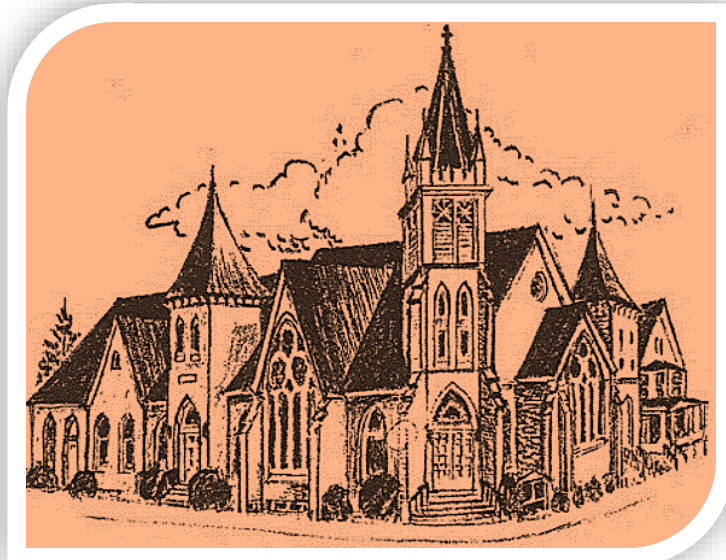


THE MESSIAH HERALD



OCTOBER 2025

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059

(717)-436-6213

PASTOR – REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER – mlcsleister@gmail.com

WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

TREASURER EMAIL: 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,

Reading Mark 1 verses 29 through 31; *As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.*

Simon will one day be known as Peter, the rock on which Jesus will build the church. When Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law, she immediately begins serving them. While this was expected of the women of the house, the message for all of us today, women and men, is that as God provides for us, let us immediately serve those around us. Love God; love our neighbor.

Every day a new sun rises, we can choose to see the light or turn away. Just as Simon's mother-in-law set right away to serving, let us set to work serving others in our neighborhood, in God's world as we have strength and compassion. May we choose to see the light, to follow the light, and to emulate the light!

May the blessings of God the Creator, Jesus Christ our Lord, and The Holy Spirit be with you all!

Pastor Sam Leister

**Look! GOD IS PAINTING
THE MOUNTAINS!!**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING...

The Family of Fred Parnell	Cathy Dysinger	Doc Johnston	Lowell Shearer
The Future Son-in-Law of Pastor Nancy McClure	Renee Dzikowski	Guy Kerstetter	Wyatt Shellenberger
Joedy Arnold	William Esborn	George King	Gail Sherman
Linda Bahorik	Kevin Fetterhoof	Jesse Kint	Althea Smith
Melissa Bargo	Neil Fisher	Paul Lingenfelter	Dave Smith
Jeremy Barnes	Bentley Fulkroad	Cecilia Miller	Jennifer Smith
Ryan Barr	Kristen Gaisior	Curt Miller	Barry Strawser
Bill Book	Terri Gayer	Larry Miller	Kenton Stuck
Andrea Cameron	Deb Geedey	Shirley Miller	Vicki Suoja
Evitt Campbell	Josslyn Geedey	Marlin Milliken	Amy Swartz
Deb G. Chambers	Marilyn Gilbert	Claire Mummah	Molly Ulsh
Nathan Clark	Sheree Goss	Linda (Kerchner) Parks	George Varner
Kenton Cohenour	Amanda Gregg	Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine	Roscoe Warner
Jean Compton	Fred Gross	Cheryl Pinkerton	Sandy Wert
Scott & Heather Compton	Mark Harvey	Betty Ranck	Todd Wert
William (Bill) Conn	Bill Heck	Keith Ranck	Kathy Whitesel
Stacy Couture	John (Pat) & Karen Henry	Dave Reed	Jim & Heidi Woltman
Kim Dumais	Sawyer Henry	Diane Rowles	George Zimmerman
Freda Durio	Nox Hepburn	Greysley Rowles	Linda Zimmerman
	Nancy Howell	Kelley Rusenko	
	Annie Ingle	Arlene Shearer	

...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

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.

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!

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. Also, if anyone has any needs or concerns, please contact Pastor Sam

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.

UPCOMING SERVANTS

ALTAR GUILD

Sept. 29 to Oct. 19 Linda Leister & Bethanie Beward
Oct. 20 to Nov. 9..... Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed

MANNA MAKERS

October 5.....Jamie Miller
October 19..... Cynthia Smith
October 26..... Diana Wise

LECTORS

October 5..... Julia Martin
October 12..... Marina Holderman
October 19..... Andrea Cameron
October 26..... Barb Geedey

ACOLYTES

October 5Zeb Berry & Braedon Walton
October 12..... Julia Martin & Ella Harris
October 19..... Hope & Grace Miller
October 26..... Evan Miller & Silas Smith

COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS

October 5
.....Stella & Sofia Reed, Brea Beward
October 12
.. Paige Martin, Hope Miller, and Braedon Walton
October 19
..... Evan Miller, Silas Smith, and Ella Harris
October 26
. Hannah & Carter Ehrisman and Olivia Mummah

FLOWERS

October 5 Dan & Michelle Stoner
October 12.....Cindy Miller
October 19..... OPEN
October 26.....Sandy Pines & Braedon Walton

OFFERING COUNTERS

October 5 Ron & Christie Yorks
October 12..... Clint Miller & Nick Beward
October 19..... Marylou Hazard & Jean Berry
October 26..... Tammy Brackbill & Mary Grimm

THANK YOU

Pastor Sam and Messiah congregation,
Your thoughts, prayers and messages have been truly uplifting during these last few weeks. The support we have received has been a blessing. Please continue to keep my family in your prayers as we navigate through this time of grief. --*JEAN SWAILES, JENNIFER BLACK, KATE SWAILES, AND FAMILIES.*

Also, our warmest gratitude for honoring Glenn with a memorial service which was a true celebration of his life. Thank you also for the delicious meal. The meal was especially appreciated for family and friends who were traveling and provided the opportunity to share great memories. Please know that the continued support and generosity from the congregation has been a great source of strength for us and will always be remembered. --*JEAN COMPTON AND FAMILY*



Thank you for the lovely cards and warm wishes sent to us as we celebrated our 70th wedding anniversary. We were very surprised! In Christian Love.....*WARREN & CLAIRE MUMMAH*

INFO BITS....

*On “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday, two quilts were knotted, three more dog beds were stuffed, and 63 school kits were filled. Thanks to everyone who helped.

*WELCA CONVENTION REPORT – Our Synod filled 200 period packs with leftover items distributed to local shelters.

*The Thankoffering Speaker for November 9th will be Anne Supplee/DeLauter Youth Center.

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. We are also collecting kids' winter attire for Christmas gifts: hats, coats, mittens, and scarves.

In August 2025, the Food Pantry served 291 families in need – a total of 747 individuals. Thank you to 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), 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

WEBSITE: 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.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

OCTOBER 1 ----- PSALM 62
PEOPLE WHO FIND PRAYER HARD

OCTOBER 2 ----- HABAKKUK 1:1-4, 2:1-4
COMPETITIVE RUNNERS

OCTOBER 3 ----- PSALM 37:1-9
PARENTS WITH WIGGLY CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

OCTOBER 4 ----- 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-14
NEW HOMEOWNERS

OCTOBER 5 ----- LUKE 17:5-10
NEW CHRISTIANS

OCTOBER 6 ----- JAMES 1:2-11
PEOPLE WHO STRUGGLE WITH BUSYNESS

OCTOBER 7 ----- PSALM 3
PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM SLEEP DISORDERS

OCTOBER 8 ----- HABAKKUK 2:12-20
PEOPLE REBUILDING AFTER NATURAL DISASTERS

OCTOBER 9 ----- 2 KINGS 5:1-3, 7-15C
CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE AND TEAM LEADERS

OCTOBER 10 ----- PSALM 111
PEOPLE WHO CHOOSE MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

OCTOBER 11 ----- 2 TIMOTHY 2:8-15
PEOPLE OF FAITH WHO CANNOT AGREE

OCTOBER 12 ----- LUKE 17:11-19
PEOPLE WHO FEEL LIKE OUTSIDERS IN WORSHIP

OCTOBER 13 ----- ACTS 26:24-29
CHRISTIANS WHO FEAR PERSECUTION

OCTOBER 14 ----- PSALM 61
CHILDREN WHO HAVE NO BED OF THEIR OWN

OCTOBER 15 ----- MATTHEW 10:5-15
CHRISTIANS WHO FEAR PERSECUTION

OCTOBER 16 ----- GENESIS 32:22-31
PEOPLE AFRAID TO BE VULNERABLE

OCTOBER 17 ----- PSALM 121
PEOPLE WHO DO NOT PERCEIVE GOD'S HELP

OCTOBER 18 ----- LUKE 1:1-4; 24:44-53
PEOPLE OVERWHELMED BY DIFFICULTIES

OCTOBER 19 ----- LUKE 18:1-8
PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST A SPOUSE

OCTOBER 20 ----- PSALM 57
PEOPLE PREYED UPON BY SCAMMERS

OCTOBER 21 ----- JAMES 5:7-12
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

OCTOBER 22 ----- LUKE 22:39-46
PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECEIVED A GRIM PROGNOSIS

OCTOBER 23 ----- JEREMIAH 31:31-34
PEOPLE UNDER THREAT DUE TO THEIR FAITH

OCTOBER 24 ----- PSALM 46
PEOPLE FORCED TO ACCEPT UNWANTED CHANGE

OCTOBER 25 ----- ROMANS 3:19-28
PEOPLE WITH AN OVERACTIVE CONSCIENCE

OCTOBER 26 ----- LUKE 18:9-14
PEOPLE FACING STRONG TEMPTATION

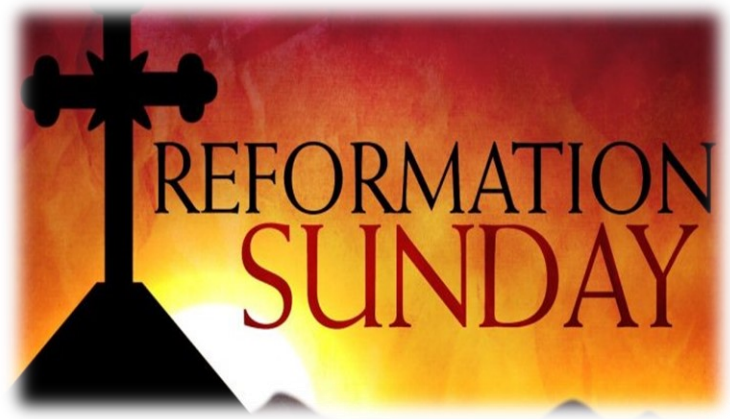
OCTOBER 27 ----- 1 PETER 4:12-19
FOSTER PARENTS

OCTOBER 28 ----- JOHN 14:21-27
PEOPLE WHO TEACH TEENS ABOUT JESUS

OCTOBER 29 ----- MATTHEW 21:28-32
PEOPLE WHO ARE HUNGRY

OCTOBER 30 ----- DANIEL 7:1-3, 15-18
PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN ANXIETY

OCTOBER 31 ----- JOHN 8:31-36
PEOPLE WHO TEACH GOD'S WORD



MESSIAH ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

DATE	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL OFFERING	GENERAL FUND OFFERING	OTHER FUNDS OFFERING
Sunday, Sept. 7	30	\$1,850.00	\$1,702.00	Building Fund -- \$20.00 Mission of the Month -- \$60.00 Music Fund (Piano) -- \$50.00
Sunday, Sept. 14	45	\$2,916.00	\$2,507.00	Benevolence -- \$60.00 Building Fund -- \$60.00 Mission of the Month -- \$10.00 Flowers -- \$25.00 Summer Camp -- \$4.00 Music Fund (Piano) -- \$50.00 Needlers -- \$200.00
Sunday, Sept. 21	42	\$1,947.00	\$1,702.00	Benevolence -- \$40.00 Building Fund -- \$85.00 Mission of the Month -- \$35.00 Flowers -- \$25.00 Summer Camp -- \$10.00 Needlers -- \$50.00
Sunday, Sept. 28	44	\$2,935.00	\$2,440.00	Benevolence -- \$60.00 Building Fund -- \$140.00 Mission of the Month -- \$135.00 Building Use -- \$125.00 Bible Study Materials -- \$35.00

SEPTEMBER INCOME -- \$9,648.00

SEPTEMBER EXPENSES -- \$15,071.94

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



OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1:	-9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL -7:00 PM – CHOIR REHEARSAL IN THE SANCTUARY
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2:	-7:00 PM –JAZZ BAND REHEARSAL IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5:	WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY & BLANKET SUNDAY -10:00 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6:	-6:30 PM – THE KNITTERS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM -7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLE’S CLASS AREA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7:	-10:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8:	-9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL -7:00 PM – CHOIR REHEARSAL IN THE SANCTUARY
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9:	-1:00 PM – WELCA IN YOUTH AREA
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11:	-11:00 AM – FRED PARNELL CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12:	-10:00 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION -1:30 PM – REGISTRATION FOR JUNIATA COUNTY CROP WALK AT WALKER PARK -2:00 PM – JUNIATA CROP WALK AT WALKER PARK
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13:	-6:30 PM – THE KNITTERS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM -7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLE’S CLASS AREA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14:	-10:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15 TO SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19:	-PASTOR SAM OUT OF TOWN
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16:	-11:30 AM – JCPASR IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19:	-10:00 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION -6:00 PM – 2026 WORK CAMP INFORMATIONAL MEETING AT ST. STEPHEN’S
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22:	-9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL -7:00 PM – CHOIR REHEARSAL IN SANCTUARY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26:	REFORMATION SUNDAY -10:00 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION -AFTER WORSHIP – PPC MEETING IN CHOIR ROOM.
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27:	-6:30 PM – THE KNITTERS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM -7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLE’S CLASS AREA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28:	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE -10:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29:	-9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL -7:00 PM – CHOIR REHEARSAL IN SANCTUARY
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30:	-11:30 AM – JCPASR IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

WELCA met on Thursday, September 11th at 1:00.

Devotions were led by Barbara Geedey and taken from that day's Christ In Our Home entitled "Pause and Pray" from Numbers 21:4-9.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$622.47.

There was no August meeting so there were no minutes to review.

Under Old business Barb reported that on Sunday for God's Work Our Hands we knotted 2 quilts, stuffed 3 more dog beds, and filled 63 school kits. Barb also reported from the convention report our synod filled 200 period packs with leftover items distributed to local shelters.

Under New business Barb reported that Ann Supplee/DeLauter Youth Center will be providing the message for our Thankoffering service on November 9th.

We discussed what we would like to have as our next project and Barbara reported that she would like to see us get back to the Seafarers project. The group was in agreement, but this project will carry over to next November with the hope that we can gather a good collection to send to New York City.

With no further business to discuss we closed the meeting with our Purpose statement.

A LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION OF MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

As the executive director of PPC and on behalf of all of the board members, we would like to discuss a very delicate topic.

It was decided at our last PPC meeting that we would decrease our benevolence from \$12,000 per year to \$6,000 per year. We did this with heavy hearts. This decision was made because in the past several months up to and including the present time, we are running in the red. It is hard to ask our congregation to try to dig deeper into their pockets. We ask that you please pray about your giving and pray about the future of Messiah. We, as a congregation, have always moved forward on behalf of our church. So, I am asking each and every one of our members to please do their best to help our church continue and grow and be able to support everyone of our members and missions into the future.

Prayerfully yours,

Marylou Hazard, Messiah PPC Executive Director

2026 WORK CAMP

ATTENTION YOUTH CURRENTLY IN 6TH GRADE AND UP: There is an informational Workcamp meeting set for Sunday, October 19 @ 6:00 PM at St. Stephen's. Workcamp 2026 will be in Mt. Gilead Ohio June 14-20. Parents are encouraged to attend. Please be prepared to pay the \$100 NON-REFUNDABLE deposit per participant.



The Juniata Co CROP Hunger Walk will be Sunday, October 12 at Walker Township Park. Please note that registration begins at 1:30 p.m. and the Walk begins at 2:00 p.m.

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/Juniata CoCROP](http://www.facebook.com/JuniataCoCROP). To get additional materials, contact Graham Fowler at 717-463-3138 or pastor.lostcreekpres@gmail.com.

Register Online: To register online go to www.CropHungerWalk.org/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.

Walkers can deliver the following needed items to the Food Pantry on CROP 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.

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.

THANK YOU!

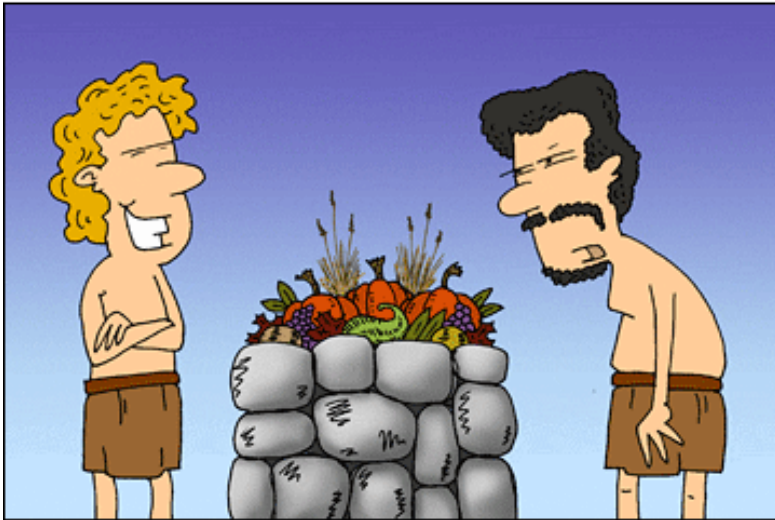
We would like to express our appreciation for the Altar Flowers delivered to George's room at Locust Grove Village on Sunday afternoon. They were colorful and brightened his room and his spirits as he recovers from hip surgery. -GEORGE AND KAY VARNER

WELCA COLLECTING SEAFARER'S BAGS

- ✓ Items needed for the Seafarer's bags:
- ✓ Sweatshirts-hooded or unhooked-M-L-XL only
- ✓ T-shirts-long or short-sleeved-M-L-XL only
- ✓ Socks-thermal or gym-NO ankle socks.

Please remove all store tags from each item and place the items in the plastic tub in the Adult Sunday School Room. We will be collecting these items until next October of 2026.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



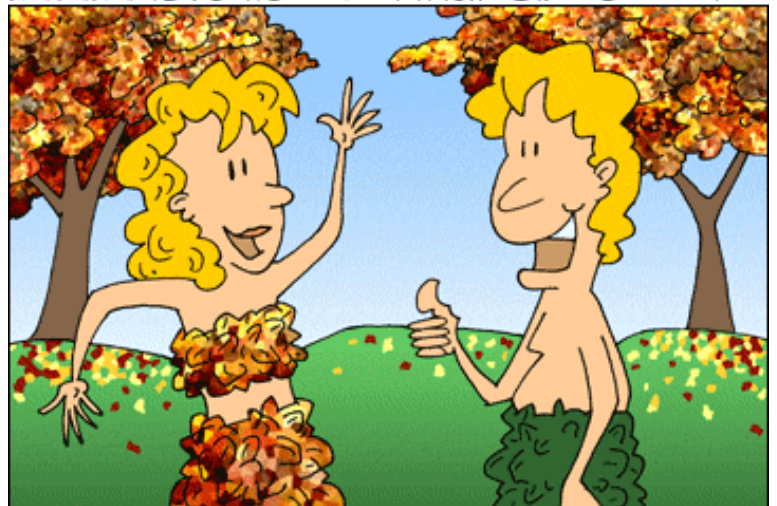
(See Genesis 4:1-15)

10-31-2008

SERIOUSLY CAIN? ... YOU ARE NOW DOING
SEASONAL ARRANGEMENTS?



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Pam Winn

10-17-2005

EVE DISPLAYS THE NEW FALL LINE

2025 Community Christmas Cantata

AN OPEN INVITATION TO SING . . . *Please feel free to share this message with others.*

After receiving encouragement and expressed interest from local community members regarding the possibility of once again organizing & directing a Community Christmas Cantata, I am pleased to share that we are now officially moving forward with planned weekly rehearsals and a scheduled public performance on **Sunday, Dec. 14th, 2025 (2:00 PM at Free Spring Church of the Brethren / 670 Free Spring Church Rd, Mifflintown PA 17059)**. At this point, initial interest has already created a solid **core group** of approximately forty volunteer singers and I would welcome additional voices.

This year's chosen Community Christmas Cantata is **THE WINTER ROSE** by Joseph M. Martin. While the public performance will be free of an admission charge, a freewill offering will be collected to benefit our local Juniata County Food Pantry.

REHEARSAL DATES & LOCATIONS: Beginning on Monday, October 20th, the weekly rehearsals will alternate between Monday & Tuesday evenings with the first four rehearsals (Oct. 20 & 28, Nov. 3 & 11) being held at Port Royal Lutheran Church (402 Market St, Port Royal PA 17082) and the final four practices (Nov. 17 & 25, Dec. 1 & 9) being held at the Free Spring Church. **All rehearsals will run from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.** I trust that participants will find the practices to be both fun and structured in a way that helps build confidence in singing their chosen vocal parts.

If you are interested in adding your voice, please cut off and return the bottom section of this letter by Friday, Oct. 10th. While this date will allow plenty of time to have needed cantata books on hand at our first rehearsal, **walk-in** singers are always welcome. I'm looking forward to once again directing this annual community event and I hope to provide a worthwhile and enjoyable time for all involved singers (regardless of age). **Please join us!!!!**

Respectfully,

Kevin Cunningham, Retired JHS Band & Chorus Director

Please neatly detach the bottom portion and return by Friday, Oct. 10th to . . .
KEVIN CUNNINGHAM, 644 CUNNINGHAM RD, MIFFLINTOWN PA 17059

I/we want to sing with the 2025 Cantata Choir!!! (Family members are welcome)

Name(s): _____ **Phone #:** _____

Address: _____

e-mail address: _____

Voice Part(s)

_____ **Soprano**

_____ **Alto**

_____ **Tenor**

_____ **Bass**

_____ I already have a copy of THE WINTER ROSE music book.

_____ I will need to borrow a cantata music book (no charge).

(Number of needed music books: _____)

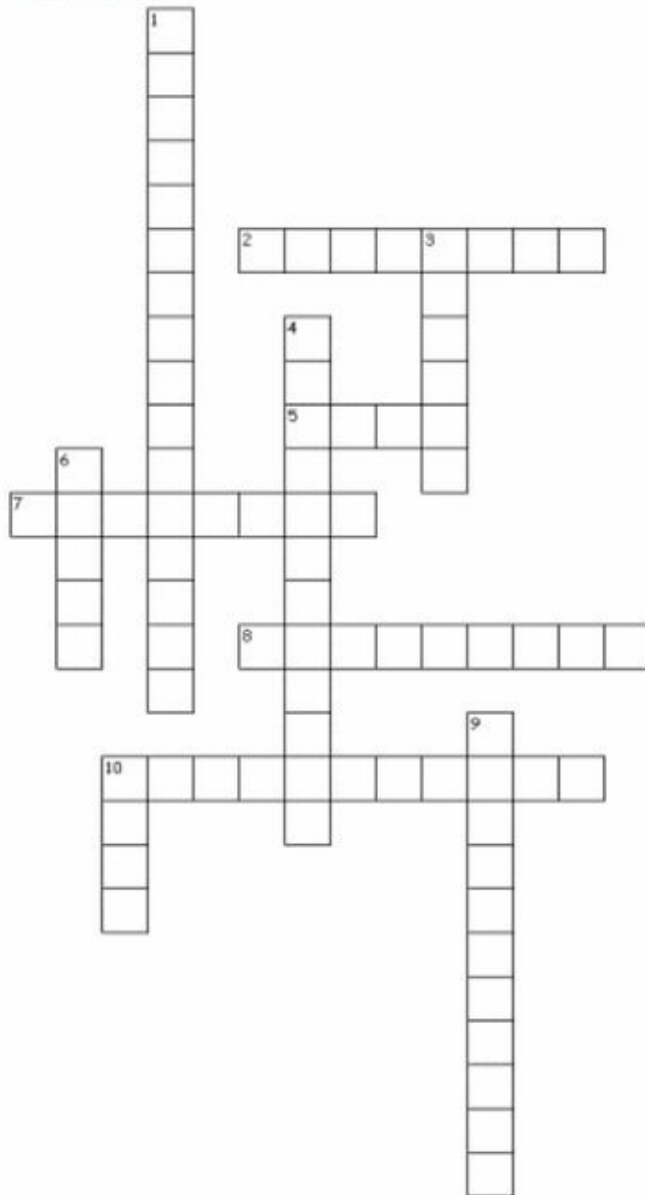
PLEASE NOTE: *Participating families are asked to indicate the total number of requested music books.*

The Reformation



By Mr Yelland

www.SchoolHistory.co.uk



Across



- 2. One invention in particular helped the spread of ideas during the Reformation.
- 5. Luther visited which city in 1510?
- 7. In 1500 the majority of people belonged to which branch of religion?
- 8. The place where all the souls of dead people go.
- 10. Luther's supporters became known as?

Down



- 1. The list of arguments which Luther nailed to the church door in 1517 is known as?
- 3. This person was sent to Wittenberg to sell "Letters of Indulgence".
- 4. A German reformer and one of the founders of Protestantism.
- 6. The Bible was written in which language?
- 9. Certificates or letters that absolved the buyer of sin and were used by the Pope as a way of raising money.
- 10. The head of the Catholic Church is called?



ENDING AT THE BEGINNING

I started my ministry as presiding bishop with these four emphases: We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world. I will end as I began.

We are church. There is no other institution on earth whose reason for being is the proclamation of the gospel. “It is also taught that at all times there must be and remain one holy, Christian church. It is the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel” (Augsburg Confession, Article VII). That’s it. The works we do in service to the world are important, but they are not the essence of the church. The ELCA does not exist in order to work for justice. Rather, because we are nourished by word and sacraments, the ELCA is free and empowered to do so.

The church is also marvelously intricate and interconnected. “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5). There is no such thing as a solitary Christian. God’s love for us through Christ and poured into our hearts by the Spirit is for each of us. But each of us is just one member of the body of Christ. We understand the church in the same way. “This church shall seek to function as people of God through congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, all of which shall be interdependent. Each part, while fully the church, recognizes that it is not the whole church and therefore lives in an interdependent relationship with the others” (ELCA “Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions” 8.11.).

We are Lutheran. The average Lutheran in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a woman in Tanzania. There are more Lutherans in Ethiopia, Indonesia and Madagascar than there are in the ELCA. The LWF has 150 member churches in 99 countries. What binds us together? Certainly not one culture or cuisine. Rather, it is the clear witness of the gospel that sets us free. “It is taught that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our merit, work, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ’s sake through faith ...” (Augsburg Confession, Article IV).

This is revolutionary. The standards of the world by which we are measured, or we measure others, are a figment. We don’t claim perfection for the church. We’re not there. But as Martin Luther said, “This life therefore is not righteousness but growth in righteousness, not health but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified” (“Defense and Explanation of All the Articles”). We know there is law and gospel, that we are saint and sinner, that we are bound and free, and we entrust that all to God.

We are church together. Paul wrote that we do not live to ourselves. We live in a time when fear is used to separate us. This is the tool of every authoritarian regime. The church is different. The Spirit calls, gathers and keeps the whole church on earth. We belong to God, we belong to each other, and we belong to the world.

We are church for the sake of the world. We are not only freed from sin, we are freed for service to the neighbor. Here is where the essence of the church—the proclamation of the gospel—gives power and shape to the work we do in Jesus’ name. We are church for the sake of the world not out of obligation or for reward but out of love.

So there it is, dear church, my farewell address. We each have this ministry for a season. My season as presiding bishop has ended. Bishop-elect Yehiel Curry’s season is about to begin. Pray for him, his family and the churchwide staff.

But be assured that the season for the ELCA is not over. God hasn’t finished with this church yet.

--Outgoing Presiding ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, “Living Lutheran”, September 17, 2025

WHAT IS BENEVOLENCE?

ELCA Benevolence, now more commonly known as Mission Support, is the portion of congregational offerings that congregations share with the ELCA synods and the ELCA churchwide organization to fund ministries beyond the local congregation, such as starting new churches, supporting global missions, alleviating poverty, and promoting justice and peace. It is the lifeblood of the ELCA, enabling shared work and mission efforts that individual congregations and synods cannot accomplish alone.

KEY ASPECTS OF ELCA MISSION SUPPORT

- **Shared Mission:** Mission Support is a fundamental way that Lutherans participate in God's mission by providing resources for ministries that are broader than a single congregation.
- **Multi-Level Funding:** Funds from Mission Support are shared between the synods and the ELCA's churchwide organization to support a wide range of ministries.
- **Support for Global & Local Ministries:** Mission Support resources are used for global initiatives like ELCA World Hunger, as well as for domestic programs such as supporting new mission congregations, providing leader development, and assisting congregations in crisis.
- **Historical Term:** While "benevolence" was a term used by predecessor Lutheran bodies and may still be heard, the ELCA officially uses "Mission Support" to describe these undesignated funds that fund the broader church body's work.
- **Foundation of Ministry:** Mission Support provides the majority of the funding that enables the ELCA to "live out God's call to love our neighbor and restore and reconcile communities throughout the world".