

November

# THE MESSIAH HERALD



## NOVEMBER 2023

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 South Third Street, Mifflintown, PA 17059

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PASTOR – Rev. Samuel Leister – [mlcsleister@gmail.com](mailto:mlcsleister@gmail.com)

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SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:15 AM

WORSHIP, COMMUNION, & JR. CHURCH – 10:30 AM

Facebook LIVE Each Week

Children's Sermons are offered every Sunday!

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[pageborders.org](http://pageborders.org)

# **"Growing God's Love"**

## The Messiah Herald



### **THE PASTORS PONDERINGS**

Dear Messiah Family,

Please read the following verses:

<sup>7</sup>“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens: <sup>8</sup>“I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.”

And this verse:

<sup>1</sup>After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here,”

One common denominator of these passages is the “open door” found within this scripture. The door is open, and no one will shut this door. We see in the first selection that these are the words of the holy one, the genuine (true) one who has the authority (key) of David, and who opens the door. Who is the holy one? None other than Jesus, the Son of God is the one speaking to us.

The door is the door of Heaven, open to all believers. Jesus tells us that he is the way, the truth, and the life. Therefore, Jesus also is the door, the door which is always open, open to all who believe.

The first passage is from Revelation, chapter 3, and the second line is the first verse of chapter 4. The Book of Revelation reveals so much of the Gospel, the Good News of God’s salvation, grace, and love. When we break through the imagery depicted throughout these scriptures, we see once more God’s nature in the gift of Jesus the lamb who was “slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation.” (Revelation 5:9)

Let us pray:

God of glory, you have chosen to walk in our midst. For that we give you our thanks. God of might, you embrace weakness in order to make your love known to us. For that we give you our thanks. God of majesty, you are present with us whether our lives Are full of joy or over washed with pain. For all these things we give you our worship and praise. Amen.

*Pastor Sam Leister*

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

The Family of Dan Brackbill	Sylva Grimm	Betty Ranck
Steve & Linda Bahorik	Fred Gross	Keith Ranck
Jeremy Barnes	Hannah Hart	Dave Reed
Ryan Barr	Nox Hepburn	Diane Rowles
Donna Barton	Judy Hosler	Kelley Rusenko
Gary Bechtold	Erin Husler	Ron & Arlene Shearer
Linda Brouse	Terry Imes	Joyce & Todd Spangler
Andrea Cameron	Annie Ingle	Barry Strawser
Terry Coder	Guy Kerstetter	Vicki Suoja
Rob Davis	Jesse Kint	Tonya Tabb
Fred & Dot Dowling	Carlen McClure	Dorothy Towsey
Kim Dumais	Alice McClure	Molly Ulsh
Freda Durio	Andi McDanel	Doug Wagner
Cathy Dysinger	Cecilia Miller	Roscoe Warner
Renee Dzikowski	Ellwood Miller	Florence Williams
Kevin Fetterhoof	Larry Miller	Jim & Heidi Woltman
Neil & Pat Fisher	Shirley Miller	Gary Zeiders
Bentley Fulkroad	Claire Mummah	Paul Zeiders
Terri Gayer	Carole Nace	George Zimmerman
Deb Geedey	Donna Parks	Linda Zimmerman
Bob & Eddi Kay Gill	Ron & Linda (Kerchner) Parks	
Sheree Goss	Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine	

## AND FOR OUR SHUT INS

### BROOKLINE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

(92 VILLAGE DRIVE, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Jane Marhefka

### MAGNOLIA PERSONAL CARE CENTER

(68 LEXI STREET, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Rich Smith

### HONNEMAN HOUSE

(58 HONNEMAN HOUSE DR, THOMPSONTOWN, PA 17094)

Ruth Cisney

Ray Bramm

(Apt. #112)

(Apt. #108)

### WILLIAM PENN HEALTHCARE AND REHAB CENTER

(163 SUMMIT DRIVE, LEWISTOWN, PA 17044)

Ona Stoner

### AT HOME

Edith Nipple

1482 William Penn Hwy.

Mifflintown, PA 17059

## PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Pastor Leister at [mlcsleister@gmail.com](mailto:mlcsleister@gmail.com). Also, if anyone has any needs or concerns, please contact Pastor Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Pastor Leister know as well. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at [mlcsleister@gmail.com](mailto:mlcsleister@gmail.com).

## BLANKET SUNDAY UPDATE

An update to our Blanket Sunday, held on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. A total of **225** quilts, sewn by "The Needlers," **48** school kits, **187** bars of soap, and **8** personal care kits were sent to Lutheran World Relief. Also, total money donated came to \$597.00! Thanks to everyone who collected items for the kits!

## UPCOMING SERVANTS

### ALTAR GUILD

October 30 to November 12

..... Sandy Pines and Michelle Stoner

November 13 to December 10

..... Diana Wise & Cynthia Smith

### MANNA MAKERS

November 5 ..... Jenn Hutchinson

November 19 ..... Tammy Brackbill

November 26 ..... Jean Berry

### LECTORS

November 5 ..... Haley Mummah

November 12 ..... Andrea Cameron

November 19 ..... Barb Geedey

November 26 ..... Diana Wise

### ACOLYTES

November 5 ..... Julia Martin & Thea Beward

November 12 ..... Gabby & Sofia Reed

November 19... Olivia Mummah & Braedon Walton

November 26 ..... Evan Miller & Carter Ehrisman

### COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS

November 5

... Paige Martin, Brea Beward, & Haley Mummah

November 12

... Hannah Ehrisman, Stella Reed, & Hope Miller

November 19

..... Harrison & Haley Mummah, & Nick Reed

November 26

..... Hope & Grace Miller, & Stella Reed

### FLOWERS

November 5... Sandy Pines, Dan & Michelle Stoner

November 12 ..... Sabrina Shipp

November 19 ..... OPEN

November 26 ..... Tammy Brackbill

## STORE GIFT CARDS

Weis and Giant gift cards are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a particularly important outreach ministry that

helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

## CHRIST IN OUR HOME

A reminder to anyone who would like a daily devotional to jump start their day. There are plenty of devotionals in “Christ in our Home,” which can be picked up in the church office or in the Adult Sunday School Room and are FREE!

## THANK YOU!

Our thanks to “The Needlers” for sewing all of the lovely quilts you saw on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and for decorating the chancel and nave with those quilts. Those quilts were then donated by “The Needlers” as their Blanket Sunday offering. Blankets/quilts, school kits, and personal care kits were taken to Faith Lutheran Church in Lewisburg, PA on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. The quilts will be sent from Lewisburg to Lutheran World Relief and also given to Messiah members who are currently in nursing homes. The “homemade” covers on the altar and lecterns were made by Carole Nace and will be on display and used through November’s weekly services.



Thank you to Messiah for the lovely altar flowers. A special thank you to Tammy Smith for delivering the flowers to us. -Warren & Claire Mummah

## WELCOME!!

On Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed Sabrina Shipp into the fellowship of our congregation. We are delighted to have her become a part of the Messiah family! Welcome Sabrina!!!

# JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY NOVEMBER UPDATE



Dear Friends, here we are careening through the calendar towards Thanksgiving. Our stockpile of Thanksgiving and Christmas foods is growing steadily, but we are still in need of certain items to be used to pack 350 or more Thanksgiving boxes for local families by our distribution date of Nov 18. We would be so grateful for your help.

In September we assisted 236 families (645 individuals). Many thanks to Trinity United Methodist Church for providing volunteers for September.

## HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS-ITEMS STILL NEEDED:

Turkeys (around 12 lbs) or turkey breasts; whole chickens, hams (3-5 lbs); boxed brownie or cookie mix, boxed stuffing, turkey gravy, and instant potatoes; OR A \$20 DONATION WILL PURCHASE ONE COMPLETE MEAL!

PO Box 44, 114 N. Main St, Mifflintown, PA 17059

Phone: 717-436-9718

Hours: Tue 9-12 and 1-5, and Sat 9-12

\*PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY.

(CONTACT PERSON: GLENDA FULTZ).

Email: [jcfp122017@gmail.com](mailto:jcfp122017@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [www.jcfoodpantry.com](http://www.jcfoodpantry.com)

Our vestibule is open 24 hours a day to receive donations. Cash, checks, or gift cards may be deposited in the vestibule's mail slot. \*Non-perishable foods and non-food items may be dropped off at any time in our vestibule. Please deliver perishable foods only when someone is here to receive them. Thank you!

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

November's "Mission of the Month" at Messiah will go towards Lutheran Disaster Relief, to help those affected in several states by natural disasters. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to L.D.R. so they may continue to serve those whose lives have been turned upside down these disasters. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.

## 2024 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 16 through July 20 of 2024 in New Orleans. Information may be reviewed by checking the following websites:

<https://www.elca.church/gathering> and <https://www.elca.church/gathering/faqs>

Youth participants must be in eighth to 12th grade at the time of registration (fall 2023). Adult leaders accompanying youth to the Gathering must be at least 21 years old at the time of the Gathering. We have several of our young people who are definitely interested in attending with our nationwide youth. Additionally, we would like to see some adult leaders accompany the youth to this faith formation event. Please consider joining the gathering.

# DAILY BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER FOCUS

NOVEMBER 1 ----- REVELATION 7:9-17  
*FUNERAL DIRECTORS*

NOVEMBER 2 ----- MICAH 3:5-12  
*ELECTION POLL WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS*

NOVEMBER 3 ----- PSALM 43  
*THOSE EXPERIENCING THE VALLEYS OF LIFE*

NOVEMBER 4 ----- 1 THESSALONIANS 2:9-13  
*NURSES WORKING IN PEDIATRICS OR IN LABOR AND DELIVERY*

NOVEMBER 5 ----- MATTHEW 23:1-12  
*PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS*

NOVEMBER 6 ----- PSALM 5  
*BARISTAS AND COFFEEHOUSE EMPLOYEES*

NOVEMBER 7 ----- ACTS 13:1-12  
*SIGN-LANGUAGE COMMUNICATORS AND INTERPRETERS*

NOVEMBER 8 ----- PROVERBS 16:21-33  
*JOURNALISTS AND SPEECH WRITERS*

NOVEMBER 9 ----- AMOS 5:18-24  
*SECURE AND STABLE HOUSING FOR ALL*

NOVEMBER 10 ----- PSALM 70  
*ANY WHO LIFT A PRAYER IN DESPERATION THIS DAY*

NOVEMBER 11 ----- 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18  
*BAND, ORCHESTRA, AND ALL MUSIC TEACHERS*

NOVEMBER 12 ----- MATTHEW 25:1-13  
*FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS*

NOVEMBER 13 ----- PSALM 63  
*ALL WHO WORK THE NIGHT SHIFT*

NOVEMBER 14 ----- 1 THESSALONIANS 3:6-13  
*TECH EXPERTS WORKING TO KEEP US CONNECTED*

NOVEMBER 15 ----- MATTHEW 24:29-35  
*FOR THE RESTORATION OF AIR, SKY, AND OZONE*

NOVEMBER 16 ----- ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18  
*THOSE RICH IN THINGS YET POOR IN SPIRIT*

NOVEMBER 17 ----- PSALM 90:1-8 [9-11] 12  
*THOSE WHO ARE DYING AND THOSE WHO ATTEND THEM*

NOVEMBER 18 ----- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11  
*THAT THOSE CHOKED BY SHAME MAY KNOW JESUS' LOVE*

NOVEMBER 19 ----- MATTHEW 25:14-30  
*THOSE UNSURE HOW TO BEST USE THEIR TALENTS*

NOVEMBER 20 ----- ROMANS 2:1-11  
*HURT PEOPLE, WHO HURT PEOPLE, AND NEED GOD'S HEALING*

NOVEMBER 21 ----- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-18  
*THAT CHURCHES IN CONFLICT WOULD KNOW PEACE*

NOVEMBER 22 ----- PSALM 9:1-14  
*FOR POSITIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE PEOPLES IN AMERICA*

NOVEMBER 23 ----- EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24  
*THOSE LACKING HOMES OR FOOD ON THIS DAY*

NOVEMBER 24 ----- PSALM 95:1-7  
*THOSE DESPERATE TO CULTIVATE PEACE AND QUIET*

NOVEMBER 25 ----- EPHESIANS 1:15-23  
*THE WORK OF EVANGELISTS AROUND THE WORLD*

NOVEMBER 26 ----- MATTHEW 25:31-46  
*THOSE WHO ARE FRIENDLESS, IN NEED, OR INCARCERATED*

NOVEMBER 27 ----- 2 TIMOTHY 2:8-13  
*THOSE WITH LOW SELF-ESTEEM*

NOVEMBER 28 ----- REVELATION 19:1-9  
*PEOPLE WHO CRY SILENTLY IN THE NIGHT*

NOVEMBER 29 ----- PSALM 7  
*THOSE WITH LOVED ONES FACING ADDICTION*

NOVEMBER 30 ----- JOHN 1:35-42  
*SPIRITUAL SEEKERS*

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**Tuesday** – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
**Thursday** – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
**Friday** – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

NOVEMBER 11 – Gino Ace Kerlin

NOVEMBER 15 – Zac Smith

NOVEMBER 17 – Jacob White & Livia Arentz

NOVEMBER 29 – Ruth Cisney

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

The youth of Messiah and St. Stephen's Lutheran Churches will be having a Spaghetti



Supper on  
**Saturday**  
**November 11<sup>th</sup>,**  
**from 4:00 to**  
**6:00PM** at St.  
Stephens

Lutheran Church in Licking Creek. Messiah

is in charge of getting the salad materials and rolls and we are looking for donations from the congregation. We will be collecting bags of salad, dinner rolls, cherry tomatoes, packs of shredded cheese, and desserts (cookies, pies, brownies, cakes, etc...) and collecting these things starting **Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**. We don't want to collect it any time before that date since we want to keep things fresh. A sign-up sheet will be hanging on the bulletin board.

In addition, we be having a basket raffle the day of spaghetti dinner, so if anyone is interested in donating to the basket raffle or creating a basket, please reach out to Bethanie Beward, Christina Martin, Jessie Reed, or Tawny Mummah.

## Messiah's December Advent Season and Christmas Events

**PLEASE INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN US AS WE PREPARE OURSELVES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE COMING OF THE CHRIST CHILD!**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>:** First Sunday of Advent, followed by a light luncheon (prepared by the Fellowship Committee). Decoration of the church will be held after the service and luncheon. **ALL HANDS-ON DECK ARE NEEDED!**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>:** Second Sunday of Advent. "**Hanging of the Greens**" program will be held during the morning worship service. The topic of this year's program will be *The Meaning of Advent and its Symbols*.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>:** Third Sunday of Advent. Community Christmas Cantata, "Bethlehem's Child" at 2:00 PM at Messiah.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>:** Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. The morning worship service will include the annual **Children's Christmas Program**. At 7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Music Prelude Service, followed by the 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Service **CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** will begin with a **Prelude Service at 7:00 PM**, featuring our in-house musicians, Bob St. Clair and Slone Smith. **The Candlelight/ Communion service will begin at 7:30 PM** and will include the singing of Carols and special anthems by both the junior and senior choirs.

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1:** -9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
-7:00 PM – CHOIR REHEARSAL IN THE SANCTUARY
- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4:** **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!** TURN CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR BEFORE GOING TO BED, AS WELL AS CHECK YOUR FIRE/CO2 DETECTORS!
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5:** **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**  
-9:15 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL & CATECHETICAL CLASS  
-10:30 AM – WORSHIP, COMMUNION, JR. CHURCH  
-AFTER WORSHIP – WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING
- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6:** -6:30 PM – THE KNITTERS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM  
-7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLE’S CLASS AREA  
-7:00 PM – CANTATA REHEARSAL IN SANCTUARY
- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7:** -10:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY IN JR. CHURCH ROOM
- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8:** -9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
-7:00 PM – CHOIR REHEARSAL IN THE SANCTUARY
- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9:** -1:30 PM – WELCA IN YOUTH AREA
- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10:** **VETERAN’S DAY HOLIDAY OBSERVED**
- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11:** **VETERAN’S DAY HOLIDAY**  
-10 AM TO 5 PM – FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12:** **THANKOFFERING SUNDAY**  
-9:15 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL & CATECHETICAL CLASS  
-10:30 AM – WORSHIP, COMMUNION, JR. CHURCH
- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13:** -6:30 PM – THE KNITTERS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM  
-7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLE’S CLASS AREA  
-7:00 PM – CANTATA REHEARSAL IN SANCTUARY
- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14:** -10:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY IN JR. CHURCH ROOM
- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15:** -9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
-7:00 PM – CHOIR REHEARSAL IN THE SANCTUARY
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19:** -9:15 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL  
-10:30 AM – WORSHIP, COMMUNION, JR. CHURCH
- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20:** -5:00 PM – LIONS CLUB MEETING IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
-6:30 PM – THE KNITTERS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM  
-7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLE’S CLASS AREA  
-7:00 PM – CANTATA REHEARSAL IN SANCTUARY
- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21:** -10:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY IN JR. CHURCH ROOM  
-7:00 PM – QUILTER’S GUILD IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22:** -9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23:** **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!**
- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24:** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26:** **CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY**  
-9:15 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL & CATECHETICAL CLASS  
-10:30 AM – WORSHIP, COMMUNION, JR. CHURCH  
-AFTER WORSHIP – VOTER’S ASSEMBLY
- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27:** -6:30 PM – THE KNITTERS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM  
-7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLE’S CLASS AREA  
-7:00 PM – CANTATA REHEARSAL IN SANCTUARY
- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29:** -9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
-7:00 PM – CHOIR REHEARSAL IN SANCTUARY





WELCA met on Thursday, October 12th at 1:30 P.M. in the Young Adult Sunday School Classroom.

Barb Geedey presented a program on Christopher Columbus, Autumn Aromas from A-Z, and concluded with An Autumn Blessing. We had a good time deciding what the aromas were from A-Z, but we didn't come up with some of the author's choices.

We did not have a treasurer's report due to the absence of the treasurer. Information from our previous meeting can be found in the October newsletter.

Old business: Barb reported she has not received the information for the Christmas Angel project yet but expects to receive it by next week sometime. She also reported that the Thankoffering service is planned, and everything appears to be ready. There will be a meal following the service with the Parish Fellowship committee providing the meat and beverages with members of the congregation bringing a covered dish of any kind.

225 quilts, 48 school kits, 8 personal care kits and 187 bars of soap were taken to Lewisburg Monday and Tuesday, October 9th and 10th. Thank you to Sam and Linda Leister and Jeff and Kathy Whitesel for helping with this transport.

The Fall WELCA retreat will be held at Camp Mt Luther on Saturday, October 12th. Linda and Barb will be attending.

New business: We have decided to move our December meeting to 7:30. That will be our Christmas program.

November's meeting will be held on November 9th at the time of 1:30 PM.

No further business to be discussed our meeting closed with our Purpose Statement.

## CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT

The Women of the ELCA will once again be sponsoring six children for the Christmas Angel Project. The sign-up chart for the gifts that are needed is on the bulletin board in the Kitchenette. Gifts are due at the church by **December 4<sup>th</sup> at Noon**, wrapped or bagged with a name tag that includes the child's name and number on the tag.

## AREA AGENCIES PREPARE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Again this year, the Food Pantry will join forces with the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, and YOU to bring Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to as many Juniata County families living in poverty as possible. When the Boy Scouts come to your door in November for their annual food drive—please give generously. If you can help us to start stockpiling the following foods for the holidays, we would really appreciate it. Our goal is to provide 800 meals: 400 for Thanksgiving and 400 for Christmas.



# ANNUAL THANKOFFERING SERVICE

The Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Service will be held on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> and the speaker will be Pastor Ann Zimmerman. A light lunch will be provided following the service with several meats and beverages provided. We are asking those who will be attending to bring a covered dish for a “buffet.” We are also asking for donations of any of the following items (tuna, salmon, chicken, etc.), canned tomatoes, spaghetti sauce, or men’s deodorant and disposable razors. These items can be placed in the wash tub located in the Adult Sunday School Room.

## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM

# Messiah Lutheran Church Poinsettia and/or Lutheran Disaster Response Order Form



In keeping with Messiah Lutheran Church tradition, poinsettias may now be purchased for our services this holiday season in honor or memory of loved ones. They will be used to beautify our altar area to help us celebrate the holiday season. We are again including this year another way to honor or to remember loved ones by making a donation in their name to the Lutheran Disaster Response effort. In the wake of this year's many natural disasters and because of those still suffering around our nation and world, we are again adding this worthwhile opportunity for those who may not usually consider purchasing a poinsettia.

Please complete the order form below and attach **a check for either type (payment or donation)**, made payable to **"Messiah Lutheran Church"** and print **Poinsettias or Lutheran Disaster Response** in the memo line. Attach the check to the order form and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office by **December 12, 2023**. **PAYMENT OR DONATION MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER!!**

Thank you for helping to beautify our space, and/or supporting Lutheran Disaster Response!

Please note, that if you are making a donation for the disaster response effort, our Treasurer will keep track of all money received for that cause and write one check at the end of the Christmas season from our church to the Lutheran Disaster Response and also enclose a listing of those who were honored or remembered. As in the past, a full listing of either a Poinsettia or a Donation (will not include the amount of the donation) with those persons honored or remembered will be listed in the bulletin for Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Flowers may be picked up anytime following our Christmas Day Service.

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## Poinsettia/Lutheran Disaster Response Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

LIST THE DEDICATION AS FOLLOWS:

Please check one: In Honor Of (  ) or In Memory Of (  )

---

**I would like to order and/or donate as follows:**

6" Poinsettia (4 to 5 blooms) \$9.00 each: # of plants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$9.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Lutheran Disaster Response in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Tammy Brackbill and Tirzah Yeshulas on the passing of their husband and father, Daniel Brackbill, on October 18<sup>th</sup> at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville. Please keep the family in your prayers.

## WHAT DO THE LITURGICAL COLORS MEAN?

In the Christian tradition, colors are used for vestments and paraments, but a unified system of colors developed only gradually and haphazardly until and through the Middle Ages. Today, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America provides a system of colors for use by its congregations; for the most part, the same system is also used by Roman and Anglican churches, at least in the United States; and by many churches around the world, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Many of the colors associated with the seasons are closely linked with the experience of Christians in the Northern hemisphere. Christians in the Southern hemisphere will experience the church year differently in that context, perhaps calling forth different color associations. It is also helpful to realize that colors have different associations across the globe, just as they have had different associations over the course of the church's history. For example, white is the color North American and European Christians typically associate with Christmas and Easter, the color white signifying the purity of Christ, light or joy. In many Eastern cultures, however, white connotes mourning. Red, associated with energy, blood or fire among other things in Western culture, is the color associated with purity in India.

The colors serve to adorn the worship space, and to call attention to the nature of the season or festival being celebrated. A brief summary of their usage follows....

- **BLUE** is associated with Advent, suggesting hope. This association originated in Scandinavia, probably because purple dye was too expensive for churches to use. Some assemblies use purple in Advent, a color associated with royalty as the church awaits the newborn king.
- **WHITE or GOLD**, is used on Christmas Eve through Baptism of our Lord, calling to mind the purity of the newborn Christ, and to our light and joy in him. On Easter Sunday, the gold color symbolizes that this day is the "queen of feasts," unique in the entire church year and celebrates the joy of the resurrection. Also used on Holy Trinity Sunday, the color of white or gold expresses the joy of mystery in the Triune God. Finally, on Christ the King Sunday, the final day of the church year, white or gold is used as a festive color suggesting light, joy, and the celebration of our Lord.
- **GREEN** is used for its symbolism of our growth in Christ during the Epiphany season. Green, in a sense, is a "neutral color." During the season of Pentecost, green is used to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ. Some churches use differing shades of green throughout the Sundays after Pentecost, a lighter green in summer and a darker green in fall.
- **PURPLE** is the preferred color on Ash Wednesday, as this is the first day of Lent. Historically, black has also been used on this day, since it is the color of the ashes to which we will all return. Purple is also typically associated with the entire season of Lent, suggesting repentance and solemnity.
- **SCARLET or RED** is the preferred color of this first day of Holy Week, as it suggests the deep color of blood. Red, as the color of fire, is also used on Pentecost day, when we remember the tongues of fire descended on the crowd in Jerusalem.

# STATEMENT FROM ELCA BISHOP EATON



*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?" —Psalm 22:1*

Dear church,

As Lutherans, we are accustomed to holding tension between two truths. Thus the ELCA denounces the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to unspeakable loss of life and hope. At the same time the ELCA denounces the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim.

For the past weeks we have borne witness to the horrors of the escalating crisis between Israel and Hamas. We also watch a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza as Israel blocks food, water, fuel and medical supplies and as airstrikes continue to cause unbearable civilian casualties ahead of a just-announced ground assault. We see Israelis and families around the world in the agonizing wait for word about the fate of loved ones killed or taken hostage by Hamas. We are in anguish, grieving and praying for all people who are living in trauma, fear and uncertainty.

Among us are Palestinian Lutherans who are fearful for their families, their communities and their homeland. In our communities we have Jewish and Muslim neighbors, who are also facing the horrors of this crisis and its impact on their loved ones.

It is difficult to find words that suffice in the complexity of this moment, and in the web of relationships that bind us together, as church, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our interreligious partners. Yet God has called us to be a people who stand with others amid suffering.

We must also call a thing a thing. The power exerted against all Palestinian people — through the occupation, the expansion of settlements and the escalating violence — must be called out as a root cause of what we are witnessing. We are committed to our long-standing accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

The God who liberates us calls us to be a liberating witness. May it be so.

In Christ,

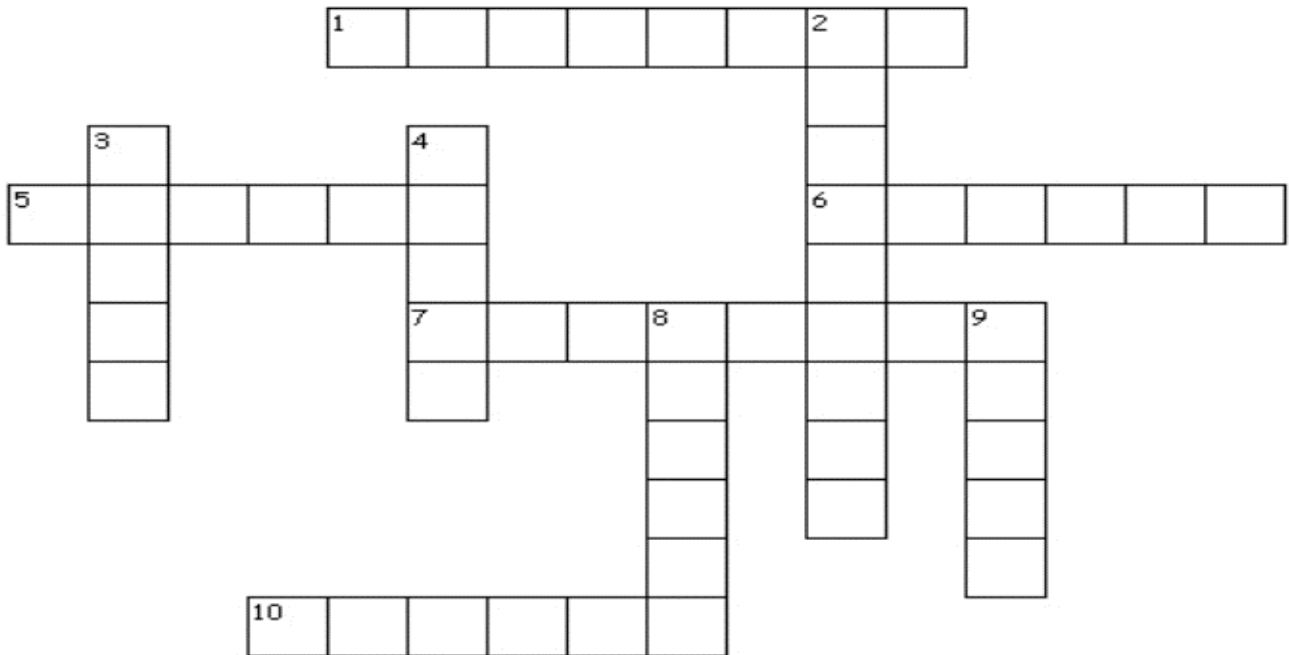
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Things you can do:*

- Find updated resources and statements from the ELCA [here](#).
- Join our partner Churches for Middle East Peace for prayer every Wednesday from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Eastern time. Register [here](#).
- Call your lawmakers today through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and urge them to take action to deescalate the conflict and uphold unrestricted humanitarian aid to Gaza. Find your member of Congress at [govtrak](#).
- Support Lutheran Disaster Response [here](#).

# Thanksgiving Crossword



## Across

1. people who have migrated to a different land from where they were born
5. reddish growth that covers the throat and neck of a turkey
6. a Thanksgiving time of year
7. fills up the bird and then fills up the people
10. main course at Thanksgiving supper

## Down

2. another word for family members
3. another name for corn
4. a celebration including large quantities of food
8. people we visit on Thanksgiving
9. yummy sauce to pour over turkey



**Word List:** autumn, family, feast, gravy, maize, relatives, settlers, stuffing, turkey, wattle

