



THE LAMPSTAND

Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church

80 Gockley Road ☩☩ Stevens, PA 17578



Thanks and God's Grace

Volume 20 Number 11

November 2026

One time when I was about ten years old our family was eating out at a restaurant and I went to the rest room. There was a man in there and as he was leaving I held the door open for him as he left. As he passed me, he looked down at me and sneered and said, "What are you...some kind of Boy Scout!"

I really didn't expect him to say anything but if he did I figured it would be something like, "Thanks." Well I was certainly wrong. I have always remembered that because I was so surprised. I had always been taught to do good for other people and to be grateful and say thanks when someone did something for me. It had never really occurred to me until then that not only were there people who didn't say thanks but that there were people who were actually contemptuous of those who did!

I'm not sure I have wrapped my head around that yet. But, yes there are a lot of miserable and grumpy people who just seem to want to be that way no matter what happens to them.

When I was in seminary I served a year as an intern (a vicar, a student pastor) at Hope Lutheran Church in Delaware. My supervisor was Pastor Jane Shields. Jane was a wonderful pastor...compassionate, organized, smart...she was a great supervisor.

She once told me a story about when she was a student. When she showed up at her internship site she was surprised and overwhelmed at how generous the people were to her. They let her stay for free in a beautiful house, they gave her food, they helped her in many ways, invited her to their fancy places for vacation.

Jane was so moved that she baked cookies for people. She baked a **lot** of cookies and for two months she continued to give people cookies every time she saw them.

Inside this issue

Pastor's Post.....	1-2
Readings & Psalms.....	2
Hymn of the Month.....	3
Prayer Corner.....	4
Church Council.....	5
Usher Schedule.....	5
Concert Flyer.....	6
Calendar.....	7
Thank You Notes.....	9-10
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	11
Important Contact Information.....	12
2027 Dar Budget.....	Insert

NEWSLETTER

ARTICLES

**December's newsletter
article deadlines will be
Thursday November 19**

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

mellingerslutheran@gmail.com

One day her supervisor called her into his office and said, “Jane, you are doing very well. However, there is one thing I’d like you to do.”

“What’s that,” replied Jane.

“I’d like you to stop giving everybody cookies. Just say ‘thanks’.”

The pastor was teaching her about **God’s Grace**. God gives us many things and there is actually no way that we can pay God back for the gift of eternal life that He has given us through His Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are expected to do good works and help people and grow as Disciples. Sometimes we endure great hardship. But as it regards our own salvation, we really can never make enough cookies or do enough things to pay God back for what God has done for us.

So in this grumbly world sometimes the most important thing we can do is to recognize what we cannot do....and just say thanks.

Thanksgiving time is not only a recognition of what God has done and is doing: it is also a humbling time where we recognize what we cannot do.

In Christ, Pastor Tim



Bible Readings for the month of November

November 1 — *All Saints Sunday*: Revelation 7:9-17, Psalm 34:1-10, 22, 1 John 3:1-3 & Matthew 5:1-12

November 8 — Pentecost 24: Amos 5:18-24, Psalm 70, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 & Matthew 25:1-13

November 15 — Pentecost 25: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, Psalm 90:1-12, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 & Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 — *Christ the King Sunday*: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95:1-7a, Ephesians 1:15-23 & Matthew 25:31-46

November 29 — 1st Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-91, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 & Mark 13:24-37

Hymn of the Month for November

“For All the Saints”

Sine Nomine

For all the Saints was written by the Anglican Bishop of Wakefield, William Walsham How. The melody was written by Ralph Vaughn Williams in 1906.

The hymn was sung to the melody *Sarum*, by the Victorian composer, until the publication of the English Hymnal in 1906. This hymnal used a new setting by Ralph Vaughn Williams which he called “*Sine Nomine*”, literally “without name” in reference to its use on the Feast of All Saints, 1 November, or the first Sunday in November, All Saints Sunday in the Lutheran Church. It has been described as “one of the finest hymn tunes of the 20th century.”

Originally, “For all *thy* saints” was written for All Saints’ Day and published in Horatio Nelson’s *Hymns for Saints’ Days and Other Hymns* (1864). The heading was “A Cloud of Witnesses,” a reference to Hebrews 12:1: “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us . . .” (KJV). After appearing in *Church Hymns*, 1871, with the revised title “For all the Saints,” its usage spread.

This hymn is a commentary on the article in the Apostles’ Creed, “I believe in the Communion of Saints.” Within the Anglican tradition, the relationship with the faithful on earth—The Church Militant—and the saints in heaven—The Church Triumphant—is paramount.

Submitted by Vickie Kissinger

Choir & Bells Practice dates:

Chancel Choir at 6:00 pm - November 4, 11 & 18

November 25 at 6:15 pm

6:00 pm - December 2, 9, 16 & 23

Bell Choir at 7:00 pm - November 11 & 18

December 2, 9, 16 & 23

**Our Praise band Ahava
will be playing Sunday
November 29 &
December 20**



Bell Ringers needed for Advent and Christmas Eve!

Let me know if you are interested in ringing bells.

You do NOT need to be able to read music.

I look forward to seeing you ring!

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Dave Haldeman, Melanie Brubaker, Barry Kreider, Ashley Leed, Ethel Sensenig, Jane Pittman, Kelsey Reed Butler, Gil Hulshizer, Theda Raffauf, Bob Getz, Lori Oberholtzer, Deb Emberger, Tom Parrish Sr., Kelly Parrish, Jay Weaver, Jay Stoltzfus, 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 in Philadelphia: Mike Sawyer Faithful Living, Denver: Vivian Gehr
Ephrata Manor: Iris Weaver, Dorothy Hutchinson, Shirl Tobias and Pauline Sawyer
Gardens at Stevens: Nevin McQuate Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine & Janet Hirneisen
Lancaster General Hospital: Shirley Wagner 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:

Mary Morton, Pastor Dave Miller, Mary Thorn, Sheri Kiefer, Sam McClearen, Tina Strepko, Scott Coleman, Dave & Wendy Bentz, Nancy Good, Kevin Gavin, Brenda 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, 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:

Eugene Hackman, Pat McQuate, 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 OCTOBER 8, 2026

Lowell Yost called the October meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Kristi Leonhard's devotion was about Time, reading 2 Peter 3-8 and giving a prayer. "All Time is God's Time".

Summer on Duke will be performing Sunday November 1st at 4:00 pm with a lite meal to follow in the Social Hall.

Builders of Hope has purchased a house in the Cocalico School District.

The Disciple Resource Allocation for 2027 was reviewed again for corrections made at October's meeting. A vote was taken and carried to approve for 2027.

A question about how many members are needed for Council was asked and after a discussion with reference to the constitution (up to 12 members), council agreed 10 members is a reasonable number at this time.

The parking lot dates have been set for October 15th prep-work, October 19th begin work and October 20th completion.

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

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 December 2026

Lowell Yost, Troy Adair and Randy Brubaker

Usher Schedules for November

November 1 *All Saints*: Head – Linda Weaver, Jill Showalter and Alternate Dave Weidman

November 8: Head – Vic Richard, Jean Lausch and Alternate Troy Adair

November 15: Head – Randy Brubaker, Nancy Eberly and Alternate Mike Haller

November 22: Head – Ben Gunzenhauser, Shawn Jeffers and Alternate Vic Richard

November 25 *Thanksgiving Eve*: TBD

November 29: Head – Linda Weaver, Vic Richard and Alternate Lowell Yost

Celtic Concert

Sunday, November 1 at 4:00
Mellingers Lutheran Church
80 Gockley Rd. Stevens, PA



Freewill offering will be taken

A lite supper will follow in our Social Hall

"Summer on Duke, a husband and wife duo from central PA, combines the award-winning fiddle playing of Christy, alongside her husband Laverne, a classically trained guitarist. Together they bring about an engaging blend of Celtic music, from slow aires to lively jigs.

Christy began her musical journey with the fiddle at the young age of four. After several years of focusing solely on the fiddler, she branched out and studied the bagpipes, cello, and Irish dance.

Her experience with performing in front of a live audience also began before her teenage years as a family band the Celtic Martins. Playing alongside her family gave Christy an excellent opportunity to travel and hone her craft. Also her two sisters and several other family friends played together in the Martin Sisters Band. Along with those groups she was a member of the local pipe bands, you could find her marching and playing in the Saint Patrick Day parades

Laverne, whose musical journey began much later in life than Christy's, did not pick up the guitar until he was seventeen. After his initial exposure to the guitar, he did not take it seriously until he began to search out the possibility of obtaining his music therapy degree. This gave him the motivation he needed to search out teachers to assist him with understanding the different sounds and styles of the guitar.

While Laverne did not go on to complete his music therapy degree, it did give him the ability to study classical guitar for several years under the tutelage of David Cullen, a Grammy winning guitarist and composer. His time with Mr. Cullen gave Laverne the unique ability to combine classical guitar with Christy's background in Celtic music and together they provide a unique combination of two distinct styles."



Sunday

November 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

9:00 am Church Services

November 1st All Saint's Day Service

4:00 pm Celtic Music Concert – Summer on Duke

November 29th First Sunday of Advent

9:00 am Ahava band playing

Monday

November 9th 6:00 pm Social Ministry Meeting

6:30 pm Pastor Tim provide Devotions at Ephrata Boro Council Meeting

Tuesday

November 3, 10, 17, & 24

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

Wednesday

November 4, 11, 18 & 25

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

November 25th 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at Mellingers

Thursday

November 12th 6:30 pm Council Meeting

Scout Troop 115 Calendar

November 7: Scouting for Food – Bag Distribution Day

November 14: Scouting for Food – Collection Day

December 21: Christmas Party

2027

February 7: Scout Sunday

March 6: Spaghetti Dinner



Sunday

November 1st



**TURN YOUR
CLOCKS
BACK!**



Lutheran World Relief
Ingathering was
October 10, 2026.

The Social Ministry would like to thank Mike Haller, Hayden Leonhard, Randy Brubaker, Andy Leonhard and Rodger Sweigart (not pictured) for loading their trucks and taking the Lutheran World Relief kits to the Ingathering collection at Bergstrasse in Ephrata. Our contribution to the collection totaled 200 school kits, 130 personal care kits and 60 quilts.



Social Ministry will be collecting Food and other household staples in November to help support Peter's Porch in Denver.

If you have any specific questions about or for Peter's Porch, reach out to Terry Burkholder at 717-962-0839.



Please Remember Our Shut-Ins with a card
(Thinking Of You, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.)

There is a table in the Narthex with bags for our Shut-Ins and you can deposit your cards. The Social Ministry Committee will deliver the cards to the Shut-Ins when we visit them the weekend of November 14th. There is also a list of the Shut-in names on the table for you to use to prepare your cards.

Please have your cards in the bags by Friday, November 13th. Let's show our Shut-Ins that we have not forgotten them.

Contact the office if you would like a Shut-in list with addresses to mail out Thanksgiving and Christmas cards.

Ashley can email you a copy or print and place a list in your mailbox.



I just wanted to thank all of the congregation for all the cards and phone calls for my birthday. I had one of the best birthdays this year so I guess 88 years is not too bad after all. God Bless everyone who remembered me.

Theda

Hello Mellingers family,

Thank you all for the cards and kind words which helped me celebrate my recent birthday.

You all make me feel loved!

Blessings,

Kim Craven



Poinsettia Flowers for Christmas

The time has come to order Poinsettias for the Christmas season.

The price for one 6.5" potted, red or white poinsettia with 5 or more blooms will be \$9.50. An option to round up to \$10.00 will benefit the proceeds contributed to the Needy Fund.

Poinsettias can be purchased to remember and honor loved ones.

On the order form include your name, telephone number, number of poinsettia plants, color(s) and the total amount due. Please list to whom you would like the poinsettias made in memory of or in honor of.

Place your form along with payment in the envelope provided and place in the Special Flowers mailbox or give it to Pat Haller at church. Please make checks payable to Mellingers Lutheran Church.

Last day to order flowers is Sunday November 22.

Please pick up flowers after either Christmas Eve service Thursday December 24.



Duc Huu Nguyen, Mrs. Darlene holding Thanh and Vang Pham



Chin's father, Son Pham, Chin Pham, Due Huu and Vang Pham

On Monday October 12th the Pham family stopped in at the church. They were traveling around the area to show their son, daughter in law and grandchildren where their new future began 45 years ago.

This is
 DUC HUU NGUYEN & VANG PHAM
 45 years ago,
 PASTER W. ROBERT KURZ
 and Mellinger Lutheran Church
 changed our family's life forever.
 We were refugees escaping
 the Vietnam war as boat people,
 and you sponsored our family,
 brought us to safety in the USA,
 housed & clothed us, and gave us
 a better future
 We are forever grateful.
 Houston, OCT-10-2026

Our GENEROSITY means more
 than it's possible to say
 and is truly APPRECIATED.

Duc Nguyen & Vang pham &
 Children, Grand children

November 1
Emma Witter

November 2
Amanda Drexel
Vickie Kissinger

November 4
Jason Zerbe

November 5
Sherry Gregory

November 7
Nicholas Rampolla

November 8
Vicky Meckley

November 10
Lucas Hartlove

November 13
Christine Herr, Jeff Nichols

November 14
Tricia Heiser

November 21
Kirk Ewing

November 22
Kelly Parrish, Linda Weaver



NOVEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

November 23
Andy Leonhard

November 25
Vincent Brubaker

November 26
Karen Borry

November 28
Owen Weaver



November 2
Roy & Mary Latshaw

November 13
Greg & Cindy Harting

November 20
Randy & Martha Brubaker



November 2
Fay Weitzel

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.