

"THE WITNESS"

NEWSLETTER OF MESSIAH (FISHERVILLE) & ST. PETER (FETTERHOFF'S) LUTHERAN CHURCHES OF HALIFAX, PA

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

Rev. Nancy Brody, Pastor
3 Church Street, Halifax, PA 17032
Office: 717-362-4597 ~ Email: elsiebbrody@gmail.com

*Dear Church Family Members
and Friends,*

As you may already realize, each year, your pastor aims to increasingly broaden and diversify her life experience and repertoire of pastoral skills by doing new things: like volunteering at the Youth Center, doing a week of chaplaincy at Camp Nawakwa, and participating in a variety of educational cohort groups over an extended timeframe. Doing so not only fulfills Continuing Ed requirements of the synod per year, but more importantly, refreshes the well from which she draws spiritual sustenance.

Each of the experiences I've had so far feels like adding a layer of embellishment to who I already am (like doing embroidery upon the surface of fabric that was cut and assembled during seminary). So, in the spring of 2023, with the blessing of both councils, I ventured to apply (and was accepted) into a program known as Clinical Pastoral Education.

From October to April, I am now committed to attend classes at York Wellspan Hospital on Mondays from 7:30 to noon. I am also committed to fulfill a variety of clinical hours: six hours of patient visitation per week, plus twice a month on-call shifts from 8pm-8am. C.P.E. is a very intense process of discovery that involves a lot of writing, self-reflection, learning, participation in simulation labs, acceptance and application of peer feedback/critique and insights gained from professional supervision with a highly qualified C.P. E. educator. Some liken C.P. E. to a period of torture, but this will be the third unit I've taken by choice.

My hope is that each of you will come to understand and appreciate the value of this C.P.E.

experience for what it can contribute to my role as your pastor. I've stepped away from the Halifax Youth Center but continue to deliver Giant gift cards every month. I'm in and out of preschool rather than being a regular steady presence and am no longer available to play Dartball. Other than that, I hope you won't notice any absence or gap in my ability to serve you by doing God's ministry within a broader context.

Please pray that I won't be the only one to grow over the next six months. Let's both grow deeper in our relationship to God and others. Let's both grow in wisdom and confidence regarding our faith. Let's both open ourselves to being stretched in new directions so that our combined presence in the world will increasingly make God's presence more visible and tangible.

*Your Loving Pastor,
Pastor Nancy Brody*

LET US PRAY

This section of the newsletter is redacted for online viewing in order to protect the personal privacy of our members. Please consult the emailed or printed version of The Witness for a full listing of prayer requests and concerns.

Please email prayer requests: name plus a few specifics to elsiebbrody@gmail.com or text 717-362-4597.

UPCOMING SCRIPTURE

11/05 – All Saints Sunday

1st Reading – Micah 3:5-12

Psalmody – Psalm 43

2 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Gospel – Matthew 23:1-12

11/12 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading – Amos 5:18-24

Psalmody – Psalm 70

2nd Reading – 2 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel – Matthew 25:1-13

11/19 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading – Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalmody – Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel – Matthew 25:14-30

11/26 – Christ the King Sunday

1st Reading – Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalmody – Psalm 95:1-7a

2nd Reading – Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel – Matthew 25:31-46

12/03 – 1st Sunday of Advent

1st Reading – Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalmody – Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel – Mark 13:24-37

12/10 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading – Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalmody – Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2nd Reading – 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel – Mark 1:1-8

12/17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalmody – Psalm 126

2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel – John 1:6-8, 19-28

12/24 – 4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalmody – Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

2nd Reading – Romans 16:25-27

Gospel – Luke 1:26-38

12/24 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

1st Reading – Isaiah 61:10–62:3

Psalmody – Psalm 148

2nd Reading – Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel – Luke 2:22-40

PLEASE NOTE

Pastor Brody will be away from the office from **Tuesday, November 28th until Friday, December 8^h**, Pastor Tom Bruner will cover emergency pastoral care in the event a member and/or family experiences emergency/ life threatening hospitalization or death.

Please pay attention to the following details. His office phone: (717.362.9519) is best during the day every day except Saturday, which is his day off. Pastor Bruner's home number: (717.362.7895) is best evenings/overnight and on his day off. He will regularly check both answering machines during the coverage time. If needed, he can also reach Pastor Brody.

**ST. PETER'S ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

On October 15th, St. Peter held its annual congregational meeting during which the congregation approved an amended version of St. Peter's budget as well as the 2024 joint church budget. Dave Ritter was reelected as Auditor for another 3 years and Rhonda Hentz was reelected for a second 3-year term on Council. Linda Lucas was elected to the Council to replace Mary Bohn. The congregation also voted for Rhonda Hentz's name to be added to the church's appreciation plaque for 2023.

CHILDCARE OFFERED DURING CHURCH

During **Messiah's 10AM** service, childcare will be offered **on 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month and 5th Sundays** (if the joint service is held there). Right after the children's sermon, boys and girls ages 1 yr. old thru 4th grade will be ushered to the Peach Rm. for Bible stories and activities, returning to partake of Communion in the sanctuary, if applicable.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE @ MESSIAH

Messiah Sunday School will be on the **2nd and 4th Sundays of each month**. Teens and Adults will have Sunday School from 9:00 to 9:45. The Children's Dept will meet during the Worship hour (10 to 11) for their lesson.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on wheels needs drivers once a week for roughly an hour. Please contact David Kessler at 717-576-1965.

FALL BACK ONE HOUR

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, **November 5th** at 2 AM. Set your clocks back an hour before going to bed and please replace batteries in your smoke detectors.

PERSONAL CARE KITS

Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human.

When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a person Care kit provide much need self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty.

Sixty-seven personal care kits were delivered to St. Christopher's in Lykens for transport to the New Windsor, MD warehouse. **Thank you to all** who contributed to this Lutheran World Relief project and to the Children' Sunday School who experienced service to others as they bundled and tied the kits for distribution and **Thank you to the gentlemen** who carried the five boxes of packed kits up the stairs and into the car!

THANKS FOR 3:1 BODY WASH, LOTION AND ADULT COLORING BOOKS

Messiah and St. Peter would like to thank everyone who contributed 3-in-1 body wash, lotion, and adult coloring books for the Lebanon Veteran's Administration Medical Center for "God's Work. Our Hands" Day, September 10th. We collected 25 containers of lotion, (30) 3-in-1 bottles of body wash and 30 adult coloring books. All items were delivered to the Lebanon VA hospital and received with gratitude. Thanks again for your continued support!

TEEPEE TROT UPDATE

The third annual Teepee Trot and Kids Giraffe Fun Run held on Saturday October 7th was another

successful event even with the rainy weather! There was a total of 61 registered 5K participants, 48 completing the 3.1-mile course on race day. A total of 26 kids participated in the Kids Giraffe Fun Run and got to feed Bakari and Tucker at the end!

We had many local companies and business that donated to our race, ranging anywhere from race bag goodies to \$300. With the help of these wonderful partners the 2023 Teepee Trot made a profit of \$4,020. Messiah will donate half of the race proceeds, totaling \$2,010, to the Alzheimer's Association in memory of J. R. Tobias. This year we were also able to take advantage of an association donor match program and double our donation!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Teepee Trot Race in one way or another. This event would not have been possible without everyone of you who registered, volunteered, and/or donated money or supplies for race day!

FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS RESULTS

Messiah sold 21 tickets and made a profit of \$105.00 by participating in Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" event held on Wednesday, October 18th. Thanks to all who participated.

SOUPS for FLU

- Soup can help ease flu symptoms by providing hydration, nutrition, and warmth.
- Some soups may have immune-boosting properties, such as those containing garlic, ginger, turmeric, and bone broth.
- Chicken soup is a classic choice, as it contains vitamin C, zinc, and other nutrients that can support your recovery.
- Other soups that may be soothing for flu include hot and sour shrimp soup, garlic spinach soup, and miso soup.
- Avoid soups that are high in sodium, as they can dehydrate you and worsen your symptoms.
- [://www.just-a-taste.com/best-soup-for-cold-and-flu/](http://www.just-a-taste.com/best-soup-for-cold-and-flu/).

PLEASE DONATE:**GLOVES, SCARVES, HATS & SOCKS**

Messiah is asking for your help to decorate a Christmas tree in the basement entirely with gloves, scarves, hats and socks. All items will be donated to a local services organization as a church community outreach project.



Thanks in advance for your support and generosity!

NOVEMBER

WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL

On November 5th, All Saints Sunday, our churches will give thanks to God as we honor all of God's saints: the "great cloud of witnesses" who have gone onto their heavenly reward. The saints are loved ones who still communion with the living, those who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and continue their pilgrimage on earth. During both regularly scheduled services, Bishop James Dunlop will preach and preside at Holy Communion as we remember those who have left this world since last November.



Benjamin Crabb

Kenneth Geyer

Grant Greider

Ray Hoffman

Karen Kahler

Ruth Kolva

Dean Koppenhaver

Mary Koppenhaver

Dale Lower

Harry Matter

Marie Maurer

Lynn Shoop

Ronald (Butch) Smith

Leona Snyder

Carolyn Uber

Ivan Wolfe

Gloria Yeager

PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER

Tuesday, November 7th, 3- 7 PM or until gone.

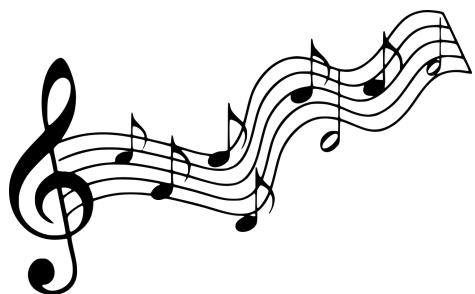
But first: On Monday, November 6th at 6pm



please bring a knife and potato peeler to St. Peter's for a fun time of fellowship and potato peeling, lol.

St. Peter (Fetterhoff's) Annual "Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner" features pork, sauerkraut, REAL mashed potatoes, applesauce, bread & butter, beverage, and dessert priced as follows: Adults – \$12, Children ages 6 to 12 – \$6, Children under 5 eat free. Dinners may be eaten inside where plenty of seating is available or boxed for takeout. Please

vote and don't wait too late to come and get your plate (and belly) full.



HOLIDAY CONCERT NOVEMBER 19th

The musical talents of Brad Crum and Shelby Nestler and the Make Mine Country Band will again be featured in concert at 2 p.m. on **Sunday, November 19** at the Halifax Ambulance Building. The concert includes Christmas music, Country music and an Elvis tribute with refreshments available, too.

Tickets for this event are general admission only and priced: \$12 for ages 13 and up; \$8 for ages 5 through 12; and free for those under 5. Proceeds from this event will benefit Messiah Lutheran Church and its ministry. Please contact Dianna Reed at 717-692-5317 or Judy Shomper at 717-896-8547 for more information and to purchase tickets in advance.

DECEMBER

NEW EXCITING CHANGE

Yes, change can mean not only something new, but something worth looking forward to with excitement! Both church councils and Pastor, along with the church handbell choir and Music Director have decided to try something different this year regarding a Christmas performance and joint Christmas party.

December 10th, on Sunday morning, come enjoy a special handbell music church service. This will be a combined worship service for both congregations, featuring bell choir music in place of hymns, singing, and organ tunes. Bring family, friends, and by all means, please **stay after church/the bell concert** to help celebrate the

season at a joint church Christmas brunch/party w/Santa.

Before the meal, Pastor Brody will offer a brief blessing and dedicate a specially decorated outdoor tree in anticipation of Messiah's 175th anniversary and yearlong celebration (2024).

If you can, please bring a dish to share. A meat entree and place settings will be provided by Ladies Aid and council members from both churches. **The impetus of this change is hope for increased participation.** Later that day, join us at Graceful Acres for the Live Nativity.



LIVE NATIVITY DECEMBER 10TH @ 7 P.M.

No admission charge: everyone's invited.

The 2023 Annual Messiah/St. Peter's Live Nativity will be held at Graceful Acres (193 Ridge Road, Halifax). Live animals will portray themselves while locals portray the Holy Family, wise men, shepherds, and an angelic choir singing familiar Christmas carols. Come and enjoy the spacious accommodations of their new barn, but please note: The barn is not heated, so dress appropriately and sing along to help increase the flow of hot air, lol.



TWO CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT EVENING SERVICES on DEC 24, 2023

*****7pm @ St Peter*****

*****9pm @ Messiah *****

Please make Christmas Eve worship part of YOUR family's holiday tradition.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 – 6:30PM Bell Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah

5– DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Turn your clocks back 1 Hour!

All Saints Sunday w/Holy Communion

Bishop James Dunlop, Presiding Minister

- 8:30AM Worship Service @ St. Peter
 - 10AM Worship Service @ Messiah
- Childcare available during the 10am service
w/ Reception to follow.*

6 – 6PM Potato Peeling @ St. Peter

- 7PM Dart Ball @ Valley's E.C.C.

7 – Election Day-Please Vote

3-7PM Pork and Sauerkraut @ St Peter

8 – 6:30PM Bell Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah

9 – 5PM St. Peter Council Meeting

- 5:45PM Joint Council Meeting
- 6:30PM Messiah Council Meeting

12 –24th Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:30AM Worship Service @ St. Peter
- 9AM Adult Sunday School @ Messiah
- 10AM Worship and Children's Sunday School @ Messiah
- 11AM Youth Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah
- **CANDY ORDERS DUE**

13 – 7PM Dart Ball @ Messiah

15 – 12 NOON Upper Dauphin Cabinet Conference Meeting @ Max's in Millersburg

- 6:30PM Ladies Aid @ Messiah
- 7:30PM Bell Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah

19 –25th Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:30AM Worship Service @ St. Peter
- 10AM Worship Service w/ childcare @ Messiah

- 11AM Adult Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah
- **2:00PM Holiday Concert @ Halifax Ambulance Rescue Squad Building**

20 – 7PM Dart Ball @ St. John's Lutheran

November 28– Until December 8th

- Pastor Brody away from the office

23 – Give Thanks

26 – Christ the King Sunday

Please welcome Pastor Anderson

- 8:30AM Worship Service @ St. Peter
- 9AM Adult Sunday School @ Messiah
- 10AM Worship and Children's Sunday School Service @ Messiah
- 11AM Youth Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah

29 – 6:30PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Please welcome Pastor Anderson

- 8:30 AM Worship @ St. Peter
- 10AM Worship and Children's Sunday School Service @ Messiah
- 11AM Adult Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah

4 – 7PM Dart Ball @ Messiah

6 – 6:30PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

10 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 9AM Adult Sunday School @ Messiah
- 10AM **Bell Choir Concert/Joint Service** followed by Anniversary Tree Dedication and **Christmas Brunch/Party w/Santa**
- 7:00PM **Live Nativity @ Graceful Acres**

11 – 7PM Dart Ball-BYE

16 – CANDY ORDER PICK-UP

17– 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 AM Worship @ St. Peter
- 10AM Worship and Children's Sunday School Service @ Messiah
- 11AM Adult Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah

18 – 7PM Dart Ball @ Messiah

20 – 6:30PM Messiah's Ladies Aid @ Messiah

24 – 4th Sunday of Advent/CHRISTMAS EVE

10AM ONE JOINT SERVICE @ ST. PETER

- DEADLINE FOR JAN/FEB NEWSLETTER
- 7PM CANDLELIGHT @ St Peter
- 9PM CANDLELIGHT @ Messiah

25 – Nativity of Our Lord/CHRISTMAS DAY

MERRY CHRISTMAS

31 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

10AM ONE JOINT SERVICE @ MESSIAH

featuring seasonal carols and hymns

COMING FEBRUARY 2024

“SOUP AND SUCH” RETURNS

In February, the “Soup and Such” menu will feature: Chicken Noodle Soup – \$7/quart, crescent rolls – 4/\$1.50, and pumpkin bars w/cream cheese icing – \$1.50/slice. Orders are due **Sunday, January 21st**. Pick-up is from 4 to 6 P.M. on **Thursday, February 1st** at Messiah.

For more information, please contact Dianna Reed at 717-692-5317. Order forms and upcoming menus will be available at Messiah in January.

CPR/First Aid/AED Training

Messiah's Health Ministry Committee is hosting the American Heart Association's CPR/First Aid/AED training on Saturday, **February 3, 2024**. The class will be held in the church basement from 8:00 am to approximately 1:00 pm. The cost is \$75.00 payable to Denise Yohn, the instructor. Each individual must also pay \$18.00 to Holy Spirit Hospital for the card showing he/she was trained. The total cost to take the class is \$93.00. If you would like to attend the class, please contact Dianna Reed at 717-692-5317

FACEBOOK PAGES: “Messiah Lutheran Church, Halifax, Pa, USA” and “St. Peter – Fetterhoff's Lutheran Church”

CUB SCOUT PACK 156 ANNUAL HOLIDAY WREATH SALE!!!

Add some beauty to this holiday season and support Cub Scout Pack 156!



Traditional Wreath

Approximately 24" in diameter, this traditional wreath is created using Pennsylvania grown Douglas Fir greens and complete with a decorative bow. The classic holiday decoration for your home or business.

(Shown with optional cones & berries – additional \$7)

Bow only - \$30.00

Decorated - \$38.00

Classic Door Charm

Approximately 28" in tall, the popular "Classic Door Charm" is the perfect touch for your favorite holiday entry-way. Crafted with exquisite Pennsylvania grown Douglas Fir greens and complete with a decorative bow, pinecones and berries.

*Only available decorated.

Decorated - \$32.00



NEW! Window Swag with Bow

Approximately 36" in length, the window swag is the perfect touch for your windows or mantel! Crafted with exquisite Pennsylvania grown Douglas Fir greens and complete with a decorative bow.

*Only available with bow

Your cost \$20.00

Seasonal Cross

Nearly 24" in tall, the seasonal cross is a beautiful reminder of the Christmas Season's true meaning. Like all our other seasonal offerings, the seasonal cross features Douglas Fir greens. A perfect way to beautify your home, church or office.

Undecorated - \$30.00

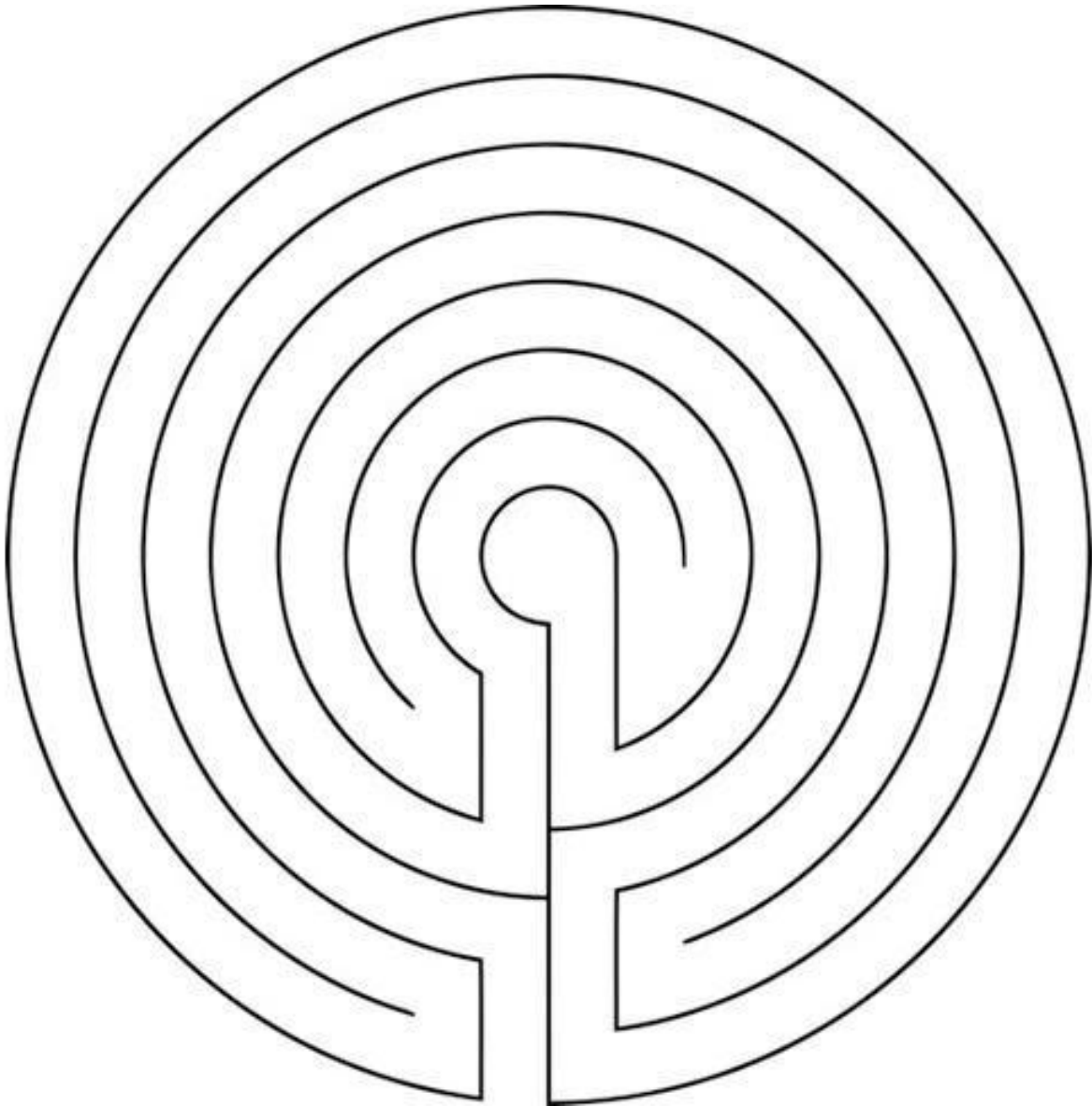
Decorated - \$35.00



**Orders are due Tuesday, November 7th.
Delivery is Friday, November 17th.**

YOU'RE IN LUCK!

Messiah's Ladies Aid has decided to make **Homemade Christmas Candy** once again! Coconut Bonbons, Clusters of Peanut or Toasted Coconut, Milk or Dark Chocolate Peanut Butter Balls, Milk or White Chocolate Pretzel Bark, and Milk or White Chocolate Almond Bark **must be ordered** with Jo Miller or Jennie Farner **by Sunday, November 12th** for **Pick-Up on Saturday, December 16th**. Price per pound ranges from \$9-\$12. Order forms available at the church, too. Talk to Jo or Jennie soon if you're willing to help make candy and/or bundle up orders for pick-up. No prior experience necessary.



Please enjoy the following simple labyrinth. Directions: Before you begin, think of someone or something that's been on your mind. Ask God a question; ask yourself a question; think of what's weighing on your heart. You can also try repeating a line of scripture while moving between the lines. Start to slowly trace the empty space inside the labyrinth shape starting from the outside going toward the center. Use a finger or object that won't leave a mark while meditating or in prayer. Pause at the center. Without breaking contact, return to the starting point. A labyrinth is not a maze, not a Ouija board or magic. It's simply a contemplative

exercise that can calm your brain, invite God's peace and encourage holy dialogue. Hope it works for you, helps you connect inwardly with God and opens your mind up for spiritual conversation. PNB

Messiah & St. Peter Lutheran
Rev. Nancy Brody, Pastor
3 Church Street
Halifax, PA 17032

CHURCH WEBSITE RELOADED WITH NEW CONTENT

*Check out weekly updates and archived materials on **MESSIAH'S WEBSITE:** Halifaxmessiah.church You'll find bulletins with hymn lyrics and articles, descriptions of various programs and ministries, newsletters, recorded services, text versions of sermons, a monthly calendar, and way to give online. Our 10am (and joint church services) are available every week as a livestreamed event via Facebook and available later in the day on YouTube. **YOUTUBE: Halifax Messiah** . We'd love to see you in person, but if that's not possible,*

*please let us know if you watch online. Thanks, and blessings.
Pastor Nancy Brody.*