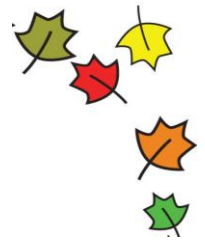




THE LAMPSTAND

Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church

80 Gockley Road ♣♣ Stevens, PA 17578



The Four Colors of The Gospels

As the trees change color and Fall arrives I was thinking about the four colors of the Gospels.

Many times reading the Bible is not easy. The Word of God was written thousands of years ago by many people and is actually a library not a book. There is a wide variety of material which is not always presented in chronological order. In the Old Testament the smaller books are placed at the end. This was done to conserve parchment which was rare and valuable.

Mystery is not something we should be afraid of when we read Scripture. Rather we should embrace it like the colors of the rainbow as the variety of Scripture actually makes it richer.

Paul's letters, though placed in the canon of Scripture after the Gospel for obvious reasons, were actually written before the Gospels between 48 and 60 AD. ("gospel" means "good news" in Old English...the New Testament was written in Greek, Jesus spoke Aramaic...)

Scholars believe the first Gospel to be written was Mark in around 66 AD some 33 years after Jesus' death and resurrection. Since Jesus said He would return not much was written down for a while as people told the story and waited. Writing supplies, as I mentioned earlier, were rare and not many people know how to write anyway. As the years passed it seemed like a good idea to write some things down as they were passed on from generation to generation.

Volume 20 Number 10
October 2026

Inside this issue

Pastor's Post.....	1-3
Readings & Psalms.....	3
Hymn of the Month.....	4
Prayer Corner.....	5
Church Council.....	6
Usher Schedule.....	6
Calendar.....	7
Sunday School.....	8
Thank You Notes.....	9
Birthdays.....	10
Anniversaries.....	11
Important Contact Information.....	12

NEWSLETTER **ARTICLES**

**November's newsletter
article deadlines will be
Thursday October 22**

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

mellingerslutheran@gmail.com





Mark's Gospel was written in an abrupt fashion. The word which appears most in Mark is "immediately". There are healings and a sense of urgency. Jesus is the suffering servant as the cross is very prominent in Mark. A theme called the Messianic Secret finds the disciples in Mark never really knowing what was really going on. A good color for Mark might be dark purple. People who enjoy a good cry, a rainy day and a tough challenge like Mark.

"... 'if any man would come after me,' says Jesus, 'let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'" (Mark 8: 34)

The next Gospel to be written, Luke between 80 and 90, might be said to be red. It is a Gospel in which the world is turned upside down. Written in a literary style by the same writer of Acts, Luke is the champion of the poor and talks to the whole world, including Gentiles, about the new time in history which began when Jesus was born. That time is called Salvation History. People out to change the world and help the poor like Luke. Read the powerful Magnificat sung by Mary in Luke 1: 46-56.



Matthew was written between 70 and 100 and is placed first in the canon because it was used as a book of worship in the Jewish community to which it was written. There are many teachings of Jesus and quotes from the Old Testament in Matthew, including songs from Psalms and prophecies from Isaiah. Green might be a good color for Matthew as the seeds of spiritual knowledge are grown in the rich soil of the Word.



In Matthew 22: 36-40, Jesus sums up all of the commandments and tells us to love God first and then our neighbor. People who are eager to learn like Matthew.

Around 100 John was written. Sky Blue could be the color for this very spiritual and beautiful cosmic Gospel. Written in a time of great persecution of Christians the tone is other-worldly. In John's Gospel Jesus' ministry requires at least two years to be completed while in Matthew, Mark and Luke, called the Synoptic Gospels, Jesus' work could have been accomplished in one year. There are no parables in John and most of the miracles and healings are missing. Jesus spends a lot of time in John describing



Himself in terms of the Vine and Branches, the Bread of Life, the Door, the Light of the World, The Good Shepherd. In the other Gospels He does not. John is deeply spiritual and beautifully written. People who like to get lost in their thoughts and reflect like John.

The good news about the Good News is that there is a message for us at all times in our lives and for every possible situation and feeling. Whether we need to be challenged or comforted the Scriptures provide guidance.

So if you're confused by the Bible, don't give up. Just allow the experience of Scripture to be God's presence. We often miss the point when we try too hard to find it. As we wonder at the changing colors of the season we should also enjoy the colors of God's Word and you'll find a rainbow of joy!

In Christ, Pastor Tim



Bible Readings for the month of October

October 4 — Pentecost 19: Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians 3:4b-14 & Matthew 21:33-46

October 11 — Pentecost 20: Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9 & Matthew 22:1-14

October 18 — Pentecost 21: Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96:1-13,
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 & Matthew 22:15-22

October 25 — *Reformation Sunday*: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46,
Romans 3:19-28 & John 8:31-36

Hymn of the Month for October

“A Mighty Fortress”

“Ein Feste Burg”

Luther wrote this text sometime between 1527 and 1529 as a paraphrase of Psalm 46, though stanza four comes directly from Luther's own persecution experience. This hymn is often referred to as “the battle hymn” of the Reformation. Many stories have been relayed about its use. Albert Bailey writes, “It was, as Heine said, the Marseillaise of the Reformation...It was sung in the streets...It was sung by poor Protestant emigres on their way to exile, and by martyrs at their death...Gustavus Adolphus ordered it sung by his army before the battle of Leipzig in 1631...Again it was the battle hymn of his army at Lutzen in 1632...It has had a part in countless celebrations commemorating the men and events of the Reformation; and its first line is engraved on the base of Luther's monument at Wittenberg...An imperishable hymn! Not polished and artistically wrought but rugged and strong like Luther himself, whose very words seem like deeds” (The Gospel in Hymns, 316).

As you can see, this is a hymn close to the hearts of Protestants and Lutherans, a source of assurance in times of duress and persecution. The text is not restricted, however, to times of actual physical battles. In any time of need, when we do battle with the forces of evil, God is our fortress to hide us and protect us, and the Word that endures forever will fight for us.

Traditionally, the most commonly used translation in Lutheran congregations is a composite translation from the 1868 Pennsylvania Lutheran Church Book (“A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon”). A newer translation was printed in 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*.

Submitted by Vickie Kissinger

Choir & Bells Practice dates:

Chancel Choir at 6:00 pm - October 14 & 28

Bell Choir at 7:00 pm - October 14 & 28

***Our Praise band Ahava
will be playing Sunday
October 18 & 25***



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Kelsey Reed Butler, Gil Hulshizer, Theda Raffauf, Bob Getz, Lori Oberholtzer, Jerry Petery, Deb Emberger, Tom Parrish Sr., Kelly Parrish, Wren Dillon, Jay Weaver, Jay Stoltzfus, Dave Haldeman, 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.

Ephrata Manor: Iris Weaver, Dorothy Hutchinson, Shirl Tobias and Pauline Sawyer
Faithful Living, Denver: Vivian Gehr Gardens at Stevens: Pat & Nevin McQuate
Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine & Janet Hirneisen
Luther Acres Health Care: Judy Meckley Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin
Penn State Hospital: Ashley Leed Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla
Clifton Center in Philadelphia: Mike Sawyer

Please pray for those in the Armed Forces: Chris Weidman

Please pray for friends and family at home:

Sheri Kiefer, Sam McClearen, Tina Strepko, Scott Coleman, Dave & Wendy Bentz, Nancy Good, Kevin Gavin, Branda Reed, Doris McNally, Amanda Stuck, Tyler Herr, Brandi Erhart, Emily Martin, Deb Correa, Jason Mertz, Robert Evans, Martha Miller, Brooke Stewart, Mary Lou Crum, Jimmy Vincent, Mary Stewart, Lorna Buohl, 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:

Leroy Landis, Marion Dissinger, Helen Blank, Mike Leed, Nicole Bibbus, Rob French, Donna Kennedy, Robert Hackman, Marion Briere, Carl Usner, Peggy French, Marion Gideon, Bishop Guy Edmiston, Pastor Marty Sheaffer, George Wolf, 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

COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

Lowell Yost called the September meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Ashley Weinhold read a poem called "Autum Blessing" and gave a prayer for the upcoming season.

Vickie Kissinger is confirming schedules with Summer on Duke to possibly perform on Sunday November 1st.

Social Ministry's schedule of events were reviewed. December 6th will be Hanging of the Greens.

The Disciple Resource Allocation for 2027 was reviewed by Council and the Finance Committee and Treasurer will submit the finale revisions on a budget in October.

Nancy Eberly will replace Lowell Yost on October 11th as Head Usher. Lowell Yost will replace Nancy Eberly as Head Usher on October 18th.

There will be tree and shrub trimming done around the whole property in November.

Next Meeting is Thursday October 8th at 6:30 pm.

We adjourned the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Usher Schedules for October

October 4: Head – Vic Richard, Linda Weaver and Alternate Jean Lausch

October 11: Head – Nancy Eberly, Troy Adair and Alternate Randy Brubaker

October 18: Head – Lowell Yost, Mike Haller and Alternate Jill Showalter

October 25 Reformation: Head – Kristi Leonhard, Joan Moore and Alternate Hayden Leonhard

Council Terms:

Council Members may serve 3 consecutive 2-year terms after which they must wait a year before they can serve again.

3rd term ends Dec. 2026

Lowell Yost, Troy Adair and Randy Brubaker



Sunday

October 4, 11, 18 & 25

9:00 am Church Services

October 11th Pastor Mark Jeske leading worship service

October 25th Reformation Sunday

November 1st All Saints Day Service



Monday

October 12th 6:30 pm Social Ministry Meeting

Tuesday

October 6, 13, 20, & 27

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

Wednesday

October 7, 21 & 28

1:30 – 3:00 pm In Person Bible Study at Mellingers in the Library

October 14th 2:30 pm Pastor Tim leading worship at Ephrata Manor, Ephrata

Thursday

October 8th 6:30 pm Council Meeting

Friday

October 9th 12:30 pm Pastor Tim playing music at Calvary Lutheran Church Laureldale

October 23rd 1:30 pm Pastor Tim playing music at The Garden at Stevens

Saturday

October 10th 8:30 am – 11:30 am Social Ministry Ingathering, Bergstrasse

Scout Troop 115 Calendar

October 9-11: Webelos Weekend at Camp Mack

October 23-25: District Fall Outpost at Camp Mack

2027

February 7: Scout Sunday

March 6: Spaghetti Dinner



Sunday

November 1st



**TURN YOUR
CLOCKS
BACK!**

Celtic Music Concert November 1

Mellingers will be hosting a concert Sunday, November 1 at 4:00 pm with "Summer on Duke" performing. Laverne and Christy King performed here last October. Christy played in the well known Martin Celtic Band. Laverne is a classical guitarist and guitar teacher. Plan on experiencing great fiddle, guitar and vocals!

Please invite friends and family to hear this talented Duo!

There will be a free will offering taken.

Social Ministry will serve a picnic style supper following the concert.



WHERE: Right here at Mellinger's Church.

There are classes for all ages.

WHEN: Sunday mornings from 10:15 to 11:00 following Worship & Coffee Time. (you may even bring 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, are transformed by its Power (Romans 12:2)

WHO: ALL God's Children of every age!

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering is October 10, 2026.

What is Ingathering?

In ELCA life, "ingathering" refers to a shared, celebratory collection of gifts—often money, quilts, food, or other resources—brought together by congregations and partners to support specific ministries such as hunger relief, global mission, or local outreach. This practice reflects our call to be the body of Christ together, ministering "with" one another and those in need, rather than simply "to" or "for" them, and embodies God's grace that overflows in community and service.

This definition was found on the ELCA website.



Thank You for your support! **For 2026, we have assembled 60 Quilts, 200 School Kits, 130 Personal Care Kits.**

“Thank You”

*Thank you to the congregation for all the cards, gifts, support and prayers during this difficult time.
Mike truly enjoyed spending time at Mellingers and seeing all of you! With Love,
The Aud Family*



Dear Mellingers Lutheran Church,

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 produce donation from your garden 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 your 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 Becklin +

The Rev. Marissa Becklin
Pastor, Faith United Evangelical Lutheran Church

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards, thoughts and gifts at my recent birthday.

Being a part of Mellingers brings so much joy and comfort to me and our whole family.

God bless you. In Christ, Pastor Tim

October 1
Theda Rauffauf

October 6
Elijah Hogan

October 8
Ryan Brubaker

October 9
Ruth Hollinger

October 10
Mike Reed

October 19
Diane Adair, Martha Brubaker

October 20
Karen Lausch

October 22
Adrian Borry, Kimberley Craven

October 24
Dan Sensenig

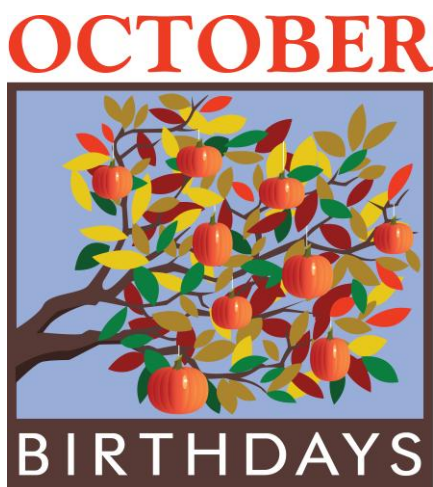
October 26
Cindy Gehman, Seth Gehman

October 28
Erin Weidman

October 29
Amanda Gehman

October 30
Alicia Brubaker, Seth Gregory

October 31
Tonya Pierce



Surprise for her birthday on October 9th
For Ruth Hollinger's birthday send a card to:

65 West Church Road
Stevens, Pa 17578



October 4

Deb & Jerry Zerbe

October 7

Kristi & Donovan Stief

October 8

Wendy & John Leisey

October 10

Michael & Julie Sawyer

October 12

Jeff & Amy Weik

October 12

Jay & Melissa Weber

October 18

Sherry & Jeffrey Gregory

October 26

Kristi & Andy Leonhard

October 28

Luke & Ashley Weinhold



October 18

Jeff & Cindy Gehman

Dedications will be phrased: The Altar Flowers
and Bulletins are dedicated to the Glory of God
by.....in honor or memory of.....

The following dates are available
for dedication:

October 18 & 25

November 15



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

Peace be with you!

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Worship Service

9 am

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: TBD

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

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

SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES

WEBSITE: www.mellingers.org

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