

Messiah
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEW BERLIN, PA

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November 2025 Newsletter

November is the month when most people tend to list the things they are thankful for.

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” 1 Thessalonians 5:8.

Wait a second! Look at that verse again! Did you notice what that verse says? “Give thanks in ALL circumstances.” So, does that mean I have to give thanks in those times when life isn’t going like I planned it or when something bad happens? I hate to be the bearer of bad news but, yep, that is exactly what it means.

We all know that bad things are going to happen. People will get sick, things will break or be stolen, feelings will be hurt by those we call our friend, and relationships are going to go through tough times and may even lead to a break-up. I may be hard to see these as times to give thanks. But they are.

And here’s why.

Notice the word before that bold, italicized, “*all*”. What is it? It’s the word, “in”. We are told to give thanks in “*all*” circumstances, not for all circumstances. The evil, the bad things of life do not come from God, those are a result of sin being in the world. This is why we are not thankful FOR all circumstances, but thankful IN all circumstances because no matter what we are facing in life, God is still in control and God’s presence is still with us. This means that His love, His mercy, His compassion and all the other wonderful things God is and does are still with those who are His dearly loved children. And to prove that, God sent Jesus, His only Son, so that anyone who believes in Him may have eternal life and all of His love, mercy, compassion and presence.

So, in this month of reflection, let us reflect on what it is we are thankful for; The precious blood shed by Jesus and His victorious resurrection! For it is through this that you are claimed as one of His dear children. I’m thankful that God continues to go with you wherever it is that you go. It is my constant prayer that no matter what you experience in your life, that you remember that He is there with you and that you can lean on Him all the time. Wherever you are, may Jesus, our Bread of Life, forever sustain you.

May you have a blessed and thankful Thanksgiving

Bev Hoffman, SAM

A word from our Council President

In an October meeting, the members of Church Council were asked to describe what Messiah means to them. The results were similar: the family that we are, the service work we perform, the prayers of concern for each other and for strangers, and how meaningful all of this is.

I ask each member to consider, separately and as part of your family unit, what Messiah means to you. We won't ask for your feelings, although you are welcome to share and respectfully reflect on your thoughts with other members.

The annual congregational meeting will be held immediately after worship on Sunday, November 23. We will discuss the challenges and the future of our Church, as well as present the proposed 2026 budget for adoption.

Yours in service,

J.R.

Church Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 23

Right after Worship

YOUR CHURCH SECRETARY IS BEGGING!!!

There is a great need for people to volunteer to be an acolyte. The more volunteers sign up, the fewer times you will be called upon to do it. Ideally, once a month is what I'm shooting for and **I can schedule you on the same Sunday every month or you can sign up for the Sunday that works for you!!!** Now, in case the thought of becoming an Acolyte makes you nervous, let me just say, with some training you will be a pro and never need worry about it again!

Acolyte training for Youth and Adults

November 30th following the Sunday Service

Acolytes will only be asked to light and extinguish candles (not be responsible for prayer readings).

Acolytes will sign up for the Sundays they would like to serve.

Please consider being part of our Sunday morning worship team as an acolyte! How meaningful would it be if you and your child were to acolyte together?!?! Pretty special, huh?!

Advent By Candlelight

Our annual Advent by Candlelight will be held Monday evening December 8th beginning at 6:00 pm in the New Berlin Fire Company's Social Hall. Please consider hosting a table for friends and family to come together and set the tone for peace and love this Christmas! In addition to decorating your table, each hostess is asked to bring an appetizer and a dessert for buffet style sharing. Tables comfortably seat 8 adults but can be stretched to 10. Please confirm with Kay Trick your willingness to host a table and what appetizer and dessert you wish to provide by the end of November. Linda Ressigue will have the social hall open so that you may decorate your table on December 7th after church.

KJ Reimensnyder-Wagner will be entertaining us with her angelic voice and guitar music!

Donations to support the curating of Lutheran World Relief personal care kits will be received with the following items being needed:

light weight, dark bath towels,
nail clippers,
4 oz bars of gentle soap,
toothbrushes.

2025 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It's time to order poinsettias that will decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas season. The cost of the plants is \$9.79 each for a 6" pot or \$22.89 for an 8" pot. Order forms can be found in the foyer or just outside the secretary's office. If you wish to order poinsettias, please place your completed form, along with your payment, in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office. Please use a separate order sheet for each honorarium or memorial.

The last day to order is Wednesday, November 19!!

Food Pantry

Please continue to pray for those facing food insecurity and consider supporting our neighbors by donating canned goods and other meal based non-perishables for the Blessing Box. The current government shut down will invariably result in more need. Both a monetary gift to the Food Pantry and a few canned goods would really be appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.

Fundraisers to get you through the Holidays

December is much too busy to be worrying about cooking dinner every night! Give yourself a break from trying to figure out yet another way to cook chicken by ordering a Marianna Hoagie or Pizza. If you order each, you have two nights of dinner taken care of! And such a deal! Just \$10.00 for a Hoagie or a Pizza! Even better, the money spent has an eternal value! Oh yes, you read that right! Because this fundraiser is to benefit the Camp Luther Scholarship Fund, you are ensuring that children can experience the joy, growth and transformation that camp offers! Do you remember those who invested in you? Those who led you toward Christ? I sure do, and will be paying it forward and investing into the lives of these children by ordering a couple of hoagies. It's that simple, just plan a hoagie or pizza dinner! Order forms are available from Kathleen Ferster or outside the church office.

Order forms and payment are due by November 25th.

Pick up is on Thursday, December 4th from 11:30 –12:30 in the Fellowship Hall

For all those Holiday Parties and office exchanges...

Messiah is making figuring out what to take to those holiday parties easy, Don't bake cookies or worse yet, buy store bought cookies! Instead, support the New Berlin Preschool buy purchasing Gourmet Handmade Chocolates from New Berlin's own Fine and Fancy. Are you someone's Secret Santa? Give them something they'll love! Chocolate covered pretzels! Wait, I'm biased, they might prefer the peanut butter meltaways. They freeze well, so you could bring them out on Christmas morning while your family is opening presents. A \$15.00 tin of chocolates is well worth not having to think about what to get your co-worker!

Order forms are avail at the church office or in the Fellowship Hall.

Orders are due December 2.

Delivery will be December 18th.

Why go from Store to Store?

Gift cards are available for purchase from Kathleen Ferster after Sunday church services. Weis and Giant cards are available in \$25 and \$100 increments. L & L cards are available in \$50 and \$100 increments. Everybody eats! It's the perfect gift! If paying by check, please make it out to Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church with a note at the bottom of the check that it is for Food Pantry Gift Cards. Cash payment will also be accepted. Proceeds go toward the buying food for the Food Pantry. See, you can make the holidays easier for both yourself and by providing food to those in need, you make their Holidays easier too!



November

BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 3	Ronald Trick
Nov. 5	Kathleen Ferster
Nov. 9	Thomas Milbrand
Nov. 11	Marilee Hauck
Nov. 21	Jenna Bowersox
Nov. 23	Paul Kaler
Nov. 24	JR Erdley
Nov. 27	Orville Spangler, Sr.



November

ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 21	Robert and Audrey Sauers
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Fellowship After The Service

Nov. 19	Bill and Pat Frank
Nov. 16	Clyde and Diane Walter
Nov. 24	Knit Wits
Nov. 30	<i>It Could Be You!</i>
Dec. 7	Nancy Morgan
Dec. 14	Annual Christmas Cookie Sunday



Worship Leaders

Please remember, if you cannot attend worship the day you are scheduled, please find a replacement (switch with someone or find someone to fill in for you) and notify the church office of the change. If you are not currently on our list of worship leaders, and would like to be, please, contact the church office.

Sunday, November 9

Presiding: Beverly Hoffman
Greeter/s Paul Kaler and Ginny Engel
Lector Nancy Morgan
Acolyte/s Nancy Morgan and CarolAnn Miller
Cantor/s CarolAnn Miller
Music Dir. Frank Shue
Video Op. Kay Trick
Altar Flowers:

Sunday, November 16

Presiding: Beverly Hoffman
Greeter/s The Heggenstallers
Lector Deb Wetzel
Acolyte/s Deb Wetzel and JR Erdley
Cantor/s JR Erdley
Music Dir. Frank Shue
Video Op. Philip Heggenstaller
Altar Flowers Andrea Klinger

Sunday, November 23

Presiding: Beverly Hoffman
Greeter/s Kathleen Ferster
Lector Kathleen Ferster
Acolyte/s Audrey Resseguie & Kathleen Ferster
Cantor/s Ronald and Frances Blatchley
Music Dir. Frank Shue
Video Op. Nancy Morgan
Altar Flowers: Kathleen Ferster

Sunday, November 30

Presiding: Beverly Hoffman
Greeter/s Emily Moyer
Lector: John Showers
Acolyte/s John Showers
Cantor/s Alicia Saxon
Music Dir. Frank Shue
Video Op. Philip Heggenstaller
Altar Flowers:

Sunday, December 7

Presiding: Beverly Hoffman
Greeter/s Jean Sauers
Lector Katie Brobst
Acolyte/s Katie Brobst
Cantor/s Ronald and Frances Blatchley
Music Dir. Frank Shue
Video Op. Kay Trick
Altar Flowers:

Communion Bread Baker for November:
Communion Set Up for November: Deb Wetzel

Communion Bread Baker for December: Deb Wetzel
Communion Set Up for December: Frances Blatchley

In our prayers

Healing, wholeness, and encouragement

Long Term

Alicia Saxon, Noah Navickas, Matthew Myers, Steve Boonie, Lori Haines, Jeffrey Ames, Oliver Auman, Aimee Erdley, Bev Fausey, Christine Koons, Darrell O'Bryant, Robert "Butch" Hestor, Betty Reber, Michael Callahan, Angela Golfieri, Todd Miller, John Hollenbach, Eric Brosious, Kay Fleming, Taryn Myers, Brantley Herman, Timothy Shomper, Jane Ohlidia, Weston Treas, Trudy Livingston, Mick Hauck, Lark Springer, Logan Roush, Katelyn Mattison, Tena Decker-Norman, Mary Hoover, Laurie Thomas, John Wagner, Beth Ann Troutman, George Hauck, Sandy Raymond, Kathy Spangler, Dianne Bailor, Doug Aikey, Loretta Weatherill, Melissa Boonie, Adam Guzinski, Julia Hauck, Ellie Crane, Jami and Dylan Crane, Paul Burkholder, Sue Ulrich, Charlie Stabler, Shawna St. Claire, Stanley St. Claire, Larry St. Claire, Daytona Wentzel, Tim Walsh, Ron Trick, Cameron Osgood, June Bingaman, Michelle (Pam Erdley's friend), Grant Snyder, Robert Sauers, Rick Slear, Joe Hoffman, Tommy Ward, Shaun Ray, Joani Patterson, Randy Witmer, Nick St. Claire

Short Term

Mary Wagner, Carole Jacka, Deb Wetzel, Randy Rim Fultz, Mary Lou Shoop, Mary Agnes Hackenberg, Bryce Johnson, Mim Keister, Ken Moyer, Maverick Resseguie

Providence and protection for first responders and military service men and women

Stanley Miller, Benjamin Pilko

Companionship and support for our homebound

Carol McJilton, Valda Sassaman, Julia Fetter, Mick and Mary Hauck, Nancy Hummel, Carole Jacka

Comfort for those who Grieve

For the friends and family of Gary Keister, Brian D. Bryson, Tracy Sassaman, Carol Muchler

Have a prayer request?

Fill out the yellow Prayer Request card and drop it in the offering plate or use the form on the website.

Need immediate prayers? Contact Tom Milbrand (570-966-1352), Diane Walter (570-966-0333), or Frances Blatchley (570-966-0288) to have prayers shared on the prayer chain.

Calendar of Events for November 2025

Sunday, November 9 **9 am** **Service Of Holy Communion**
 Fellowship
 Sunday School

Wed., November 12 6 pm Theology On Tap @ Rusty Rail
Thurs. November 13 1:30 pm W.E.L.C.A.

Sunday, November 16 **9 am** **Service Of Holy Communion**
 Fellowship
 4:30 pm Faith Lab @ United in Christ, Milton

Tues., November 18 12:30 pm Quilt Tying
 7 pm Council

Wed. November 19 **Poinsettia Orders are due!!!!!!**
Thur., November 20 10-11 am Food Pantry

Sunday, November 23 **9 am** **Service Of Holy Communion**
 Annual Congregational Meeting
 Fellowship
 Sunday School

Tues. November 25 1 pm Knit Wits & Hookers (YOU ALL NEED A BETTER NAME!)
Wed. November 26 6 pm Theology on Tap @ Rusty Rail
Thur., November 27 ~Happy Thanksgiving~

Sunday, November 30 **Service Of Holy Communion**
 Fellowship

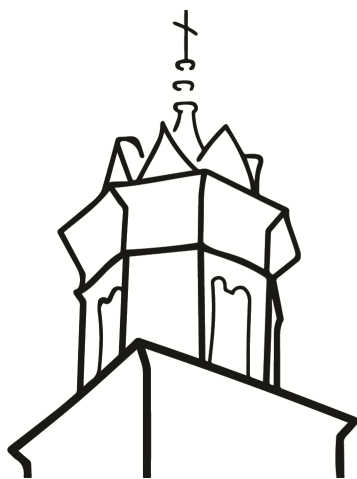


Can't make it to church in-person?
Attend remotely on Facebook, YouTube and the phone.
To listen in on the phone, call 570-989-8899.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Messiah
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:00AM

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