

# THE MESSIAH HERALD



**OCTOBER 2024**

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**3 SOUTH THIRD STREET, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059**

**(717)-436-6213**

**PASTOR – REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER – [mlcsleister@gmail.com](mailto:mlcsleister@gmail.com)**

**WEBSITE: [mlcmifflintown.org](http://mlcmifflintown.org)**

**OFFICE EMAIL: [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com)**

**TREASURER EMAIL: [mlchurchtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchtreasurer@gmail.com)**

## **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.**

**WORSHIP & COMMUNION – 10:00 AM**

**CHILDREN'S SERMONS AND FACEBOOK LIVE EVERY SUNDAY!**

**[USS-ARK NEWSLETTER](#) [THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)**

# "Growing God's Love"

## The Messiah Herald



### THE PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Messiah Family,

Looking at the scripture reading of Psalm 90:16-17 (NRSV) Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands— O prosper the work of our hands!

On September 8 following worship service at Messiah, a number of us worked at knotting comforters which have been prepared by the many hands of our Needlers as well as friends of Needlers throughout the community. These comforters will find their way via Lutheran World Relief to those in need of warmth and compassion anywhere throughout the world.

On Sunday, October 6 Messiah will celebrate Blanket Sunday with our nave full of comforters ready to be sent on their way to provide warmth and meet needs of others. School kits have also been prepared. Folks are busy knitting Monday evenings.

#### Let us pray:

Gracious God, we see your work all around us, in skies and seas, in deserts and forests, in animals that creep and birds that fly, and in people who bear your image. Help us to pay attention to your work, Lord, so that we might praise you for your goodness and so that we might imitate your justice as we do our own work.

You have created us with the capacity for work. You have called us to do good work, work that honors you and stewards well your creation. As we do our work, we recognize that we need your favor, your grace, your help. Yes, we can work hard. But without your blessing, our work would soon be ineffective.

So we ask you, Lord, to prosper the work of our hands. May we be fruitful in our labors. May what we do make a difference that matters. May our work serve our neighbors and glorify you, O God. *Amen.*

Speaking of work, a number of our youth are planning of attending next summer's workcamp in South Dakota. There will be a number of fund-raising events through the coming fall, winter, and spring. Remember that through your encouragement, financial support, and prayers each of you are an extension of their hands and feet which are totally God's Work through their hands.,

Paul writes to the Philippians; "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (4:13) May we remember that we are able to do Christ's work because he lives in us and through us by the Holy Spirit.

*Pastor Sam Leister*

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING...

The Victims of Hurricane Helene, from Florida to North Carolina	Heather Compton Fred & Dot Dowling Seth Dowling Kim Dumais	Nancy Howell Terry Imes Annie Ingle Guy Kerstetter	Kelley Rusenko Arlene Shearer Jennifer Smith Joyce & Todd Spangler
The Family of Ed Fraker The Family of Joyce Bradley The Family of Joy Noerr	Freda Durio Cathy Dysinger Renee Dzikowski	Jesse Kint Carlen McClure Alice McClure	Donna Stoner Barry Strawser Vicki Suoja
Joedy Arnold Linda Bahorik Melissa Bargo	Rev. Jodi Ellis Kevin Fetterhoof Neil & Pat Fisher	Andi McDanel Cecilia Miller Curt Miller	Molly Ulsh George Varner Kristi Wagner & Family
Jeremy Barnes Ryan Barr Donna Barton	Bentley Fulkroad Terri Gayer Deb Geedey	Larry Miller Shirley Miller Claire Mummah	Heather Walton Roscoe Warner Mary Jane Williamson
Tony Beward Bill Book Linda Brouse	Sheree Goss Amanda Gregg Fred Gross	Linda (Kerchner) Parks Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine Cheryl Pinkerton	Jim & Heidi Woltman Gary Zeiders Paul Zeiders
Jim Burdge Andrea Cameron Evitt Campbell	Hannah Hart Bill Heck John (Pat) Henry	Betty Ranck Keith Ranck Dave Reed	George Zimmerman Jean Zimmerman Linda Zimmerman
Terry Coder Kenton Cohenour	Nox Hepburn Judy Hosler	Diane Rowles Greysley Rowles	

## ...AND FOR OUR SHUT INS

### BROOKLINE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

(92 VILLAGE DRIVE, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Jane Marhefka

### HONNEMAN HOUSE

(58 HONNEMAN HOUSE DR, THOMPSONTOWN, PA 17094)

Ruth Cisney  
(Apt. #112)

Ray Bramm  
(Apt. #108)

### WILLIAM PENN HEALTHCARE AND REHAB CENTER

(163 SUMMIT DRIVE, LEWISTOWN, PA 17044)

Ona Stoner

## 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!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

During our October 6<sup>th</sup> morning worship service, which is also Blanket Sunday and World Communion Sunday, Bishop Craig Miller will be at Messiah and will be speaking and sharing about his experiences in the Holy Land. Be sure to mark this special date on your calendars now and plan to attend worship that morning!

## PRAYERS & 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).

## SERVICE TIME CHANGE!!

In case you missed it, On Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Worship & Music **UNANIMOUSLY** voted to agree with the survey to have **10:00 AM Sunday services year-round**. We began this new service schedule on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>**. From this point forward, all Sunday morning services will begin at 10:00 AM and will continue throughout the entire year, including summers.

## UPCOMING SERVANTS

### ALTAR GUILD

**Sept. 16 to Oct. 6** ..... Christie Yorks & Sabrina Shipp  
**October 7 to 20** ..... Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed  
**Oct. 21 to Nov. 10** ... Tammy Brackbill & Jenn Hutchinson

### MANNA MAKERS

**October 6** ..... Cynthia Smith  
**October 20** ..... Jenn Hutchinson  
**October 27** ..... Jean Berry

### LECTORS

**October 6** ..... Olivia Mummah  
**October 13** ..... Marina Holderman  
**October 20** ..... Andrea Cameron  
**October 27** ..... Barb Geedey

### ACOLYTES

**October 6** ..... Julia Martin & Hannah Ehrisman  
**October 13** ..... Nick Reed & Hope Miller  
**October 20** ... Braedon Walton & Olivia Mummah  
**October 27** ..... Zeb Berry & Paige Martin

### COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS

**October 6** .... Ella Harris, Paige Martin, Carter Ehrisman  
**October 13** ..... Silas Smith, Evan and Grace Miller  
**October 20** ..... Zeb Berry, Thea and Brea Beward  
**October 27** ..Braedon Walton, Hannah Ehrisman, Olivia Mummah

### FLOWERS

**October 6** ..... OPEN  
**October 13** ..... Cindy Miller  
**October 20** ..... Sandy Pines & Braedon Walton  
**October 27** ..... OPEN

### OFFERING COUNTERS

**October 6** ..... Clint Miller & Mary Grimm  
**October 13** ..... Don & Barb Geedey  
**October 20** ..... Ron & Christie Yorks  
**October 27** ..... Marylou Hazard & Jean Berry

## BLANKET SUNDAY

Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> is **BLANKET SUNDAY** and along with all ELCA congregations, you are invited to make a donation to Lutheran World Relief in the special Blanket Sunday envelope, which are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Please make checks payable to Messiah Women of the ELCA and place in the offering plate or give to Cynthia Smith.

Also, our thanks to “The Needlers” for sewing all of the lovely quilts you will see on October 6<sup>th</sup> and for decorating the chancel and nave. The quilts on display will be donated by “The Needlers” as their Blanket Sunday offering. Blankets/quilts and personal care kits will be taken to Faith Lutheran Church, Lewisburg, Pa on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The quilts will then be sent to Lutheran World Relief and also given to Messiah members who are now in nursing homes. The covers on the altar and lecterns were made by Carole Nace.

## 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.

# JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY OCTOBER UPDATE



Autumn has arrived! Soon to be followed by Thanksgiving and Christmas. 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. Working as a team and pooling our resources, we can reach more families in need and avoid duplicating services. But we can't do it without **your** help. When the Boy Scouts come to your door in November for their annual food drive- please give generously. And 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.

In August 2024, the Food Pantry served 257 families in need – a total of 719 individuals. Thank you Heaven Bound Church for sending volunteers to help in August!!

## **HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS:**

These are the foods that are more difficult for us to secure) TURKEY BREASTS, HAMS (3-5 LBS), whole chicken, canned sweet potatoes, instant potatoes, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce and brownie or cookie mix; **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

October's "Mission of the Month" at Messiah will go towards the Mifflintown Hose Company #1. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the Mifflintown Fire Company so they may continue to serve those who depend on our generosity in our own community and county. 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.

## MESSIAH'S NEW "SAINT"

God created a new saint on Sunday, September 29th through His Sacrament of Holy

Baptism. We welcome Huxley Shannon Clark, son of Cade Clark and Kalea McGreehan.

We also welcomed, through Affirmation of Baptism, Kalea McGreehan, into the fellowship of our congregation. We are pleased to have her become a part of the Messiah Family.



# DAILY BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER FOCUS

OCTOBER 1 -----PSALM 5  
*PEOPLE WITH SLEEP DISORDERS*

OCTOBER 2 -----MATTHEW 18:6-9  
*THOSE FACING SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLES*

OCTOBER 3 ----- GENESIS 2:18-24  
*PEOPLE WHO FEEL ISOLATED AND ALONE*

OCTOBER 4 -----PSALM 8  
*WHEN MINDFULNESS TURNS TO ANXIETY*

OCTOBER 5 -----HEBREWS 1:1-4, 2:5-12  
*WOOD CARVERS, CARPENTERS, AND OTHER ARTISANS*

OCTOBER 6 -----MARK 10:2-16  
*PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DIVORCE*

OCTOBER 7 ----- 1 CORINTHIANS 7:1-9  
*STRAINED RELATIONSHIPS*

OCTOBER 8 -----PSALM 112  
*CORRECTION OF SOCIETY'S UNJUST AND ARBITRARY LAWS*

OCTOBER 9 ----- MATTHEW 5:27-36  
*TIMES WHEN WE STRUGGLE WITH APATHY*

OCTOBER 10 ----- AMOS 5:6-7, 10-15  
*WHEN WE NEED FORGIVENESS*

OCTOBER 11 ----- PSALM 90:12-17  
*THOSE SEARCHING FOR A SENSE OF MEANING*

OCTOBER 12 ----- HEBREWS 4:12-16  
*THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH*

OCTOBER 13 ----- MARK 10:17-31  
*COMPANION SYNODS AND MINISTRIES*

OCTOBER 14 ----- PSALM 26  
*CORRECTION OF HARMFUL IDEAS ABOUT GOD*

OCTOBER 15 ----- OBADIAH 10-16  
*WAR-TORN COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD*

OCTOBER 16 ----- LUKE 16:19-31  
*PEOPLE WHO HAVE HELPED US LEARN TO TRUST GOD*

OCTOBER 17 ----- ISAIAH 53:4-12  
*THOSE WHO FEEL LOST, EVEN FROM GOD*

OCTOBER 18 ----- LUKE 1:1-4; 24:44-53  
*THOSE WHO OPENLY SHARE THEIR FAITH STORIES*

OCTOBER 19----- HEBREWS 5:1-10  
*DANCE CELEBRATIONS HAPPENING TODAY*

OCTOBER 20-----MARK 10:35-45  
*PEOPLE LIVING IN SENIOR CARE FACILITIES*

OCTOBER 21 -----PSALM 37:23-40  
*THOSE WHO FEEL AFRAID*

OCTOBER 22----- 1 SAMUEL 10:17-25  
*PEOPLE TRANSITIONING INTO A NEW ROLE*

OCTOBER 23 -----JOHN 13:1-17  
*THOSE ANTICIPATING A FAREWELL*

OCTOBER 24-----JEREMIAH 31:7-9  
*ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO PROVIDE  
CLEAN WATER FOR ALL*

OCTOBER 25----- PSALM 126  
*PEOPLE DEALING WITH A SCARY DIAGNOSIS*

OCTOBER 26-----HEBREWS 7:23-28  
*THOSE WHO YEARN FOR HARMONY WITH GOD*

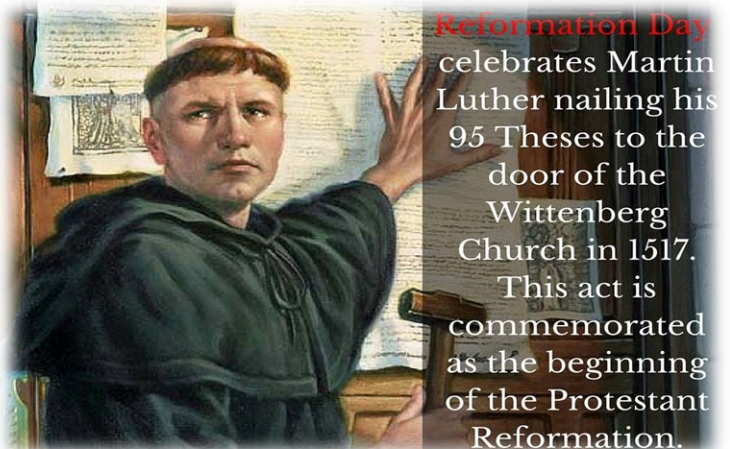
OCTOBER 27-----MARK 10:46-52  
*THOSE WHO HESITATE TO ASK FOR HELP*

OCTOBER 28----- JOHN 14:21-27  
*THOSE WHO SERVE IN THE MILITARY*

OCTOBER 29----- PSALM 119:17-24  
*PEOPLE WHO NEED A BREAK FROM WORK*

OCTOBER 30----- JEREMIAH 33:1-11  
*THOSE ESTRANGED FROM FAMILY MEMBERS*

OCTOBER 31 -----JOHN 8:31-36  
*PEOPLE WRONGLY INCARCERATED OR DETAINED*



# MESSIAH ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

DATE	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL OFFERING	GENERAL FUND OFFERING	OTHER FUNDS OFFERING
Sunday, Sept. 1	44	\$3,980.00	\$3,665.00	Benevolence -- \$100.00 Building Fund -- \$20.00 Mission of the Month -- \$10.00 Flowers -- \$75.00 Summer Camp -- \$100.00 Camp Mt. Luther -- \$10.00
Sunday, Sept. 8	40	\$2,308.00	\$2,108.00	Benevolence -- \$20.00 Building Fund -- \$160.00 Mission of the Month -- \$10.00 Camp Mt. Luther -- \$10.00
Sunday, Sept. 15	52	\$2,240.00	\$1,600.00	Benevolence -- \$70.00 Building Fund -- \$260.00 Mission of the Month -- \$135.00 Flowers -- \$25.00 Summer Camp -- \$100.00 Memorial Fund -- \$50.00
Sunday, Sept. 22	49	\$2,750.00	\$2,400.00	Benevolence -- \$70.00 Building Fund -- \$160.00 Mission of the Month -- \$60.00 Camp Mt. Luther -- \$10.00 Memorial Fund -- \$50.00
Sunday, Sept. 29	41	\$1,423.00	\$1,258.00	Benevolence -- \$40.00 Building Fund -- \$40.00 Mission of the Month -- \$10.00 Flowers -- \$25.00 Summer Camp -- \$50.00

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

**OCTOBER 1** – Dave Smith  
**OCTOBER 3** – Ona Stoner  
**OCTOBER 10** – Lois Crissman

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

**OCTOBER 12** – George & Marylou Hazard  
**OCTOBER 18** – Steve & Jean Berry  
**OCTOBER 30** – Glenn & Mary Grimm

## THANK YOU!

Dear Members of Messiah Lutheran Church: We are grateful for your recent gift for Foundations for the Future. Your support makes it possible for us to plant God's people in good soil. We strive to cultivate strong, Christ-centered relationships through a welcoming year-round outdoor ministry. Your donation provides an important foundation for the faith formation of all who take advantage of our programs and facilities. Thanks for contributing to Mount Luther! --*CHAD HERSHBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

# MESSIAH BOARD OF PROPERTY OBJECTIVES

The basic objectives of this board are the proper maintenance and repair of church property, the representation of the congregation in all legal matters, and the general protection of the congregation against loss or damage of whatever nature. Our goal is to provide the congregation with a safe and comfortable place to worship.

2024 TOP 100 ORGANIZATION  
(PA Business Central)

## IN HOME SERVICES *Of Central PA* HOME CARE AGENCY

Now Has Staff Available To Help Senior  
Citizens In Their Homes.

IN CENTRE, JUNIATA & MIFFLIN COUNTIES



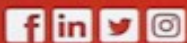
717.363.4913  
814.321.2145

CURRENT  
CLIENT SATISFACTION  
SCORE: 99%



IN HOME SERVICES  
HOME CARE AGENCY *Of Central PA*

Selected As  
A 2024, 2023, 2022  
& 2021 TOP HOME  
HEALTHCARE  
AGENCY



[www.InHomeServicesOfCentralPA.com](http://www.InHomeServicesOfCentralPA.com)



# OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1:** -10:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2:** -9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
-7:00 PM – CHOIR REHEARSAL IN THE SANCTUARY
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6:** **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**  
**BLANKET SUNDAY**  
-10:00 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION (*BISHOP CRAIG MILLER SPEAKING*)
- MONDAY, OCTOBER 7:** -6:30 PM – THE KNITTERS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM  
-7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLE’S CLASS AREA
- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8:** -10:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9:** -9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
-7:00 PM – CHOIR REHEARSAL IN THE SANCTUARY
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10:** -1:00 PM – WELCA IN YOUTH AREA
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13:** -10:00 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION  
-AFTER WORSHIP – BOARD OF WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING IN LIBRARY  
-1:30 PM – REGISTRATION FOR JUNIATA COUNTY CROP WALK AT WALKER PARK  
-2:00 PM – JUNIATA CROP WALK AT WALKER PARK
- MONDAY, OCTOBER 14:** -6:30 PM – THE KNITTERS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM  
-7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLE’S CLASS AREA
- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15:** -10:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 TO** -*PASTOR SAM OUT OF TOWN*
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20:**
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20:** -10:00 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16:** -9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
-7:00 PM – CHOIR REHEARSAL IN SANCTUARY
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19:** -FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20:** -10:00 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION
- MONDAY, OCTOBER 21:** -6:30 PM – THE KNITTERS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM  
-7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLE’S CLASS AREA
- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22:** -10:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23:** -9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
-7:00 PM – CHOIR REHEARSAL IN SANCTUARY
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27:** **REFORMATION SUNDAY**  
-10:00 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION  
-6:00 PM – PPC MEETING
- MONDAY, OCTOBER 28:** -6:30 PM – THE KNITTERS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM  
-7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLE’S CLASS AREA
- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29:** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
-10:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30:** -9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
-7:00 PM – CHOIR REHEARSAL IN SANCTUARY

# Women of the ELCA

WELCA met on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 1:00.

Barb provided devotions on Grandparents and the daily devotions booklet.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$431.33 in our account. Our quarterly payment to synod will be made at the end of September plus we usually contribute to shipping costs on our quilts and kits.

The previous minutes in the newsletter were approved.

Old business: Plans for Thankoffering are pretty well under control and our Synod Convention was a good day at Turbotville. We are going to work on our school and baby kits today with the hope of getting them completed as soon as possible.

New business: There will not be a Fall Retreat this year.

Blanket Sunday will be October 6 along with Bishop Miller's presentation on his trip to the Holy Land. Refreshments will follow the service.

The quilts and the kits will be delivered October 16-21 to Faith Lutheran Church in Lewisburg.

The group also discussed some ways we can possibly help people in need in our community and surrounding communities. We will discuss this at our October meeting so if anyone has any thoughts on this idea we would love to hear from you. Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 10 at 1:00 PM.**

The meeting closed with our Purpose Statement.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND LOVING-KINDNESS

In anticipation of Election Day in the United States, Bishop Eaton reminds us that "civic engagement through political and nonpolitical processes is how we live into our baptism and share Christ's love as we work to make a difference in our communities and strive for justice and peace across the globe." To listen to Bishop Eaton speak about this subject, go to <https://youtu.be/0i3WDhHKjHY>

## 2025 GROUP WORKCAMP

Mission, South Dakota has been chosen as the Group Workcamp 2025 location! This Native American experience will be June 15-21, 2025. However, since there are many things to see in the area (Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Badlands National Park, Wall Drug) to name a few, we will be leaving on a jet plane for Rapid City, South Dakota around June 11<sup>th</sup>. Participants must be at least 14 years old to be eligible for this adventure. If you are interested, please send Kathy Whitesel a text a (717)-363-6144 as soon as possible. Please note that workcampers will be most likely flying to Rapid City, so we will need someone willing to tow the trailer with our supplies to South Dakota and then back home. Who wants to spend a week exploring the badlands?

# THE GIFT OF REFORMATION

By Kathryn Kleinhans -- October 27, 2023

Toward the end of his life, church reformer and educator Martin Luther (1483-1546) looked back on an important moment in his faith development. As a young university professor, he was studying Paul's Letter to the Romans when he came to a new understanding. Previously he believed the righteousness of God was a standard by which God measures human behavior. As he wrestled with Romans, Luther began to see the righteousness of God as a gift that God gives us.

This insight transformed the way Luther read the Scriptures. He described the wisdom of God as how God makes us wise, the strength of God as how God makes us strong and so on.

Several years after this breakthrough, Luther wrote an introduction to a collection of sermons ("A Brief Instruction on What to Look for and Expect in the Gospels") to help preachers communicate the life-giving encounter with God's gracious action that he had experienced. Luther was critical of those who looked to Jesus primarily as an example to be followed. This, he thought, turned Jesus into "a new Moses." Instead, Luther insisted that we should "accept and recognize [Jesus] as a gift, as a present that God has given you and that is your own." We should read the Scriptures, he wrote, as "a book of divine promises in which God promises, offers, and gives us all [God's] possessions and benefits in Christ."

This is a powerful message. This is good news.

## THIS GIFT IS FOR YOU

Luther didn't intend to start a new church. He wanted to reform the Christian church to place this Gospel good news at its center. In addition to good preaching, education was key to this work of reformation.

Luther wrote catechisms to encourage the teaching and learning of the faith. We might think of the Small Catechism, which many lifelong Lutherans remember from confirmation class, and the Large Catechism, written for pastors and teachers, as the 16th-century equivalent of a student workbook and an instructor's manual.

The constant refrain in the Small Catechism is the question "What does this mean?" It's important for us to recognize that this was a real question for Luther. More than a formula for memorization, he intended the questions and answers in the Small Catechism as a way for Christians to understand the gifts of God's grace that are at the heart of the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the sacraments of baptism and communion.

Luther insisted that we should "accept and recognize Jesus as a gift, as a present that God has given you and that is your own."

These gifts were personal for Luther. The gifts of God's grace are intended to be received! By us! Writing about communion, he said the most important words are "given and shed *for you* for the forgiveness of sins." Explaining the meaning of the Apostles' Creed, he doesn't describe the work of the Triune God as abstract but emphasizes that the Creator of all has created us, the Savior has redeemed us and the Spirit makes us holy.

These gifts are personal but not private, as we see when Luther wrote that the Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens and makes me holy together "with the whole Christian church on earth."

## THIS GIFT IS FOR ALL

In order for Christians to read the Scriptures for themselves, Luther and the other reformers insisted on the importance of a basic education *for all*—boys *and* girls, regardless of the social or economic status of their families.

The University of Wittenberg, where Luther and his colleague Phillip Melanchthon taught, quickly became the largest school in Germany. Even William Shakespeare knew of its reputation since his character Hamlet returns to Denmark from his studies at Wittenberg.

Students came to Wittenberg from throughout Europe and returned to their home countries to promote education and to share the Reformation insight of grace as God’s gift to us in Jesus Christ. The Reformation was definitely a team effort!

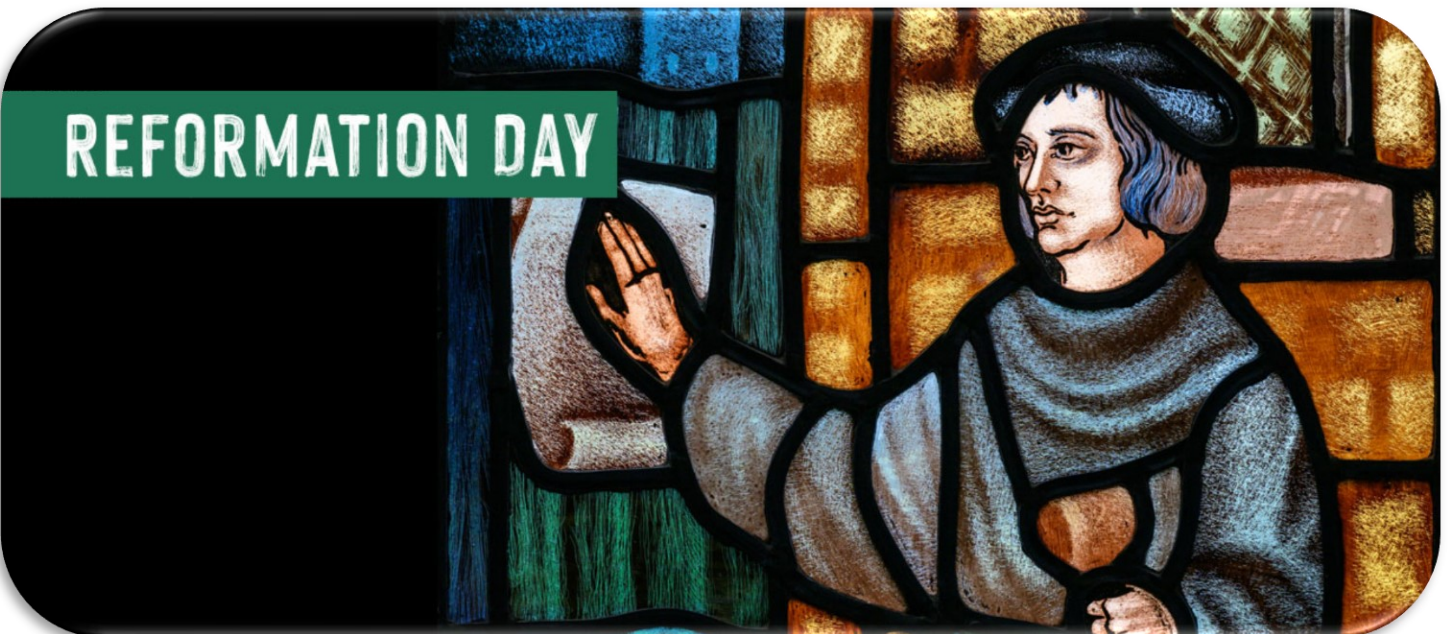
The Castle Church in Wittenberg is a monument to this effort. Statues of Luther, Melanchthon and other German reformers are placed around the nave. In 1983, for the 500th anniversary of Luther’s birth, a dozen stained-glass windows were installed in the church featuring the work of students who had spread the Reformation to their countries—Jan Łaski of Poland, Leonhard Stöckel and Matthias Dévai Biro of Hungary, and Johannes Honter of Transylvania (now Romania), among others.

Luther insisted that we should “accept and recognize Jesus as a gift, as a present that God has given you and that is your own.”

Lutherans of German or Scandinavian descent, like many in the ELCA, may not be familiar with the spread of Lutheranism into Eastern Europe—yet spread it did, already in Luther’s lifetime. A Lutheran witness continued in Eastern Europe even under four decades of Communist repression following World War II.

This September, hundreds of Lutherans from around the globe are gathering in Krakow, Poland, for the 13th Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Founded in 1947, the LWF is a communion of 149 member churches in 99 countries, representing over 77 million Christians in the Lutheran tradition. How the Reformation has spread! Of the 10 largest church bodies in the LWF, three are in Africa (Ethiopia, Tanzania and Madagascar) and two are in Asia (India and Indonesia). The ELCA, with nearly 3.3 million members, is part of a much larger global family!

As we in the ELCA challenge ourselves to engage new, younger and diverse members, let’s remember that this is not new behavior for Lutherans. From the beginning, Lutherans have reached out beyond themselves, bearing witness to the life-giving good news of God’s gift in Jesus Christ. May our Reformation heritage be the gift that keeps on giving!





## 2024 CROP WALK

The Juniata Co CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at Walker Township Park. Registration is at 1:30 p.m. and the Walk begins at 2:00 p.m.

Proceeds will benefit Hunger Ministries through CWS, and 25% of pledge money will go to Meals-on-Wheels and the Food Pantry. Checks may be made payable to CWS/CROP. Donation envelopes and brochures are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. For more information, call 717-463-3138.

Walkers can deliver the following needed items to the Food Pantry on CROW Walk day:

Personal Hygiene Supplies such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, etc.

Cleaning Supplies like all-purpose cleansers, bleach, trash bags, laundry detergent, dish detergent, etc.

Paper Products such as paper towels, toilet tissue, tissues.

Infant Needs like diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, baby lotions.

Non-Perishable Food Items.

This will be a hybrid event. You may walk in person at the park, or, you can join us virtually by walking in your own location, send us pictures of you walking, and let us know how much you raised. Send your donations to Juniata County CROP, P.O. Box 91, McAlisterville, PA 17049 Our Facebook page is: [www.facebook.com/JuniataCoCROP](http://www.facebook.com/JuniataCoCROP)

*Register Online:* To register online go to:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/mifflintownpa> Look for the white box on the right side of the page, and click "Join or Start a Team." This will allow you to join an existing team, start a team, or register as an individual. When you register, you can also register others.

*5K Fun Run/Walk* – This event will be 7 laps around the park. Everyone will be responsible for keeping track of their own laps. This will be an untimed event.

*Incentive:* This year, each individual who turns in at least \$125.00 in donations will receive a CROP Walk T-Shirt. Please write your T-Shirt size on your donation envelope. If your shirt size is not available on the day of the Walk, it will be ordered and delivered to your church or team chair after the Walk.

*Everyone:* When you arrive, please give your collection envelope to a registrar. If you are walking with a team, please make sure your team name (like your church) is on your envelope. If more than one person is sharing your collection envelope, please make sure each person's signature (or guardian's signature) is on the envelope.

# The Reformation

## Word Search

**DIRECTIONS:** Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



BIBLE  
CATHOLIC  
CHRISTIANITY  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
CORRUPTION  
DIET OF WORMS  
HENRY VIII  
HERETIC  
INDULGENCES

JESUITS  
JOHN CALVIN  
LATIN MASS  
LUTHERAN  
MARTIN LUTHER  
MONK  
NINETY-FIVE  
PAMPHLET  
PRINTING PRESS

PROTESTANT  
REBELLIONS  
REFORMATION  
RENAISSANCE  
SCHISM  
THESES  
THIRTY YEARS WAR  
WITTENBERG

# HURRICANE HELENE – LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF

<https://give.elca.org/page/68904/donate/1>



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



# HURRICANE HELENE – AMERICAN RED CROSS

<https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html/>



American  
Red Cross