



THE LAMPSTAND



Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church

80 Gockley Road ☙☙ Stevens, PA 17578

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August 2026

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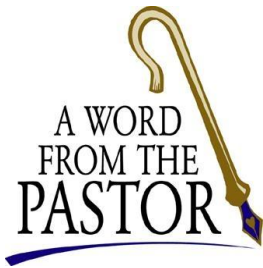
NEWSLETTER

ARTICLES

**September's newsletter
articles deadline will be
Wednesday, August 19th**

**Your articles can be emailed in
the formats of Word or PDF**

Economic Hardship in the Bible



I freely confess that sometimes I don't listen when people are talking to me.

This is a terrible thing for a pastor to confess as often the Gospel is proclaimed more effectively by listening instead of talking. But that's another article....

Many people today are concerned about the economy. A few days ago I found myself not listening when someone was talking about gas prices and fruit from Argentina. Don't get me wrong; I'm well aware that there actually *is* a problem. More and more people are seeking help for rent, heating oil, food and medical bills. We need to support groups like Ephrata Area Social Services and local churches who help.

I admit I just wasn't listening to the conversation about our lousy economy. I found myself thinking of my friend from the Konde Diocese in Tanzania, Africa, who walks ten miles every day over a mountain path where dangerous lions live just to get water for his family.

There is no doubt that things are getting scarcer, but we have been blessed with so much and we take so much for granted that sometimes we complain when we actually have so much we could and should be sharing.

When the Apostle Paul was in prison, he wrote a letter to his friends in the church at Philippi in which he said, "...I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I have known what it is to have little, and I have known what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things in him who strengthens me...." –Philippians 4: 11b-13

Earlier, in I Corinthians 9:11-18, Paul had refused money from the Corinthians because he didn't want to be accused of preaching the good news about Jesus just for money. But when he was in need, the Philippians gave from their heart and he gladly accepted their help.

In Mark 12: 41-44, Jesus praises a widow who gave very little but was all she had as opposed to the rich people who gave more but not as great a percentage of what they had. Even now in these troubled times, we have more than we sometimes think. Jesus wants us to follow Him and give like the widow and the Philippians, all and out of love.

All physical things will turn to dust one day, but God's Holy Spirit and our participation in it in Christian love will outshine the sun and last forever. So the next time you think you're "out of gas", either literally or figuratively speaking, remember the power and abundance we have in the bountiful and eternal Holy Spirit of God!

When my Mom and Dad were young, they grew up in the Depression of the 1930s and I could never understand my Mom when she would always say to us, "What this country needs is another Depression". I thought she was nuts. She told us stories which make my children gasp about how for Christmas she got an orange and one dress for her doll which she had to share with her sister who used it for her doll as well.

Obviously, we don't need pain and hardship, but I think my Mom was on to something regarding a Biblical understanding of discipleship, stewardship and the way of the Cross. She and her family and friends formed a bond during those hard times, sealed by love and dedication to helping one another, developing an understanding and an appreciation of what they had and a knowledge that all belongs to God, not us. Often this bond and subsequent awareness is broken today by selfishness and greed.

In Christ our suffering binds us together as we serve. It does not drive us to fear or selfishness but to sharing. Economic hardship in Scripture is a gateway to appreciating the gifts of the Spirit. Read here the words of Paul in the second chapter of Philippians:

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness, and being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross."

“Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” -Philippians 2: 5-11

So, I know there's too much month at the end of the money. But God will not abandon or forsake us. Help somebody worse off than yourself and you'll go to bed at night counting your blessings.

In Christ, Pastor Tim

Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church maintains several programs that are focused on helping others. See page 4 for details on our Garden and Great 8 Projects. See page 5 for information on Social Ministry initiatives.



The Sunflower, a symbol of faithfulness and devotion, represents a life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him.

It's bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of God's presence, while it's steady growth points to a life, rooted in faith. The many seeds of the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual fruitfulness.

In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily, and to reflect his light and all we do.



Garden Progress
Vegetables are donated to Peter's
Porch & Community Hive

Great 8 Appeal Totals

Builders of Hope \$1,715	Ephrata Area Social Services \$973
ELCA Hunger Appeal \$1,518	Patschke Mission Support \$2,500
Peter's Porch \$1,595	Lutheran Camping Appeal \$488
Needy Fund \$3,746	Seminarian Fund \$277

2026 Total \$12,812.00

Please note that Mellingers Church Council voted to add \$5,000
to the Builders of Hope fund.



Acts of Love Summer Food Program

On Wednesday July 22nd Social Ministry made and
distributed 200 lunches at the community parks.



2026 Acts of Love Summer Lunch Program Wednesdays, August 5 and 12
11:30 am -12:30 pm

Meals will be available at the 4 parks listed.

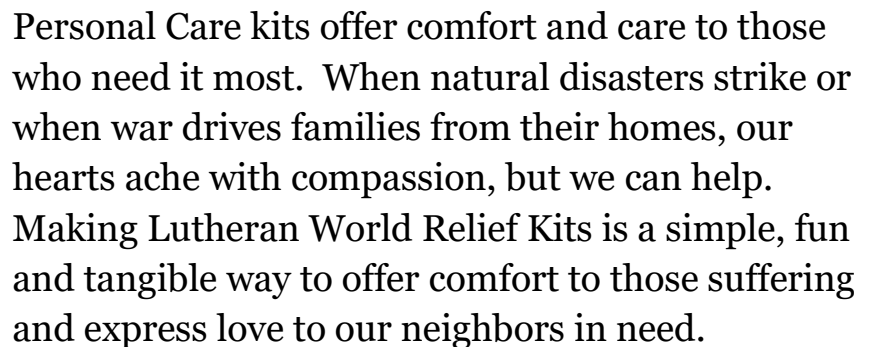
Adamstown Grove
Reamstown Park

Denver Park
Reinholds Park

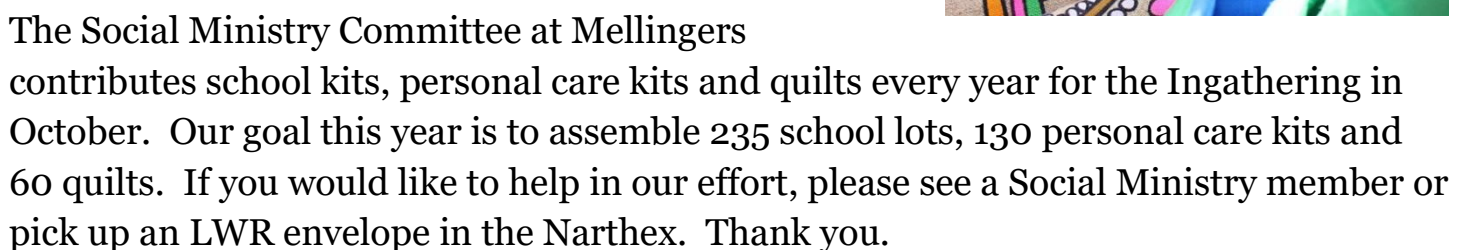
If you are in need of additional food help this summer, please reach out to **Real Life Community Services** in Denver at 717-336-7797 or **Community Hive** (previously Ephrata Area Social Services) in Ephrata at 717-733-0345.



A collection of school supplies is displayed against a white background. A tan-colored drawstring backpack is positioned on the left. In front of it are several items: a wooden ruler, a pair of black-handled scissors, a purple pencil sharpener, a purple notebook with a spiral binding, a green notebook, and a red notebook. A box of Crayola crayons is also visible. Various school supplies are scattered around, including pens, pencils, and an eraser. Labels with leader lines identify each item: Backpack, Ruler, Pens, Scissors, Notebooks, Pencils, Crayons, Eraser, and Pencil Sharpener.



Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts are a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world with suffering.



Bible Readings for the month of August

August 2 – Pentecost 10: Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21, Romans 9:1-5 & Matthew 14:13-21

August 9 – Pentecost 11: 1 Kings 19:9-18, Psalm 85:8-13, Romans 10:5-15 & Matthew 14:22-33

August 16 – Pentecost 12: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Psalm 67, Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 & Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

August 23 – Pentecost 13: Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 138, Romans 12:1-8 & Matthew 16:13-20

August 30 – Pentecost 14: Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26:1-8, Romans 12:9-21 & Matthew 16:21-28

Mike Sawyer is still recovering in the hospital in Philadelphia. We would like to do a card shower for him.

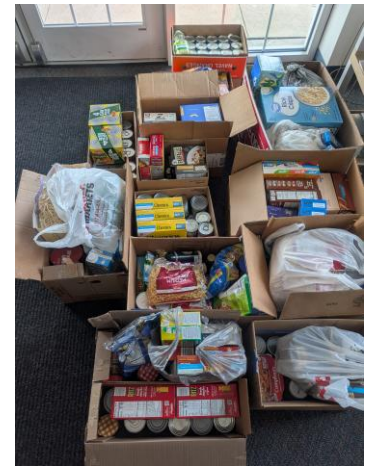
The best address to send Mike a card is:

**Mike Sawyer, c/o Gift of Life House,
410 Callowhill Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123-4018**

*The Social Ministry
collected 440 items
for their July food
Drive for
Community Hive.*

*Staff was very
thankful because the
stock was depleted.*

Thank You Everyone



Ushers for August

August 2 Head: Ben Gunzenhauser, Shawn Jeffers and alternate Nancy Eberly

August 9 Head: Mike Haller, Hayden Leonhard and alternate Kristi Leonhard

August 16 Head: Lowell Yost, Linda Weaver and alternate Vic Richard

August 23 Head: Shawn Jeffers, Randy Brubaker and alternate Nancy Eberly

August 30 Head: Hayden Leonhard, Kristi Leonhard and alternate Ben Gunzenhauser

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Theda Raffauf, Bob Getz, Lori Oberholtzer, Jerry Petery, Deb Emberger, Tom Parrish Sr., Kelly Parrish, Wren Dillon, Jay Weaver, Jay Stoltzfus, Dave Haldeman, Mike Leed, Ruth Hollinger, Barb Moyer, Fay Weitzel, Shannon Brown, Shirley Sweigart, Molly Brown, Carl Mohler Jr., Elaine Haldeman, Clair Miller, Mary Weidman, and Marty Leed & Family.

Clifton Center for medical Breakthroughs in Philadelphia: Mike Sawyer

Ephrata Manor: Iris Weaver, Dorothy Hutchinson, Shirl Tobias and Pauline Sawyer

Faithful Living, Denver: Vivian Gehr

Fairmount Homes: Robert Hackman

Gardens at Stevens: Pat & Nevin McQuate

Penn State Hospital: Ashley Leed

Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine & Janet Hirneisen

Lancaster General Hospital: Doris McNally

Luther Acres Health Care: Judy Meckley

Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin

Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla

Please pray for those in the Armed Forces: Chris Weidman

Please pray for friends and family at home:

Branda Reed, Donna Kennedy, Amanda Stuck, Tyler Herr, Brandi Erhart, Marine Jhabvala, Emily Martin, John Robertson, Deb Correa, Bud Kneisley, Everett Kimball, Jason Mertz, Robert Evans, Martha Miller, Brooke Stewart, Mary Lou Crum, Jimmy Vincent, Mary Stewart, Lorna Buohl, Richard Sockriter, Helen Blank, William Sockriter, Doug Cody, Mary Morton, Brenda Sweigart, Nancy Bolotine, Karen Leonhard, Mary Sanger, Brian Kerns, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Robyn Redcay and Margaret Weller.

Pray also for the grieving families of:

Marion Briere, Fred Griffith, Chris Castellano, Elvin Eberly, Carl Usner, Peggy French, Marion Gideon, Bishop Guy Edmiston, Pastor Marty Sheaffer, George Wolf, Glenn Eidemiller, Sally Wealand, Bob Farr, Cheryl Nixon, Bea Hassler, Mary Moore, Orvilla Oberholtzer, Lowell Haws, Mary Jane Goshert, Ed Sieber, Darrell Buchter, Joyce Pannebecker, Barb Mertz, Beverly Sweigart, Maggie Kiralfy, Dale Firestone and Larry Rabold

August Hymn of the Month

“It is Well With My Soul” (When Peace Like a River)

Horatio G. Spafford was a successful lawyer and businessman in Chicago with a lovely family - a wife, Anna, and five children. However, they were not strangers to tears and tragedy. Their young son died with pneumonia in 1871, and in that same year, much of their business was lost in the great Chicago fire. Yet, God in His mercy and kindness allowed the business to flourish once more.

On Nov. 21, 1873, the French ocean liner, Ville du Havre was crossing the Atlantic from the U.S. to Europe with 313 passengers on board. Among the passengers were Mrs. Spafford and their four daughters. Although Mr. Spafford had planned to go with his family, he found it necessary to stay in Chicago to help solve an unexpected business problem. He told his wife he would join her and their children in Europe a few days later. His plan was to take another ship.

About four days into the crossing of the Atlantic, the Ville du Harve collided with a powerful, iron-hulled Scottish ship, the Loch Earn. Suddenly, all of those on board were in grave danger. Anna hurriedly brought her four children to the deck. She knelt there with Annie, Margaret Lee, Bessie and Tanetta and prayed that God would spare them if that could be His will, or to make them willing to endure whatever awaited them. Within approximately 12 minutes, the Ville du Harve slipped beneath the dark waters of the Atlantic, carrying with it 226 of the passengers including the four Spafford children.

A sailor, rowing a small boat over the spot where the ship went down, spotted a woman floating on a piece of the wreckage. It was Anna, still alive. He pulled her into the boat and they were picked up by another large vessel which, nine days later, landed them in Cardiff, Wales. From there she wired her husband a message which began, “Saved alone, what shall I do?” Mr. Spafford later framed the telegram and placed it in his office.

Mr. Spafford booked passage on the next available ship and left to join his grieving wife. With the ship about four days out, the captain called Spafford to his cabin and told him they were over the place where his children went down. It was on that voyage that the lyrics to “It is Well With My Soul” was written. The music was later composed by Phillip Bliss.

Ahava is playing August 16th

Submitted by Vickie Kissinger



CONCERT BENEFITTING COMMUNITY HIVE PRESENTED BY:

AHAVA

8/16/2026

Admission is free!

Please bring a non-perishable food or toiletry item for the Community Hive pantry.

Social Ministry will provide a picnic-style supper following the concert.



START 4:00 PM

MELLINGERS LUTHERAN CHURCH

80 Gockley Rd, Stevens, PA

A free-will offering will be collected for Community Hive and to support the picnic-style supper.

PRAYING OVER
a new
school year
❖❤❖

Cocalico School District starts:
Tuesday August 25th

Ephrata School District starts:
Monday August 31st



WHAT: SUNDAY SCHOOL

WHERE: Right here at Mellinger's Church.
There are classes for all ages.

WHEN: Sunday mornings from 10:15 to 11:00
beginning September 13th,
following Worship & Coffee Time.
(you may even bring you snacks to class)

WHY: You are never too Young or Old to explore God's word.
Give it a try. You truly will have a great time!

When we meditate on God's word, we are transformed by its Power (Romans 12:2)

WHO: ALL God's Children of every age!



Special Flowers

Harvest Home Sunday will be on
Sunday September 27th. Details
will be announced later in the
month of August and in the
September Newsletter.





Sunday

August 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

9:00 am Church Services

August 9th Pastor Glenn Beard leading worship service

August 16th 4:00 pm Ahava concert

August 30th Pastor Glenn Beard leading worship service

Tuesday

August 4, 11, 18 & 25

6:30 – 8:00 pm Pastor Tim Zoom Bible Study Gospel of Luke

Thursday

August 13th 6:30 pm Council Meeting

Friday

August 28th to Wednesday September 2nd Pastor Tim and Kim will be on vacation



Monday September 7th Labor Day



Sunday September 13th



Tuesday September 22nd
Autum Begins



Harvest Home Sunday
On September 27th



*Final food drive for
Community Hive
in 2026*



September 15 – 19 Denver Fair Week

September 22 – 26 Ephrata Fair Week

Scout Troop 115 Calendar

August 15- Car Wash at Weaver Markets 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

August 23- Troop Family Picnic

September 15 to 18- Parking cars at the Denver Fair



Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm
Where Faith is Renewed, the Church is Strengthened
PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303 717-677-8211 (phone) 717-677-7597 (fax) www.lutherancamping.org

Dear Mellingers,

As spring arrives, our staff and volunteers are hard at work preparing the sites, planning meaningful programs and getting everything ready to welcome campers for another incredible summer.

Thank you for your gift of \$488.00 given on June 25, 2026, designated for Unrestricted use. Thank you for your generous support of the Lutheran Camping Corporation Ministry. Because of your gift kids, youth and adults continue to experience faith and community in the beauty of God's creation at camp.

Your generosity helps ensure that campers can grow in confidence, build lifelong friendships and deepen their faith in the church in a time and a place set apart from the busyness of everyday life.

Thank you for being such an important part of this ministry.

With Gratitude and Blessings.

Yours in Christ,

*Thank you for your support -
Dick Petersen, LCC en*

Zach Weiss
Kirchenwald Director

Kelsey Tomlinson
Nawakwa Director

Matthew J. Lenahan
Wittel Farm Growing Project Director



Dear Mellingers Lutheran Church Great 8 Appeal,

We, the people of Faith United Evangelical Lutheran Church and hosts of the Peter's Porch Hunger Ministry program, would like to extend our sincere gratitude to you for your support of this important ministry.

The monetary donation of \$1,595.00 that you have provided to us has helped feed hungry people in our area, and has been a sign of Christ's love to our community. With you help we serve over 2,000 individuals a year at our pantry! Your commitment to service is very much appreciated by us.

We can't do this work without you – thank you for being part of our work in Christ's name.

In peace,

Pastor Marissa Beckin +

*To our church family at Mellingers,
Jay and I want to thank you for Jay's
Birthday cards, our anniversary cards,
and the cards, thoughts and prayers
for Jay after his accident and
his ongoing treatment for Vertigo.
Your support is greatly appreciated.
Linda Jay Weaner*

Dear friends at Mellingers,

On behalf of Kim and I, I want to thank all who sent prayers, cards and love at the occasion of our 45th wedding anniversary on July 11th.

It is an overwhelming blessing for us to cherish the 39 years out of those 45 that we have been a part of the Body of Christ here with our Mellingers family.

Thank you and God bless you.
-Pastor Tim

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT CHURCH

We are a blessed congregation to have hard working individuals involved in our volunteer opportunities. If you ever feel like lending an extra hand, here are the areas:

- During Sunday Services: Communion Assistant, Scripture Reader, Soundboard & Video operator
- Worship & Music: Choir, Handbell Choir & Special music
- Coffee Time: Servers, Donations of Baked Goods or Monetary Contributions
- Discipleship Committee: Help with fund raiser events like, the Garden Program for Community Hive the Goat Program and Great Eight Lenten giving.
- Social Ministry Committee: Help serve at social functions and memorial service luncheons. Help with Lutheran World Relief collections and local Summer lunch programs and local food drives.



CONTRIBUTION OPPORTUNITIES AT MELLINGERS

Contributions may be made to the following funds at any time and may also be used to aid people in designating monies for memorials. Should you wish to donate to any of these funds, please place funds in an envelope and provide the name of the fund in which you would like your donation placed, your name and envelope number.

† Needy Fund

† Builders of Hope

† Parking Lot / Driveway

† Lutheran World Relief

† Maintenance and Building Fund

August 1
Michael Haller
Katie Stahl

August 2
Zachary Cruz

August 3
Olivia Butler

August 7
Elaine Haldeman
Ethel Sensenig

August 9
Rick Dillon

August 12
Jean Townsley

August 13
Angelina Weachter

August 14
Larry Meckley

August 17
Lisa Reed

August 18
Jameson Walters

August 19
Sean Moyer

August 20
Dawn Henry
Emma Herr



August
BIRTHDAYS

August 21
David Weidman

August 22
Tess Freeman
Sonya Leisey

August 25
Donald Stafford

August 28
Brandon Jeffers

August 29
Roy Latshaw

August 31
David Haldeman



August 4
Judy Meckley



August 2, 2019

John & Erin Biles

August 7, 1999

Ben & Christine Herr

August 10, 1985

Randy & Tina Zerbe

August 14, 1965

Jerry & Martha Petery

August 16, 1975

Tom & Trish Fassnacht

August 19, 1967

Ron & Bonnie Weinhold

August 20, 1955

Roger & Dolly Gehman

August 21, 1965

Denton & Karen Borry

August 27, 1967

Randy & Vicky Meckley

August 30, 1984

Dan & Sally Stahl

Make a Postcard PUZZLE

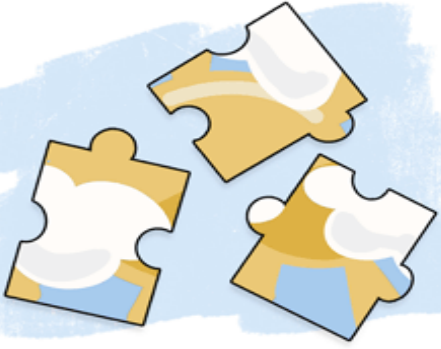
Summer is full of little moments that remind us that God is guiding each step. Like a puzzle, he brings every piece together in his time.

What you need:

- A postcard or printed picture
- Scissors
- Pencil (optional, for guiding your cuts)
- Envelope or small bag (for storing pieces)

What you do:

1. Flip your postcard over and lightly draw puzzle shapes or cut freely.
2. Cut the postcard into a mix of big and small pieces.
3. Mix up the pieces and try to put the picture back together.
4. Store the pieces in an envelope so you can use it again later.



Use the picture on the right to make your post card!!

PUZZLE



Apple of Your Eye

“Apple of your eye” means something very special that you protect. As school starts again, remember what God says in Proverbs 7:2 (NIV): “Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.”

Can you find the word “apple” 12 times in the puzzle?
Look up, down, across, and even backward!

e	a	e	e	a	p	e	l
l	a	p	a	p	p	l	e
a	p	p	p	p	a	l	e
l	p	l	p	a	p	l	p
a	l	e	l	l	a	l	p
e	e	a	e	p	e	a	e
l	l	e	a	p	p	l	e
a	p	p	a	p	p	l	e
l	a	p	p	l	e	p	p
e	a	a	e	a	a	a	a



Important contact information

MINISTERS: The people of Mellingers STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Timothy Craven (717) 738-3838 Cell: (717) 468-9049
Director of Christian Education: Diane Adair (717) 715-3124
Director of Music: Vickie Kissinger (717) 354-6575 vickiekissinger@gmail.com
Secretary: Ashley Weinhold (717) 336-8800 mellingerslutheran@gmail.com
Treasurer: Jon Hogan (814) 289-1646

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Lowell Yost (717) 471-7758	Vice-President: Troy Adair (717) 715-3126	
Randy Brubaker (717) 314-3449	Nancy Eberly (717) 945-2895	Ben Gunzenhauser (717) 733-6414
Mike Haller (717) 368-1572	Shawn Jeffers (717) 278-5000	Hayden Leonhard (717) 468-5549
Kristi Leonhard (717) 940-7535	Vic Richard (717) 951-8977	Linda Weaver (717) 587-1319
Recording Secretary: Ashley Weinhold	(717) 336-8800	

LEADERS

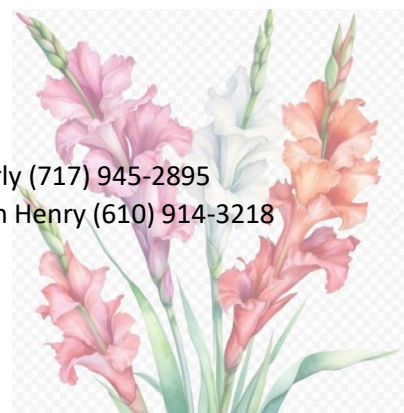
Altar Guild: Kimberley Craven Chair: (717) 738-3838
Blood Pressure Check Coordinator: Susan Specht (717) 336-4601
Camp Person: Kimberley Craven (717) 738-3838
Coffee Social: Kristi Leonhard (717) 940-7535
Communion Set-Up: Lisa Reed (717) 341-1663
Finance Committee: Vic Richard (717) 951-8977, Pat Haller (717) 368-4975, Nancy Eberly (717) 945-2895
Financial Secretary: Jill Showalter (717) 336-2839 **Assistant Financial Secretary:** Dawn Henry (610) 914-3218
Lawn Care: Pat Jeffers (717) 336-8170
Newsletter Editor: Office Staff (717) 336-8800
Offering Counters: Nancy Eberly (717) 945-2895
Scout Liaison: David Haldeman (717) 733-8551
Scripture Reader Coordinator: Anita Soto (717) 419-5520
Snow Removal: Andy Leonhard (717) 336-8800
Special Flowers: Pat Haller (717) 368-4975
Treasurer: Jon Hogan (814) 289-1646 **Assistant Treasurer:** Skip Hutchinson (717) 733-5029
Web Site Editor: Office Staff (717) 336-8800
Wedding Coordinator: Brittany Hartlove (717) 715-3127

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Discipleship In Life: Robert H. Getz, Jr. (717) 925-4938
Endowment/Memorial: Randy Brubaker (717) 733-9222
Personnel: Nancy Eberly (717) 945-2895
Property: Andy Leonhard (717) 336-8800
Social Ministry: Shirley Sweigart (717) 538-1946
Worship and Music: Nancy Hain (717) 336-6270
Youth Group Advisors: Kristi & Paul Leonhard (717) 733-1260 Cell: (717) 940-7535 Pastor Tim (717) 738 3838
SCOUT LEADERS
Troop 115: Sheldon Brubaker (717) 468-5333 smb115@ptd.net

Peace be with you!

SERVICE TIMES
Sunday
Worship Service
9 am



SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES

WEBSITE: www.mellingers.org

FACEBOOK: Check us out on Facebook. We are listed under Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Pack 115: Daniel Marszalek. (717)-405-9724 scoutleaderdan115@yahoo.com