seasons of life. Michelle and I thank God for his many blessings and thank you for all your love and support. During this Thanksgiving season, as farmers give thanks for a bountiful yield, as in the old days, let us pause and ask ourselves: What, by divine grace, has been safely gathered in our lives, and sheltered from life's storms? What relationships have been restored? What health problems have been cleared up? I'm sure some of you are nodding and saying, "Yes! Yes! Thanks be to God for all God has done!" To those who are celebrating, I say, AMEN! But while we celebrate, others are mourning and grieving, asking themselves, "How long, O Lord, must I endure?" If that's your situation, I want to tell you today: do not be discouraged; keep trusting in God because he has not forgotten you and is not alien to your struggles.

Stewardship and generosity are at the heart of the season of thanksgiving. As we express gratitude and offer thanks to God and others, we must shift our focus from scarcity to God's abundance. This awareness encourages us to be mindful of the less privileged people around us, support neighbors, and care for those facing health challenges and those who have lost loved ones in the course of the year. Thank you, fellow disciples on the way with the Lord. May those around us experience our gratitude and thanksgiving to God during this wonderful season.



Peace, Godfred!

COUNCIL

Church Council met Monday, October 12, 2026. The meeting was called to order and Concerns and Thanksgivings were shared. Thanksgiving was given for Susan Lyon's son and his family's safe return to North Carolina.

Beth Houser shared the devotion "Shining" from *The Word and Season* and read scripture from Psalm 34:1-7. Beth gave the opening prayer.

There was no pastor report as Pastor Godfred was on vacation.

Finance Ministry reported the checking account ending balance was $19,802.69 which includes about $7,000 of benevolence that will be paid at the end of the month; October has an approximate $3,000 bill to get the boilers ready for the heating season; Net income of -$13,654.07 is about the same amount as it was at the end of August this year and Net income of $1,571.04 in Designated Receipts is Memorial Funds not yet expended. Council approved $150 deposit to reserve December 11, 2027 for a Hershey Handbell Ensemble concert. Finance needs to determine if the Coy Concert Fund will be paying the remaining balance of $1,745.00 which is due to the Hershey Handbell Ensemble one week after the concert. A free will offering will be collected at the concert and Memorial can keep the funds received. Lastly, Finance Ministry provided details of the 2027 Budget:

1. The totals on the Profit & Loss Budget Overview is only showing totals from the main budget categories.

2. The budget was created using the 2026 expenses through the end of September and then extrapolated those numbers for the rest of the year not including any extraneous items that might be needed.

3. Pastor's salary was created following the Synod recommendation and then benefits for Pastor are predicated on salary; Pastor's health insurance is up about $2,000 this coming year which is about $15,000 and 12% pension is according to guidelines which is approximately $9,500.

4. Noting a -$22,331 net income on the budget where expenses don't meet income. This deficit is approximately $7,000 higher than year-end last year.

President Ron Luffy reminded Council that advance meal tickets are available for the BBQ Fundraiser being held on October 24th at H&H Chevrolet which will be advertised on their electronic sign, and volunteers are needed to help out at this event. The Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 10:30 am; there will be only one worship service that day at 9:00 am.

Nominating Ministry submitted the ballot to Council and it was approved. Letters will be sent to the individuals asking them to submit biographical information to be shared with the congregation.

Church Property reported a power outage before Sunday morning worship causing the alarm to go off and the police responded to the alarm. Church Property will be looking for a different elevator service contractor due to pricing concerns.

Stewardship Ministry reminded everyone of the "Coach's Corner" Food Truck BBQ Fundraiser (Pulled Pork or Beef Brisket), Bake Sale, and Car Wash on Saturday, October 24th at H&H Chevrolet and Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner Fundraiser will be Saturday, November 7th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Susan Lyons is currently preparing the sauerkraut.

Preschool presented for approval the members of the Preschool Advisory Committee: Larry Basler, Beth Houser, Deb Luffy, Cindy Pimental, Ed Straley, Emily Crider and one non-voting Preschool parent, Council approved.

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, November 9, 2026

Respectfully submitted,
Karin Vargo
Congregation Vice President

Council Notes

November 1st is our "All Saints Sunday" Service during the 10:00 am worship service when we will remember those who have joined "The Church Triumphant" in the past year. Family members of those being remembered are encouraged to bring a photo of their loved one to display during the "All Saints Sunday" fellowship meal which will follow the 10:00 am service.

During the All Saints Sunday Service we will remember: Evelyn Fuller, Marshall Mailey, Maxine Enderlein, William "Bill" Wilson, Jr., Alicia Shaffer, Shirllinda "Cricket" Force, Karen Larson, Gordon Chen, Elizabeth Basler Wilson, Robert Clark Sr., Joan Boxler



WHAT'S for LUNCH? – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1st
Cooler weather invites warm smiles and hungry people for a meal with comfort food. Included on the menu is hearty soups and sloppy joes, pasta salad, fruit and beverages. Contributions of your desserts are all always appreciated and enjoyed. As we gather on this All Saints Sunday for lunch, let us give thanks for all those members of our church family, past and present. Sharing their life stories keeps them and their example of their faith alive for us. †

KEEP IN PRAYER

Jerry Cramer
Rachel Diaz Debias
Paula Ford
Pamela Hamilton
Sandy Jones
Ben/Sue Kauffman
Mary Mensah
Ed Pearson
Francine Ritter
Ron Shuey
Sara
Wendy & Ross Thoman
Sue Williams
Prayer Focus: Disaster Relief



Please keep Robert Clark, Jr. & family in prayer in the death of his father, Robert Clark, Sr. on September 30th.
Please keep Sarah Creek & family in prayer in the death of her grandmother, Joan Boxler on October 23rd.

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



September 2026				
FUND	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE	YTD
CURRENT	$19,888	$20,158	($270)	($13,654)
	Income	Paid		Needed to be paid
BENEVOLENCE	$4,384	0.00	$4,384	$8,886

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Scott Railing
4 Keri Evans
6 Dorothy Railing **(93)**
7 Karin Vargo
7 Hailey Robinson
10 Linda Lyons
10 John Cox
10 Karen Still
11 Jackson Perdew
11 Alaina Perdew
12 Chad Brindle
14 Kaycee Cox
15 Leea Booz
16 Madeline Goodhart
18 Makenzie Drake
20 Kay Heller
23 Douglas Lyons
23 Andrew McCole
24 Kiersten Linn
24 Joshua Buterbaugh
24 Terri Hilbinger
25 Lori Sailhamer
27 Richard Brindlle
28 Benjamin Barklow
29 Connie Schneider
30 Kurtis Vargo

FUNDRAISING



PORK & Sauerkraut DINNER
Saturday, November 7, 2026
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Memorial Lutheran Church
Cost: By Donation

Thanks to everyone who supported the October 24th BBQ / Bake Sale / Car Wash Fundraiser!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Jersey Mike's Dine to Donate Fundraiser on September 15th. We received a check for $500 from Jersey Mikes!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be one Worship service on Sunday, November 15th at 9:00 am with the Annual Congregational Meeting following at 10:30 am. The agenda will be to vote on the 2027 Church Council Nominations and the 2027 Church Spending Plan.



<u>2027 Church Council Nominations are:</u>
Elder: Susan Wenger
Deacon: Hope Alspaugh, Linda Eves, Ron Luffy, Jan Nichols
Trustee: Matthew Creek, Marlin Gruver

ON CLOSING THE YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP



As we bring the liturgical year to an end and prepare to close the curtain on our Parish Year of Discipleship, I invite you to reflect on what kind of disciple you have become or are becoming after a yearlong period of reflection, prayers, and reminders that a call to discipleship is a lifelong journey with Christ Jesus and that we are ultimately called to discipleship and not membership.

Can you say at the end of this liturgical year that you have grown in your understanding of yourself as a disciple of Jesus Christ? Have you seen growth in your relationship with Christ in character and conduct? Are you demonstrating more love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control? Have you belonged, magnified, served, grown, managed, shared, and multiplied in faith and in your relationship with others? **Discipleship is about relationship, relationship, relationship!**

One of our youths asked me before I left for vacation, "When does discipleship end?" My answer was obvious; it never ends until we are with Jesus, simply because discipleship is a lifelong pursuit of following Jesus. We are called and made disciples, and we are sent out with the help of the Holy Spirit to make disciples for the Lord who commissioned us.

Closing a year of discipleship involves reflecting on spiritual growth, practicing gratitude, and looking forward to the next steps of faith rather than treating discipleship as a finished or "graduated" milestone. Hence, our Parish Year of Discipleship will close, but our call to discipleship will never end until Christ comes.

Let us pray,

Heavenly Father, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude as we conclude this Year of Discipleship in our parish family. We thank you for the ways you have moved among us, for the hearts stirred, the faith deepened, and the community strengthened. Thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, who called us by name to follow Him. Lord Jesus, as this dedicated year comes to a close, we know that our journey as disciples does not end. The gospel we have heard and lived must now be carried out into the very community from which you called us. Bless our Memorial Lutheran family and continue to pour your Holy Spirit upon us as your disciples. Grant us the courage to witness to your love in our church, our homes, our workplaces, and our wider community. May the seeds of discipleship planted this year continue to bear fruit for your Kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCIPLESHIP SUNDAY

DISCIPLESHIP SUNDAY ~ NOVEMBER 22, 2026

On the last Sunday of the Liturgical year, which also marks the Solemnity of Christ the King, we will celebrate **DISCIPLESHIP SUNDAY**. As part of this celebration, we encourage everyone to invite friends and family to worship with us here at Memorial. As we gather in worship, we will culminate our parish year of Discipleship celebration, emphasizing the biblical call of every believer to follow Jesus and make disciples. At the core of our celebration will be the reminder that THE YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP MAY COME TO AN END, BUT THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP WILL NEVER END UNTIL CHRIST COMES.

FAITH FORMATION

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 on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, we will 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 parishioners who are available to join.

Sunday School: This faith formation for children and adults begins at 9:00 A.M. every Sunday and ends at 9:45 A.M. All our parishioners are encouraged to participate in our Sunday school program.

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 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 member of Memorial Lutheran Church.

OUTREACH



$653.00 was received for the Hope Academy Guatemala Student's Black Shoe Fund.

SAVE your coins for the November 15th Noisy Offering to be sent to Global Outreach International to support Christian schools, school students and school staff in Haiti. Steve and Amy Piper (our Parish Coordinator) are Mission Project Coordinators for these ministries in Haiti. They will be giving a Temple Talk about these ministries during the 10:00 am worship service on Sunday, November 8th.

GLOBAL OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL



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. We are filling several backpacks toward this effort.

Please place donations in the designated box in the front of Fellowship Hall by Sunday, November 15th. 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.

ADVENT SEASON

The Advent season in 2026 begins on Sunday, November 29, 2026, and ends on Thursday, December 24, 2026 (Christmas Eve). Advent awakens us not only for the birth of Christ but also for the beginning of a new year in the Church. With Christ's coming, let us start anew as disciples of Jesus.

Advent has a twofold character. It is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which we remember the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity, and likewise a time when, by remembering this, our minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

Like Lent, Advent is a season of preparation, repentance, and regality. Blue is the color of Advent, symbolizing hope, anticipation, creation, and the Virgin Mary, while visually distinguishing the season from the penitential focus of Lent. In Lent, we focus our meditation on Christ's suffering during His 40 days in the desert, leading up to His crucifixion and sacrifice of Love for us. In Advent, blue adorns churches as we await the coming of the true King. Advent is a season for faith exploration and inner search of the mind and heart. This Advent, we will not count the days leading to Christmas; rather, we will walk with Mary and Joseph in preparation for the birth of Christ.

ADVENT SUNDAY SERVICES

Our Advent Sundays will not have a special theme this year rather, they will follow the tradition of weekly themes for the four Sundays. These traditional Advent weekly themes will help us proclaim and live as people who are expecting the Messiah. Through meditation, prayer, and scripture reading, these themes will help us contemplate ways to share our deepest gifts of hope and faith, peace, love, and joy as disciples of Jesus.



ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

Our Advent Midweek services, themed "*Advent Songs of our Salvation*," will focus on the profound canticles and prophetic songs leading to and during the birth of the Christ. Through this series, we will listen to the Voice of the Prophets and sing with Mary (Magnificat), Zachariah (Benedictus), Simeon (Nunc Dimittis), and the Angels (Gloria in Excelsis Deo) in anticipation of and in fulfillment of Christ's coming.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children & Youth Group are going ROLLER SKATING on Sunday, November 8th (time to be determined). The church will pay for the children/youth that will be participating. Please sign your name to the sign-up sheet found on the counter across from the church office to let us know you will be coming.





The Children's Christmas Nativity Program will be Sunday, December 20th during the 10:00 am Worship Service. *(There will not be an 8:00 am Quiet Service this day.)* The children will wear costumes for the program. There will be several practices prior to the program. Please sign up your child to participate in the program by speaking with Hope Alspaugh, Pastor Godfred or Amy Piper, Parish Coordinator, in the church office at 717-532-4614 or office@memluth.org.



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

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

Tuesday Morning Work Day - Nawakwa
November 3 at 9:00 am

NWK Parent's Group - Nawakwa
November 7 at 10:00 am

Women's Craft Retreat - Nawakwa
November 13-15



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.

SPO continues to serve at over 450 families every week, we celebrate the blessings that have come our way – a new full-time staff member, awesome volunteers, grants, donations, partners, supporters, and prayers.

As a reminder, the Thanksgiving distribution will be held November 10th, and we are planning for at least 600 families. On that date we will distribute a box of traditional Thanksgiving food plus food for the week. Our families will also receive a gift card to a Weis to select the meat or alternative of their choice. Traffic will be very heavy from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, so we encourage everyone to avoid the area during this time. OR – come help us. Join the Greyhound, Shippo the Hippo, the Chick-fil-A cow, a dairy princess, and some surprises. No live animals will be included again this year.

SPO again will be offering our Blessing Basket during this holiday season. 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. Look for the bright green forms and the descriptions of the items which can be found in our church bulletin or in the church office.

As we head into the holidays, may we resist the stress and embrace the true spirit of the season!

In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give; it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with the richness of gratitude!



PRESCHOOL



October has been a wonderful month in preschool! Our preschoolers have been busy exploring, discovering, and enjoying all the fun that fall has to offer.

One of the highlights of our month was a special visit from the West End Fire Department! The children enjoyed learning about fire safety, seeing the fire truck up close, and meeting the firefighters who help keep our community safe. It was a fun and memorable learning experience for everyone!





We also enjoyed a special field trip to Country Creek Produce Farm! The children had a wonderful time experiencing the sights and excitement of fall while making memories together. They loved getting to scoop out the insides and explore the pumpkin back in our classroom. It was the perfect way to celebrate the season!



We are so thankful for these special opportunities for our preschoolers to learn and grow together. We look forward to more fun, friendship, and learning as we head into November!

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



Wednesday, November 25th
7:00 pm
Join us for a service of thanksgiving!

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.