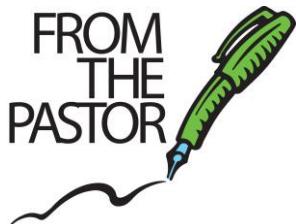




# THE LAMPSTAND

Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church  
80 Gockley Road †† Stevens, PA 17578



## Pastor's Meditation

### *Panic and Judging Others are not Good Christian Values*

“Judge not and you shall not be judged.” Luke 6:37

This is good advice from Jesus. Someone told me the other day that I wasn’t a Christian because I was Lutheran. A colleague of mine was recently threatened in a letter because he was Lutheran. I heard of someone who told their children to stop dating a Lutheran because they weren’t Christians. This wasn’t a plain group. These were good old Lancaster County “I’m gonna get to Heaven before you cause you don’t like me” Christians. I haven’t always been a Lutheran. But I like the idea. God sent Christ to save us. We don’t make a decision for Jesus. Rather God makes a decision for us. God does the saving. Our job, our decision is discipleship; that is caring for others.

Yet some Christians are in such a panic about their soul that they think they can get a better seat at the Messianic banquet by condemning others. Playing God was the original sin and still is; trying to be as smart as God. Let God be God.



Volume 20 Number 02

February 2026

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### NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

March's newsletter article deadlines will be

Thursday, February 19th

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

Things have gotten worse lately. A lot of so called Christians are afraid because of politics and the frightening way things are going with families, violence and drugs and have decided to judge their Christian brothers and sisters as being unworthy of the difficult task of discipleship. Hostile to other Christians, belligerent in general these fearful groups attempt to blackball all people who do not agree with them. And they do it in the name of Jesus. This behavior is sinful and immoral and should be opposed at every turn.

Panic and judging others are not good Christian values. They are inappropriate tools of frightened children who are immature in their faith and insecure in dialogue with God's children who hold different views. People looking for simple answers to complicated problems, swept up in pseudo-religious fervor, can fall victim to fascism.

In difficult times we must be firm and yet calm, dedicated and compassionate and yet thoughtful. The church needs to lead the way, not follow reckless fearmongering.

When King Ahaz was tempted to enter into an alliance to avoid war with the Assyrians, Isaiah told him to "take heed, be quiet, do not fear and do not let your heart be faint...". God will protect us as we trust in Him. Ahaz didn't listen, entered into an alliance and was crushed by the Assyrians. He should have trusted in God. So should we. Christians should act in trust and in faith together.

Christians are beset in a non-Christian world. The answer is not to panic and lash out in deceit and hostility. The answer is to trust in God and work together as God's Children.



## *Hymn of the Month for February*

### *“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”* *“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

## **PRAYER CORNER**

### **Please pray for the following people:**

Martha Petery, Barb Moyer, Fay Weitzel, Doug Leed, Shannon Brown, Ruth Hollinger, Shirley Sweigart, Mike Leed, Molly Brown, Carl Mohler Jr., Jay Weaver, Dave Haldeman, Vivian Gehr, Tom Parrish Sr, Elaine Haldeman, Clair Miller, Skip Hutchinson, Jane Goshert (Home Hospice), Jay Stoltzfus, Theda Raffauf, Mary Weidman, Roy Latshaw and Marty Leed & Family.

Artman Lutheran Home, Ambler: Sally Wealand

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

Gardens at Stevens: Pat & Nevin McQuate

Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine & Janet Hirneisen

Luther Acres Personal Care: Judy Meckley

Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin

Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla

Bob Harker, Merrill Fisher, Gaile Gehman, Jimmy Vincent, Mary Stewart, Barb Charles, Lisa Wing, Bob Farr, Mary Thorn, Cheryl Nixon, Cocalico Builders of Hope (finding a house for housing program), Carol Schaeffer, Lorna Buohl, Richard Sockriter, David Taimuty, Helen Blank, William Sockriter, Doug Cody, Karen Velez, Ron Neidigh, Mary Morton, Brenda Sweigart, Nancy Bolotine, Bea Hassler (Hospice), Karen Leonhard, Mary Sanger, Andy & Brenda Gabig, Pastor Karen Larson, Brian Kerns, Mary Lou Crum, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Robyn Redcay, Margaret Weller, Cynthia Peters and Priscilla (last name only).

### **Pray also for the grieving families of:**

Ed Sieber, Nancy Leh, Darrell Buchter, Jack Poole, Renee Good, Sharlene Miller, Joyce Pannebecker, Barb Mertz, Beverly Sweigart, Maggie Kiralfy, Dale Firestone, Yvonne Walters, Larry Rabold, Zach Caflin, Bob Weaver, Pastor Conrad Youse, Karen Krater, Vesta Reber, Jean Shober, Joyce Boyer, Joan Wentzel, Jeff Moyer, Anna Weinhold, and Kenton Shaffer.

## Bible Readings for the month of February

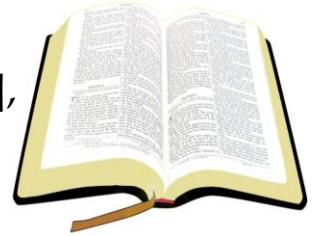
**February 1 - 4** Epiphany: Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-30 & Matthew 5:1-12

**February 8 - 5** Epiphany: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12], Psalm 112:1-9 [10], 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16] & Matthew 5:13-20

**February 15 -** Transfiguration of Our Lord: Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2 or Psalm 99, 2 Peter 1:16-21 & Matthew 17:1-9

**February 18 - Ash Wednesday:** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 & Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**February 22 - 1 Lent:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19 & Matthew 4:1-11



## Ushers for February

**February 1** Head: Mike Haller, Nancy Eberly and alternate Ben Gunzenhauser

**February 8** Head: Kristi Leonhard, Hayden Leonhard, and alternate Joan Moore

**February 15** Head: Linda Weaver, Ben Gunzenhauser and alternate Lowell Yost

**February 18 Ash Wednesday:** To Be Determined

**February 22** Head: Lowell Yost, Randy Brubaker and alternate Dave Weidman



## COUNCIL JANUARY 8, 2026

Lowell Yost called the January meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Nancy Eberly read a verse for Epiphany Matthew 2:1-12 and a prayer.

Election of Council officers took place. President Lowell Yost, Vice President Troy Adair, Treasurer Jon Hogan, Assistant Treasurer Skip Hutchinson, Secretary Ashley Weinhold, Assistant Secretary Kristi Leonhard, Financial Secretary Jill Showalter, Assistant Financial Secretary Dawn Henry, Offering Counter Head Nancy Eberly and Lawncare Pat Jeffers. All approved.

Treasurer Jon Hogan reported we have raised \$4,900 so far towards the parking lot replacement.

Pastor Tim reported that Scout Master Sheldon Brubaker will be speaking on Scout Sunday (February 1<sup>st</sup>). The Needy Fund report was reviewed and discussed.

Next Meeting is Thursday February 12th at 6:30 pm. We adjourned the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.



*2026 Council Members*

On Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup> we had installation of Council members.

Front Row: Troy Adair, Ben Gunzenhauser, Randy Brubaker, Shawn Jeffers, Pastor Tim Craven, Vic Richard, Linda Weaver and Hayden Leonhard.

Back Row: Mike Haller, Nancy Eberly, Kristi Leonhard, Lowell Yost and Skip Hutchinson.

Not pictured: Jon Hogan Treasurer and Ashley Weinhold recording secretary

## Sunday

### February 1, 8, 15 & 22

9:00 am Church Services

### February 1, 8 & 22 8:15 am Chancel Choir Practice in the Choir Room

### February 1<sup>st</sup> Scout Sunday

Scout Leader Sheldon Brubaker will be preaching with Pastor Craven.

### February 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am Ahava will be playing

2:00 pm Pastor Tim will be preaching at Keystone Villa in Ephrata

### February 22<sup>nd</sup>: Temple Talk The Great 8 Program



## Tuesday

### February 3, 10, 17 & 24

6:30 - 8:00 pm Pastor Tim Zoom Bible Study Topic: The Gospel of Luke

## Wednesday

### February 11 & 18 1:30 – 3:00 pm In Person Bible Study at Mellingers in the Library

### February 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service at Swamp Lutheran, Reinholds

### February 25<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm Lenten Cluster Service at Faith United in Denver

## Thursday

### February 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Council Meeting



Greetings Colleagues!

I have two opportunities to share with your congregation about our Disaster Response Trips.

I am currently organizing the next Disaster Response trip (the 26<sup>th</sup> trip of Lower Susquehanna Synod LDR Team) for April 26 to May 2, 2026.

The trip planning meeting will be held in the Community Room at Luther Acres on Sunday February 1 at 4:00 pm. We will be returning to Western North Carolina to continue with Hurricane Helene restoration.

Also on February 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 pm we will be talking about our most recent trip in November to North Carolina. We will be telling stories and showing pictures of the work and experiences we had during our work. The presentation will be held in the Community Room.

Thanks to everyone who supported our work and helped make it possible. If you have any questions, please let me know! - Glenn Beard



6!? Years!? Are you sure? It can't be, it only feels like 3. I believe my feelings are the same as most, a Love/Hate with time & changes. How quickly it goes by and then adapting to the changes to continue on.

Last week I was working on updates for members and the realization struck me about communication between myself (the office) & all of you (members/the Church). I am still a 'newbie' to most of you. That is completely understandable because in reality I have not met with or seen many members on a regular basis to communicate regularly with your information, requests and needs.

There are a few ways to connect with me: office email, phone call, voicemail or a handwritten note on my desk.

Email: This is the most common and best option.

[mellingerslutheran@gmail.com](mailto:mellingerslutheran@gmail.com)

Phone calls: Calling in to the office (even if you leave a voicemail) I will get back to you as soon as possible. Checked voicemails are saved until the request is completed.

Handwritten Notes: A good ol' fashion note left on top of the laptop or in the mailbox across from the office.

Finally, for accurate communication you will benefit the most if you speak with me directly do not ask others to pass along a request for you.

Servant Keeper is our main program with contact information and since last year the main online giving option. As an administrator for this program, I have completed training and can complete updates and changes for you.

Office Hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

As with anyone's schedule these hours may change occasionally.

One Monday a month I leave at 12:15 pm for a Church Secretaries lunch and do not return to the office.

Tuesdays & Fridays someone usually stops in to check the mail, email and voicemail.

Holidays are the biggest challenge with extra services and other family activities. I try my best to keep everyone up to date but I need your help and input.

I love my job here at Mellingers. I have no reasons not to love it and see a long future with the Church. If you pass by the Church, stop in for a little "Hello".

Thank you and have a nice week. ~ Ashley



## Scout Troop 115 Calendar for 2026

February 1 – Scout Sunday

February 27 to March 1 – Merit Badge College

March 7, 2026- Spaghetti Supper

March 13 to 15 – Indoor Rock Climbing Weekend

March 30 – Spring cleanup at Mellingers Church



In case of inclement weather on Sunday check for information on Mellingers Facebook page or call the Church phone number after 7:30 am 717-336-8800



### THE GOAT PROGRAM

\*Program extended through February\*

*To my Mellinger's Family,*

*Let's support ELCA Good Gifts by helping families receive a gift of a goat.*



*A goat provides daily nutrition for children and their families. In 2025 we donated \$3,300 and helped 66 families. The Disciples in Life Committee will be providing more information on this project in January.*

*Let us keep helping our Brothers & Sisters in need. Thank you and stay well.*

*Linda Hutchinson (The Goat Lady)*

*Mail in donations marked Goat Program. Your donations will make a difference for God's children! Give A Gift, Change A Life!*



**Sunday December 28, 2025**  
During our service we welcomed Maggie Biles into the Body of Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.



## COMMUNION



## SCHEDULE

If you can help with Communion set up occasionally, please contact Lisa Reed or the Church office.

Also we need help to continue our coffee/snack time after Worship. Please contact the Church office if you can help with setting this up and/or with donations of snacks.



*February 7*  
Kaitlyn Reed

*February 8*  
Thomas Parrish

*February 10*  
Debra Jeffers

*February 11*  
Brittany Hartlove

*February 14*  
Vivian Gehr

*February 15*  
Patsy Goding

*February 16*  
Greta Harting  
Kathryn "Wren" Dillon

*February 20*  
Kevin Kieffer

*February 21*  
Amanda Guigley  
John Leisey

*February 22*  
Deklan Fischbach  
Carl Usner

*February 24*  
Richard Raffauf



# February BIRTHDAYS

**February 16**  
Jay Stoltzfus

Send cards to:  
1320 33<sup>rd</sup> Street SE  
Sun City, FL 33754



February 14, 2004 Dan & Deb Sensenig

February 18, 1978 Scott & Jeanette Engle

February 21, 1985 Rick & Wren Dillon



# 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](mailto:vickiekissinger@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Ashley Weinhold (717) 336-8800 [mellingerslutheran@gmail.com](mailto:mellingerslutheran@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Jon Hogan (814) 289-1646

### CHURCH COUNCIL

**President:** Lowell Yost (717) 471-7758

Randy Brubaker (717) 314-3449

Mike Haller (717) 368-1572

Kristi Leonhard (717) 940-7535

Recording Secretary: Ashley Weinhold (717) 336-8800

**Vice-President:** Troy Adair (717) 715-3126

Nancy Eberly (717) 945-2895

Ben Gunzenhauser (717) 733-6414

Shawn Jeffers (717) 278-5000

Vic Richard (717) 951-8977

Hayden Leonhard (717) 468-5549

Linda Weaver (717) 587-1319

### 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](mailto:smb115@ptd.net)

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

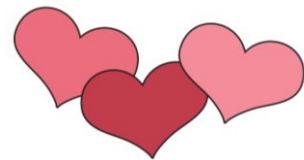
Peace be with you!

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Worship Service

9 am



### SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES

**WEBSITE:** [www.mellingers.org](http://www.mellingers.org)

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