

TABLE TALK

October/November

2026

Evangelical Lutheran Church

From the Pastors:

Dear Church,

What a full and wonderful season of life and ministry we have stepped into together! I'm having a difficult time believing that once you are reading this letter, I will have officially been with the community of ELC for a whole year...and what a year it has been! When I was ordained last November, I made the decision not to send thank you cards to folks right away. While this is an unconventional approach, I am excited, almost a full year into ministry to share all the ways I've grown with the support of my community.



Right off the bat in October of 2025, the day I closed on my house, I didn't sleep there because it was the night of my first ELC youth group lock-in! This was just the beginning of overnights, cabin retreats, fundraisers, youth group events, youth-led worship, picnics, Confirmation camp, mission trip, beach trip, and the list goes on! I cannot express the joy I've experienced getting to know the young people of this congregation, celebrating with them in their milestones and watching them continue to grow in faith.

While I have spent lots of time with our young people, I've also had the immense pleasure of getting to know members of all ages in their own joys and sorrows. I've sat with individuals on their death beds. I've watched people embark on the long, slow recovery process following procedures. I've celebrated when test results showed remission from a disease. I've wept when the prognosis has not been a positive one. I've been invited into homes, retirement centers, and hospital rooms with open arms. I've shared communion with people who weep with joy at the opportunity to receive the body and blood of Christ.

This has also been a full year of both teaching and learning. As a first call pastor, I engage in first call theological education alongside other first-call pastors in our synod. I attend retreats and trainings to continue learning in my vocational call. I also lead retreats and classes to share that growth with others. A full year of teaching Confirmation classes alongside leading youth retreats, adult retreats, and seasonal Bible studies have allowed me the chance to engage with many of you in spaces of learning.

Then there have been all the amazing worship experiences we have shared together over the past year. I will never forget my first Christmas Eve and Easter services in the ELC sanctuary. I will also never forget almost thirty youth doing a line dance following their first year of youth-led worship. We even worshipped around tables of food remembering the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday. The quiet of advent and lenten Wednesday evenings with Holden Evening Prayer is beautifully contrasted with the shouts of celebration following days of Confirmation, Baptisms and Installations. Each experience of worship was unique, God-centered and full of the Holy Spirit.

While I am sure there are moments I am forgetting, as I look back on this first year of ministry, I am grateful beyond words. For the gift of this community, the welcome I've experienced and the presence of Christ throughout this journey, I give thanks to God. Now, as we enter into a new season I invite you to see where God is leading you. This may be somewhere you've never considered or it may be a place where you've felt a pull but have continued to hold back. Either way, I can promise you that God has walked with you and will continue to walk alongside you through it all. Listen to that call in your life, it can lead to extraordinary things.

Blessings,

Pastor Rosalie

Evangelical Lutheran Church

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES



Traditional Services @ 8:00AM

Celebration Services @ 10:45AM



Our 9:30AM and 10:45AM services will continue to be
live-streamed on our YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaeKa1_Uo4gnV58do3c0OIg

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our Tuesday Morning Bible Study continues this fall. If you like to discuss news headlines and look at them from a Biblical perspective, Tuesday Morning Bible Study is a place for you. Our meetings are on



Tuesdays, October, 6th, and 20th, and 27th, November 3rd, 17th, 24th, at 8:30 AM at the Parlor House Restaurant (724 South Potomac Street, Waynesboro). We'll meet in the back banquet room and continue with our usual format: breakfast and time of fellowship. Then, we will study the Wired Word Bible Study. Each study focuses on a different topic, allowing you to join at any time. We are done by 10:00 AM. Don't miss out on this opportunity to grow in faith.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, October 13th and November 10th at 12:00 noon in the Welcome Center. We will bring packed lunches or order pizza. We are still studying Women of the Bible, and we welcome new members. For information contact Judy Reed:



Call or text 717-331-7549.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

We will not have the Blessing Of The Animals this year at our church. If you would like to attend a service, you are welcome to attend at Trinity Lutheran, in Chambersburg, PA.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2026

Tis the season to talk about stewardship! This summer we got just a taste of how we are called to share our time, talents and treasure with this church community at ELC. We heard from members of the congregation and celebrated all the ways people are able to give. Now, we are moving into the season of budgets and as we move towards our Annual Meeting on November 22nd, our Stewardship Committee will be bringing back an emphasis on giving.

Believe it or not, money is one of the topics Jesus spoke on the most! It is a part of our lives and the life of this church, so it is important we don't shy away from the conversation. On November 8th and November 15th we will recognize all the many ways this congregation has been blessed and the ways we are called to continue giving to sustain the incredible ministry of this church.

Be on the lookout for further details on our Stewardship weekends in November. Questions? Contact Pastor Rosalie or Brian Walker (Council Representative to Stewardship Committee)

HEAVEN: BEYOND IMAGINATION **A LUTHERAN EXPLORATION OF ETERNAL LIFE**

What do you think heaven will be like?

Most of us have an answer to that question—even if we've never really thought about where our answer came from. Images of clouds, pearly gates, angels, reunions with loved ones, and leaving this world behind are deeply embedded in our culture. Some reflect Christian teaching; others owe more to movies, books, artwork, and popular imagination.



Heaven: Beyond Imagination is a six-week exploration of what Christians actually mean when we talk about heaven and eternal life. This is not primarily a grief or bereavement class. Rather, it is an opportunity for each of us to examine what we personally believe about life beyond death, where those beliefs came from, and how the Christian promise of eternal life shapes the way we live today.

We'll begin by looking at our own assumptions about heaven. What have we absorbed from childhood, church, family, popular culture, and personal experience? From there, we'll turn to Scripture—not simply searching for descriptions of "heaven," but exploring the larger biblical story of resurrection, eternal life, God's presence, and the restoration of creation.

We'll then ask what Martin Luther and the Lutheran tradition contribute to our understanding. At the center is a distinctly Lutheran conviction: our hope rests not in what we accomplish or in how certain we feel about the future, but in God's grace and the promises given to us in Christ. As the course continues, we'll tackle some of the questions people naturally wonder about: What might heaven actually be like? Will we recognize one another? What does the resurrection of the body mean? Is our final hope simply to leave earth and "go to heaven," or does Scripture offer a bigger picture? What can we know with confidence—and where do we have to become comfortable with mystery.

We'll also devote a session to near-death experiences (NDEs). Rather than trying either to prove or dismiss them, we'll compare some of the remarkable stories people have reported with what Scripture and Lutheran theology actually teach. That gives us an opportunity to think carefully about the difference between personal experience, interesting evidence, and the foundation of Christian faith.

Finally, we'll bring the discussion back to the present. If we really believe the Christian promise of resurrection and eternal life, should that change how we live now? What does it mean for our fears, priorities, relationships, service to others, and our understanding of death itself?

The goal isn't to finish six weeks with answers to every question. Scripture itself leaves some things mysterious. Instead, the hope is that we will finish with a deeper understanding of what we believe, a clearer sense of why we believe it, and a richer, more joyful confidence in God's promise of eternal life.

Mondays, November 2–December 7
6:00–7:30 p.m.

Whether you've thought about heaven for years or have never really studied the subject, you're welcome.

Evangelical Lutheran Church



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY **PRE-K-5th Grade**



THIS YEAR'S SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

This year our children will be giving their offering to the organization called Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This is a local organization that builds beds for children in need. We will have a temple talk given on **October 11th**.



4TH AND 5TH GRADE YOUTH EVENT



Mark your calendars for **November 15, 2026**. 4th and 5th grade youth will be going Bowling at Sunshine lanes, and having pizza afterwards. It's going to be a great time!

WE ARE EXCITED TO INVITE YOU TO THIS YEAR'S ELC CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!

We are trying something new this year with an original script titled MAKING ROOM: An Animals' Christmas Story, written by Kurt Johnson, which tells the nativity story from the stable animals' point of view.



Our children (preschool through 5th grade) will star in this production. Rehearsals will take place on Saturday mornings starting **November 14th**, as well as during the Sunday School hour.

Please mark your calendars for the performance on **Sunday, December 20th at 9:30 a.m.** You won't want to miss this wonderful presentation by our children!

If you have any questions, please contact:

- MaryBeth Johnson: 717-404-8585
- Kurt Johnson 717-655-0757
- Emma Massey: 267-421-4662
- Olivia McDonald 717-387-1442

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir begins on Wednesday, October 7th at 5:30 pm in the Choir Room. All children Grades 1-5 are invited to sing with us. We usually perform once a month during the 10:45 service and on Christmas Eve. Rehearsal are on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month. Come and join the fun!



Celebrating 80 or More Years of Life Let us Rejoice with them!! Happy Birthday to...



October Birthdays

Judy Reed Oct 1
Phyllis Griffith Oct 7
Ellen Hess Oct 12
Louise Morningstar Oct 25
Harry Watson Oct 25

November Birthdays

Pat Martin Nov 2
Betsy Payette Nov 2
Barbara Stains Nov 2
Jim Folk Nov 10
Roy Tressler Nov 26



Evangelical Lutheran Church

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Sat. 11/14	9:15am	Chapter 1	Narrator, Ezra, Clara, Donkey
11/14	10:15am	Chapter 2	Whiskers, Nibbles, Grumbles, Rusty, Henny and Barley
Sun 11/15	9:30a.m.	Ch 1 & 2	Ensemble
Sat 11/21	9:15am	Ch 3	Narrator, Wooley, Fleece and Angel
11/21	10:15am	Ch 4	Ezra, Clara, Nibbles, Barley and Whiskers
Sun 11/22	9:30am	Ch 1-4	Ensemble
Sat 11/28	9:15am	Ch 5	All speaking parts
Sun 11/29	9:30am	Ch 3-5	Ensemble
Sat 12/5	9:15am	Run thru	Ensemble
Sun 12/6	9:30am	Run thru	Ensemble
Sat 12/12	9:15am	Tech	Principals
Sat 12/19	9:15am	Dress Rehearsal	Ensemble
Sun 12/20	8:30a.m.	Call	Pageant starts at 9:30a.m.



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN YOUTH MINISTRIES

Grades 6th through 12th



YOUTH CAR WASH OCTOBER 4TH

October 4th is our youth car wash. Come out to support this summer's mission trip. Cars will be washed during the two services. This is a free will offering. Thank you for your support!



SENIOR HIGH OVERNIGHT — OCTOBER 9–10!

We're spending Friday night into Saturday at the church cabin for food, games, and time together. Saturday morning we'll pitch in with a cabin fall cleaning, then head to Harper's Ferry for an afternoon climbing obstacle course adventure. It's going to be an awesome mix of service, fun, and challenge.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR FALL CABIN RETREAT, HAPPENING NOVEMBER 13–15.

We're heading into the woods for three days of rest, connection, games and spiritual time. Expect cozy campfire evenings, shared meals, reflective moments, and plenty of time to unwind from school. More details coming soon — but for now, save the dates and get ready for a beautiful fall getaway.

YOUTH SPAGHETTI DINNER



There will be a Spaghetti Dinner on **November 8th, 2026** following the 10:45AM service. This is a free will offering fundraiser. All proceeds will go to the youth mission trip. This is a great time for good food and fellowship. We hope you can join us.

Evangelical Lutheran Church

A CAROL MOSAIC BY HEATHER SORENSON

Come join the choir this holiday season singing carols and original music celebrating the birth of our Savior. The rehearsals begin on **Wednesday, October 7th** with our performance set for **Sunday, December 13th** during the 9:30 unity service.



THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS CONCERT

Come and enjoy the sounds of the season featuring our Moller organ and Steinway piano. The musicians will include members of the Cumberland Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Mark the date on your calendar for **December 5th at 4:00PM**. This concert celebrating all the Sounds of Christmas.



CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD OUTREACH

Once again, we will be pairing with local school counselors to bring some Christmas joy to area families. We'll be providing 2 to 3 gift cards to about 50 children and their families. This is the same successful outreach that we provided the last several years.

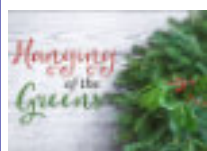
Look for a tree and gift card tags in the Parlor Hallway by **Sunday, November 29th**. The tags are just suggestions for places such as Walmart, Save a Lot, Martins Grocery, gas cards, local restaurants, etc. If the tags are all distributed, please feel free to give as you would like.

Please make sure the gift cards are marked with the monetary value amounts. This helps with the distribution and also is helpful to the recipients.

All gift cards and tags must be returned by, **Sunday, December 13th** to enable us to deliver to schools on time. There will be baskets for the returned gift cards which will be collected after each service. Or the cards may be placed in the mailbox outside of the office.

Thank you as always for your generosity! Any questions, please call Holly Carey at 717-762-8965.

HANGING OF THE GREENS



On Friday, December 4, 2026 at 6pm we will have the hanging of the greens in the Fellowship hall. We will have our Martz/Carey famous spaghetti. Bread, drinks, and dessert will be provided. Following dinner there will be a short service prior to decorating the church. Please come join us for this annual event. Great food, fellowship and decorating our beautiful church for the Christmas season will all take place that

evening!

*Join us as we celebrate fall
on the Mace Family Farm!*

Fall is the perfect time for fun with family and friends,
and there's no better place to celebrate than at our
annual fall festival! Get ready for an afternoon filled with
fun & fellowship for all ages!
Bring a chair and a friend (or two)!

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 25TH
2-4 PM**

**HAYRIDES
GAMES
CAMPFIRE
CRAFTS
S'MORES
HOT COCOA**

10141 Wharf Rd., Waynesboro
Rain or Shine!

Evangelical Lutheran Church

WAYNESBORO COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES: SUMMER FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

All non-perishable goods are welcome, but the

Waynesboro Human Services food pantry is especially in need of food for our Backpack Buddies program that provides a weekend bag of food to eligible students. We use items like Chef Boyardee, canned condensed soup, individual fruit cups and applesauce, oatmeal, canned or pouched tuna and chicken, macaroni and cheese.

All food items will be donated to Waynesboro Community and Human Services to help the less fortunate.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

- The newly installed carpet strips at the base of the stairs have received great feedback from the congregation and community groups that meet here. Thank you to Waynesboro Floor Covering for donating your time and supplies to make our Church a safer place!
- Kitchen: there has been significant leaking during rain events. It was proposed that the build and design are making it difficult to do anything other than fill in the window.
- Pastor Rosalie is grateful for all the support she has received!

NEXT MEETING: Oct. 13, 2026

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS WILL CHANGE BEGINNING IN OCTOBER

After receiving a year's worth of feedback, we've decided to change how we handle volunteer sign-ups. The program we have been using has been frustrating to many. Many of you have expressed a desire to have volunteers assigned on a rotating basis. Therefore:

- There will no longer be a digital sign-up process for worship volunteers
- The office will now assign worship volunteers on a rotating basis
- If you are not available on your assigned date, that's totally okay!
- Plan to reach out to other volunteers to see if someone can swap dates with you.
- Let the office know of the change, or if you were unable to find a replacement.

You will receive a list of your fellow volunteers (e.g., acolytes for acolytes, communion assistants for communion assistants) to help you find a replacement if needed. Reminder: The assignments for Altar Flowers, Altar Guild, Tech Team, and Ushers are filled by volunteers, not through the office.

CONGREGATION MEETING

The annual Congregational meeting will be held on **November 22nd** following each worship service.



Our Time, Talents, and Treasures:

Table Talk Treasurer's Report



as of: 8/16/2026

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
YTD Offerings	341,000.00	326,719.49	(14,280.51)
YTD Income	384,250.00	371,025.02	(13,224.98)
YTD Expenses	400,575.07	403,481.09	2,906.02
YTD Expenses Under (Over) Income	(16,325.07)	(32,456.07)	

TABLE TALK

EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

43 S. Church St.
Waynesboro, PA 17268

Phone: 717-762-9151

Website: www.elchome.org

Email: businessmanager@elchome.org

Office Hours

Mon.-Thurs. - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Fri. - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Closed for lunch 12:00PM-12:30 p.m.

Join Us for Sunday Worship

Traditional Services @
8:00AM

Celebration Services @
10:45AM



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[@elchomeorg](https://www.youtube.com/@elchomeorg)

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Our Mission Statement

**Gathering in community, Growing in God's word,
Going in service for Christ.**

MOVING? PHONE OR E-MAIL OR ADDRESS CHANGING?

We want to stay in touch! Please let the church office know of your new address, phone number or E-mail as soon as possible. Thank you!



HOSPITALIZED OR CHANGE IN HEALTH?

If you or someone you know becomes ill, injured, hospitalized, or is moving, please let the office know. Unless you or someone you designate contacts the church office, we may not know about this. Privacy laws have changed—the best way we learn of your health issues is when you tell us.



VANCO
FAITH

ELC'S MOBILE APP IS EASY TO USE!

You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play.

From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method, and complete the donation. If you have questions or need assistance with our new mobile app, please contact the church office.