



VICAR'S PONDERABLES – NOVEMBER 2025

A Note from the Vicar



*"This message is not a novel invention of ours but the **very ancient, approved teaching of the apostles brought to light again.** Neither have we invented a new Baptism, Sacrament of the Altar, Lord's Prayer, and Creed; nor do we desire to know or to have anything new in Christendom. We only contend for, and hold to, the ancient: **that which Christ and the apostles have left behind them and have given to us.**" (Luther, *Exposition on John*, 1537)*

Reformation Sunday brings to mind both the **power of tradition and the need for renewal**. It was on 31 October 1517, 508 years ago, that a 33-year-old Augustinian monk, sent a list of 95 propositions to Archbishop Albrecht of Mainz challenging the Catholic Church's practice of selling indulgences and calling for theological debate on repentance and grace (*sidebar: there is no direct evidence that Luther personally nailed the 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg, although it very well could have happened*). His actions and what followed set in motion the **Protestant Reformation**. By 1519, followers of Luther were negatively labeled as <https://pstrykken.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/martin-luther-traditional.jpg?w=105> "Lutherans" (picture opponents sneering) by those opposed to what Luther was doing — a name that eventually stuck. Luther preferred the term "Evangelical" to describe the movement. A few more details for background: Luther's act of conscience challenging church doctrine led to his eventual **excommunication** by **Pope Leo X (1513-1521)** after his refusal to recant his positions at a meeting known as the Diet of Worms four years after his initial actions. Further, he was **declared a heretic and outlaw** by **Charles V**, Holy Roman Emperor, meaning anyone could legally capture or kill him without consequence. Protected by **Elector Frederick of Saxony**, Luther was spirited away to Wartburg Castle where he began translating the New Testament into German. In 1525, Luther married **Katharina von Bora (1499-1552)**, a Cistercian nun who fled the convent. Talk about a rebellious power couple!

How should we view all of this from our 21st Century vantage point? It's important to realize that Luther **did not set out to break** with Roman Catholicism. In fact, one can argue that he saw his actions as **returning the Church to its ancient roots**, as noted in the introductory quote. After all, Luther was steeped in the writings of Augustine (354-430), **especially on sin, grace, predestination, and faith**. He cited Augustine more than any other non-biblical source and even annotated Augustine's texts by hand. Most notably, Luther fiercely rejected **Pelagianism**, believing that human will was bound by sin and incapable of choosing God without divine grace. His stance was shaped by his Augustinian training, which emphasized the total dependence of the soul on God's mercy. Luther taught that salvation comes not through effort or merit, but **through faith alone**—a gift initiated by God, not earned by humans. In this view, Pelagianism was not just error but spiritual pride, denying the depth of human need and the power of grace. As Lutherans, we can summarize Luther's theology with the following phrases: **Sola Fide** (*faith alone*), **Sola Scriptura** (*scripture alone*), **Sola Gratia** (*grace alone*), **Solus Christus** (*Christ alone*), and **Soli Deo Gloria** (*To God alone be the glory*). To use a football analogy — ala Vince Lombardi — this is the “power sweep” of Lutheranism.

This article is an excerpt from the webpage 26 October 2025: Reformation Sunday | The Past is a Foreign Country

Faith, love, grace, mercy, and peace be with you.

Vicar Philip J. Supeck

LUNCH WITH THE VICAR AT LUTHER ACRES LITITZ

Wednesday, November 26, 2025 - 11:30 AM - Katy's Grill

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 - 11:30 AM - The Round

All are invited to attend. Please confirm your attendance with Vicar Philip the Sunday prior to each lunch.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Roger L. Kurtz

Invite your family and friends to attend a recital in our nave featuring Duo Harpyn on Sunday, November 9th at 3:00 p.m. Flutist Lois Bliss Herbine and Harpist Rong Tan, who both live in the suburban Philadelphia area, will present a varied and enjoyable program of music for flute and harp. (Herbine has ties to the Lititz area, with her mother-in-law residing at Luther Acres and her sister-in-law living only a half mile from the retirement community.)

Lois Herbine enjoys a varied musical career as a soloist and recording artist, a chamber and orchestral musician, and a respected teacher and clinician. A native of the Philadelphia area, she earned her Bachelor of Music degree from the New School of Music, where she received the school's highest honors in performance and academic achievement. Herbine has performed piccolo with the Reading Symphony Orchestra for over twenty-five years and has played with dozens of other orchestras and ensembles in the tri-state area, including the Erie Philharmonic, the Ocean City Pops Orchestra, and the Fairmount Chamber Ensemble. She served for four years as the principal flutist for Peter Nero and the Philly Pops and the Mann Festival Orchestra, and has performed in soundtracks for numerous television and radio specials, theme music, and commercials. Herbine maintains an active teaching studio at her home and has given performance master classes at various schools and societies, including Baylor, Rice, and Temple Universities, and the University of Michigan. In the summer of 2024, she became the director of the new Philly Fife and Drum Company. Her corps has been invited to perform in America250PA celebratory events in Philadelphia, Easton, Lebanon, and Monroe County, PA.

Born in China, Rong Tan is an active chamber musician and freelancing harpist who resides in Cheltenham, PA. She has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Ballet, the Philly Pops, Opera Philadelphia, and the Delaware Symphony Orchestra, and is currently the principal harpist of Opera Delaware. Tan started her piano studies at age seven and was admitted into the Central Conservatory of Music for gifted children at the age of thirteen to study harp. She graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music, where she was a student of Marilyn Costello, the former principal harpist of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Tan received the Curtis Institute of Music Award and won the Elizabeth Herbert Hobin Harp Competition. As a soloist, she has been featured with the National Repertory Orchestra, the Allegro Society, the Pennsylvania Pops, the Pottstown Symphony Orchestra, and the Bay Atlantic Symphony.

Highlights from the November 9th program will include the following works: *Flute Sonata No. 1 in F Major* by Benedetto Marcello, *Minuet and Dance of the Blessed Spirits* by Christoph Willibald Gluck, *The Fog is Lifting* by Carl Nielsen, *Entr'acte for Flute and Harp* by Jacques Ibert, *Claire de Lune* by Claude Debussy, *Pièce en Forme de Habanera* by Maurice Ravel, *Phantasy on Themes of Japanese Folk Songs* by Josef Molnár, *Méditation* from *Thaïs* by Jules Massenet, and an arrangement by Lois Herbine of John Legend's *All of Me*.

November Worship Leaders

	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister/Lector	Ushers	Acolyte
November 2		Zachary Fetter	Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.	Joyce Burkholder
November 9	Emma Miller	Dave Carson	Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.	Joyce Burkholder
November 16	Brenda Fetter	Jill Clubb	Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.	Joyce Burkholder
November 23		Brenda Fetter	Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.	Joyce Burkholder
November 30		Jill Clubb	Claude Grube, Charles Sweigart Jr.	Joyce Burkholder

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 2nd immediately after church.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The Book of Remembrance is located in the narthex. All Saints Sunday is November 2nd. Please add the names of your loved ones if you desire.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Municipal Election is on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

The Adult Forum group will be discussing the Gospel Readings from Luke. All are welcome to join us at 9:00am!

Here are the chapters we will be looking at:

11/2 – No Adult Forum 11/9 – Luke 19:1-10
11/16 – Luke 20:27-38 11/23 – Luke 21:5-19
11/30 – Luke 23:33-43

IMPORTANT DATES:

Remember to change your clocks one hour behind on Saturday, November 1, 2025.

All Saints Sunday & Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 2, 2025.

The Municipal Election is on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

December Newsletter Deadline on Saturday, November 15, 2025.

Council Meeting 7 pm on Wednesday, November 19, 2025.

Lunch with the Vicar 11:30 am at Katy's Grill Luther Acres Lititz on Wednesday, November 26, 2025.

LITITZ WARWICK COMMUNITY CHEST CHRISTMAS BASKET PROGRAM

We will be collecting monetary donations to sponsor families for the Christmas season. The LWCC Christmas Basket Program provides monetary gifts to local families so they can purchase food for their holiday meal. Please look for collection baskets at the rear of the church on 11/9, 11/16 and 11/23. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry!

November 2
All Saints Sunday
Year C
First Reading
Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Psalm
Psalm 149
Second Reading
Ephesians 1:11-23
Gospel
Luke 6:20-31

November 16
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Year C
First Reading
Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm
Psalm 98
Second Reading
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Gospel
Luke 21:5-19

November 23
Christ the King Sunday
Year C
First Reading
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm
Psalm 46
Second Reading
Colossians 1:11-20
Gospel
Luke 23:33-43

November 9
22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Year C
First Reading
Job 19:23-27a
Psalm
Psalm 17:1-9
Second Reading
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Gospel
Luke 20:27-38

NOVEMBER 2025 READINGS



November 30
First Sunday of Advent
Year A
First Reading
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm
Psalm 122
Second Reading
Romans 13:11-14
Gospel
Matthew 24:36-44



PRAYER CONCERNS

Let us pray for: Chrystine and Andy Anderson, Sharron Bauer, Leslie Carson, Cheyenne Colon, Beth Craley, Janet Craley, Jean Ehrhart, Weston Hertzler, Cody Leisey, Hunter Leisey, Andrea Reynolds, Joe Stoyanovich and Toby Sweigart.

Be with military personnel, first responders, healthcare workers, the people of Ukraine, the people of Israel & Palestine, those affected by recent hurricanes, wildfires and weather events.

Please call or email Vicar Philip Supeck if you would like a name added or removed from our prayer list.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2-Michael Frantz	14-Jill Clubb
2-Leslie Miller	16- Sue Fetter
10-Mel Ravegum	23-Lois Mearig
	30-Tracey Whitney

NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Ross & Allison Clubb	11/16/13
Jill & Brad Clubb	11/19/83
Larrie & Emma Miller	11/25/61
Lamar & Sharon Levering	11/25/92



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES OF BAPTISM

Alicia Scheid 11/4/60	Zachary Fetter 11/6/05
Tamara DeWitt 11/4/01	Lois Mearig 11/9/33
Christopher DeWitt 11/4/01	Jean Slaymaker 11/9/52
Kayla DeWitt 11/4/01	Jill Clubb 11/23/61
Eryn Murphy 11/6/05	



NOVEMBER FOOD BANK SUGGESTIONS:

- *Laundry Detergent
- *Shampoo and Conditioner (2 in 1 products are fine)
- *Toothpaste and Tooth Brushes



Items can be placed in the drop box on the first floor by the elevator - thank you!

NOVEMBER PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

1. Prolawn here on 10/7/2025 to do Fall Lawn treatment.
2. M & E Roofing here on 10/9/2025 to replace shingles on Educational Wing. Shingles missing on portico roof replaced and hole noted in roof of accessibility wing which was also replaced.
3. Exterior Fall Cleanup took place on October 11, 2025. All bushes were trimmed, 2 trees in front of church building were thinned and dead wood removed, and weeding of entire church property completed! Thank you to Ken Craley, Mike Fetter, Zachary Fetter, Roger Kurtz and Brenda Fetter for a job well done.
4. Batteries replaced by Scott Barr and Brenda Fetter in exit lights at end of halls on first and second floors in accessibility wing.
5. Door bell not working and entire new unit installed.
6. Exterior lights (two) on large parking lot side of building not working. Estimates for replacement obtained from RS Martin at cost of \$825 to \$875 and Lapp Electric at cost of \$1,436.00. If wiring needs replaced there will be an additional charge. Property Committee has recommended we use RS Martin for the repair work.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM SHARED MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Please be advised that in addition to Vicar Phil's ongoing Seminary education, he has also been accepted for the required CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) at Penn Medicine (Lancaster General) Hospital beginning Monday, October 6, 2025.

Below is the Vicar's weekly schedule:

Monday 12:00 PM to 10:30 PM

Every other Tuesday 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM starting 10/28/25

Thursday 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM

As Thursday is the Vicar's shift, he will be working four hours a day on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year (since they all fall on Thursdays).

The above schedule is subject for adjustments as life happens and vacations are taken, but is primary the schedule October 2025 through April 2026.

The Shared Ministry Committee requests that you are understanding and keep Vicar Phil in your prayers as he leads us in worship each Sunday, meets his weekly obligations at both JELC & BULC and continues his education & training to become a pastor. This schedule is quite challenging!

Jean Slaymaker, JELC Chairperson, Shared Ministry Committee

ANOTHER THOUGHT

Here's another thought for our congregation to ponder: This was an idea from Pastor Karen told to Jeanine on the Saturday of JD's ash spreading...

Instead of building a "shrine" in St. Paul Lutheran church as a memorial chapel, why not use the money from the sale of the church property to fund Zach in his Seminary years? Instead of catering to the dwindling congregation, we would be helping Zach in his mission to help many more people in their Christian lives. Our congregation would be living through Zach instead of slowly dieing. And why would we stop there? Set up the fund for Vicar Philip as well. Let's set up a fund for as many people as we can. Ask them if they ever are successful enough to donate some money back in the fund to help more people. (But that will not be a priority).

How can this be done? We could call Synod and find out if they already have a fund set up for prospected people or call the seminaries to find out if they have funds set up. By donating to these funds, we could advise them of our 2 candidates making sure they receive the necessary money and the rest of the money would be used at the discretion of the fund.

Rather than one little room with a plaque on the door saying "Jerusalem Evangelical Memorial Chapel", we could possibly envision many women and men spiritually caring for and preaching the word to hundreds of people. What a legacy... not just 25 or so people but hundreds or thousands of people just because we used our treasures wisely to help the larger church.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey B Schreiber

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Beginning October 2025, Council Meeting minutes and financial reports will be available for viewing in the binder located in the narthex. Meeting minutes and financial reports will no longer be printed as part of the monthly newsletter. If you require an electronic or printed copy, please contact Zachary Fetter at the church office.



Please join us for our

Holiday Bazaar & Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, November 22
Luther Acres Towne Center
250 St. Luke Drive, Lititz, PA



Holiday Bazaar | 8 AM - 2 PM
Handmade Crafts / Jewelry
Unique Items by Local Artisans
Knitted & Crocheted Items / Baked Goods
Christmas Gifts / Silent Auctions

Pancake Breakfast | 8-10 AM
Fuel up before you shop!
2 Pancakes, 2 Sausage Links, Juice, Coffee, Tea
\$9.00 (cash only)

All proceeds benefit the Luthercare Caring Fund.
Event sponsored by the Luther Acres Residents' Council.
717.626.1171 | www.Luthercare.org

Name: _____ Date: _____

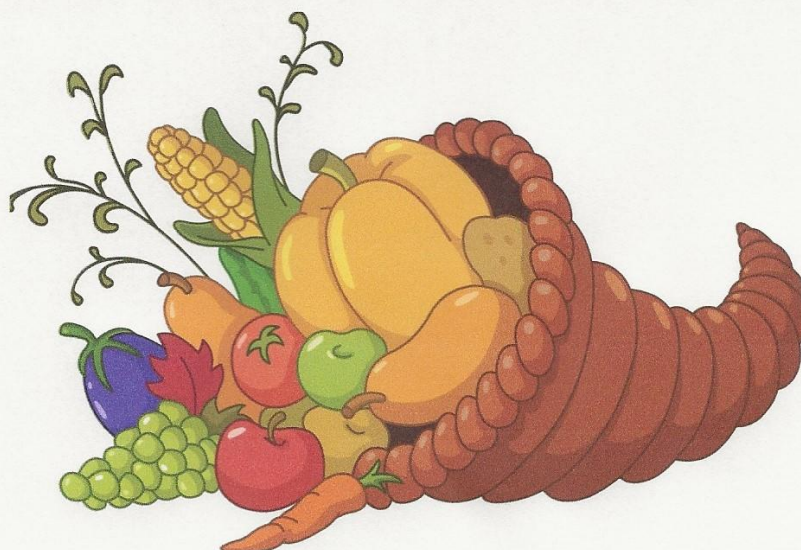
Thanksgiving Day

Word Search

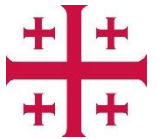
DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

COLONY
CORNUCOPIA
CRANBERRIES
FALL
FAMILY
FEAST
GOBBLE
GRATITUDE
GRAVY
HARVEST
HOLIDAY
MAIZE
MAYFLOWER
MILES STANDISH
NEW WORLD
NOVEMBER
PILGRIMS
PLYMOUTH
PUMPKIN PIE
PURITANS
SQUASH
STUFFING
THANKSGIVING
THURSDAY
TURKEY
WAMPANOAG
YAMS

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G	R	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	J	U	N	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y



Jerusalem Evangelical
Lutheran Church
36 Church Street
Lititz, PA 17543



November 2025



Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church
36 Church Street, Lititz (Rothsville), Pennsylvania 17543

717.626.8972 | www.jerusaluth.org | jelc@ptd.net

Vicar's email: jlcpastr@ptd.net

Vicar Philip's Availability:

Tuesday and Thursday 8am to 4:30pm. Call him at 717-725-3429 on those dates if you would like to schedule an appointment with him.

Church Office Hours: Tuesday 10am to 5pm and Thursday 10am to 6pm

Philip J. Supeck, *Vicar*

Mr. Roger L. Kurtz, *Director of Music*

Beth Smith, *Treasurer*

Zachary Fetter, *Office Administrator*

Joan C. Dull, *Sexton*

Congregation, *Ministers*