



THE LAMPSTAND



Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church

80 Gockley Road ☩☩ Stevens, PA 17578

FROM
THE
PASTOR



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.

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**Lenten Services Schedule &
Great 8 Appeal....insert page**

NEWSLETTER

ARTICLES

**March's newsletter
article deadlines will be
Thursday, February 19th**

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



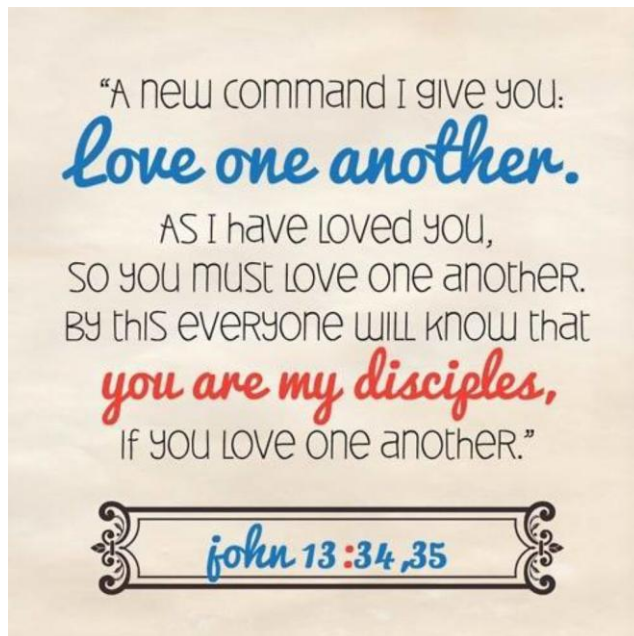
Things have gotten worse lately. A lot of so called Christians are afraid because of politics and the frightening way things are going with families, violence and drugs and have decided to judge their Christian brothers and sisters as being unworthy of the difficult task of discipleship. Hostile to other 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 Shoher, 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 1st). 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 11th 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 1st Scout Sunday

Scout Leader Sheldon Brubaker will be preaching with Pastor Craven.

February 15th 9:00 am Ahava will be playing

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

February 22nd: 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 18th 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service at Swamp Lutheran, Reinholds

February 25th 7:00 pm Lenten Cluster Service at Faith United in Denver

Thursday

February 12th 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 26th 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 1st, 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

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 25
Linda Netzley

February 26
Scott Brubaker

February 16
Jay Stoltzfus

Send cards to:
1320 33rd Street SE
Sun City, FL 33754



February ANNIVERSARIES

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
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 Vic Richard (717) 951-8977
Kristi Leonhard (717) 940-7535	Hayden Leonhard (717) 468-5549 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
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.