Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church

the *Voice* parish newsletter

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

Make a joyful noise to the Lord. Enter his gates with thanksgiving. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever. –Psalm 100

A praise song sung often in a church I served years ago included these words: *Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son. And now, let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us."* November is the month of Thanksgiving in America. For what, for whom, will you give thanks?

Looking over 2026, there is much for which I am grateful. On May 23, our son, Jonathan, and his fiancé, Hannah, were married in our sanctuary. On June 3, our daughter, Hannah, and her husband, Jake, welcomed their second child, Elena Grace, into the world. In July, Dr. Christopher Manning performed a successful rotator cuff surgery, healing my right shoulder. Physical therapist, Paul Brach, has been overseeing my rehabilitation. This month, I begin paying the price for the youthful vanity of many summer suntans. Mount Lebanon Dermatology will remove skin cancers, assuring me all is well since none of them are melanoma. I'm thankful for access to medical care many in the world never receive.

Count Your Many Blessings, a song composed by Johnson Oatman, Jr. in 1897, is a masterpiece of thanksgiving. Oatman died in 1922, not living to see how his lyrics helped to sustain our country through the Great Depression that began in 1929. In sanctuaries and Sunday School rooms throughout our nation during the calamity of economic collapse, people sang his words, "*Count your many blessings, name them one by one."* All who sang the lyrics were reminded of the many blessings still abounding even amid great financial stress. The old adage is always true: *Best of all, God is with us.*

Thank you for sharing in the ministry of Jesus Christ during this past year. I am grateful also for Dr. Tim Steinhauer and the members of our search committee whose work brought to us our wonderful, talented new music director, Hunter Peterson. Let us continue to welcome him, giving thanks for his musical gifts, as we enter the joy of another holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

In Christ,

Pastor Doug Heagy







November, 2026

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Wars and Battles in the Bible
A Study of Conflict and Why We Fight

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

This Bible study is a weekly group discussion.

November 2	Gideon's Campaign against Midian / Judges 7
November 9	The Benjamite / Civil War / Judges 19-20
November 16	David and Goliath / 1 Samuel 17
November 23	The Battle of Mount Gilboa / 1 Samuel 31
November 30	The Siege of Jebus / Jerusalem / 2 Samuel 5
December 7	Sieges of Jerusalem by Babylon / 2 Kings 24-25
December 14	Armageddon / Revelation 16

Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss wars and battles in the Old Testament and the one New Testament war. Our focus will be God's covenant with King David and how this forms our celebration of Advent and Christmas. Optional take-home, supplementary readings will be provided .

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

9:30 am- 10:30 am

How the World Began in the Bible

Led by Pastor Heagy, we will discuss stories from the first chapters of Genesis. We will make connections to life today through these origin stories. Take-home, supplementary readings will be provided for optional study.

November 5	**The Mystery of Death / Genesis 3:22-24**
November 12	**Cain and Abel / Genesis 4:1-16**
November 19	**Insecure Humanity / Genesis 4:17-26**
November 26	**THANKSGIVING (No class)**
December 3	**Floods and Fires / Genesis 6-8**
December 10	**Noah, the Adventure of Faith / Genesis 9**
December 17	**The Tower of Babel / Genesis 11:1-9**

Bibles will be provided. All are welcome.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

What We Cannot Keep

All Saints Day has a way of making the church feel crowded. We speak names that have not been spoken aloud in a while. We remember voices, gestures, recipes, arguments, hymns, and laughter. Someone who has been gone for years can suddenly seem close enough to touch because a candle is lit. The sanctuary is larger than the people we can see.

Perhaps that is why All Saints Day offers such a rich word about stewardship. It reminds us, gently and unmistakably, that almost everything most precious to us is something we cannot keep. Our lives. Our people. Our time. Life is a gift before it is a possession, and gifts are received differently when we know they cannot be held.

Revelation 7:9-17 is a picture of a multitude standing before the Lamb, people from every nation and language who have passed through suffering and now stand within God's promised future. Notice the vision does not deny what they have endured. What Revelation dares to proclaim is that suffering does not get the final claim. In Matthew 5, Jesus climbs a mountain and begins naming as blessed people we least expect. Those who mourn. Those who hunger for righteousness. The merciful and the peacemakers. The Beatitudes describe people who did not successfully arrange their lives to avoid loss. Stewardship is not about claiming ownership, but learning how to faithfully receive what never belonged to us in the first place. All we have belongs to God.

The saints teach us this simply by having lived. They were people who made dinner, paid bills, lost patience, showed up, gave what they could, buried people they loved, and tried again the next morning. Their holiness was often hidden inside ordinary faithfulness. And now, somehow, what they gave remains. Kindness became part of someone else's courage. A gift to a congregation became a ministry they never lived to see. This may be one of the mysteries of stewardship: very little of the good we do ends where we think it does. All Saints Day therefore asks something more interesting than, “What will we leave behind?” It asks how we will live in the present. Can we give without needing to see the final result? Can we serve knowing the future will belong to people we do not know? Our names will one day join the list of those remembered on All Saints Day. Until then, we have the astonishing, temporary gift of being alive. Right now, there are tears to wipe. Right now, there are hungry people to feed. Right now, there is mercy to practice. Right now, there is peace to make. The saints have gone before us. Others will follow us. In our brief, beautiful journey through life, may we hold what we have with gratitude, and lightly enough to give all things away. –Matthew D. O’Rear

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 1
ONE LITURGY
9:30 AM

On Sunday, November 1, 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 1, for this solemn remembrance of all the saints.



All Saints Sunday November 1

One Festive Liturgy at 9:30 AM

Member of Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

Nancy Ingles
+01-05-2026

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

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

Much effort has been made to compile these lists. Any omissions or misspellings are regretted.
Please notify the church office.

All Saints Sunday November 1st

Festive Liturgy at 9:30 AM

Shirley A. Snyder
+10-31-2025

Jan Ivar Håbetsås
+11-04-2025

Milton Frederick "Fred" Snyder
+11-06-2025

Carolyn Wilcher
+11-27-2025

Matthew Ryan
+12-21-2025

Roy A. Erickson, Jr.
+01-03-2026

Debby Mueller
+03-06-2026

Marlene Gregor
+03-12-2026

Rebekah Woolner
+03-25-2026

Kerry Lane
+07-31-2026

Marlene Ryan
+08-08-2026

Leah Borsich
+08-20-2026

Merideth Price
+08-23-2026

Gretchen M. Herron
+09-27-2026

Tammy Wesolowski
+10-08-2026

Elaine E. Levitt
+10-10-2026

Thomas G. Shaw
+10-13-2026

Caroline Freiland
+10-17-2026



Musical Musings
November 2026



As November arrives, the life of the Church invites us to reflect on the gifts we have received, the people whose faith has shaped our own, and the hope that carries us forward. The changing season brings a natural opportunity for gratitude and remembrance, while the music of our worship offers a way to experience these themes more deeply. Throughout November, we will hear music that celebrates the communion of saints, gives voice to our prayers, and reminds us of the enduring presence of God in every season of life.

We begin the month with All Saints' Day, a celebration of those who have gone before us in faith. The Christian tradition reminds us that we are part of a community that extends beyond the boundaries of time and place. Through music, we join our voices with generations of Christians who have sung their faith, offered their prayers, and placed their hope in God's promises. Herbert Howells' *Preludio 'Sine Nomine'* draws us into this celebration, while the choral works of Philip Stopford and Tomás Luis de Victoria offer musical reflections on the beauty and promise of the heavenly kingdom. These works remind us that the Church is not simply a community gathered in the present, but one united across generations through faith.

As the month continues, our worship turns toward the themes of prayer, thanksgiving, and the goodness of God. Vincent Persichetti's *Dryden Liturgical Suite* offers contrasting musical expressions of reflection and devotion, while Jonathan Willcocks' *Lord, Make Me an Instrument* invites us to consider how our lives can become expressions of God's love. As we approach Thanksgiving, the music of Sigfrid Karg-Elert's *Now Thank We All Our God* gives voice to the gratitude that is central to our life together. Thanksgiving is more than a single day on the calendar; it is a way of recognizing the gifts we receive and responding with generosity, care, and praise.

The final weeks of November also bring us toward the conclusion of the church year and the beginning of Advent. This transition invites us to look both backward and forward: to remember the faithfulness of God throughout history and to anticipate the promises still unfolding. The music of Jean Langlais, Robert J. Powell, Carson Cooman, and Frank Bridge reflects the breadth of the Christian musical tradition, bringing together historic forms, contemporary expressions, and the enduring language of praise. From the medieval character of Langlais' *Suite Medieval* to the joyful proclamation of Powell's *Jubilate Deo*, these works remind us that the Church's musical life continues to grow and evolve while remaining rooted in its heritage.

As we celebrate the many gifts of this season, I also invite you to consider supporting the Fine Arts Fund in addition to your regular contributions to the congregation. The music we share in worship is made possible through the generosity of those who believe in the importance of the arts in the life of the Church. Great music requires continued support—not only to sustain the musical offerings we enjoy today, but also to make possible new opportunities for our congregation and the wider community. Your contribution helps us continue to bring meaningful, inspiring, and beautiful music into our worship and into the life of our community.

Ultimately, November reminds us that gratitude and hope are deeply connected. We give thanks for the people, traditions, and gifts that have shaped our lives, while looking toward the future with confidence in God's promises. My hope is that the music we share this month will offer opportunities to remember, reflect, give thanks, and experience the joy of being part of a community that continues to sing together.

Grace and Peace,
Hunter Peterson
Director of Music and Organist

SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE:
NOVEMBER, 2026

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] 901-0155; or email the church at: mtleboluth@aol.com

November 1-Crucifer
9:30 Adam Timmons

November 8-Crucifer
8:30 TBD
10:00 Easton Darcy

November 15- Crucifer
8:30 Gabriel Provins
10:00 Paige Gentzel

November 22—Crucifer
8:30 Ewan Keplar
10:00 Madalena Provins

November 27- Thanksgiving-Crucifer
10:30 TBD

November 29– Crucifer
8:30 TBD
10:00 Gabriel Provins





Creation in Christ Advent Display

We are extending the observance of the new ***Creation in Christ*** festival by joining with our animal friends around the world in celebrating ***"For in him all things in heaven and earth were created…"*** - Colossians 1:16.
Come to the **Café in the Foyer** and visit the **church library on December 6** to view a menagerie of the animal kingdom and the St. Francis creche. Whether on land, in the sky or in the deep oceans, all are represented!
Have coffee and treats among the animals. Feel a part of God's creation. We are stewards and caretakers. What an honor!
Get close to the animals in their habitat but please don't pet or feed the animals!
A featured display book that is in keeping with this Advent season and includes the animals as participants is ***"All Creation Waits"***.
See how this theme is "played out" by attending our **Advent Pageant and luncheon on December 13** after the late liturgy. Watch for details.
The animals in the stable welcome the Christ Child.



The worship links to Facebook & You Tube can be found on our website:
www.mtlebanonlutheran.org

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

Virtual Worship 8:30 AM Facebook LIVE
Posted later on our You Tube channel

The Word of the Lord

November 1 — All Saints Sunday
Micah 3:5-12
Psalm 43
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

November 8 — 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 15 — 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8, 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:31-46

November 22 — Christ the King
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 115-23
Matthew 25:31-46

November 29 — Advent 1
Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Thursday, November 26th, at 10:30 AM
Festive Worship Liturgy for a
National Day of Thanksgiving



The last Sunday of the Season of Pentecost

Festival of Christ the King

Sunday, November 22
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

Tuesday, November 11—12:30-2:30 pm
Volunteers Needed to Help Pack Surplus Medical Supplies for those in need.
If you are interested in volunteering, please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please contact Sara Dougherty at 412-523-1499 with any questions.

The Annual Stewardship mailing will be arriving shortly. It will include the 2027 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 2027 will be available for pick-up in the south hallway of the church beginning November 22, 2026.



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; Linda Larkin; Bill Young; Shari Ehrlich; Dave Young; Patrick Brown; Pete Lester

Advent Candle Lighters

Every year we have members of our congregation volunteer to light our Advent candles at the beginning of each Liturgy service every Sunday. If you and/or your family have an interest, please email or call the church office. Due to only four Sundays in Advent, we will determine the candle lighters by order of submission. If you are not chosen this year, we will put your name on a list for future upcoming Advents.

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

DST Ends November 1 - Set your clocks BACK one hour to be timely for worship on Sunday, November 2nd, All Saints' Sunday.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the December issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by **November 15th.** Articles may be left in the church office or email: mtleboluth@aol.com.



You're Invited...To the Sunday Morning Fellowship

Sunday Morning Fellowship in the Foyer.

All are invited for a time of fellowship between the two Sunday worship Liturgies fro 9:30-10:00 am. Enjoy refreshments, converse with friends, and welcome visitors. Hosts are needed for November. (It's easy and fun to host! Instructions and assistance are provided). Information is available on the signup display in the Foyer.

Daily Bread Ministries November 22

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.



Youth Ministries News

A "Charlie Brown" Thanksgiving on November 15 at 12:30 pm. Come enjoy a snack filled Thanksgiving meal inspired by the classic holiday special which we'll screen as an after feast treat. No turkey or mash potatoes, but there might be jelly beans. Open to all children and youths from preschool to high school. Parents are welcome to join in the fun. Sign up in the Narthex or call the church office no later than Thursday, November 12.

Adopt-A-Highway/Youth Litter Clean-up
November 8 11:30-1:00 (following late liturgy)
All middle school & high school youth are invited to join us in fellowship as we clean up along
Washington Road. Come and join in on the fun. Special snacks will be provided. Please **RSVP to Neil Bucher** at bryl66@gmail.com.no later than Thursday, November 5.

November Liturgical Themes

The festivals of All Saints [November 1] and Christ the King [November 22] 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 for Advent. If you would like to help decorating the Jesse Tree, contact Debbie Hazlett at drhazlett@verizon.net

Giving Market Helpers

Many thanks to our Sunday School students for staffing our Giving Market to unpack and sort all the Thanksgiving food donations for our basket project: Leo Bucher, Mila Vargo, Brooks Vargo, Grace Giotto, Audrey Giotto, Annabelle Kegel, and Grant Kegel volunteered in the Giving Market. Students and congregation members also made cheerful craft projects to include in the Thanksgiving baskets. Thanks to all who helped, and to all who donated food and gift cards.



Presentation of Bibles



It is our tradition on Reformation Sunday to present first graders and new students with their very own Bibles. First graders Lorenzo Jones and Cole Porter and second graders Grace Giotto, Olivia Drobotij, Hudson Drobotij, and Penelope Perino were presented with their Bibles on October 25. We always have new Bibles on hand to make available to new students if they join later in the year. These Bibles are gifts from their congregational family to encourage them as they continue to grow in Christian faith. Students are encouraged to bring their Bibles to Sunday School each week.

Children's Choir Schedule

Our Sunday School kids are led in Music each week by Carol Vogeley and Barb Heagy, with Ewan Keplar assisting. They are learning songs for our upcoming Advent Pageant. All kids are welcome to join us! We practice in the Opening Room, last room downstairs during or after Sunday School. Please contact MBTrivilino@verizon.net for more info.

Children's Choir schedule for the coming weeks:

Nov. 1 – All Saint's one Liturgy – No music practice today
Nov. 8 – Music after classes - 10:55 am
Nov. 15 – Music before classes – 10:10 am
Nov. 22 – Music after classes – 10:55 am
Nov. 29 – No Sunday School or Children's Choir – Thanksgiving Break

Saturday, Dec. 5 – Advent Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 – 11:00 am – *Social Hall*
Sunday, Dec. 6 – Advent Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 – 11:00 am
Saturday, Dec. 12 – Advent Pageant Rehearsal 9:30-11:00 am – *Social Hall*
Sunday, Dec. 13 – Pageant Dress Rehearsal 9:30 am

-- **Advent Pageant Performance** 11:15 in Social Hall, followed by Luncheon

Dec. 22 – Sunday School 10:00 am
Dec. 29 – Christmas Break

Advent Pageant

For the whole congregation!

Mark your calendars for the annual Advent Pageant!



"The First Visitors"

Written by Pastor Elizabeth Rheinfrank

The animals in the stable welcome the Christ Child

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Sunday, December 13

In the Church Social Hall

Performance at 11:15 am; followed by a Luncheon at 11:30

All are invited!

Rehearsals:

Saturdays, Dec. 5 & 12 – 9:30 – 11:00 am

Sundays, Dec. 6 & 13 – 9:30 – 11:00 am

Kids and Teens invited to participate. Adults needed to help with rehearsals.

To participate or volunteer, please contact jmnelson26@comcast.net

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Advent Luncheon for Entire Congregation!

Sunday, December 13

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

RSVP by December 6 –

Name: _____

Number of adults:_____ Number of kids:_____

Food allergies? _____

You may also email your RSVP to the Church office or sign up in the Narthex.

Please contact the Church office if you would like to help with the Luncheon.



ONLINE GIVING

Is now available in association with

myEoffering

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
2026 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 (with 1 abstaining)

Elected:
Monica Aravich
Neil Bucher
Joe Carroll
Dave Hazlett
Dave Laboda
Patrick Snyder

MOTION TWO – CHURCH BUDGET – 100% APPROVED

The proposed church budget for 2027 was approved.

Thanks to all for your faithfulness.

The Executive Committee

Mount Lebanon
Lutheran Church

2026 Annual Thanksgiving Outreach Project



THANK YOU for your generous support and participation for our Congregation's Annual Thanksgiving Project to help local food pantries provide holiday meals for their families.

You are invited help assemble Thanksgiving "Baskets" on **Sunday, November 15 at 11:05am** in the Social Hall. Please plan to participate in this fun event to help our neighbors, and fellowship with members. Refreshments and fellowship are included!

We are asking for donations of specific food items, and Giant Eagle Gift Cards. This year's project will benefit families using Dormont Food Pantry.

Please bring your donations to **The Giving Market** by **Sunday, November 8**.

Please donate any of the following; however, NO Glass Jars:

CANS: veggies, fruits, cranberry sauce, yams, pie filling, gravy

BOXES: cornbread, potatoes, stuffing, rice, dessert mixes

ENVELOPES: gravy

Giant Eagle gift cards ($10. to $25. range preferred)

Thanksgiving Craft kits are now available at **The Giving Market** to take and make at home. Please return completed crafts by **Sunday, November 8**.

Please contact Deb Hazlett drhazlett@verizon.net if questions.



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

A Table Liturgy for
The Feast of Thanksgiving (November 26)

[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.

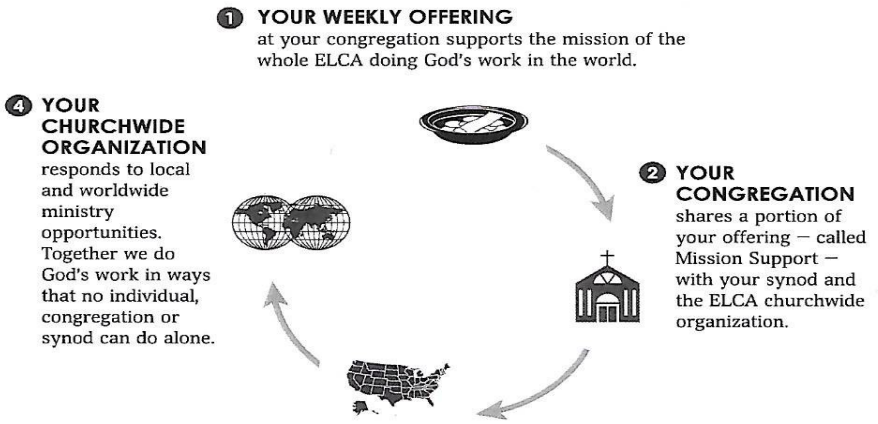
All: Bless the Lord, Amen. Happy Thanksgiving!

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 22! 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. Our gifts will support the children and families who would otherwise do without. We will once again be participating in the Angel Tree project supporting our friends at Glade Run Foundation in Zelienople, PA.

The Angel Tree will be set up in the narthex starting **Sunday, November 29**-the first week of Advent. We will have 75 tags to choose from. As always, the need is great and all our support is truly appreciated.

All gifts need to be returned **UNWRAPPED** under the tree in the narthex by **Sunday, December 13** as they will be delivered to Glade Run the next day.

Also, if you would rather, Glade Run is always in need of gift cards and those can 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 @ tjdsjd@verizon.net

Thank you for participating in this wonderful mission!!

ALTAR FLOWER CHARTS

Altar Flower and Bulletin Reservation Charts for the *Year 2027* 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 & Fine Arts



The beautiful poinsettias which 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] or to 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 6.*

Poinsettia Plants
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 Sanctuary on Saturday December 19th at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

****If your donation is made through E-Offering, please continue to fill out the order form below with where your donation is to be placed or quantity of flowers and return to the office. Thank you.**

Christmas



I/We wish to donate:
(Please indicate quantity)

#_____ Poinsettia[s]- 6 " plant (Prices to be published in upcoming bulletin inserts)

#_____ Poinsettia [s] -8.5 " pot (comes with 3 assorted plants in one pot)
(Prices to be published in upcoming bulletin inserts)

_____ *Fine Arts* Fund for Christmas Music

Donor: _____

Acknowledgement: _____

_____

_____ Paid through E-Offering

Due by December 6

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.

myEoffering

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 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Sunday 9:30 Worship Liturgy 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:45 Catechetics 1 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS FALL BACK !	**2** 7:00 Bible Study	**3** 9:00-2:30 ESL	**4** 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	**5** 9:00-2:30 ESL 9:30 Bible Study 3:15 Catechetics 2	**6**	**7**
8 Pentecost 22 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Catechetics 1 11:30 Youth Group Sidewalk Sweep/ Road Beautification	**9** 7:00 Bible Study	**10** 9:00-2:30 ESL	**11 Veteran's Day** 12:30 Global Links 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	**12** 9:00-2:30 ESL 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 Knitters 3:15 Catechetics 2	**13**	**14**
15 Pentecost 23 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Catechetics 1 11:15 Council Meeting 11:05 Thanksgiving Project- 12:30 Youth Group Charlie Brown Thanksgiving	**16** 7:00 Bible Study	**17** 9:00-2:30 ESL	**18** 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	**19** 9:00-2:30 ESL 9:30 Bible Study 3:15 Catechetics 2	**20**	**21**
22 Christ The King 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Catechetics 1 2:00 Daily Bread Meal	**23** 7:00 Bible Study	**24** 9:00-2:30 ESL	**25** 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	**26** 10:30 Worship Liturgy 	**27**	**28**
29 Advent 1 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 9:30 Coffee Fellowship	**30** 7:00 Bible Study	**31** 9:00-2:30 ESL				

1 *All Saints Day* Give thanks for the global Christian community. Praise God for the bond of faith that stirs joy and inspires siblings in Christ to unite in doing God's work in the world.
2 *National Native American Heritage Month* Give thanks for Indigenous neighbors and siblings in Christ, who enrich society with their diverse gifts, traditions, resilience and wisdom. Pray for Indigenous ministries and faith communities, for ELCA Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations, and for the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association, that their advocacy will guide the work of our church and society in building just relationships with Indigenous peoples.
3 *Election Day* On this day of electing leaders for our nation, ask the Spirit to guide our discernment as we choose people who will work for unity, justice, equity, peace and the well-being of *all* people, especially neighbors and communities in need.
4 Pray for God to be our enduring refuge who delivers us from our fears, guilt, pessimism and suffering. Ask the Spirit to strengthen our faith and help us face the challenges we encounter within and outside ourselves.
5 Pray that we will focus not on when and how Christ will come again but on how we will live today as his followers, called to share the gospel, praise our Creator, love and serve our neighbor, and stir hope and joy among those who yearn for good news.
6 Remember in prayer members of the ELCA Leadership Circle as they witness God's work firsthand in Poland, Hungary and Slovakia. Pray for our partners in Central Europe, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary, the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic and the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland. Give thanks for God's work of justice, compassion, peacemaking and nurturing leaders, which is furthered through generosity and global partnerships.
7 It is far too easy to carry within us anger, grudges and judgment of others who, we believe, have wronged us. Pray that God might forgive us and free us from those feelings and memories that prevent us from loving, caring for and encouraging one another.
8 "The vitality of a church is not measured by how many members it has, but by its commitment and willingness to serve God and neighbor, by its readiness to walk the talk," says the Rev. Anne Burghardt, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation. Pray that the Spirit will renew our vision of who we *are* and what we are called to *do* as communities of faith in a world that often prioritizes financial security, membership numbers, physical buildings and resources over faith and serving our neighbors in need.
9 Remember in prayer leaders gathering for the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries conference in Giddings, Texas. Ask God to bless their time together, strengthening their mutual support and equipping and renewing them for ministry with people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
10 Ask God to help us go about our daily lives in the church and society, mindful of the call to "let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24).
11 *Veterans Day* Honor and give thanks for all who have served our country in times of peace and conflict here and around the world. Pray that their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten or taken for granted.
12 Pray that the members of the ELCA Church Council will embody God's grace and love as they meet to oversee the churchwide organization; ask the Spirit to inspire and guide their deliberations for the well-being and vitality of the church.
13 The full-scale invasion of Ukraine is in its fifth year. Pray for an end to the conflict and for lasting peace, that displaced Ukrainians seeking sanctuary in other countries will soon be able to return home and rebuild their lives with a sense of calm and safety.
14 Praise God for the creativity, intellect and enthusiasm of those who use technology to solve humanity's problems. Pray that we will carefully discern the consequences of technology, especially artificial intelligence and social media, and take steps to ensure the well-being and safety of all people, especially children, youth and marginalized communities.
15 Pray for the Spirit to embolden us to follow the example of Jesus, who was wise, generous, compassionate and willing to take risks to respond to people's needs. Pray that we might use our individual and collective time, talents and resources to respond to human needs in the United States and around the world.
16 "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all" (*WOV* 767). Praise God, creator of the universe, for sustaining life and enabling it to flourish.
17 Give thanks for our church's embrace of inclusion and equity, demonstrating that we are one humanity, created by God in wondrous diversity, and that we are called to love one another just as Christ loves us.
18 Praise God for our Sunday school teachers, Bible study leaders and adult education leaders, who nurture faith, affirm our gifts and equip us for lives of service that bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.
19 Pray for an end to the war with Iran and for an enduring peace reached through diplomacy and building new relationships between leaders rather than force and threat.
20 In these times, when we might feel surrounded by darkness and despair, lift up prayers of joy and thanksgiving for God's assurance that we have not been abandoned, that we are children of light, loved by Jesus Christ and destined for the kingdom of heaven.
21 Remember our missionaries, our International Women Leaders and those serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program alongside our companion churches in Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Papua New Guinea, South Korea and Thailand. Ask God to bless their work in education, gender justice, leadership development, and music and parish ministries.
22 Pray that our words and actions reflect God's selfless love for humanity as we care for neighbors who endure hunger, homelessness, illness, incarceration, isolation and violence.
23 Pray for men's ministries in congregations and outdoor ministries, that they will heal hurts, deepen faith, nurture healthy gender roles and equip men of all ages for service in their families, the church and the world.
24 "Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness" (Ezekiel 34:11-12). We have someone who sought us out, rescued us and restored our relationship with God — Jesus Christ. Give thanks and glory to God for the gifts of love, attention and mercy we receive though Jesus our shepherd.
25 Meteorologists are tracking an unusually strong El Niño weather pattern that will have an impact on the world. Pray that we might respond to those affected with immediate and long-term assistance, safe refuge, resources, generous support and prayer.
26 *Thanksgiving Day* "We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*). Praise God for all we have and for those things that nourish and sustain us daily — physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially. Pray for the Spirit to inspire us to be generous toward the needs of our neighbors, and that our compassion and generosity, in turn, will inspire others.
27 "Since everything we possess, and everything in heaven and on earth besides, is daily given and sustained by God, it inevitably follows that we are in duty bound to love, praise, and thank him without ceasing, and, in short, to devote all these things to his service" (Martin Luther, the Large Catechism). Give thanks for the people and things that nourish your faith and stir up your hope, joy and gratitude.
28 Remember in prayer the Palestinian people, who yearn for peace, security, respect, the rebuilding of their homes and communities, and the freedom to live and thrive.
29 *First Sunday of Advent* Pray for the Spirit to fill us with hope, excitement and anticipation as we prepare this season for the birth of Christ and for life eternal in the kingdom of God.
30 Give thanks for Advent wreaths and other faith traditions and symbols — old and new — that help us celebrate God's dwelling among us through the birth of Jesus and remind us of God's awesome gifts of boundless love, forgiveness and true freedom.

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Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
The Reverend Melissa Stoller
Bishop
The Reverend Douglas M. Heagy
Senior Pastor

Mr. Hunter Peterson
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 26
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.

