

# THE LAMPSTAND

Volume 19 Number 01  
January 2025

## Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church

80 Gockley Road ☩☩ Stevens, PA 17578

### MINISTER'S MESSAGE



#### I Really Need All Twelve Days of Christmas This Year

I wrote this a few years ago, but with Thanksgiving being so late in 2024, I feel the same way this year:

Everybody is celebrating the New Year. But I'm not done celebrating Christmas. There are a few reasons for this.

One of the reasons is that there actually are twelve days of Christmas. In the Church Year, Christmas begins on Christmas Day and ends on the Day of Epiphany on January 6th.

Many people don't know this as they start celebrating Christmas on the day after Halloween. This makes December 25th the 55th day of Christmas instead of the first. People are tired of celebrating by the 26th. They swing into New Year's mode. However we Lutherans celebrate the season of Advent and maintain still that Christmas starts on December 25th.

But there is another reason why I am glad there are twelve days of Christmas this year. Despite the 55 days I had to get ready, I discovered this year that on December 25th I had not sent out all the cards I wanted, I had not purchased all the presents I wanted and I hadn't seen all the people I wanted to see.

One thought is that I'm getting a little older and slower. But there's more to it than that. This year I really need all twelve days of Christmas. It's been a rough year. Politics has made everybody crazy and angry. I need the Baby Jesus to stick around for a while. I need the manger scene, the shepherds, the wise men, the angels and Mary and Joseph with all the animals to just hang around into the new year.

They comfort me.

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### NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

February's newsletter article deadlines will be Wednesday, January 22nd.

Your articles can be emailed in the formats of Word or PDF to: [mellingerslutheran@gmail.com](mailto:mellingerslutheran@gmail.com)

*continued on the next page*

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE CONCLUDED

Through the dark Winter. Into the Spring and heat of Summer and past the Fall. Beyond. Always. I need to stand beside the Baby God in the quiet deep night two thousand years ago and know only that moment. To look up and see only the star. I'm just really not ready to let go of that.

It's not a good time to venture into a new year without Jesus, without the comfort and guidance of God. It's never really been a good idea. But this year, particularly, you take a great risk venturing into the new year without God.

Don't do it.

You'll never make it.

You'll be consumed by all the bickering.

Fortunately for all of us the spirit of Christmas and the presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit extends beyond the New Year and actually beyond Epiphany. Jesus says in Matthew 28: 19, *"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

This is really good news. What this means is that we don't have to worry about politics or anything else. We can go confidently into the new year knowing that the Peace and Love of Almighty God will guide and direct us.

Every year people wonder what is going to happen in the new year. And every year the same thing happens: a lot of good happens and a lot of bad happens. But one thing is for certain: if we go into the new year trusting in people instead of trusting in God, we will surely be disappointed.

So maybe you are like me. Maybe you didn't get everything done by December 25th. Well, that's alright. Because December 25th is actually about Jesus beginning. Jesus beginning to be who He was meant to be: the baby who grew to be the Savior of the world.

If you're taking down the tree and putting everything away feeling that things aren't really over....well, you are right. Jesus is just starting! Day one through twelve. And beyond. Happy New Year!





## Hymn of the Month for January

### *“This Little Light of Mine”*

*“This Little Light of Mine” is an African-American song from the 1920s. It was often reported to be written for children in the 1920s by Harry Dixon Loes, but he never claimed credit for the original version of the song, and researchers at the Moody Bible Institute, where Loes worked, said they have found no evidence that he wrote the song. It was later adapted by Zilphia Horton, amongst many other activists, in connection with the civil rights movement.*

*The origin of the song is unclear, but the phrase “This little light of mine” appears published in poetry by 1925 by Edward G. Ivins, a writer in Montana. In 1931, the song is mentioned in a Los Angeles newspaper as “Deaconess Anderson’s song”. In 1932, the song was mentioned in a 1932 Missouri newspaper. In 1933, the song was mentioned in newspapers as being sung by a chorus at an African Methodist Episcopal conference in Helena, Montana, and then various other churches around the United States later that year.*

*During the Civil Rights movement The Freedom Singers belted out songs to get through protests in the early 1960s. “This Little Light Of Mine” helped steady their nerves as abusive police officers with billy clubs threatened to beat them or worse. It kept them from being afraid. They would start singing a song, and somehow those billy clubs would not hit you. It played a very important role during the movement.*

*Submitted by Vickie Kissinger*

## ***PRAYER CORNER***

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

Roy Latshaw, Donald Netzley, Jeff Moyer, Carl Mohler Jr., Mike Leed, Elaine Haldeman, Patty Gehman, Ed Wentzel, Shirley Sweigart, Skip Hutchinson, Dave Haldeman, Jane Goshert (Home Hospice), Anita Soto, Jay Stoltzfus (with family in Florida), Beverly Sweigart, Theda Raffauf, Mary Weidman, Sam Soto, Deb Zerbe, Amanda Benton, Marty Leed & Family, Fay Weitzel, Vivian Gehr, Jay Weaver, Barb Moyer, Betty Cordes and Judy Meckley.

Artman Lutheran Home, Ambler: Sally Wealand

Ephrata Manor: Dorothy Hutchinson, Vesta Reber, Shirl Tobias, Pauline Sawyer, Joan Wentzel, Ella Felker and Bob Weaver

Lancaster Nursing & Rehab: Pat McQuate

Lancaster General Hospital: Doug Cody

Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine

Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin

Maple Farms: Janet Hirneisen

Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla

Zerbe Retirement Community, Narvon: Clair Miller

Jim Stewart, Andi Wealand Webber, Alyssa Schmeck, Cole Prevoznik, Vincent Fortunato, Karen Leonhard, John Duing, Sue Kreitz, Brian Auker, Janet Hirneisen, Sue Gray, Chris Miller (Home Hospice), Gaile Gehman, Dennis Betz, Dale Firestone, Mary Royer, Bea Hassler, Quentin Ellis, Earl Crum Jr., Mary Sanger, Larry Weachter, Andy & Brenda Gabig, Brian Fetter, Pastor Karen Larson, Brian Kerns, Mary Lou Crum, Althea Hillegas, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Mary Morton, Robyn Redcay, Corrina Bender, Margaret Weller, Bud Bender, Mike Fasnacht and Cynthia Peters.

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

Alvin DeHaven, Susie Wentzel, Matt Thorn, Nicholas Bolotine, John Hutchinson, Reverend Judy McKee, Ethel Leed, Grace Wentz, Don Craven, Maribel Sanchez, Alex Becklin, Faye Pannebecker, Maggie Bollinger, Cindy Novak, Dot Demming, Harriet Stoltzfus, Mick Smyer, Shanan Shortuse, Ray Vargo, Lavern Gehman, Patricia Kieffer, Tom Craven, Bill Nodeen, Michelle Simpson, Sam Heiser, Hunter Bristow, Clair High, Tom Dittoe, Donald Hain and Clara Ingram.

## Readings for the month of January

**JANUARY 5 – 2 CHRISTMAS:** Jeremiah 31:7-14,  
Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14 & John 1:[1-9] 10-18

**JANUARY 12 – BAPTISM OF OUR LORD:**  
Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-7 & Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**JANUARY 19 – 2 EPIPHANY:** Isaiah 62:1-5,  
Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 & John 2:1-11

**JANUARY 26 – 3 EPIPHANY:** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10,  
Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a & Luke 4:14-21



### **January 5**

**Head** – Linda Weaver, Dave Weidman & alternate Lowell Yost

### **January 12**

**Head** – Troy Adair, Randy Brubaker & alternate Joan Moore

### **January 19**

**Head** – Mike Haller, Nancy Eberly & alternate Shawn Jeffers

### **January 26**

**Head** – Piper Leonhard, Kristi Leonhard & alternate Jean Lausch

### Weather Statement:

In case of bad weather on a Sunday, after 7:30 am check the church phone answering machine at 717-336-8800 or Mellingers Facebook page if we will be having a service.



# COUNCIL DECEMBER 19, 2024

- \* Lowell Yost called the December meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Pastor Tim gave a prayer over our members and the Christmas season.
- \* At the January meeting we will be reviewing our current investment & account balances.
- \* Pastor Tim is still looking for 2 volunteers to attend the Synod Assembly in June.
- \* The Church boxes were changed to the Needy Fund and we have raised over \$1,000.
- \* Pastor Tim mentioned the grant we applied for should be reviewed in January.
- \* An update for Builders of Hope was given by Bob & Barb Getz.
- \* Outside lights around the church were looked at after members noticed they were out.
- \* Installation of Church Council will be held on Sunday January 5th.
- \* Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9th at 6:30 pm. We adjourned the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

## Congregational Meeting Results:

Approval of the 2025 Proposed  
Disciple Resource Allocation:

Yes: 47 No: 0 Abstain: 6

Church Council Members:

Troy Adair 53 votes

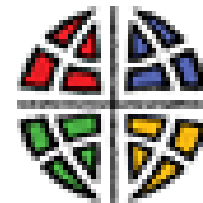
Lowell Yost 53 votes

Randy Brubaker 53 votes

Linda Weaver 53 votes

Nancy Eberly 53 votes

Vic Richard 53 votes



Looking for representatives  
to the Lower Susquehanna  
Synod Assembly to be held  
June 5-7 at St Matthew  
Lutheran Church in York.

Mellingers needs one male  
and one female  
representative.

We will be electing a new  
Bishop.

Contact Pastor Tim or the  
Church office if you would  
like to be a representative.

## 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.
- 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



Sunday, January 19, 2025, a planning meeting for the 25<sup>th</sup> trip of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Disaster Response team will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Luther Acres, 250 St. Luke Drive, Lititz.

This is also the deadline to sign up for the trip. Registration for the trip is only \$150/person. The trip will be taking place, April 6-12, 2025, and will be to western North Carolina.

More details will be shared at the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but hope to make the trip, please contact Pastor Glenn Beard at [gbeard@luthercare.org](mailto:gbeard@luthercare.org).

Thanks very much!

Have a joyous Christmas!  
Glenn



## Sunday

January 5, 12, 19 & 26

9:00 am Church Services

10:15 am - 11:00 am Sunday School

5<sup>th</sup>: Epiphany & Installation of Church Council

12<sup>th</sup>: Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

19<sup>th</sup>: Ahava will be playing during service

19<sup>th</sup>: 2:00 p.m. Pastor Tim leading worship at Keystone Villa, Ephrata

## Tuesday

January 7, 14, 21 & 28 6:30 pm—8:00 pm Pastor Tim Zoom Bible Study

## Wednesday

January 8, 15, 22 & 29 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm In Person Bible Study at Church

## Thursday

January 9 6:30 pm Council Meeting

## Choir Practices

Wednesday, January 8 & 22 at 6:00 pm



Sunday, January 19th  
Ahava will be playing



## *Giving Envelopes for 2025*

The giving envelopes for next year 2025 have been distributed to your mailboxes.

If you did not receive your envelopes or would like to change from weekly to monthly, please contact the church office or Nancy Eberly.

*Thank you for being faithful givers.*



## · F L O W E R C H A R T · DEDICATION



The 2025 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...



## **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 2024 we donated \$2800 and helped 56 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)*

# A Message from the Discipleship Committee

November 27, 2024

## Disciples of Mellingers

The committee has been prayfully trying to evaluate our ministry to God's children in our area who have a housing problem in their lives.

We have been told of families in our area living in motels and not being able to get out of that environment. They have jobs and are trying, but cannot overcome the crises they live in day to day.

Churches in the Cocalico Area who were a part of "Love Inc" – Homes of Hope – which have now separated due to financial and client differences.

Ephrata Area Social Services and the local area churches – Trinity Methodist in Denver, Swamp Lutheran in Reinholds, Faith Lutheran in Denver and St. John's UCC in Denver have formed a new program called "Builders of Hope".

The Disciples in Life Committee at Mellingers has been prayfully researching this type of new ministry at Mellingers and have been in dialog with guidance from church council. With the approval of church council, a grant application to the Mission Fund of the Lower Susquehanna Synod has been submitted requesting \$10,000.00 and a pledge of additional \$5,000.00 from Mellingers to join with the new program at Ephrata Area Social Service and area churches in a "New" program called "Buildings of Hope".

EASS will be the lead agency in the program offering screening and selection of a possible family who need help.

The area churches will offer financial assistance, support counseling and maintenance of the rental house in Adamstown owned by Bollman Hat Company.

After we expressed interest in being part of the program at their monthly meeting, which was attend by Pastor Tim and Barb & Bob Getz, a motion was made by a present member to invite Mellingers Lutheran Church to become a member of the program which passed unanimously.

Barb & Bob Getz signed a commitment to represent our congregation on the committee which meets monthly. Our initial involvement will be to help and support fund raisers to pay rent, equip the house, pay utilities and maintain the rental living unit.

Our future involvement may be to help tutor families in learning and doing things to become a self-sustaining family in our community. Scripture tells us in Luke 10<sup>th</sup> chapter verse 25 thru 37: Be the one who shows Mercy.

## Disciples in Life Committee at Mellingers

Any questions, comments or concerns please reach out to a member of council, Pastor Tim or a member of the Discipleship committee.





To: All the members and leaders  
of Mellingers Lutheran Church  
Thank you so much for all the cards  
and messages that were delivered to me  
by 2 great ladies, Johanna and Joan  
are great ambassadors of our church. Thank You  
P.S. Thanks also for the  
ornamental kale plant. It's so cute!  
Bless all of you.  
Pauline Sawyer

12-5-2024  
Mellingers Evangelical  
Lutheran Church,  
Thanks for helping me  
search for my missing cell phone.  
When I found it in my car,  
it was an answer to prayer and it  
made my day cheerful.  
The funeral service for  
John Hutchinson was most  
wonderful. I can't think of  
anything that could have been  
any better. The food prep and  
care was most excellent. Give my  
thanks to the kitchen crew.  
Best Wishes + a  
Merry Christmas!  
Robert Raush

Dear Mellingers Congregation,  
Thank you all the cards and prayers. Also Thank you  
to the Social Ministry Committee for the fruit basket.  
Mike Leed



Pauline Martin: Neffsville Nursing & Rehab  
2829 Lititz Pike Room 110 A  
Lancaster, Pa 17601

Dotty Hutchinson: Ephrata Manor  
99 Bethany Road Room 209  
Ephrata, Pa 17522

Clair Miller: Zerbe Retirement Community  
2499 Zerbe Road  
Narvon, Pa 17555



## Christmas Gifts for Children

Thank you Members of Mellingers!

We collected 149 toys to donate to the EASS

Christmas Program

**God Bless, Social Ministry**



Thank You for your support! **For 2024, we have assembled 60 Quilts, 300 School Kits, 100 Personal Care Kits.**

Donations bless those who have lost their home and belongings in natural disasters & for those who had to flee their homes due to war and religious persecution. We pray that God moves your heart to help. If you are interested in helping, please contact a Social Ministry member. You need not join the committee in order to help, but we do welcome new members.

Please use an envelope marked LWR to help change a life. With your donations to LWR, we can continue to do God's work.

Lutheran World Relief envelopes are available or mark your donations LWR. Please visit their website for more information. <https://lwr.org>

Thank you and God Bless, ~ Social Ministry



# First Friday Food Drive January 3rd

## GLUTEN-FREE

- SOUPS
  - SNACKS
  - CAKE, MUFFINS AND PIE CRUSTS
- MUSHROOMS (4 OR 8-OUNCE CANS)  
MAC AND CHEESE (7.25 OUNCE BOX)  
SPAGHETTI (1 POUND PACKS)  
WORCHESTER SAUCE  
CANNED EVAPORATED MILK (NOT SWEETENED)  
BREADCRUMBS  
CHICKEN BROTH (CANS OR 32-OUNCE CONTAINERS)  
CHICKEN BOUILLON CUBES  
SOY SAUCE  
PENNE OR ZITI PASTA



Drop off items at  
Warehouse 916  
between 3pm - 5pm

- TOOTHPASTE (BATHROOM SIZE)  
SHAVING CREAM  
DEODORANT  
LAUNDRY SOAP  
OVER THE COUNTER GENERAL MEDICATIONS  
(COLD & FLU, PAIN, FEVER)  
TOILET PAPER  
PAPER TOWELS





**January 01**

Maddy Brown  
Ruth Buchter

**January 02**

Ashley Leed

**January 03**

Sherry Stewart

**January 06**

Jerry Petery

**January 08**

Paul Hackman  
Jenna Weachter

**January 09**

Erica Barnett  
Joe Brubaker

**January 10**

Emily Parrish  
Joyce Wilhide

**January 12**

Aidan Borry  
Kristi Stief

**January 13**

Jennifer Mentzer

**January 14**

Greg Harting

Your birthday always comes as we start another year.

January is your month your special day is here.

It's the middle of winter most days are cold and dreary, so here's a birthday wish for you that your day is bright and cheery!



**January 16**

Brooke Stewart

**January 17**

Darlene Williamson

**January 18**

Drew Sawyer

**January 20**

Patty Gehman

**January 21**

Sally Leed  
Joshua Sawyer

**January 22**

Caleb Leonhard

**January 24**

Elizabeth Gehman  
Deb Sensenig  
Christopher Usner  
Matthew Weaver

**January 26**

Skip Hutchinson

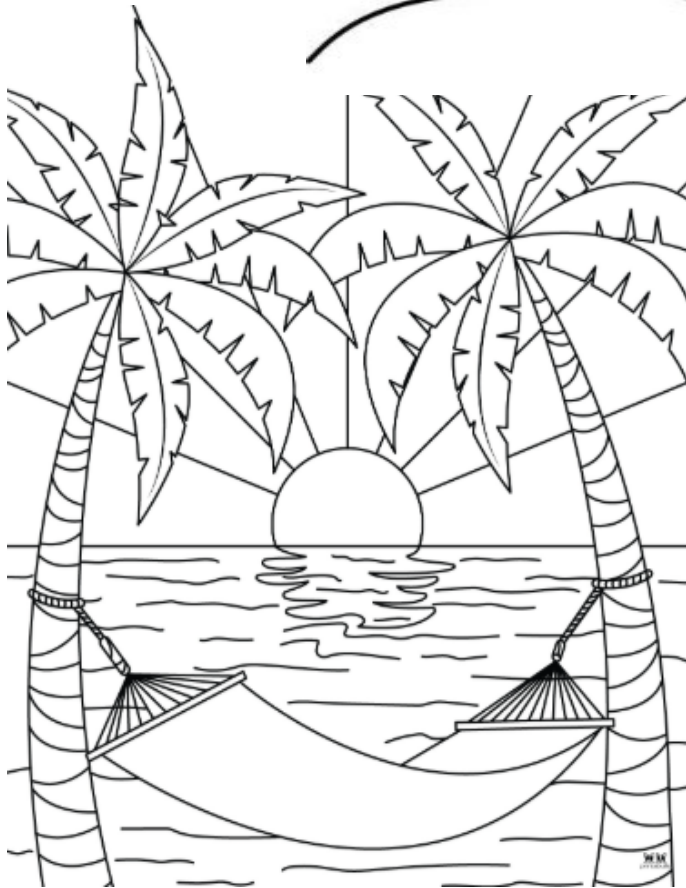
**January 28**

Hayden Leonhard  
Jill Showalter

**January 29**

Jeremy Zerbe

# Activity Page



**Enjoying the  
snow or  
dreaming of  
warmer  
weather?**

## 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

**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      ✠ Vic Richard (717) 951-8977      ✠ 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:** Kimberley 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 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  
**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:** Andy Leonhard (717) 336-8800  
**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](mailto:smb115@ptd.net)  
**Pack 115:** Daniel Marszalek. (717) 405-9724 [scoutleaderdan115@yahoo.com](mailto:scoutleaderdan115@yahoo.com)

### 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.