

GIVE THANKS

Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 24
Christ the King Sunday

9:30 am Worship/Communion

9:30 am Sunday School

Monday, November 25

7:00 pm Property Committee

Tuesday, November 26

Wednesday, November 27

Thursday, November 28
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

7:30 pm NA

Friday, November 29
OFFICE CLOSED

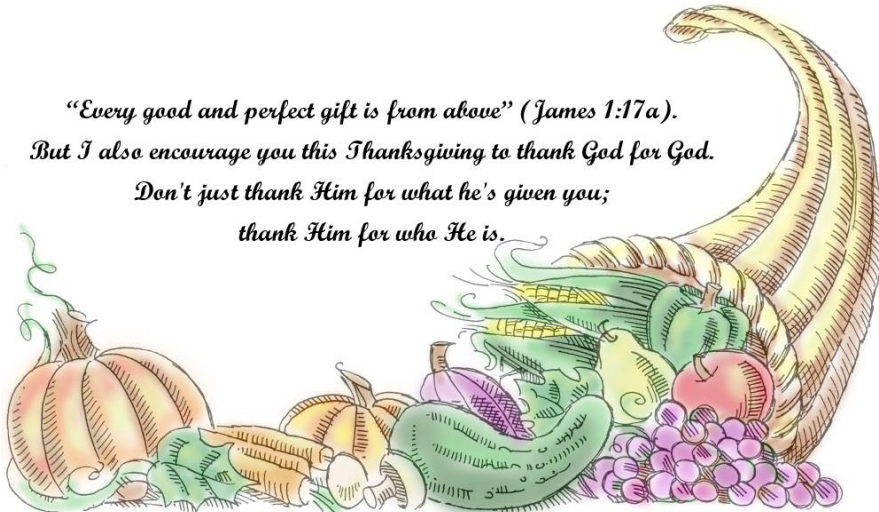
Saturday, November 30

“Every good and perfect gift is from above” (James 1:17a).

But I also encourage you this Thanksgiving to thank God for God.

Don't just thank Him for what he's given you;

thank Him for who He is.



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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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Psalm of Thanksgiving

Psalm 100

¹*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.*

²*Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.*

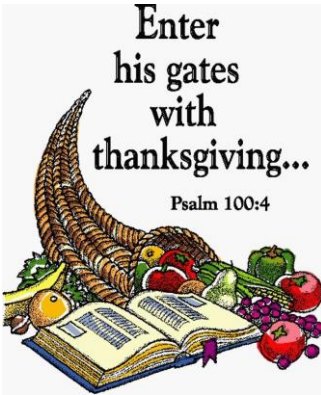
³*Know that the LORD is God.*

*It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

⁴*Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.*

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

⁵*For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generation*



My mother taught me to write thank-you notes as I was growing up. She taught me to write more than: "Thanks a lot. Love, Gregg." I should tell what I'm thankful for and explain why I appreciate it. But as a young boy who doesn't want spend all day writing thank-yous, I soon figured out a generic template. "Thank you so much for the gift of _____. I really appreciate it a lot. I'm sure it will come in handy." That's probably not what she was hoping for.

Now dear friends, how often don't our thank-yous to God become form letters? We go through the routine of prayers and praise. We give thanks at meals. We sing our thanks in the Sunday service. All good things. But dear Christian, thanks is more than these outward motions. It's not simply filling in the blank. Thanksgiving to our God begins as we inwardly reflect on who he is and what he has done for us.

May the Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds through the words of this Psalm, as he leads us on the path of thanksgiving. For these words lead us to see why we give thanks to the Lord, our God. And as that fills our heart and mind, it overflows into our voice. Such thanks loudly confesses the goodness of our Lord. That's the theme today. Our thanks loudly confesses the goodness of our Lord.

***Excerpts from a Sermon by Pastor Gregg Bitter
of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hancock MN***

Sunday, November 24, 2024

Service Assistants

USHERS: Fred Harbaugh, AnnMarie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ
LAY ASSISTANT: Kim Brofee; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Debbie Day
ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER: Jonathan Hess
TORCHBEARERS: Jordan Morris, Brennen Hess
ALTAR GUILD: Vicki Bair , Doris Butt
GREETERS/COMMUNION PRESENTERS: Dennis and Sue Shoemaker
CANTOR: Candy Watkins; **FLOWER DELIVERY:** Jody Fullmer

Sunday, November 17: Attendance: **127**; Offering: **\$3,324.98**

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor and in loving memory of loved ones by David and Emily Bausinger.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of George R. Weiskerger on the anniversary of his birthday, November 30, by his family.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our son, Eric Bennett, by his parents, Cindy and Denny Bennett.

Bible Readings

Sunday, November 24: *Daniel 7:9-10.13-14; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37*

Monday, November 25: *Psalm 76; Daniel 7:19-27; Revelation 11:1-14*

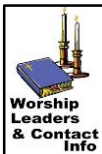
Tuesday, November 26: *Psalm 76; Ezekiel 29:1-12; Revelation 11:15-19*

Wednesday, November 27: *Psalm 76; Ezekiel 30:20-26; John 16:25-33*

Thursday, November 28: *Psalm 25:1-10; Nehemiah 9:6-15; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

Friday, November 29: *Psalm 25:1-10; Nehemiah 9:16-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22*

Saturday, November 30: *Psalm 25:1-10; Nehemiah 9:26-31; Luke 21:20-24*



Presiding over our worship this Sunday, November 24, will be Pastor Amme.

Pastoral Care Number: Please call (570) 326-9171. (Available 24 hours a day) During work hours office staff will assist you. After hours, please press "3" for a Pastoral Emergency to be connected directly to the Pastor.

Please contact the church office if you or a family member are in the hospital or are ill. Pastor Jeff LeCrone is available for visits or phone calls (*see contact information above.*) The office will also contact our prayer chain leaders so that your fellow church members may pray to help you be restored to wellness. *Prayer is a powerful healer!*



Pastoral Care

Articles for the Messenger and Bulletin are due in the office by Monday at noon

The Church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29 for the Thanksgiving Holiday



The Library Corner



Family – **Family Devotions Celebrate Jesus! At Christmas** – These seasonal devotions bring the family together to contemplate and celebrate the real reason for the season-the birth of Jesus. You and your family can discuss, interact and focus on Jesus through: scripture readings, familiar songs/hymns, devotional thoughts and the lighting of the Advent wreath. Also family projects and service ideas that will encourage your family to put faith in action. Book is in the Christmas section of our library



Dresses and Britches for Africa

Please help the needy children of Africa by sewing dresses and/or britches. Shirts, pillowcases and trim are available in the Narthex on and under the table displayed, also included are the instructions. For questions contact Ann Marie Hohman, 570-244-1226 and leave a message. *Thank you.*

The **Annual Congregation Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, December 8th**. This meeting will be held immediately after worship. Please plan on attending.



The Advent Kids in Mission will be held on December 7th and as always, we'll need some help. If you are able to help please let me know. More information will follow. Thank you for your support. Kathryn Pratt 570-244-6964



Soloists, instrumentalists or groups of people interested in playing an instrument or singing on Christmas Eve please contact Jared Gist at 570-447-7335. Thank you!

Correction- The poinsettia price in messenger last week was incorrect.



The poinsettias are \$9.00, **NOT** \$8.50.

NOW IS THE TIME...to put in your reservation for memorial Poinsettias. Multiple bloom plants are being purchased, the cost per plant being \$9.00. Of course, many of these flowers are taken to homebound members of our congregation.

PLEASE RETURN THE FORM BY MONDAY, December 9th. Please call the church office with any questions. *Thank you.*



Thank you to everyone who came out for the Table Trivia. Approximately 35 people attended and \$263.00 was raised for the S.W. Back Pack program.



Traditionally we decorate the Nave after the service on the 4th Sunday in Advent, this year we will decorate on **Sunday, December 22** immediately following worship. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex.



Decorating needs are:

- ❖ Lights on the tree in the Chancel.
- ❖ Lights and Crismons on the tree in the East Portico
- ❖ Wreaths, garland & other lights hung in the church

Poinsettias will be set out at the same time.

Many hands make quick work. Please share your time and talents.

The annual reports are now ready! Like last year we will have them set out on a table for you to pick up before or after church on Sunday morning. Those not picked up will be mailed out. In with your reports will be your estimate of giving cards and time and talent survey. Please be sure to hand those in by **Sunday, December 8.**

Messiah's Annual Christmas Dinner Sunday, December 15, 2024

Christmas is coming and we are planning the Christmas dinner for December 15 immediately following worship. Ham dinner with all the fixings will be the menu. Along with the meal there will be entertainment by the women's choir and a musical game. Please sign-up by Sunday, December 8. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex or contact church office. Please give number of attendees.



Urgently Needed for Food Pantry: As the holidays approach and the cold and windy weather arrives, the need for help with food increases. **Most needed item this week: pudding cups** – we are completely out of those and they are a favorite with the children. Also urgently needed: **spaghetti**

sauce and breakfast items (cereal, 6- or 8-pack PopTarts, instant oatmeal, pancake mix/syrup.) Thank you for your generosity as you open your hearts to help feed God's children.



Advent Holy Hike December 15, 2024 @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Camp Mount Luther, 355 Mt Luther Ln, Mifflinburg, PA 17844. We know that December can be a busy time. We know you need to take a breath and remember what the season is all about. What better way than to join friends and spend time with God in creation? Camp Mount Luther's Pastor Jim Vitale and Chad Hershberger invite you to join them on an Advent Holy Hike from 2:00-4:00 pm on Sunday, December 15. Join us for a meditative hike reflecting on the promises of the coming Messiah and the Christmas story. Christmas refreshments to follow.

White Gift Project Begins

The Angel Trees are now up in the narthex. Each angel on the tree contains a gift request for a child. Please take an angel, purchase the gift, and bring it to Messiah. If you would like to provide all six gifts for one child, or you would like a whole family, please let Candy know before she places the Angels on the tree. It makes it much easier to do BEFORE than after. Please wrap the gifts in **white paper** so that it becomes a "White Gift", a reminder to the giver and the recipient of the Christ Child who was given to us on Christmas.

Key Dates:

- ❖ Sunday, December 8 - **LAST DAY** to take an angel from the tree.
- ❖ Sunday, December 15 - **LAST DAY** to bring wrapped gifts to chapel.
- ❖ Saturday, December 21 – Parents will pick up their gifts and food baskets



More information will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, please contact Candy Watkins (570)998-4037 or Jeanette Green (570)916-7500. *Thank you for your support.*



The Christmas Basket recipients are now being identified. If you know someone who could benefit from receiving a Christmas basket, please contact the church office by Friday, December 6. Saturday, December 21, 9:00 am-12:00 pm the baskets will be picked up.

How you can help –you may contribute any of the following items: green beans, cream of mushroom soup, corn, applesauce, canned milk, canned pumpkin, canned sweet potatoes, turkey gravy, turkey stuffing mix, pie crust mix, sugar (5 lb. bag), flour (5 lb. bag), macaroni and cheese, chocolate or vanilla pudding, cranberry sauce and turkey broth. Place your contributions in the blue container located near the chapel by Sunday, December 8.

Monetary contributions for the purchase of perishable items are also needed. Place your gifts in an envelope marked "Christmas Baskets" and place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office by December 15. Checks should be made payable to "Messiah Lutheran Church."

