

THE LAMPSTAND

Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church

80 Gockley Road ☩☩ Stevens, PA 17578



**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

THE MEANING OF SPRING PASTOR TIMOTHY CRAVEN

Spring is always a welcome time of year, even if the Winter has not been particularly harsh.

Interpreted in the light of Holy Scripture we can read what the Apostle Paul tells us in 2nd Corinthians 5:17,

“Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.” Our

Easter celebration is meant to continue daily as we live in the Resurrected Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit as the Body of Christ.

Life is a mystery in which everything changes and, at the same time, everything stays the same. God is eternal and unchanging. But the Holy Spirit is a living and breathing Spirit which moves and changes. The Spirit moved over the waters at the beginning of time (Genesis 1) and created life itself and continues to re-create and redeem life here on earth in Jesus’ Name. There is something very important about believing that we can be made new.

In the dark days of winter we need to look forward to the warmer days of Spring. The thought keeps us going as the wind howls and the snow flies and ice bangs on the windows. When all we see is darkness and cold, we believe. We believe because Spring has always come before and so it will come again. But for the moment, in winter, Spring is unseen. “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” –Hebrews 11:1

So many things in life are uncertain as we contemplate the future. People fear death, disease, having no money, relationships, terrorism, just about anything we can think of there is probably somebody somewhere who is afraid of it or worried about it or angry about it. Spring is God’s reminder that even though we cannot understand the vast mysteries of the Universe (because God’s God and we ain’t!) that, nevertheless, we can be hopeful as we trust in Him. Jesus says in John 14: 1, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.”

In the Book of Revelation it is written that God will come to earth at the end of time and “he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more...” (Revelation 21: 4) But how can we be confident of these things? Faith is a gift and a truly mature faith is one which can live with mystery. We should be more concerned about people who think they have all the answers than about the ones with questions.

Remember, the original sin in the Book of Genesis was not eating an apple but was eating from the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. We just aren’t supposed to know some things. Spring is just one way that God tries to tell us that everything will be alright. Just as the Sun comes up each day after dark night.

There are more and more people today who simply don’t believe in God. In addition, radical religious zealots and extremists perpetrate violence and hate and this chases many people away from religion and God.

Message concluded on the next page.



Volume 18 Number 04

APRIL 2024

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NEWSLETTER

ARTICLES Due Date

May’s newsletter
article deadlines will be
Wednesday, April 24

Your articles can be emailed
in the formats of Word or
PDF to:
mellingerslutheran@gmail.com

In the face of the realities of today's world it is important to be a part of a nurturing faith community in order that when your own faith falters, you can be picked up by someone who is strong in belief. Spring comes to all. Not just you.

My teacher and mentor the late Reverend Dr. Eric Gritsch of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg used to say, "When life becomes meaningless, and when one is drowning in despair, any kind of do-it-yourself faith does not work. When the bottom has dropped out, one discovers that one's ego power has been reduced to zero and that it takes two to believe, for one must borrow faith from someone still strong in faith when one's faith is gone. It is a word from outside that promises radical change and brings comfort. The biblical God is a lover who offers good news in the crucified Christ, who endows victims of ego power with gospel power."

(Fortress Introduction to Lutheranism; Fortress Press; Minneapolis, Mn; 1994; page 99)

Spring is not something we invent or create, neither individually nor collectively. Spring life is a gift from God. And so is faith, hope and love.

God bless you and have a great Easter season and a great Spring!



April Bible Readings

2 EASTER APRIL 7
Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:11-2:2 & John 20:19-31

3 EASTER APRIL 14
Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7 & Luke 24:36b-48

4 EASTER APRIL 21
Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24 & John 10:11-18

5 EASTER APRIL 28
Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21 & John 15:1-8

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Mike Haller, Margaret Bollinger, Tess Freeman, Sam Soto, Mike Leed, Ethel Sensenig, Dorothy Hutchinson, Walter Goshert Jr., Jane Goshert, Dave Haldeman, Ruth Hollinger, Deb Zerbe, Roy Latshaw, Shirley Sweigart, Amanda Benton, Jeff Moyer, Mary Weidman, Marty Leed & Family, Fay Weitzel, Nevin & Pat McQuate, Vivian Gehr, Jay Weaver, Barb Moyer, Betty Cordes and Judy Meckley.

Ephrata Hospital: Lavern Gehman United Zion Home Lititz: Ethel Leed
Brethren Village, Lititz: Beverly Sweigart Cleveland Clinic: Dan Sweigart
Ephrata Manor: Vesta Reber, Shirl Tobias, Pauline Sawyer,
Joan Wentzel and Ella Felker Heatherwood, Honeybrook: Bob Weaver
Legends of Lititz Home: Pauline Martin Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla
Keystone Villa: Harriet & Jay Stoltzfus and Betty Firestine
Somerset Rehab: Grace Wentz
Heartis Yardley Assisted Living, Yardley: Sally Wealand

Rachel Craven, Tony Hatchkowski, Mick Smyer, Ruth Bieler,
Pastor Karen Larson, Brian Kerns, Mary Lou Crum, Bea Hassler,
Rev. Judy McKee, Meredith Palmer, Althea Hillegas, Brenda Gabig,
Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Mary Morton, Megan Harting,
Theda Raffauf, Robyn Redcay, Letitia James, Corrina Bender,
Margaret Weller, Bud Bender, Donald Craven, Mike Fasnacht,
Matt Thorn and Cynthia Peters.

Pray also for the grieving families of:

Patricia Kieffer, Tom Craven, Bill Nodeen, Michelle Simpson,
Sam Heiser, Hunter Bristow, Clair High, Tom Dittoe, Donald Hain,
Clara Ingram, Pastor Vaughn Glover, Elva Leisey, Virginia Reed,
Pastor Jim Miller, Cynthia Starling, Pastor Bob Kurz, Bill Cordes,
Barry Weitzel and Ed Leed.

Hymn of the Month for April

"Thine is the Glory"

This hymn perfectly displays the glory and brilliance of Christ's resurrection. The first stanza discusses the power of the resurrection, the second verse tells Christ's people to shed their doubt now that Christ has conquered the grave, the third verse tells us to quench our fear now that the Prince of peace reigns. The powerful lyrics and the universally-liked tune no doubt led to the hymns' enormous popularity.

JUDAS MACCABEUS is an arrangement of a tune from the chorus "See, the Conquering Hero Comes" in Handel's oratorio Judas Maccabeus (first performed without this chorus in 1746). Handel initially used the tune in his oratorio Joshua (1747) but transferred it to Judas Maccabeus in 1751; such changes were common in Handel's operas and oratorios. Handel is reported to have said to a friend, "you will live to see it [the tune] a greater favorite with the people than my other finer things."

The lyrics for this hymn were written by Edmond Louis Budry in 1904. Budry was a Swiss minister, writer, and translator. The original text was in French, and was first translated into English by Richard Hoyle in 1925. It is believed that part of the inspiration for this hymn came after the death of his first wife. This hymn is inspired Christ's resurrection and parts of Isaiah 25:8.

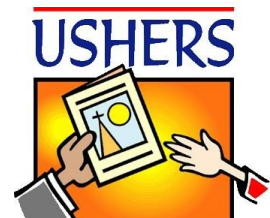
by Vickie Kissinger

Choir Practice Dates:
 Wednesday April 3 and 17 at 6:00 pm



Ahava will be playing
 Sunday April 28th.

SCHEDULE FOR APRIL SERVICES



April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Head – Troy Adair Nancy Eberly Joan Moore <i>Alt</i> - Shawn Jeffers	Head – Jean Lausch Kristi Leonhard Piper Leonhard	Head – Linda Weaver Lowell Yost Jill Showalter <i>Alt</i> - Troy Adair	Head – Randy Brubaker Nancy Eberly Shawn Jeffers <i>Alt</i> - Mike Haller



MARCH 14, 2024

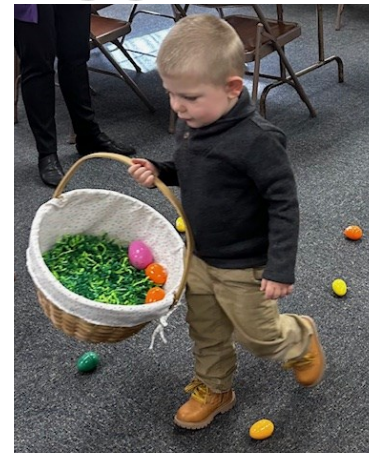
- * President Lowell Yost called the March meeting to order at 6:30 pm, Piper Leonhard read a scripture.
- * The February Council minutes were approved.

- * Outreach towards occasional members; a flyer was made for the Spring Fling event and will be mailed out soon.
- * The Organ committee will be scheduling their first meeting soon.
- * In April we will begin mailing bulletins to our shut-in members.
- * Review of the usher schedule for Easter services and April.
- * Next meeting is Thursday April 11th.
- * We adjourned the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

Palm Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt



(Left to Right) Lucas Hartlove, Elijah Hogan, Noah Hogan, Ben Hartlove & Jonah Hogan



Elijah Hogan, Ben Hartlove, Simon Biles, Noah Hogan & Lucas Hartlove



Simon and Erin Biles playing with the eggs.





Sunday April 7, 14, 21 & 28

9:00 am Church Services 10:15 - 11:00 am Sunday School

14th: Spring Fling after Worship and Sunday School

21st: 2:00 pm Pastor Tim Worship at Keystone Villa, Ephrata

28th: Ahava playing during worship

Monday

8th: 6:30 pm Social Ministry Committee Meeting

Tuesday April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

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

Wednesday

3rd: 6:00 pm Choir practice

10th: 2:30 pm Pastor Tim Worship at Ephrata Manor

17th & 24th: 1:30-3:00 pm In Person Bible Study

17th: 6:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday

11th: 6:30 pm Council Meeting

18th: 7:00 pm Northern Lancaster Conference Spring Assembly, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Ephrata.

Monday April 22



Thursday May 9 Ascension Day Service

7 pm at Swamp Lutheran, Reinholds Pastor Tim Craven

Ascension of Our Lord Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47

Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53

Theme: Open My Life, Lord (from Sundays and Seasons).

Offering: Lower Susquehanna Disaster Relief Mission Trip

(checks payable to North Lancaster Conference Dean's Fund, money to Jim/Bergstrasse).



APPEARING
LIVE
CHARACTER JUGGLER
**CHRIS
IVEY**

Faith United and Mellingers
Lutheran Churches

Spring Fling

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Appetizers from 10:30-11:30 AM

Lunch At 11:30 AM

Mellingers Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
80 Gockley Road, Stevens (Schoeneck)

Menu: Roast Turkey and Roast Beef, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Roll and Butter, Lemonade, Coffee, Water, Dessert.

Prices: \$15.00 Adults;

\$5.00 Children 4-12; Under 4 Free

Pay At The Door.

Proceeds Benefit Peter's Porch.

Please Sign Up On The Chart By

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Or Call

Shirley Sweigart, 717-538-1946

CHRISIVEY.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/JUGGLERCHRISIVEY



Cocalico Education Foundation
 Saturday, April 20, 2024
 7 a.m. – Noon
 Denver Elementary Parking Lot

Support students of Cocalico School District by renting stand space today.

Applications available in Cocalico school offices or at www.cocalicoeducationfoundation.org.

Food by Swamp Church's Kitchen Krew and Farm Show Milkshakes available!

**72nd semi-annual
 ST. PAUL'S
 ADAMSTOWN FREE
 COMMUNITY OUT-
 GROWN EXCHANGE**



Clothing for all ages, toys, & Household items
DATES TO DONATE & COME SHOP
SEE SCHEDULE BELOW
WEEK OF APRIL 1-6

Come and get items but we also will be taking donations of clean items on all the days except as listed below. You do not need to drop off to come get items. Donation & shopping days are as follows

DONATION ONLY DAYS

Monday, April 1 — 9 am—1 pm (donation only)
 Tuesday —CLOSED
 Wed., April 3 & Thurs. April 4— 9 am to 1 pm (donation only)

DONATION AND SHOPPING DAYS

Thursday, April 4 — 5 —8 pm (donation and shopping)

SHOPPING DAYS ONLY

Friday, April 5 — 9 am to 1 pm (NO DONATIONS)
 Saturday, April 6— 8 am—noon (NO DONATIONS)

No TV's, furniture, computers or copiers or other electronics accepted, NO VHS or Car seats
 No public bathroom usage.
 Left over items will be donated to various charities.
 We can limit the number of children's items you take
 No Charitable donation forms

**St. Paul's Lutheran
 80 E. Main Street
 Adamstown
 For more information:
 717-484-4885**

Mellingers Great 8 Appeal



**Area
Unhoused
Mission**



**ELCA
Mission Support**



**Peter's
Porch**



**Ephrata Area
Social Services**



Seminarian Fund



**Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central, PA**



Program in progress until Sunday May 26th

GREAT 8 APPEAL

THE FOLLOWING IS A DESCRIPTION OF THE 8 MISSIONS YOU MAY CHOOSE FROM, TO SUPPORT DURING THE GREAT 8 APPEAL WEEKS OF LENT. ONLY ELCA MISSION SUPPORT AND ELCA HUNGER APPEAL HAVE ALLOCATED AMOUNTS FOR 2024.

AREA UNHOUSED MISSION: THESE GIFTS GO TO PROGRAMS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY TO MEET NEEDS OF CHILDREN OF GOD IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE IN HOUSING TRANSITION AND NEED HELP. ADMINISTRATIVE AID BY EASS.

EPHRATA AREA SOCIAL SERVICES: ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS MISSION HELP PROVIDE SERVICE TO PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR CLOTHING, FOOD, FUEL, TRANSPORTATION AND MEALS ON WHEELS.

ELCA MISSION SUPPORT: OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS MISSION FLOW OUT TO DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL NEED, DISASTER SERVICES AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT. OUR ALLOCATED SUPPORT IS \$6,000.00.

PETER'S PORCH: SUPPORTING FAITH UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH'S EFFORT IN OUR COMMUNITY TO SERVE THOSE CHALLENGED BY FOOD INSECURITY.

ELCA HUNGER APPEAL: THIS GOES TO THE ELCA OR RELIEF FROM HUNGER. OUR ALLOCATED SUPPORT IS \$ 1,550.00.

LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION: CAMPING IS OPEN TO ALL FAMILY MEMBERS AT NAWAKWA AND KIRCHENWALD DURING SUMMER SEASON. ALSO EMPLOYMENT HELPS YOUNG ADULTS WORK AT CAMP JOBS. WITTEL FARM HOUSE OF PRAYER IS AVAILABLE FOR RETREATS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL CLASSES FOR SYNOD CHURCHES.

SEMINARIAN FUND: HELP SUPPORT SEMINARY STUDENTS FROM MELLINGERS.

MELLINGERS NEEDY FUND: THIS FUND IS IN SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS IN DIRE NEED FOR RENT, MEDICINE, BILL PAYMENT, ETC. IT MAY ALSO BE USED FOR AREA RESIDENTS OUTSIDE OF MEMBERSHIP.

PLEASE USE ENVELOPES PROVIDED, MARK YOUR CHOICE, USE YOUR ENVELOPE NUMBER IF YOU WANT CREDIT AND DROP IN THE REGULAR OFFERING PLATE. THE **GREAT 8 APPEAL** SUPPLEMENTS THE BUDGETED AMOUNTS FOR HUNGER APPEAL AND MISSION SUPPORT.



THE GOAT PROGRAM

To my Mellinger's Family,

Last year (2023) we raised \$1,670 to help 33 families.

Your generous support in 2024 made it the best year! You raised \$2,800.00 and that will help 56 families.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Brothers and Sisters this is an amazing accomplishment for everyone involved.

We nearly doubled our efforts.

Thank you and stay well, Linda Hutchinson (The Goat Lady)

Thank You

Dear Mellingers Family,

During the recent vigil before my brother Tom's passing from this life, we were by his side....and so were you. Kim and I tangibly felt your prayers and the power of Almighty God.

We are so blessed to be a part of Mellingers. Our whole family thanks you from the bottom of our hearts for the love of God which you share with us.

God bless you.

In Christ's love, Your brother,

-Pastor Tim

Friends of Mellingers
We would like to thank everyone for all the prayers and cards during Sam's illness and passing. Special thanks to Pastor Tim for the visits and prayers and also Ahava for the beautiful music.
Thank you Social Ministry for serving the food.
What a beautiful celebration

God Bless
the Heiser
family

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 maintain the garden for EASS donations, help with fund raisers like the Goat Program and Great Eight Lenten giving.
- Finance Committee
- 5-Year Planning Committee
- Property Maintenance Committee: Help maintain the church grounds by tending landscaping, weeding and other seasonal tasks.
- Social Ministry Committee: Help serve at social functions and memorial service luncheons. Help with Lutheran World Relief collections.

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.

✝ Maintenance and Building Fund

✝ Needy Fund

✝ Lutheran World Relief

✝ Property Improvement Fund

✝ Sound System Upgrade



APRIL

Birthdays

April 04: Troy Adair, Jeremy Geunes, Carol Jeffers

April 05: Taimi Moyer

April 07: Ann Geske

April 11: Johan Spotts, Ruby Kerns

April 15: Molly Brown, Shannon Brown, Ronald Neidigh

April 19: Adam Stahl, William Eberly, Timothy Firestine, Steve Gehart

April 20: Beatrice Shimp, Phaedra McLaughlin Craven

April 21: Crystal Lindley, Matthew Weaver

April 22: Courtney Martin

April 24: Kinsley Simmons

April 26: Beverly Sweigart

April 27: Bobbi Jo Getz

April 28: Amber Kerns, Jean Lausch, Donald Netzley

April 29: Peggy Enck, David Henry, Scott Weaver

April 22, 1989

Carol & Shawn Jeffers



April 05, 1968

Joyce & Dave Wilhide

April 12, 1997

Dawn & David Henry

April 24, 1997

Patricia & Michael Haller

April 26, 1997

Jen & Scott Brubaker



Lititz Neighborhood Yard Sales

Saturday April 6 7 am

30+ Homes. HH, Toys, Clothing, Furniture, Collectibles and more. Pinewood Ave, Buttonwood Dr., Hunters Crossing near Warwick HS. See FB for more info.

Lebanon Valley Expo Center

Wednesday April 10 9 am – Saturday April 13 4 pm

Lancaster-Lebanon Quilt Show. See Facebook Event page for specific details.

Stevens Fire Company

Friday April 12 & 26 at 6 pm

Bingo Nights.

Denver Elementary

Saturday April 20 7:30 am – 12 pm

Farm Show Milkshake stand being hosted by Denver Fair.

Schoeneck Fire Company

Saturday April 20 9 am

Annual Consignment Sale and Quilt Auction. Quilt auction begins at 11 am.

First Energy Stadium, Reading

Sunday April 21 9:30 am – 3 pm

Touch a Truck event. Explore and learn about vehicles involved in health and safety, public works, construction, delivery, landscaping and beyond.

Berks County Heritage Center

Saturday April 27 10 am — 4 pm

Opening day for the 2024 season to visit and tour the National Historic Landmark. More information can be found on the FB event page and their website. www.countyofberks.com/

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	✠ Mike Haller (717) 368-1572
✠ Shawn Jeffers (717) 278-5000	✠ Jean Lausch (717) 572-5385	✠ Kristi Leonhard (717) 940-7535
✠ Piper Leonhard (717) 419-5691	✠ Jill Showalter (717) 336-2839	✠ Linda Weaver (717) 587-1319

Recording Secretary: Ashley Weinhold (717) 336-8800

LEADERS

Altar Guild: Kimberley Craven—Chair: (717) 519-9882
Blood Pressure Check Coordinator: Susan Specht (717) 336-4601
Camp Person: Kim Craven (717) 738-3838
Coffee Social: Kristi Leonhard (717) 940-7535
Communion Assistant Coordinator: Ashley Weinhold (717) 336-8800
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
Greeter Coordinator: Fay Weitzel (717) 336-2124
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 Brubaker (717) 419-5520
Snow Removal: Randy Meckley (717) 572-6395
Special Flowers: Melanie Brubaker (717) 859-4849
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
Youth Group Advisors: Kristi & Paul Leonhard (717) 733-1260
Cell: (717) 940-7535 Pastor Tim (717) 738-3838

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: Randy Meckley (717) 572-6395
Social Ministry: Shirley Sweigart (717) 538-1946
Worship and Music: Nancy Hain (717) 336-6270

SCOUT LEADERS

Troop 115: Sheldon Brubaker (717) 468-5333 smb115@ptd.net
Pack 115: Daniel Marszalek. (717)-405-9724 scoutleaderdan115@yahoo.com

Peace be with you!

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Worship Service

9 am

Sunday School

10:15 am—11 am

SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES

WEBSITE:

www.mellingers.org

FACEBOOK:

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