



# THE LAMPSTAND



**Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**80 Gockley Road ☩☩ Stevens, PA 17578**

**Volume 20 Number 01**

**January 2026**

## **Pastor's Meditation**

### *One Word*

A WORD  
FROM THE  
PASTOR

I was at a Bible study recently where the pastor leading the opening prayer had a wonderful devotion that I want to share with you and encourage you to do.

Pastor Drex asked each person in the group to pause for sixty seconds and to listen for the one word that God is speaking to them at this time.

There were about seven in the class and we all dutifully were silent for the appointed time.

In my mind I envisioned a giant wheel like the one on Wheel of Fortune which was spinning and spinning but instead of landing on an amount of money or "Bankrupt", the wheel spun passed many words. Many words flashed through my mind and when the wheel stopped, it was clearly on the word "peace". Other participants said their word was "focus", "patience", "beauty".

I encourage you to do this. You can do this in a group or by yourself. When in a group you don't have to share the word which came to you if you would rather not.

Reflecting a little more on the word that I chose; peace is certainly something we need in this world today. Jesus says in John 14: 27, "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.*"

It seems today that the world is certainly better at giving fear than peace. What a blessing it is to know that our God gives to us "the Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" that will "guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 4: 7)

### **Inside this issue**

Pastor's Meditation.....	1-2
Hymn of the Month.....	3
Prayer Corner.....	4
Readings & Psalms.....	5
Usher Schedule.....	5
Church Council.....	6
Congregation Meeting.....	6
Calendar.....	7
Goat Program.....	8
Thank You Notes.....	9
Birthdays.....	11
Important Contact Information.....	12

### **NEWSLETTER**

#### **ARTICLES**

**February's newsletter  
article deadlines will be  
Thursday, January 22nd**

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

We don't really "understand" the rain in Summer but we can appreciate how it washes over us and refreshes us.

So it is with God's peace which comes to us in a loud world of hate and confusion and covers us with God's peace. Jesus atones for our sins. The word "atone" in Hebrew means to cover. Martin Luther used to say that God's sweet love covers us like a blanket, but our feet stick out and the devil is always there to nip at them.

Prayer is a good way to find peace. Take a deep breath and listen at least as much as you talk.

Prayer is a place. One time when my mother was seriously ill in a hospital in Pittsburgh we were all standing by her bedside. As it is in hospitals, there were many sounds and smells and sights and lighting which can be uncomfortable for people. The pastor came in to pray and it was like a veil came down around us and covered us with God's peace blocking out all the disturbing distractions.

Speaking of "one word", Jesus is the Word as John chapter one tells us. The Word made flesh...God incarnate come into the world. Ultimately Christ is our "one word". In Matthew 8: 8, holy Scripture tells us, *"The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed."*

Take some time soon to go somewhere quiet and contemplate Pastor Drex's devotion. Be silent and still for a minute and be open to the one-word God wants you to hear. *"Be still and know that I am God."* -Psalm 46:10

Words can be powerful things. A kind word to a person can change someone's day, or life, in ways you may never know. A harsh word may never be forgotten as it wounds someone. Scripture is the Word of God.

In one of the Creation stories (Genesis chapter one) God creates the world by speaking.

I pray that you are open to God's peace in these troubled times....are patient and can focus on the beauty of God's world.....What is your one word?

PEACE BE WITH you into 2026

# *Hymn of the Month for December*

## *“Twas in the Moon Wintertime”*

Huron Carol ELW #284

Jean de Brébeuf composer, translated by Jesse Edgar Middleton

*“Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,  
that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;  
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wondering hunters heard the hymn:  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.”*

This is probably the earliest Christmas carol composed in North America. “*Twas in the moon of wintertime*” is a collaborative work between a 17th-century French Jesuit missionary to the Huron Indians and a 20th-century Canadian newspaper correspondent in Quebec.

Jean de Brébeuf (1593-1649) was born in the Normandy region of France. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1617 and arrived in Quebec in 1625. Overcoming many obstacles, he spent the first long winter in a wigwam and set out in spring by canoe to Lake Huron, where he was left to minister alone after a fellow priest was recalled.

His early efforts in evangelism were unsuccessful. Life was also complicated because the English and French were at war over this region, with the territory changing hands twice. He was forced to return to France in 1629, and then returned when the French again gained the upper hand in 1633. He set out again for the Huron region with a fellow priest, and lived and worked among the Indians for 16 years.

Brébeuf suffered hardships unimaginable to most present-day missionaries. In 1642, he was caught up in a war between the Iroquois and Huron tribes. Two fellow missionaries had been captured and killed. Brébeuf was sent to the region to attempt further contact with the Huron people. Though the Iroquois had made peace with the French, they continued to fight the Huron tribe.

Between 1644 and 1647, Brébeuf’s ministry among the Huron people saw thousands baptized and following the way of the black-robed priests. But the war with the Iroquois intensified. Being French, he could have escaped, but chose to remain with the Huron people. Brébeuf was captured by the Iroquois on March 16, 1649.

The original Huron carol was written around 1643. Over 150 years later in 1794, Father de Villeneuve, also a Jesuit missionary, wrote down the words to “*Jesous Ahatonhia*” as he heard them. Paul Picard, an Indian notary, translated them into French and they first appeared in written form in Ernest Myrand’s *Noel Anciens de la Nouvelle France* (1899).

In whatever form we receive the carol, it is an artifact of a missionary who through incomprehensible hardships and danger spread the gospel to the Huron people. Brébeuf’s martyrdom with a fellow Jesuit in 1649, too gruesome to describe here, was recognized by the Catholic Church when he was canonized on June 29, 1930, by Pope Pius XI. The humble Jesuit priest to New France is now the patron saint of Canada.

*Submitted by Vickie Kissinger*

## ***PRAYER CORNER***

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

Linda Netzley, Shannon Brown, Johan Spotts, Ruth Hollinger, Shirley Sweigart, Mike Leed, Betty Cordes, Amy Weik, 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, Marty Leed & Family and Fay Weitzel.

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

Penn State Hospital; Lancaster: Sharlene Miller

Reading Hospital: Jonah Hogan

Barb Charles, Lisa Wing, Bob Farr, Mary Thorn, Cheryl Nixon, Cocalico Builders of Hope (finding a house for housing program), Vickie Kissinger, Elsie May Sensenig, Cory Sensenig, Rachel Landis, Carol Schaeffer, Lorna Buohl, Richard Sockriter, Liz Roman-Reich, John Rachal, David Taimuty, Keith Freeman, Helen Blank, William Sockriter, Doug Cody, Karen Velez, Ron Neidigh, Kara Trowbridge, Mary Morton, Brenda Sweigart, Nancy Bolotine, Bea Hassler, Karen Leonhard, Mary Sanger, Andy & Brenda Gabig, Brian Fetter, Pastor Karen Larson, Brian Kerns, Mary Lou Crum, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Robyn Redcay, Margaret Weller and Cynthia Peters.

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

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.

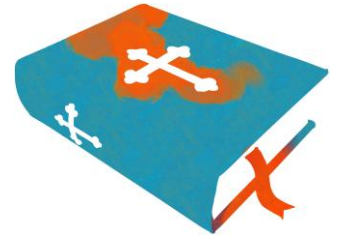
## Bible Readings for the month of January

**January 4** – 2 Christmas: Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14 & John 1:[1-9] 10-18

**January 11** – Baptism of Our Lord: Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43 & Matthew 3:13-17

**January 18** – 2 Epiphany: Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 & John 1:29-42

**January 25** – 3 Epiphany: Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 & Matthew 4:12-23



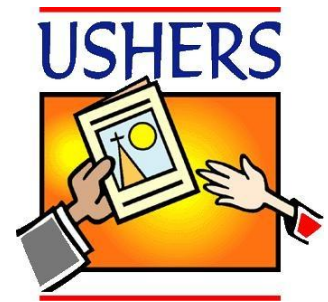
## Ushers for January

**January 4** Head: Nancy Eberly, Mike Haller and alternate Shawn Jeffers

**January 11** Head: Hayden Leonhard, Kristi Leonhard and alternate Dave Weidman

**January 18** Head: Vic Richard, Lowell Yost and alternate Jean Lausch

**January 25** Head: Randy Brubaker, Troy Adair and alternate Jill Showalter



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

## COUNCIL DECEMBER 18, 2025

Lowell Yost called the December meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Troy Adair read Psalm 100:2 about serving the Church.

Treasurer Jon Hogan is continuing to research for grant funding for the parking lot replacement.

Property Committee chair Andy Leonhard presented a summary of the heating repairs. The total costs will be approximately \$3,600.

Pastor Tim presented Jill Showalter with a Devotional booklet for the latest 6 years of service on Council.

Lowell Yost spoke with the Discipleship Committee and they have agreed to change “Mission Support” for the Great 8 to “Mission Support – Samantha Patschke’s Church in Honduras”.

Next Meeting is Thursday January 8th at 6:30 pm. We adjourned the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING INFORMATION

Approval of the 2026 Proposed Disciple Resource Allocation:

Yes: 51 No: 0 Abstain: 3

Church Council Members:

Mike Haller 53 votes

Kristi Leonhard 54 votes

Shawn Jeffers 54 votes

Hayden Leonhard 53 votes

Ben Gunzenhauser 52 votes



## Sunday

**January 4, 11, 18 & 25**

9:00 am Church Services

**January 4 & 11** 8:15 am Chancel Choir Practice in the Choir Room

**January 4<sup>th</sup>** Temple Talk – The Goat Project

**January 11<sup>th</sup>** Baptism of Our Lord and Installation of Council

**January 18<sup>th</sup>** 2:00 pm Pastor Tim will be preaching at Keystone Villa in Ephrata

**January 18 & 25** Ahava will be playing



## Tuesday

**January 6, 13, 20 & 27**

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

## Wednesday

**January 7, 14, 21 & 28**

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

## Thursday

**January 8<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

## Scout Troop 115 Calendar for 2026

January 23 to 24 – Klondike Derby

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



**Toy Collection**

### **Christmas Gifts for the Children**

Thank you again for your continued support & generosity!

Friday December 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 125 items were delivered to EASS's Christmas Program.

**God Bless, Social Ministry**



### **THE GOAT PROGRAM**

*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!*



We just wanted to thank the Social  
Ministry Committee and the Congregation  
for all the cards, fruit, well wishes  
& prayers during Mike's diagnosis.  
We miss you all and hopefully  
we will see you soon.  
Mike & Sally Lee



357 Walnut Street  
P. O. Box 157  
Denver, PA 17517-0157

Phone: 717-336-2141  
Fax: 717-336-6475  
Email: [faithunited@pid.net](mailto:faithunited@pid.net)

Web: [www.faithunited-elca.org](http://www.faithunited-elca.org)



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 food donation 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,

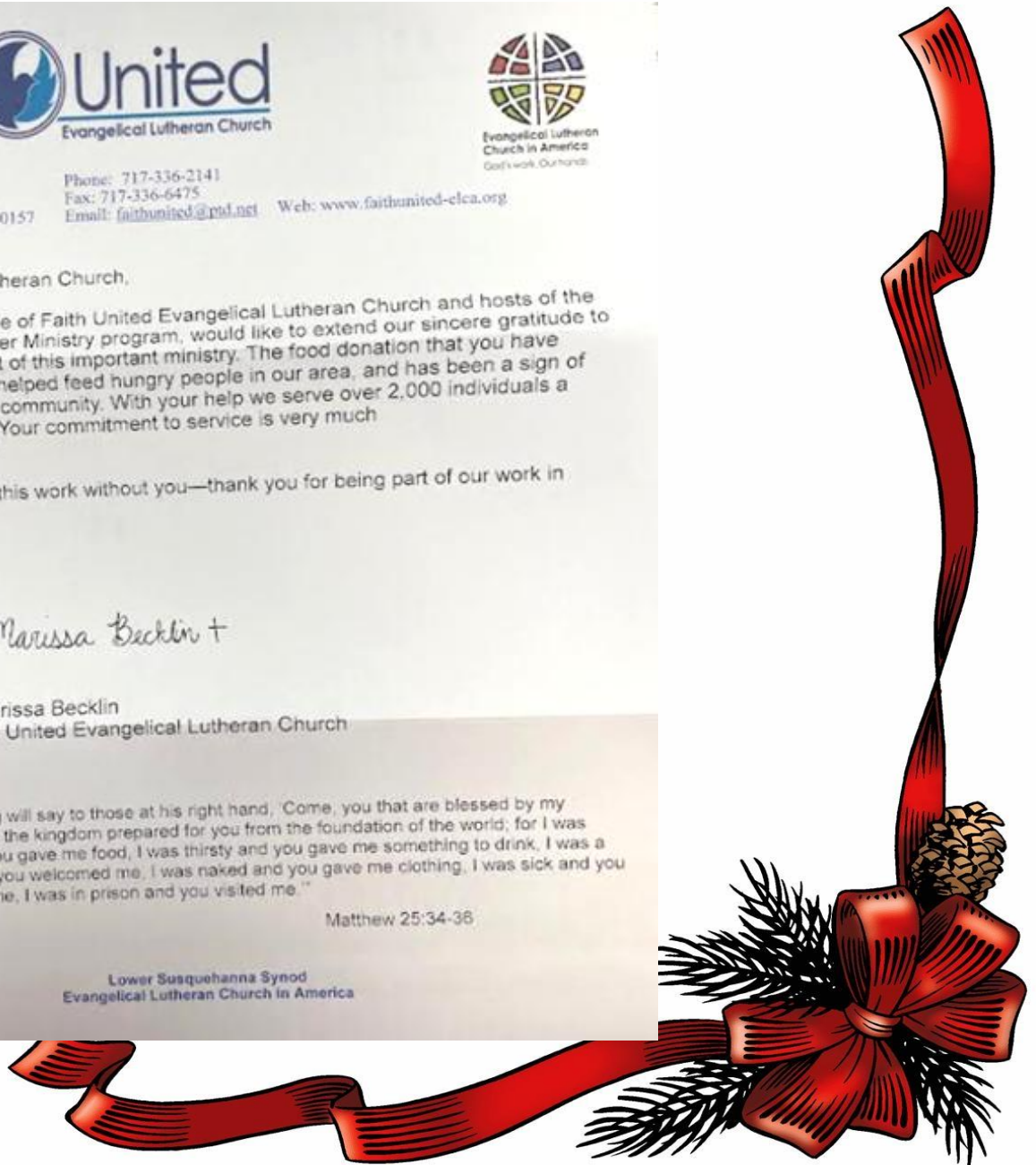
*Pastor Marissa Becklin +*

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

"Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'"

Matthew 25:34-38

Lower Susquehanna Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



## Thanks To All Who Give To The Needy Fund

Over the years Mellingers has generously given to those in need. That continues today with our Needy Fund and also other activities headed up by the Social Ministry Committee. These are difficult times for many, especially in the Winter. On behalf of the Church Council I want to thank each and every one of you who use some of the gifts God gave you to help those who are less fortunate.

I have included below some of the ways that your donations have been used for a few members of Mellingers and for needy folks in our community.

God bless you. – Pastor Tim

- Helping with heating oil
- Helping with housing needs
- Helping with medical expenses
- Helping with food insecurity



### COMMUNION



If you can help with Communion set up once in a while please contact Lisa Reed or the Church office.

### SCHEDULE

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.



## 2026 Giving Envelopes

**You will find your envelopes in your mailbox.  
Thank you for being faithful givers!**



*January 1*  
Maddy Brown

*January 2*  
Ashley Leed

*January 3*  
Sherry Stewart

*January 8*  
Jenna Weachter

*January 9*  
Joe Brubaker

*January 10*  
Emily Parrish  
Joyce Wilhide

*January 12*  
Kristi Stief

*January 13*  
Jen Mentzer

*January 14*  
Greg Harting

*January 16*  
Brooke Stewart  
Bennett Vollmer

*January 17*  
Darlene Williamson

*January 18*  
Drew Sawyer

*January 20*  
Patty Gehman

*January 21*  
Sally Leed  
Joshua Sawyer

*January 22*  
Caleb Leonhard

*January 24*  
Deb Sensenig  
Christopher Usner  
Matthew Weaver

*January 26*  
Skip Hutchinson

*January 28*  
Hayden Leonhard  
Jill Showalter

*January 29*  
Jeremy Zerbe

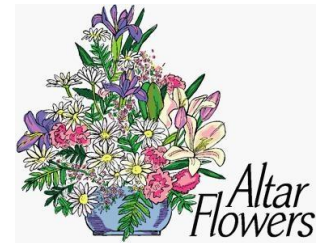


**January 1**  
Ruth Buchter

**January 8**  
Paul Hackman



**January 6**  
Jerry Petery



## FLOWER CHART DEDICATION

The 2026 Bulletin Dedication chart has been posted in the front Narthex (south or Gockley Road entrance).

The suggested amount for sponsorship is \$20. Dedications will be phrased:

The Altar Flowers and Bulletins are dedicated to the Glory of God by.....in memory / honor of...

## 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

<b>President:</b> Lowell Yost (717) 471-7758	<b>Vice-President:</b> 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](mailto:smb115@ptd.net)  
**Pack 115:** Daniel Marszalek. (717)-405-9724 [scoutleaderdan115@yahoo.co](mailto:scoutleaderdan115@yahoo.co)

### 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.