



# the Voice parish newsletter



**Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church**  
975 Washington Road Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228

*Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me; they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. –Psalm 22:12-13*

Gregory Fenves was raised in Mount Lebanon, graduated from Mount Lebanon High School, and is the recipient of the school district's Great Alumni Award. Currently, he's the President of Emory University in Atlanta. From his office a few days ago, he observed student protesters and heard anti-Semitic chants. Being Jewish, having a father who was a holocaust survivor, President Fenves was aghast. Emory is not alone among American universities with anti-Semitic students and faculty. To his credit, President Fenves did not remain silent; nor did he dignify the anti-Semitic tropes by including them in his letter of condemnation to the Emory campus community.

Martin Luther made anti-Semitic statements. Lutherans have apologized and now enjoy a vibrant, respectful, interfaith relationship with the Jewish community. Luther's tropes will not be repeated in this newsletter. They were shameful. Lutheran theology is pristine, but Luther's attitude toward Jewish persons, common in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, was a sin. A copy of the official Lutheran apology for Luther's anti-Semitism can be found through the link below. Please copy it to your browser and read it.

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Declaration Of The ELCA To The Jewish Community.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Declaration%20Of%20The%20ELCA%20To%20The%20Jewish%20Community.pdf)

Also, please find on the next page President Fenves' letter to Emory. '*Hate Has No Home Here*' has been a yard sign fronting many residences in our area in recent years. How disappointing many students and professors fail to follow this message in their quest to impose an ignorant ideology on their campuses and the world. Pray for peace and the protection of innocents. Pray for the defeat of tyrants and terrorists. Remember the reason why the United Nations (UN) created Israel in 1948; pray the UN will rediscover its noble purpose *in a time such as this....*

In Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy



**November, 2023**

## FROM PRESIDENT GREGORY L. FENVES EMORY UNIVERSITY

October 25, 2023

Earlier today, there was a protest on our Atlanta campus by members of the Emory community. Throughout the event, anti-Semitic phrases and slogans were repeatedly used by speakers and chanted by the crowd. I cannot be more clear--this kind of rhetoric has no place at Emory. I am appalled by this behavior. It violates our core values, particularly our commitment to creating an inclusive environment for all who learn, work, and live on our campuses.

The terrorist atrocities and ensuing war in Israel and Gaza have horrified us all, and the continued loss of innocent life is deeply painful. So many at Emory have risen to meet this challenging moment—fostering dialogue, hosting vigils, relying on our religious leaders across faiths, and leaning into the expertise of our scholars. But anti-Semitic slogans degrade that important work and the mutual respect that underpins the Emory community.

Emory has a long and distinguished history of supporting open expression. We welcome peaceful protests. We welcome a vast range of ideas and perspectives. But anti-Semitism targeting Jewish members of our community, even as part of a protest protected by our Open Expression policy, must be called out for what it is—divisive and reprehensible.

No matter how strongly you feel about an issue, there is another perspective to consider and there are other people with their own beliefs, values, and history that you may not agree with or fully understand. Seek out that other perspective. Seek understanding over division and hateful attacks.

Your words are powerful. I urge you to use them respectfully and in a manner that values every person at Emory. That isn't too much to ask. It's simply the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Gregory L. Fenves

President



EMORY  
UNIVERSITY

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 5  
ONE LITURGY  
9:30 AM**

On Sunday, November 5, we will celebrate the *Festival of All Saints*. Members of the church and other loved ones who have died during the past year will be remembered in prayer. Their names will be read during worship followed by bell chimes. The departed saints of the church are dearly remembered. By faith we believe we remain as one. Though separated by death for a time, we will be reunited at last in the heavenly home.

**Please join the congregation in worship at 9:30 AM on Sunday,  
November 5, for this solemn remembrance of all the saints.**



*Beginning in November...*

## THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

“What Are We Waiting For?”

Enduring in faith; waiting for God

10:00 AM-11:15 AM

November 2

Psalms 137

November 9

Daniel 12

November 16

Luke 17:11-21

*November 23 (no class)*

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

November 30

Revelation 22

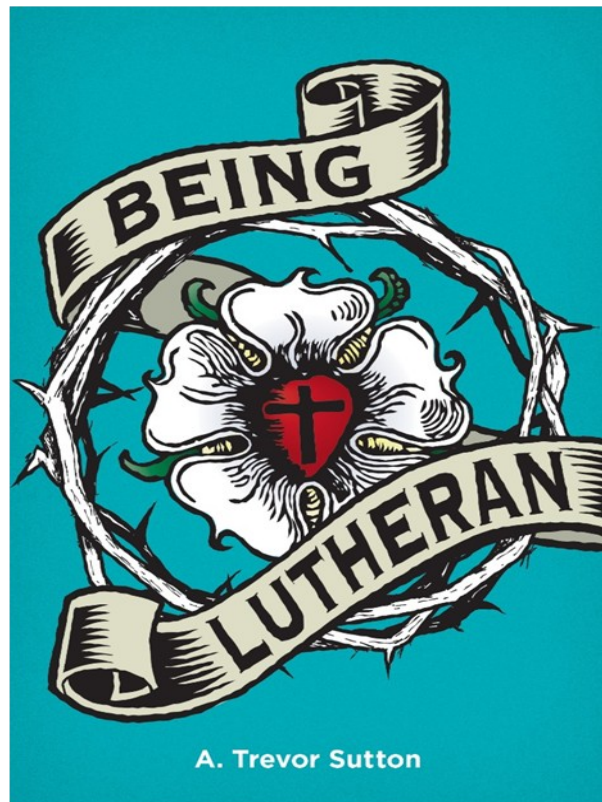
Led by Pastor Heagy, this November/December Bible study will focus on endurance and waiting in faith. Bible stories will be read and discussed, including Advent themes. Emphasis will be given to how these stories can serve us in daily life. All are welcome! Invite friends! Participants do not have to commit to each week. Come as you are able!

*I WAITED FOR THE LORD, HE INCLINED UNTO ME,  
HE HEARD MY COMPLAINT.  
O BLEST ARE THEY THAT HOPE AND TRUST IN HIM.  
--PSALM 40:1*

# MONDAY NIGHT FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP

November 6, 13, 20, 27

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM



Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss chapters and vignettes  
from *Being Lutheran*, by A. Trevor Sutton.  
Join us to discover together who we are in Christ!

## **MOUNT LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### ***NEW ROOF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN***

Dear Members & Friends of Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church:

Recently, when our property insurance was renewed, a building inspection revealed what we already knew: the poor conditions of the flat roof on our education wing and the flat roof on northwest corner of the sanctuary. As a condition of favorable rates, our insurance company strongly advised replacing both rooves. To be clear, they're well past life expectancy and have suffered frequent water intrusions. Therefore, after reviewing options, we have contracted with Pittsburgh Commercial Roofing, the low bidder, to replace both rooves for a total cost of \$60,900.

We regard this capital project as an expression of faithful stewardship and request the participation of all members and friends. Please read the frequently asked questions below and the answers to them. Contact the church office with other questions. A pledge form with options can be found on the opposite side of this document. Please return a pledge in a timely way, but before the end of the 2023 calendar year. The participation of all is urged to fairly share the responsibility of property care.

#### *Frequently Asked Questions*

***Why are we undertaking a capital campaign to raise \$60,900 when our church's Stir into Flame fund balance can cover the cost of the rooves?***

While it's true the church is blessed with funds, the possibility of sudden, expensive property repairs in the future make it prudent for us not to drain our fund balance. Faithful stewardship means taking responsibility for present and future needs.

***Will there be pledge options to fit my personal budget?***

Yes, please review the pledge options on the opposite side of this page. There are options for gift amounts and length of payments.

***Is it possible to redirect my current pledge already made to the General Fund to this Capital Campaign?***

Everyone is free to make personal giving choices, but it is recommended that any gift made for the new rooves not replace current giving. In other words, we hope members and friends will make special gifts above their current giving.

Thanks for your prayerful consideration. All gifts are equal and pleasing to God.

The Executive Committee

**NEW ROOF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN  
PLEDGE FORM**

*In fulfillment of my membership vows and love for Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church, I pledge the following gift for the New Roof Capital Campaign:*

**Amount (circle one):**

\$100    \$250    \$500    \$1000    \$2500  
\$5000    \$7500    \$10,000    Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Pledge Period (circle one):**

*In fulfillment of my membership vows and love for Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church, I will complete my pledge payments in the following time period:*

One Time Gift                  Over 6 Months                  Over 1 year  
Over 2 Years                          Over 3 Years

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge Date \_\_\_\_\_

In the event of unexpected life changes, pledges can be altered or dropped. Gifts are requested from what we have and made gratefully, not with undue pressure on anyone. Thanks for your faithful support of the church in all your service.

Please return this pledge form to the Church office or Sunday offering plate.

# FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

## Develop a Heart of Generosity

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances!*  
--1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Would you like to be a more generous person, possessing a generous heart? Then try embracing gratitude as a spiritual practice. Since Thanksgiving is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month, November is a wonderful time to give it a try.

Gratitude and generosity go together. Whether you're a millionaire or just middle-class, when you are grateful for what you have, you'll likely be happier and more satisfied. You will see the world through eyes of abundance and be more likely to give of yourself. How can we embrace gratitude as a spiritual practice? Paul gives us good advice.

**Give thanks in all circumstances:** Paul says give thanks IN all circumstances, not FOR all circumstances. In tough times, we can be grateful for what is going well and for the resources, relationships and faith that will help us through.

**Pray without ceasing:** Pray in the shower, in your car, on the beach, on your lunch break, at a stop light, in a grocery line. God hears all your prayers. Pray nonstop.

**Rejoice always:** Look for everyday celebrations every day. Do you have hot water? A car? Clean socks? food? Friends? Rejoice.

For a disciplined approach, keep a journal of your daily thanks, or a "gratitude list" that you can pray over and revise. Keep it up and it's a good bet that your developing "attitude of gratitude" will result in you becoming more generous and seeing the world through a lens of abundance.

--Rob Blezard  
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Stewardship Is...



Love in Action



# All Saints Sunday November 5

One Festive Liturgy at 9:30 AM



## Members of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

**Patricia Ann Mikita**  
+11-18-2022

**Dr. Nancy Nelson**  
+06-09-2023

**Lynette Rosser**  
+06-09-2023

**Ruth Hayes**  
+08-14-2023

**Thomas J. Prex**  
+10-12-2023

*Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine;  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

# All Saints Sunday November 5

One Festive Liturgy at 9:30 AM

**James F. Ryan, Sr.**  
+03-15-2023

**Casper R. Taylor, Jr.**  
+04-24-2023

**Paul H. Young, Sr.**  
+05-11-2023

**Charles Lulich**  
+06-20-2023

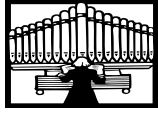
**Roy Steven Lahet**  
+09-01-2023

**Rosemary Vulcano**  
+09-05-2023

**Military Veterans  
and all First Responders  
who served for Peace.**  
+

*Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine;  
All are one in thee, for all are thine.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*





## Musical Musings

November, 2023

The music ministry at Mt. Lebanon extends its thanks to Corey Wingard, who after more than 15 years of service to our choir, has retired from his position as section leader. We thank him for his dedication and consistency to the Church's music ministry, and wish him all the best in his continued musical and theatrical endeavors!



Have a Very Blessed and Happy  
Thanksgiving  
From the staff at  
Mt. Lebanon United  
Lutheran Church

### SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE: NOVEMBER, 2023

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please switch with another server. If you cannot get a substitute call the church office at 412-563-0300 or Pastor Doug at [412] 926-5440; or email the church at: mtleboluth@aol.com

November 5-Crucifer

9:30 Annaleigh Dwulit

November 12-Crucifer

8:30 Addy Wetzel

10:00 Gabriel Provins

November 19- Crucifer

8:30 Max Bruno

10:00 Finn Darcy

November 23- Thanksgiving-Crucifer

10:30 Chase Lutz

November 26—Crucifer

8:30 Sam Wetzel

10:00 Quinn Darcy

Are you thankful for books?  
Find out by stopping by the church library.  
See the fall book display!  
Library books are easy to find,  
check out, and return.  
Come see a turkey made from a book!



This year marks the  
**250<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the  
beloved hymn  
**"Amazing Grace"**



Learn about the history of this  
favorite hymn.  
Who wrote the words and the  
music?  
When was it written? And why.  
**See what other books we have in  
the library about... Grace**



The worship links to Facebook & You Tube can be found on our website:  
[www.mtlebanonlutheran.org](http://www.mtlebanonlutheran.org)

**Sunday's**  
**8:30 AM & 10:00 AM**

*Virtual Worship 8:30 AM Facebook LIVE*  
*Posted later on our YouTube channel*

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**The Word of the Lord**

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- November 5      All Saints Sunday  
                     Revelation 7:9-17  
                     Psalm 34:1-10, 22  
                     1 John 3:1-3  
                     Matthew 5:1-12
  
- November 12    23rd Sunday after Pentecost  
                     Amos 5:18-24  
                     Psalm 70  
                     1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
                     Matthew 25:1-13
  
- November 19    24th Sunday after Pentecost  
                     Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18  
                     Psalm 90:1-8  
                     1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
                     Matthew 25:14-30
  
- Thursday, November 23rd, at 10:30 AM**  
                     **Festive Worship Liturgy for a**  
                     **National Day of Thanksgiving**
  
- November 26    Christ the King  
                     Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
                     Psalm 95:1-7a  
                     Ephesians 1:15-23  
                     Matthew 25:31-46

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*Sunday School at 10:00*

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*Remember the Sabbath Day  
to keep it Holy!*



*The last Sunday of the Season of Pentecost*

**Festival of Christ the King**  
**Sunday, November 26**  
8:30 and 10:00 AM

The last Sunday of the long Pentecost Season [over a half-year long, 24 weeks] and indeed, the Church Year is celebrated as the Festival of Christ the King.

Of rather recent origin among festival days [1925], this day marks with awe and reverence our Lord Jesus Christ as the King of the universe and thus, His kingship is to be understood as the goal of both the church's liturgical year-end and of our earthly pilgrimage.

In the reign of Christ, the King does not 'use' others or intimidate the weak, but cares for them. We proclaim Christ our King, as he goes to the throne of the cross. We acclaim Him our ruler as he sheds his blood. We acknowledge Him as our Lord as He gives himself to us in bread and wine.

**Crown Him with many crowns!**

**Global Links:**

Thank you to the small but mighty crew who volunteered at Global Links this past Saturday. Thanks go out to Todd Rheinfrank, Larry & Pam Bucher and Sara Dougherty. The next volunteer session is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6 from 1:00-3:00 pm. Looking forward to seeing many of you there! Any questions, contact Sara Dougherty at 412-523-1499 or [tjdsjd@verizon.net](mailto:tjdsjd@verizon.net)



**The Annual Stewardship mailing**

will be arriving shortly. It will include the 2024 Commitment Cards and Time and Talent Sheets. Informational pages will be emailed separately.

Please read the information carefully and return your giving cards to the church office in the envelopes provided. All financial information will be kept confidential and is seen only by the financial secretary. Also please review and fill in your Time and Talent sheets. They also may be turned in to the church office. Offering envelopes for 2024 will be available for pick-up in the south hallway of the church beginning November 26.



**WE REMEMBER  
in our prayers:**

Lord of healing, thanksgiving fills our hearts as we rejoice in you. We who live in the midst of storm and sickness, who are daily exposed to evil of every sort, rejoice that in angelic attention you watch over, cradle and keep us safe. We pray for:

Craig Elias; Andy Kelemen; Dagmar Gerst; Linda Larkin;  
Jennifer Meyer; Anne Bidlack, Amy Stabenow

**Well Wishes Needed:** Dagmar Gerst is recovering from injuring her arm—and has moved in the meantime. She truly misses everyone in our congregation and would love well wishes sent to her at her new address as follows:

Dagmar Gerst  
Grand Residence  
45 McMurray Road—Room 306  
Upper St. Clair, PA 15241

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** for the December issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by November 19th. Articles may be left in the church office or email: [mtleboluth@aol.com](mailto:mtleboluth@aol.com).

**DST Ends November 5 - Set your clocks BACK one hour to be timely for worship on Sunday, November 5th, All Saints' Sunday.**

**Daily Bread Ministries  
November 19**



A traditional Turkey Dinner is the menu for the next *Daily Bread Meal*. We are now accepting cash donations for the purchase of turkeys and other miscellaneous ingredients. Sign up sheet is located in the Narthex. We are thankful to all our donors and volunteers for their participation in serving those in need on the Northside.



**Holiday Market**

Saturday, November 11th - 9 am - 2 pm  
Presented by the Mt. Lebanon Junior Women's Club in our Social Hall.

*You're Invited...To the  
Sunday Morning Fellowship  
Sunday Morning Fellowship* in the Foyer.

*Please join us for a special celebration on Sunday, November 12 at 9:30 in the Foyer, to celebrate Martin Luther's 540th birthday (November 10th) with a piece of birthday cake and coffee.*

Every Sunday please join us in between the early and late Liturgies to share greetings and conversations with friends and visitors. Refreshments are available for all.

The Sunday Morning Fellowship also provides opportunities to volunteer:

- \* Sponsor the Coffee Project of Lutheran World Relief, helping small growers, their families and communities through the fair trade of coffee.
- \* Volunteer to set up and clean the Fellowship refreshments table. It's easy to do and a member of the Hospitality Committee will show you how. Also, written instructions are available.
- \* Provide sweet (or healthy) treats for all to enjoy. (Gluten free and nut free treats are also welcomed) If you'd like to help you can sign up in the foyer outside the church office, or contact the church office.

**A Note from the Treasurer:**

For many members, the e-offering platform has been a useful tool and we thank you for using it. This is a reminder that if you use your bank account directly, the fee is 30 cents. If you use a credit card, the fee is 3.25%. Please use the bank account direct debit if at all possible.



## November Liturgical Themes

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The festivals of All Saints [November 5] and Christ the King [November 26] along with the Sundays between them, form a liturgical bridge from one year into the next.

Throughout much of North America, November is a time for remembrance. We think back to the past growing season and the warm weather of summer with a kind of wistfulness as the cold, earlier darkness swallows the sun more each day.

November also calls to mind those who have served our nation [Veterans' Day].

Here in the northeast, there is a withering, shedding, scattering, stripping, burrowing, and freezing. Fields we remember as full of fruit, are now stubble. Even so, November heralds that the baptized are to be awake and actively enacting our remembering of Christ as the goal, not simply of the year, but of all time.

On November Sundays, Christians gather around God's word and Christ's cup to remember all the saints of every time and every place who have died in the faith; to remember, to watch, and to wait in hope and love; to remember who is sovereign of all that is and ever shall be. Such remembering is deeply imaginative and profoundly collaborative. It is not merely a remembering of the past, but an active recollection of the future, and thus a participation in Christ's remembering a world beloved to God.

All Saints Day calls to mind all the faithful in history, into the vortex of unity with all those who have gone under the waters of death to be delivered into the life of God. The mind of Christ, as proposed by our November texts—imagines saints as refugees, undistinguished by denomination, race, or creed.



And on the festival of Christ the King, the assembly stands by the sea of glass, at the throne of Christ who is, who was, and who is yet to come.

## Right around the corner... The Jesse Tree of Advent

Just as the Christmas Season has its own special tree, so Advent has its special tree: the Jesse Tree. It is in a prominent place in our Narthex so it can be seen up close.

It is a bare, and not particularly attractive tree, because in Advent, we are reminded of the incompleteness of the fulfillment of God's promises in the Old Testament.

In Advent, we wait for their fulfillment. Many of our Advent hymns, include the favorite "Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel," speak of the "strong branch of Jesse."

*But who is this Jesse of whom Jesus is called the "Branch" and whose name is given to the Advent tree?*

Jesse was the father of King David. The Gospel of Saint Matthew begins with the words "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David." The Gospel of Saint Luke is also careful to establish that Joseph was of the "house and lineage of David" and it was for that reason that he went to Bethlehem, the city of David, for the census. It was there, of course, that Jesus was born.

Since Jesse was David's father, Jesus was also a descendent of Jesse. He was the "Branch" or "Rod" which grew from the stump of Jesse. So the Jesse Tree is a kind of family tree of Jesus, which gives all of our congregational family an opportunity to appreciate the mighty acts of God in preparation for the fulfillment of the prophetic promise in the birth of Jesus.

The decorations on the Jesse Tree, which have been made by the children of our Sunday School, symbolize the important people, and events of the Old Testament leading toward the birth of Jesus. They include a globe symbolizing creation, the serpent and an apple from the Garden of Eden, the ark which Noah built and the rainbow sent by God, the flaming torch and burning firepot, the lamb and the blade from the near-sacrifice of Isaac, Jacob's ladder, Joseph's coat of many colors, the burning bush through which God spoke to Moses, and the lamp of Samuel.

Please take time this Advent to look closely at the Jesse Tree in the Narthex and remember our loving God's work to redeem His creation.

*The Jesse Tree will be on display beginning the first Sunday in Advent, December 3. If you would like to help decorating the Jesse Tree, contact Debbie Hazlett at [drhazlett@verizon.net](mailto:drhazlett@verizon.net)*

## YOUTH GROUP MEETING

We will have an evening of fun as we give back to our members who've recently graduated high school and our families who continue to support us in our faith formation. Come ready to make some sweet snacks, and create College Care packages. We would like you (middle school & high school youth) to join us on the 19th of November from 6-8 pm in the Youth Room. Please let us know you're coming by emailing Julia Nelson at: [jmnelson26@comcast.net](mailto:jmnelson26@comcast.net)



## Presentation of Bibles

It is our tradition on Reformation Sunday to present first graders and new students with their very own Bibles. Edith Koval and Austin Porter received their Bibles on October 29, and Samantha Croom and Tatum Tomnay will receive their Bibles on November 12. These are gifts from their congregational family to encourage them as they continue to grow in Christian faith.



**Sunday School Students made crafts and table graces to benefit our friends at the St. Michaels Food Pantry on the Northside.**

Thanks to all who participated.



## Kids' Choir Schedule

Our Sunday School kids are led in Music each week by Carol Vogeley and Barb Heagy. They are learning a song to sing in Worship on November 19. They are also learning songs for our upcoming Advent Pageant. All kids are welcome to join us! We practice in the Opening Room, last room downstairs. Please contact [MBTrivilino@verizon.net](mailto:MBTrivilino@verizon.net) for more info.

### Our schedule for the coming weeks:

November 5 – 10:20 am - *Sunday School starts at 9:30 this day to All Saints one Liturgy*  
 November 12 – 10:50 am  
 November 19 – Kids sing in Worship at 10:00; then 1<sup>st</sup> Advent Pageant Rehearsal 10:10 am  
 Saturday, Dec. 2 – Advent Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 am – *Social Hall*  
 December 3 – Advent Pageant Rehearsal during Sunday School 10:00 am  
 Saturday, Dec. 9 – Advent Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 am – *Social Hall*  
 December 10 – Dress Rehearsal during Sunday School 10:00 am  
 -- Advent Pageant Performance  
 11:15 in Social Hall, followed by Luncheon

## 2023 Advent Pageant Participation Form

Please return form to teachers or to Church office by Nov. 5, or email to [MBTrivilino@verizon.net](mailto:MBTrivilino@verizon.net)

Name of Student	Speaking Role
_____	Y N - Teen Helper* ____
_____	Y N - Teen Helper* ____
_____	Y N - Teen Helper* ____
_____	Singing Solo or Duet ____

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*Parents/Teens can help (circle all you can):

1<sup>st</sup> Rehearsal Nov 19 – during Sunday School 10:00-11:00 am

2<sup>nd</sup> Rehearsal Dec 2 – Saturday, 9:30-11:00 am

3<sup>rd</sup> Rehearsal Dec 3 – during Sunday School 10:00-11:00 am

4<sup>th</sup> Rehearsal Dec 9 – Saturday, 9:30-11:00 am

Dress run-thru/Warmup Dec 10– during Sunday School 10:00-11:00 am

\*Can help with (circle):

Costumes      Scenery/Set      Sound System

Stage Hand      Help kids learn lines      Help supervise kids



Mark your Calendars for the  
**Annual ADVENT PAGEANT**



*“The Christmas Story: Jesus Christ is the Same-  
Yesterday, Today, and Forever!”*

by Kendra Smiley

**ON STAGE IN THE SOCIAL HALL**



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023**

**Pageant at 11:15 am, following the Late Liturgy**

**Followed by a luncheon for the entire congregation.**



**Saturday Rehearsals: 9:30-11 am on December 2 & 9**

**Sunday School Rehearsals: November 19, December 3 & 10**

**Volunteers welcome! To participate or help, please contact:**

**[MBTrivilino@verizon.net](mailto:MBTrivilino@verizon.net)**

**Thanks to:**

**Elizabeth Rheinfrank (Director)**

**Mary Beth Trivilino (Casting)**

**Carol Vogeley and Barb Heagy (Music)**

**Melodie Frankovitch (Educational Ministries)**



**You are cordially invited to  
Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church**

**Advent Pageant & Congregational Luncheon**



**On Sunday, December 10, 2023  
at 11:15 am in the Social Hall  
Please RSVP by December 3  
Entrée and side dish will be provided.**

**Please bring a traditional dessert or cookies that  
represent your family heritage.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children

I/We will bring a dessert:    yes           no

Please return RSVP or email Church Office with the information by December 3.



# ONLINE GIVING

*Is now available in association with*



myEoffering

[www.mtlebanonlutheran.org](http://www.mtlebanonlutheran.org)

## WHAT IS myEoffering?

myEoffering is a service we've teamed up with to give you the ability to send your offerings online in the same way that many of you already pay bills and purchase products. We chose to use myEoffering because they are part of a trusted, Christian family-owned company, who have been serving the needs of churches for nearly 100 years. Their product is solid, secure, easy, and convenient.

## WHY SHOULD I USE myEoffering?

Many of you already pay for most of your purchases electronically, whether online or with a credit or debit card. So we have decided to offer this service as a convenience to you - you can stop writing checks or having to remember to bring cash every Sunday. Simply log in to our service and set up your offering. You can set the donations to match your pay periods, and even send your one-time donations to the special offerings we may have from time-to-time. This new service allows you to give any amount, at any time, from home or on the road, with your computer or even your mobile device. Now you can control how and when you give your tithes.

## HOW DOES IT HELP?

Online giving is the future. In the lifetime of our young people, we will see electronic payments overshadow traditional methods of paper payments. In order to position ourselves to continue doing the work of God in the future and to make it as convenient as possible to be a cheerful giver to God's work, we have decided to offer online giving to you. In addition to easier access to giving and more engagement with young stewards, online offering has many benefits for the church. It allows us to more easily track contributions for budgeting. It saves us from manually tracking those contributions every week. It saves us from large fees on check processing and allows us to more accurately forecast expenditures and needs.

## HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Signing up is as simple as going to our church website listed above and look for the green computer mouse icon. That button will take you to the myEoffering page for our church. Simply sign up and begin giving online today! Or scan the code to the right with your mobile device to get started now.



SCAN THIS  
CODE WITH  
YOUR MOBILE  
DEVICE NOW



**MOUNT LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2023 ANNUAL MEETING  
VOTING RESULTS**

Our Annual Meeting was held by both email and In-Person. Thanks to all who cast votes by email, postal mail, or during our meeting. A quorum was attained, validating the results below. Percentages have been rounded.

**MOTION ONE – COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP - 100% YES**

Elected: *David Hale*  
*Melodie Frankovitch (for one year to fill a vacancy)*  
*Patrick Snyder*

**MOTION TWO – CHURCH BUDGET – 100% APPROVED**

The proposed church budget for 2024 was approved.

Thanks to all members who participated in the meeting.

**The Executive Committee**



# 2023 Annual Thanksgiving Outreach Project

Our Congregation will once again provide Thanksgiving food to community members who participate in the St. Michaels Food Pantry. Please help by donations of the following items by **Sunday, November 5**. Bring your donations to The Giving Market in the Narthex.

Items we are collecting:

SMALL CANS: vegetables, fruits, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes/yams

SMALL BOXES: cornbread, mashed potatoes, stuffing, rice mixes

ENVELOPES or CANS: gravy

*We have eliminated glass jars due to breakage during travel ... thank you!*

**Giant Eagle** gift cards (prefer \$10. to \$30. range)



**THANK YOU** to those who created the beautiful cards and crafts for the baskets!!

## Thanksgiving Project Fellowship Brunch

**Sunday, November 12 at 11:05am** *after the 10:00 Worship Service*

The Congregation is invited to a Fellowship Brunch in the Social Hall to help assemble the Thanksgiving 'Baskets'.

Contact Deb Hazlett [drhazett@verizon.net](mailto:drhazett@verizon.net) if you have any questions.

**Thank you for your support! St. Michaels Food Pantry is extremely grateful for our Congregation's continued help throughout the year, especially during the Thanksgiving season.**

### **A Table Liturgy for The Feast of Thanksgiving (November 23)**



*[The family stands in prayerful silence around their table, upon which there are two unlighted candles.  
After a few moments, begin the prayer]*

**Leader 1:** Come, let us welcome the Feast of Thanksgiving with joy and with light. Light is the symbol of the divine. The Lord is our light and our salvation. May the light of gratitude burn brightly in our hearts, and around this table, not only for the Feast of Thanksgiving, but all meals. *[The candles are now lighted]*

**Leader 2:** In the silence of our hearts, let us give thanks for all the many gifts that are ours. *[pause for silent reflection]* Let us also be mindful of those today who are without food or even a home. *[pause for silent reflection]*

**Leader 3:** Lord of Gifts, from Your holy heart has come a food of blessings to us. With uplifted hearts, we have gathered around this table to thank You with prayer and the worship of feasting. We are grateful not only for the gift of life itself, but all the gifts of friendship, love, devotion, and forgiveness that we have shared. On this Feast of giving thanks, Lord God, we thank You for showing us how to return thanks by lives of service, by deeds of hospitality, by kindness to strangers, and by concern for each other. *[We thank you for the presence of our guests \_\_\_\_\_ who by their presence in our home have added to the brightness of our celebration.]* We are most grateful this Feast day, for the way You have become visible to us in one another, in countless daily blessings, and in the marvels of creation.

**Leader 4:** Come, Lord of Blessings, bless our table and all the food of this feast.

**All:** Bless the Lord, Amen. Happy Thanksgiving!



# STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The Annual Stewardship mailing will arrive shortly to the homes of members and friends if it hasn't arrived yet. Please read everything carefully and prayerfully. Return your pledge cards by Sunday, November 26! Below is a helpful summary of how our tithes and offerings bless the world locally and globally. Thanks for your faithful giving and service!

## Your offering at work

When you give to your local congregation, a percentage of that money is shared with your synod and with the ELCA churchwide organization. The portion of your offering that is shared with the wider church is called Mission Support. As members of the ELCA, we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor, open to the Holy Spirit's invitation to be active in the world. Through sharing your time, talents and financial resources, you are actively participating in God's work throughout the U.S. and around the world.



### Your support of God's mission and ministry through the ELCA churchwide organization provides

- Global and ecumenical relationships
- Stewardship and mission funding
- Supporting congregations and evangelical outreach
- Governance
- Bringing forth and supporting leaders
- Stepping forward as a church serving others
- Coordination and support of ministries in the U.S. and throughout the world



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

Third Quarter Financial Giving Statements will be mailed shortly. Use these statements prayerfully to reflect upon your year-to-date proportionate financial giving. If you have any questions about your statement please contact our Financial Secretary, Alan Copenheaver. The Church Office does not keep giving records and is not able to assist with questions.



## Angel Tree for Glade Run Foundation



Each year, Glade Run Lutheran Services (Glade Run) provides life-changing services to over 4,000 individuals throughout Western PA. Children, adults and families being served by Glade Run often have many challenges in addition to mental and behavioral health issues and autism. During this special time of year, Glade Run is grateful that we can help secure not only gifts for the youth but also the basic necessities and tools that make a difference in the lives of those in their care. Our gifts will support the children and families who would otherwise do without. More than just a present under the tree, donated items received through the annual drive provide joy, relief and comfort all throughout the year — well beyond Christmastime. Some gift requests may seem strange but all are incredibly needed and will mean so much to the youth and their families.

*We will once again be participating in the Angel Tree project supporting our friends at Glade Run Foundation in Zelienople, PA. Due to Advent being so late this year, we will be setting up the angel tree one week early. Please look for the tree in the Narthex starting Sunday, November 26. We will have 75 tags to choose from plus there will also be the on-line version available again this year. As always, the need is great and all our support is truly appreciated.*

*All gifts will need to be returned **UNWRAPPED** under the tree in the narthex by **Sunday, December 10** as they will be delivered to Glade Run the next day.*

*\*\*\*If you prefer to shop on-line and send the gifts directly to Glade Run, follow the links below. This is a type of registry program where you pick the gift from their list, purchase it and it will ship directly to Glade Run. This was very successful last year so Glade Run is repeating it again this year.*

**Purchase gift on line:** Shop our Wish List on Amazon or Walmart & Ship Directly to Glade Run

Amazon — Visit [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) Sign into your account. Under Accounts & Lists, scroll down to AmazonSmile Charity Lists, in the Search Bar, type in “Glade Run Lutheran Services” and then choose “Glade Run Holiday Drive” and start shopping!

Walmart — Visit <https://rb.gy/kbqevk> Sign into your account and shop.

*Also, if you would rather, they are always in need of gift cards and those could be brought to the church and I will deliver them with the gifts.*

Suggested gift cards: Walmart, Target, Giant Eagle, Aldi, Amazon, Dollar Tree, Dollar General, The Home Depot, Lowes, Sheetz, Walgreens, Dick’s Sporting Goods

Any questions, contact Sara Dougherty 412-523-1499 or [tjdsjd@verizon.net](mailto:tjdsjd@verizon.net)

Thank you for participating in this wonderful mission!!

## The History of The Salvation Army Angel Tree



Along with the familiar Red Kettles, the Angel Tree program is one of The Salvation Army's highest profile Christmas efforts. Angel Tree was created by The Salvation Army in 1979 by Majors Charles and Shirley White when they worked with a Lynchburg, Virginia shopping mall to provide clothing and toys for children at Christmas time.

The program got its name because the Whites identified the wishes of local children by writing their gift needs on Hallmark greeting cards featuring pictures of angels and placing them on a Christmas Tree at the mall. Thanks to the Whites, who were assigned by The Army to the Lynchburg area at the time, more than 700 children had a brighter Christmas that first year.

Three years later, when the Whites were transferred to Nashville, Tennessee, Angel Tree was launched in Music City during the 1982 Christmas season. WSM radio, which airs the Grand Ole Opry, came on board that year as the first Angel Tree co-sponsor in the U.S.

Because of the on-air promotion on WSM in Nashville, as well as national publicity on CNN and the Larry King Show, news of Angel Tree spread across the country like wild fire. Since that time, the program has grown to include Angel Trees throughout the Carolinas.

## ALTAR FLOWER CHARTS

Altar Flower and Bulletin Reservation Charts for the Year 2024 will be available in the Narthex starting on All Saints Sunday. *If you have a particular Sunday or Festival Day* on which you wish to reserve Altar Flowers or bulletins, please *reserve early* to avoid disappointment.

The cost of donating is \$30.00 per vase of Altar Flowers, or \$25.00 per Sunday or Festival Day for worship bulletins.

### Please remember:

- *No reminder notices are sent* and so you must be responsible for paying for the items you reserve.
- If both vases are already taken for the Sunday you would have preferred, please find another date. [Do not simply add your name to a name already there.]
- Call the Church Office by Tuesday with the exact wording you prefer for the acknowledgment.



## Christmas Poinsettias, Wreaths and Trees



The beautiful poinsettias, wreaths, and trees to adorn our Sanctuary for the celebration of the Holy Nativity of our Lord [Christmas] and the Epiphany of our Lord [the arrival of the Magi at the birthplace of Jesus] as well as contributions to the Fine Arts Fund, are the memorial and honor gifts of our congregational family.

You are invited to participate by contributing a poinsettia[s], wreath[s] tree[s] or the Fine Arts Fund by placing the form below in the offering plate, or by mailing to the Church Office *to arrive no later than Sunday, December 3rd.*

### Poinsettia Plants

Wreaths to be hung on the doors and glass  
Narthex/Nave divider

Trees—2 large trees on sides of altar  
Fine Arts Fund

Acknowledgements will be made as desired in an insert to the worship bulletins for Christmas Eve/Day and on the Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord.

We will be decorating our Christmas Trees on Saturday December 16 at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

I/We wish to donate:

\_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia[s]- 6 " plant at \$9.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia [s] -8.5 " pot (comes with 3 assorted plants in one pot) at \$25.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Wreath[s] at \$20.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Tree[s] at \$75.00 each (we need 2)

\_\_\_\_\_ Fine Arts Fund for Christmas Music

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Due by December 3rd**

## Christmas







I would like you to consider participating in a our online giving designed to simplify weekly giving in our congregation.

Electronic giving will enable every household or individual to make their church offering using electronic funds transfer or credit card. You may already be using online bill pay for your mortgage, car payment, or insurance premium through an automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account. Many of you also have used your credit cards to purchase goods online through Amazon, eBay, or a number of other sites.

We have teamed up with myEoffering to enable you to use the same process to give your offering electronically from your bank account, credit or debit cards.

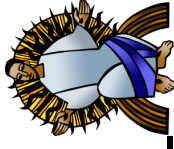
There is no cost to you for this new giving option. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue uninterrupted.



You can participate in the electronic giving program immediately. Just visit our church website and look for the "Donate Now" button.

Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.



# November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>5 All Saints Sunday</b> 9:30 Worship Liturgy 9:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:20 Kids Choir Rehearsal 10:45 Worship & Music Mtg <i>Donations for Thanksgiving Service Project Due Today</i> DAYLIGHT SAVING'S FALL BACK !	<b>6</b> 12:30 ESL Group 6:00 ESL Group 7:00 Book Study	<b>7</b> 4:30 Catechetics 1	<b>8</b> 12:30 ESL Group 7:00 Choir	<b>9</b> 10:00 Bible Study 4:30 Catechetics 2	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00—2:00 Holiday Market  <b>Happy Veterans Day</b> <b>God Bless America</b>
<b>12 Pentecost 23</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:50 Kids Choir Rehearsal 11:00 Thanksgiving Service- Project Assembly Event <i>December Voice Articles Due</i>	<b>13</b> 12:30 ESL Group 6:00 ESL Group 7:00 Book Study	<b>14</b> 4:30 Catechetics 1	<b>15</b> 12:30 ESL Group 7:00 Choir	<b>16</b> 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 South Hills Knitters 4:30 Catechetics 2	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19 Pentecost 24</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Kids Choir in Worship 10:10 Pageant Rehearsal 11:15 Council Meeting 2:00 Daily Bread Meal 6:00 Youth Group Meeting	<b>20</b> 12:30 ESL Group 6:00 ESL Group 7:00 Book Study	<b>21</b> 4:30 Catechetics 1	<b>22</b> 12:30 ESL Group 7:00 Choir	<b>23</b> 10:30 Worship Liturgy  Office Closed	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26 Christ The King</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship	<b>27</b> 12:30 ESL Group 6:00 ESL Group 7:00 Book Study	<b>28</b> 4:30 Catechetics 1	<b>29</b> 12:30 ESL Group 7:00 Choir	<b>30</b> 10:00 Bible Study 4:30 Catechetics 2		



**1 American Indian Heritage Month** Give thanks for our Indigenous neighbors and siblings in Christ, whose diverse gifts, traditions and wisdom help shape and enrich society and the church. Pray for Indigenous ministries and faith communities in the ELCA and the work of ELCA Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations, and ask God to guide and further the work of our church and society to build better, right and just relationships with Indigenous peoples.

**2** Pray for our neighbors who have experienced great losses and turmoil as a result of the earthquake in Morocco and the unprecedented flooding in Libya, that they will find hope, comfort, relief, resources and assistance for the difficult recoveries ahead.

**3** "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Jeremiah 31:33). The new covenant that God made with us long ago permeates every aspect of our life and can't be broken or voided, because its foundation is God's enduring grace. Give praise and thanks to God!

**4** Remember in prayer those who have been impacted by recent tropical storms and hurricanes, that they might find relief, assistance and hope in the support provided by neighbors, faith communities, synods and relief agencies, including Lutheran Disaster Response. Ask God to strengthen our resilience and wisdom to meet the mounting challenges of natural disasters and climate change.

**5** Pray that we will take to heart and respond to the same instructions Jesus gave to his disciples: to care for our neighbors who suffer poverty, hunger and illness and to bless those who commit their lives to caring for others, pursuing justice and making peace.

**6** Pray for outdoor ministry professionals, staff and board members as they gather for the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry conference in Lake Geneva, Wis. Ask God to bless their time together for worship, renewal, networking and enhancing their skills.

**7 Election Day** Ask the Spirit to help us exercise concern for our neighbor, the well-being of communities, and racial, gender and economic justice as we discern whom to elect as our leaders and public servants. Give thanks for ELCAvotes, an initiative to help us citizens and people of faith understand our role in promoting dignity and respect for all.

**8** Remember in prayer foster families and programs that provide transitional and long-term homes and care for infants, children and youth. Ask the Spirit to inspire people to consider becoming foster parents, and give thanks for foster care services provided by member organizations of Lutheran Services in America.

**9** Pray for the leaders of our church as they gather for the ELCA Church Council, that the Spirit will guide their deliberations and decisions to further our mission of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, serving our neighbors and growing the church.

**10** Give thanks and praise to God, creator of diverse, abundant creatures in the seas and oceans that feed the hungry, inspire awe, reveal secrets that lead to medical discoveries and keep aquatic ecosystems healthy and thriving.

**11 Veterans Day** Remember and give thanks for those who have served our country in times of peace and conflict — here and around the world. Pray that they will never be forgotten or taken for granted.

**12** We all want to know what the kingdom of heaven is like and when Jesus will come again. Express your trust that Jesus Christ has made a place for us in the kingdom of God, and pray that the Spirit will focus us on doing God's work in the world now, as we look forward with gratitude to life eternal.

**13** Give thanks for ELCA Campus Ministry and the Lutheran Campus Ministry Network (LuMin), which bear witness to God's grace through worship, study, fellowship and service with students, faculty, staff and others at 230 college and university campuses across the country.

**14** Pray for youth and family ministry leaders in our congregations, and promise to express appreciation, support and encouragement for their work of faith formation and caring for young people and their parents.

**15** Give thanks to God for the comfort of knowing that we, and those who have gone before us, will one day be gathered together in the kingdom of God — forever.

**16** "O God, to you I cry in pain when sickness makes me weak, when mind and body out of tune bring fears I cannot speak" (ACS 1021). We are never alone in times of distress. Praise God for being attentive to us through caring neighbors and siblings in Christ, especially when we find it difficult to express our infirmities and suffering.

**17** Pray for the 800-plus rostered ministers who have responded to God's call to provide specialized pastoral care in ministries across the ELCA and in our communities, including hospice, counseling, corrections, long-term care, and police and fire chaplaincy.

**18** Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with The Episcopal Church, a full communion partner since 1999. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

**19** Thank God for the example of Jesus Christ, who guides our understanding of generosity, for the sake of the world and our neighbors at the margins of society.

**20** Pray for the success of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service's Preferred Refugee Employer Program, which helps employers offer support and services of particular benefit to the refugees in their communities.

**21** Pray for youth, parents, youth leaders and congregations registering for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. Ask the Spirit to stir their enthusiasm, guide their preparation for their experience in New Orleans, and help those who are discerning whether to participate.

**22** Pray that our acts of generosity will come from a place of gratefulness to God and concern for our neighbor and will "produce thanksgiving to God through us" (2 Corinthians 9:11).

**23 Thanksgiving Day** "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering" (ELW 692). Pray that we will see every aspect of our life as an offering for the sake of our neighbor and the well-being of the world — an expression of thanksgiving for the blessings and resources that God has generously given to us.

**24 Native American Heritage Day** Praise God for the rich and diverse legacies of Native American neighbors and siblings in Christ. Give thanks for the continuing influence of Indigenous cultures, traditions, spirituality, arts and concepts of community.

**25** Remember in prayer neighbors and siblings in Christ who are without safety, shelter, food or basic social services. Promise to be tireless, creative and respectful in providing immediate and long-term care for those who are homeless, and in boldly advocating for just laws that yield appropriate and truly affordable housing.

**26** Pray that our concern, empathy and service for the well-being of our neighbors in need will be bold and boundless, especially when we are pressured to serve only select groups.

**27** Remember in prayer pastors and their families, and pray that we will demonstrate our concern for their well-being and renewal through ongoing encouragement, support, affirmation and guidance.

**28** Pray that our daily lives will reflect joy and thanksgiving to God, our maker and the rock of our salvation.

**29** The suffering and devastation mount with every day the Russia-Ukraine War continues. Pray for an end to the war, and that our allies will remain steadfast in valuing and pursuing peace, justice and recovery for Ukraine.

**30 Andrew, the Apostle** Andrew, a humble fisherman, was the first person to respond to Jesus' invitation to set everything aside and follow him. Pray that we too will answer the call to learn, to serve and to spread the gospel with our unique gifts.

## Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

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**The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton**

Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**The Reverend Kurt Kusserow**

Bishop  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

**The Reverend Douglas M. Heagy**

Senior Pastor

**Dr. Christopher Keenan, DMA**

Director of Music and Organist

**Mr. Larry Allen**

Director of Music and Organist Emeritus

**Mrs. Kris Malia**

Parish Secretary



Festive Worship Liturgy  
for

# Our National Day of Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 23

10:30 AM

*O Lord, maker of all things, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature.*

*We praise you for crowning the fields with your blessings and enabling us once more to gather in the fruits of the earth.  
Teach us to use your gifts carefully, that our land may continue to yield her increase, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Give Thanks to the Lord,  
for He is good.  
Psalm 107:1*

