

"THE WITNESS" NEWSLETTER

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



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

Rev. Nancy Brody, Pastor

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Dear Church Family and Friends,

During every election campaign, there exists a range of both positive and negative emotions: enthusiasm, excitement, and hope on the one hand, skepticism, anxiety, doubt, disappointment, and dread on the other. In my lifetime, I've experienced both the cheers and tears of folks around me after the final counts were tallied, having been registered as both a Republican and Democrat. My parents represented both parties, too.

But this general election campaign has been like none other and not only the candidates and their running mates are to blame. The news media and famous people certainly play their part. And there seems to be more pacs (political action campaigns) these days able to afford lots of advertising and opportunities to say things that

candidates may or may not approve of. The disclaimer quoted is that they are "not responsible for the contents."

There has been an inordinate amount of unkind speech. During the start of both conventions, bright glimmers of hope and positivity quickly grew dim as shadows of mean-spirited talk crept in. Inner conflict, turmoil and generalized anxiety are only some of the negative effects of exposure to all this catastrophizing: dwelling on scenarios describing worst possible outcomes.

Jesus understood that humans have limited capacity for hearing about scenarios that threaten to disrupt their way of life. He told his disciples that he understood their inability to absorb the news of upcoming big changes. He prepared them with only necessary facts without intending to excite, upset, or instill fear. He only had their best interests in mind.

Each candidate's message has triggered people's primitive brain and traveled upon the most basic tracks of the human nervous system. Each has compelled our instincts: Avoid your worst fear. Cling to what makes you feel safe and increases the likelihood of survival. Hold fast to your personal values and preferences because much is at stake. Prepare yourself for not only big changes, but losses should you make the wrong choice/cast your vote or fail to cast your vote.

Every major historical event is a reminder of how God created both us and the earth to experience the constant of change, to learn as we evolve and adapt, to become new as we encounter endings and beginnings, to transform ourselves and our environment, as needed. I have confidence in our system of democracy, in the fabric of our country, in the people who will vote (or have voted) according to their consciences, at the behest of their hearts and minds.

I trust that God will work through not only those who hold office or are in positions of power, but that God will continue to work through ordinary citizens: those who do the best they can day after day, who put in effort to provide for themselves and those they love. Politicians can't be all bad. Even Jesus chose to surround himself with loyal followers for moral support and to further his (albeit heavenly) agenda.

Whatever you do, don't forget the aim of God/Jesus' campaign message and mission: To alter the course of history through the actions of everyday life. The goal being: to provide the means necessary for people to relate to each other lovingly, to make it possible for everyone to feel whole, accepted by God and neighbor.

Jesus was all about facilitating the opportunity to improve a life and deepen important relationships so that everyone/all ages felt cared for. He made a point of suggesting that those who had more should be more responsible for those who could not care for themselves.

My prayer is for everyone to do what they can to make the world a better place, for each to be held accountable for pursuing godly virtues and upholding Christian values, that we will learn to understand and desire to learn from those motivated by different beliefs for the sake of living

in peace and the hope of prosperity for all that God has created.

Whatever the outcome of the next big challenge we face as individuals or a country, we have every reason to hope in God's plan to constantly renew and redeem the world, to make good things come from bad and to fulfill the promise/guarantee that evil won't win.

*Your Loving Pastor,
Pastor Nancy Brody*

PLEASE NOTE

Pastor Brody will be out of the office from **Sunday, November 17th until Sunday, December 1st**. In case of an emergency, please contact her using the church phone (717)-362-4597 and she'll text or return your call asap. Please email her at elsiebbrody@gmail.com with all other concerns or requests.

UPDATED LIST of JOINT SERVICES

***DECEMBER 1^s**

@Messiah w/Bishop Dunlop & Friends

***DECEMBER 15th**

Christmas Bell Choir Concert
Christmas Party Brunch @Messiah

***DECEMBER 29th**

@St Peter



LET US PRAY

Please Note: The names of people who may have previously been in crisis but are now stable have been removed. The names of those in recovery, in long term care, living with chronic/severe/terminal conditions or in acute crisis remain. Please contact Pastor Brody with corrections/amendments.

We Mourn for the Family and Friends of:

Linda Ritter, Tommy Blatt, Bob Motter

We are Grateful to Those Serving in Our Military.

UPCOMING SCRIPTURE

11/03 – All Saints Sunday

1st Reading – Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalmody – Psalm 24

2nd Reading – Revelation 21:1-6a

Gospel – John 11:32-44

11/10 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading – 1 Kings 17:8-16

Psalmody – Psalm 146

2nd Reading – Hebrews 9:24-28

Gospel – Mark 12:38-44

11/17 – 26th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading – Daniel 12:1-3

Psalmody – Psalm 16

2nd Reading – Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25

Gospel – Mark 13:1-8

11/24 – Christ the King Sunday

1st Reading – Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalmody – Psalm 93

2nd Reading – Revelation 1:4b-8

Gospel – John 18:33-37

12/01 – 1st Sunday of Advent

1st Reading – Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalmody – Psalm 25:1-10

2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel – Luke 21:25-36

12/08 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading – Malachi 3:1-4

Psalmody – Luke 1:68-79

2nd Reading – Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel – Luke 3:1-6

12/15 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading – Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalmody – Isaiah 12:2-6

2nd Reading – Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel – Luke 3:7-18

12/22 – 4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading – Micah 5:2-5a

Psalmody – Luke 1:46b-55

2nd Reading – Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel – Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

12/29 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

1st Reading – 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalmody – Psalm 148

2nd Reading – Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel – Luke 2:41-52

COLLECTING GRAVY, CORN AND PEAS FOR CHRISTMAS MEALS

The Upper Dauphin Human Services in Lykens is asking for food donations to fill 130 food bags for the Christmas Express program so local families can enjoy a special Christmas Day dinner.

Messiah and St. Peter will be collecting three items: **15 oz gravy, 15 oz corn and 15 oz peas** as part this collaborative effort with other churches in our area. Donations are due by November 24. A container will be placed at both Messiah and St. Peter for the items. Thank you for your support!

ST. PETER'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On October 13th, St. Peter held its annual congregational meeting during which the congregation approved St. Peter's budget as well as the 2024 joint church budget. Sallianne Bechtel was elected to Council and one more person is needed to replace the two persons going off at the end of this calendar year: President Diane Keister and Nicole Miller (who will continue to serve as Treasurer). The congregation also voted for Bruce Keister's name to be added to the "appreciation plaque".

MESSIAH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On October 27th, Messiah held its annual congregational meeting with 41 voting members in attendance. All proposed budget expenses were approved after some discussion about line items related to replacement of sidewalks, scouting, additional monies for outreach, missionary support and memorial funds. Dawn Pellman agreed to fill the council vacancy once Kyle Hoffman finishes out his second 3-yr term at year's end. And Madison Crum-Burger agreed to serve his second 3-yr term. The names of David Wright and Stephen Blades were unanimously approved to be added to the church's appreciation plaque. Work to replace sidewalks begins 10/28/24.

MESSIAH'S 175th ANNIVERSARY CUSTOM-MADE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

The ornament is designed from solid wood and hand crafted. It says, "Living in God's amazing grace-175th, Messiah Lutheran Church Est. 1849" on the front. The reverse side quotes 1 Corinthians 13:13, "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

The year '175' is cut right through the ¼" light maple wood. Overall dimension: 4.5" diameter with a scalloped edge. If you would like to purchase this unique, one-of-a-kind ornament, please contact Dianna Reed at 717-692-5317. The cost: **\$15.00 each**.

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 2nd reading, boys and girls ages 1 yr. old thru 4th grade will be ushered to the Peach Rm, 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.

FALL BACK ONE HOUR

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, **November 3rd** at 2 AM. Set your clocks back an hour and replace batteries in smoke detectors.

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 Farmer **by Sunday, November 17th for Pick-Up on Saturday, December 17th**. 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.

PERSONAL CARE KITS TOTAL

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 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 travel. Simple items included in a person Care kit provide much need self-care, critical germ fighting, and a chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty.

Thank you to everyone who purchased and delivered towels, soap, toothbrushes, combs and nail clippers to make Lutheran World Relief (LWR) personal care kits. Enough supplies were gathered to assemble 72 complete kits!

Many thanks to Rose Steinhauer for coordinating the project, for the children and youth who helped assemble the kits for delivery and to everyone else who contributed to this goodwill gesture: one simple, tangible way to offer comfort to those who suffer and to express God's love to neighbors in need.

THANKS for DONATING during HARVEST HOME

Messiah and St. Peter would like to thank everyone who contributed food items or made a cash donation for Harvest Home on October 13th. Items were delivered to the Halifax Community Church Food Room, Northern Dauphin Human Services Food Pantry in Elizabethville and Upper Dauphin Human Services Food Bank in Lykens. Thanks again for your continued support!

THANKS for the 3-in-1 BODY WASH, DEODORANT, and ADULT COLORING/PUZZLE/WORD FIND BOOKS

Messiah and St. Peter would like to thank everyone who contributed 3-in-1 body wash, deodorant, and adult coloring/puzzle/word find books for the Lebanon Veteran Administration Medical Center for "God's Work. Our Hands" day, September 8th. We collected (20) 3-in-1 body wash, (25) deodorants, (45) adult coloring and/or puzzle/word find books plus (1) bottle of shampoo. These items were delivered and received with gratitude for your continued support!

FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS @BOSCOV'S RESULTS

Messiah sold 11 tickets for a profit of \$55.00 for the church by participating in Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" event held on Tuesday, October 22nd. Thanks to all who participated!

DECEMBER IS NATIONAL STRESS-FREE HOLIDAY MONTH

Here are some tips to manage your stress levels during National Stress-free Holiday Month

December is National Stress-Free (Family) Holiday Month. As many of you know, the holidays are a joyous but also stressful period of time, ranging from the crowds at the mall to family/friend tensions, hosting responsibilities, and regular day-to-day tasks.

Major Depressive Disorder with a Seasonal Pattern:

Stay hydrated-By ensuring you are drinking enough water, you can help reduce the chance of a flare-up with depression, anxiety, and panic attacks. Drinking enough water in the chilly temperatures of winter can help your skin stay healthy and hydrated.

Find time to exercise-Exercise is a healthy way to maintain both your physical and mental health. Exercising is a great way to help relieve everyday stressors we battle in addition to the stress that the holidays can add. You don't need to hit the gym during the holidays to get your heart rate up, and you could try ice skating, skiing/snowboarding, or hiking (even around the mall). Any form of exercise can release endorphins, which helps lessen the symptoms of depression and anxiety.

Spend time with loved ones-Spending time with your loved ones doesn't mean they have to be your blood family; it could be with your chosen family and friends. Spending time with the special people in your life can help lessen the feeling of loneliness which in all helps improve your mental health.

Grief Over the Holidays:

It's not all sad-Some parts of the holiday will be wonderful, and some moments will be painful. The anticipation of sadness may be stressful, but the holidays can provide an opportunity for

healing. You can still look forward to celebrating with relatives & friends that are present and remember the great memories of past holidays.

It is okay to feel the way you feel-The holidays can be difficult for people for many reasons, but grief is one that most people feel more than others.

When learning to live with the loss of a loved one, remember that everyone grieves differently and that how you feel is completely justified. Grief has no timeline, and while the holidays are overall a joyous time, it can be a stark reminder for a loved one that used to celebrate them with you that it doesn't matter if they passed away in the last year or 10 years ago, you are entitled to your feelings.

Don't feel pressured to uphold family/friend traditions-While they might be a comforting way to remember a loved one, sometimes traditions can be too painful to keep practicing. But you and the people in your life will find new ways to celebrate, and your traditions will adjust with time.

Managing Holiday Expectations:

Make a budget-This tip is pretty self-explanatory, but it's important not to go overboard on gifts & activities. Do your best to stick to a budget, but leave a small amount on the side for wiggle room. The holidays can bring out an extra level of generosity in all of us.

Find the best time for you to shop-Whether that means you shop online, choose an in-store or curbside pick-up, or like to hit the tile floors of the mall, shop however YOU feel comfortable.

Shopping how you want to and in the way that you feel the most comfortable can help lessen the stress of buying presents for the people on your list.

Be kind to yourself-The holidays are a fun, jam-packed time with activities and events to attend, and it's normal when you are so busy to forget about yourself. We want to remind you not to forget about you and be kind to yourself. It's the most wonderful time of the year.

Submitted by Messiah Health Ministry--Article from Compass Health

Please help Messiah decorate the Christmas tree in the basement with gloves, scarves, hats and socks to donate to a local organization after the holidays. Thanks in advance, for your support and generosity!

NOVEMBER

WE GIVE THANKS for ALL the SAINTS

On **All Saints Sunday**, the living honor dearly departed loved ones who've joined the "great cloud of witnesses." We remember each life with a toll of the church bell and gain confidence in their present communion with us. Find comfort among the company of church members, family relations and beloved friends connected to our community.

Erin "Em" Altland

Bruce Beinhaur

Tommy Blatt

Donald Casner

Emma "Rose" Dickinson

Rick Faust

Alice Forney

Ron Hain

Betty Howe

Rick Hummel

Christina Jones

Daryl Kent

Margaret Klinger

Bill Kolva

Larry Koppenhaver

Sean Laudenslager

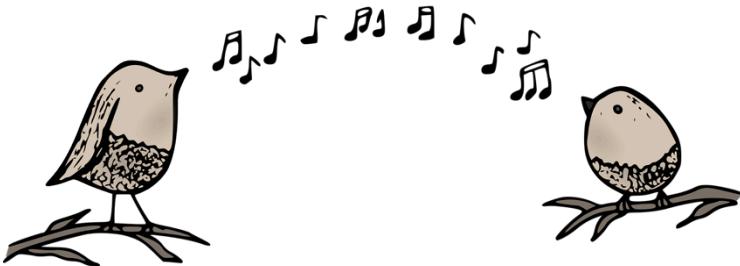
Sean Lesher

MESSIAH COLLECTING GLOVES, SCARVES, HATS & SOCKS

*John Lower
Harry Millard
Bob Motter
Sy Nguyen
Larry Oxendine
Adaline Pellman
Izzy Seiders
Jeremy Shomper
Carol Snyder
Bob Warfel*

PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER

Tuesday, November 5th, 3- 7 PM or until gone.
 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 24th

The musical talents of Brad Crum and the Joyful Ringers Handbell Choir will again be featured in concert at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 24th at the Halifax Ambulance Building. Music will include

Christmas and an Elvis tribute. Refreshments will also be available at the event.

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 years old. Proceeds from this event benefit Messiah Lutheran Church and its ministries.

Please contact Dianna Reed at 692-5317 or Judy Shomper at 896-8547 for more information or to purchase tickets in advance.

**DECEMBER FEATURES:
JOINT WORSHIP SERVICES,
CONCERTS, PLUS MEALS**

MESSIAH'S GRAND FINALE EVENT

The 175th Anniversary Committee invites everyone to their Grand Finale event on Sunday, Dec. 1st starting with a 10 AM joint worship service at Messiah featuring Bishop James Dunlop & Friends (Pastors Brody, Krenz, and Petresky.) At the conclusion of the service, the committee will share a brief recap of the year's special programs followed by a luncheon.

A cover-dish meal will take place in the basement/social hall with Ladies Aid providing ham, chicken, and macaroni & cheese for entrees. Drinks will also be provided. Everyone attending please bring a covered dish to share (if possible). A special anniversary cake will be offered, but additional desserts would be appreciated.

Don't forget to purchase at least one lovely, wood-carved 175th Anniversary commemorative Christmas ornament for your tree as a keepsake. They're on display/for sale in the entry way of the Christian Ed Building for only \$15 a piece.



LIVE NATIVITY - DECEMBER 8TH @ 7PM

The annual Messiah/St. Peter's Live Nativity will be held this year at Graceful Acres (193 Ridge Road, Halifax). Live animals and actors will portray the Holy Family, wise men and shepherds. An angelic choir will sing familiar Christmas carols, so please join in!

Come and enjoy the spacious accommodations of the new barn/arena. (But dress warmly because it'll only be heated by warm bodies.) There's no admission charge; everyone's welcome.

BELL CHOIR PERFORMANCE/WORSHIP SERVICE

December 15th, Sunday morning @ 10AM, come and enjoy a special handbell music church service @Messiah. 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.

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.

TWO CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT EVENING SERVICES on DEC 24,2024

7 PM at St. Peter's and 9 PM at Messiah

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

FEBRUARY

"SOUP AND SUCH" COMING BACK IN FEBRUARY

In February, "Soup and Such" has a menu which includes Chicken Noodle Soup – \$7/quart, crescent rolls – 4/\$1.50, and pumpkin bars w/cream cheese icing – \$1.50/slice. Orders are due by Sunday, January 19 and pick-up is from 4 to 6 P.M. on Thursday, February 6 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.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3- DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

- Turn your clocks back 1 Hour!

All Saints Sunday w/Holy Communion

- 8:30AM Worship Service @ St. Peter
- 10AM Worship Service @ Messiah
Childcare available during the 10am
- 11:00AM Adult Choir @ Messiah

4 – 6PM Potato Peeling @ St. Peter

- 7 PM Dart Ball @ Messiah

5- Election Day-Please Vote

- 3-7 PM Pork and Sauerkraut @ St Peter

7 – 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah

10 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:30 AM Worship Service @ St. Peter

- 9 AM Adult Sunday School @ Messiah
- 10 AM Worship and Children's Sunday School @ Messiah
- 11 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah

11 – 7PM Dart Ball-BYE**12 – 11 AM Upper Dauphin Cabinet Conference****Meeting @ Max's in Millersburg****14 – 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah**

PASTOR AWAY Sunday, November 17th until Sunday, December 1st

17 – 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Please welcome Pastor Anderson

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

18 – 7PM Dart Ball @ Faith United Methodist**21 – 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah****24 – 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 @ Messiah
- 11AM Youth Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah
- **2:00PM Holiday Concert @ Halifax Ambulance Rescue Squad Building**

25 – 7PM Dart Ball @ Lykens United Methodist**28 – THANKSGIVING DAY****DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS****1 – 1st Sunday of Advent**

10:00 AM @Messiah w/Bishop Dunlop & Friends

5 – 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal**8 – 2nd Sunday of Advent**

- 8:30 AM Worship @ St. Peter
- 10 AM Worship and Children's Sunday School @ Messiah
- 9 AM Adult Sunday School @ Messiah
- 7:00 PM **Live Nativity @ Graceful Acres**

9 – 7 PM Dart Ball @ Messiah**12 – 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah****15 – 3rd Sunday of Advent**

- 10AM Bell Choir Concert/Joint Service and Christmas Brunch/Party w/Santa

16 – 7PM Dart Ball @ St John's Lutheran**18 – 6:30 PM Messiah's Ladies Aid @ Messiah****22 – 4th Sunday of Advent**

- 8:30 AM Worship @ St. Peter
- 10AM Worship and @ Messiah
- 11AM Adult Choir Rehearsal @ Messiah
- DEADLINE FOR JAN/FEB NEWSLETTER

24 – 7PM CANDLELIGHT @ St Peter

9PM CANDLELIGHT @ Messiah

**25 – Nativity of Our Lord/CHRISTMAS DAY**
MERRY CHRISTMAS**29 – 1st Sunday of Christmas****10 AM ONE JOINT SERVICE @ St. Peter**

featuring seasonal carols and hymns

CHECK OUT THE CHURCH WEBSITE

For weekly updates and archived materials, see **MESSIAH'S WEBSITE**: Halifaxmessiah.church. You'll find bulletins, descriptions of various programs and ministries, newsletters, recorded services, text versions of sermons, a monthly calendar, sign-up sheets, 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.

FACEBOOK PAGES: "Messiah Lutheran Church, Halifax, PA" and "St. Peter – Fetterhoff's Lutheran Church"

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

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 Churches
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