

The Cent-I-Gram

Centennial Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kimberton, PA 19442

January, 2026

Vol. 29 No. 1



*Sunday Morning Worship
9:30 AM*

Worship services are live-streamed and recorded for those who are not comfortable or able to attend in-person worship.

Speed Puzzle Competition

January 14, 2026

Registration 6:30 PM

Competition starts 7:00 PM

The **Cent-I-Gram** is published by Centennial: *A Church for the Entire Community*
We are chosen, blessed and sent to share the Gospel of Christ,
for the healing of our world.

1330 Hares Hill Road, PO Box 840, Kimberton PA 19442

Sunday Worship 9:30 A.M. 610-933-1528

Ian T. Clements, Pastor

e-mail: Info@CentennialLutheran.Org webpage at: <http://www.centenniallutheran.org>



Centennial Lutheran

Phone: 610-933-1528 - www.centenniallutheran.org

January 2026

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 9:30 exercise 6:30-8:30 Cub Scouts 7:30 AA	2	3
4 9:30 Worship	5 7 PM AA	6 9:30 exercise 1:30 Bible Study 7 PM AA	7	8 9:30 exercise 6:30-8:30 Cub Scouts 7:30 AA	9	10
11 9:30 Worship	12 7 PM AA	13 9:30 exercise 1:30 Bible Study 7 PM AA Council 7pm	14	15 9:30 exercise 6:30-8:30 Cub Scouts 7:30 AA	16	17
18 9:30 Worship	19 7 PM AA	20 9:30 exercise 1:30 Bible Study 7 PM AA	21	22 9:30 exercise 7:30 AA	23	24 Parish Pot Luck & Trivia
25 9:30 Worship	26 7 PM AA	27 9:30 exercise 1:30 Bible Study 7 PM AA	28	29 9:30 exercise 7:30 AA	30	31

Pastoral Parcel

Centegram January 2026

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

-Isaiah 60:1, NRSVue

I am blessed, people of Centennial, very blessed to begin the New Year of 2026 with you as your Pastor.

When I started here last March, several of my friends and colleagues jokingly pointed out I was being called right before the most Holy and contemplative season of Lent and Easter. In effect, it was as if being called to join a wrestling organization day one right after basic training and being told I will be responsible for the pay per view main event.

I don't use that wrestling metaphor lightly. There are many roles within this church that I continue to wrestle with including our missions, outreach, and general ministry. Not to mention wrestling with my personal resolutions for 2026 including my physical, mental and spiritual health. I wrestle with how to approach and achieve each of these goals.

January just seems like a month meant for wrestling, right?

It reminds me of Jacob wrestling with God in Genesis 32:24-31.

Imagine being Jacob wrestling with so many challenges at once. Jacob is returning to Canaan after difficult years working for a man named Laban and now must figure out a way to avoid conflict with his powerful brother Esau who most likely bears a grudge towards Jacob for past trickeries. Alone, confused, and stressed, on the eve before he meets his brother and a force of four hundred, Jacob is suddenly challenged to wrestle by a strange man in Genesis 32:24. The stranger wrestles with Jacob, neither side giving ground until the stranger is forced to resort to knocking out Jacob's hip(32:25)!

²⁶...[The Stranger] said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed."²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved."³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

I get some comfort from this little match.

Despite all the unknowns of the future, Jacob didn't sit still. Jacob chose to wrestle, struggling the whole night despite an injured hip. He wrestles with God, just as we wrestle with God in prayer, and finds the way forward. He had the strength to continue and make resolutions for his life and for the future.

Making a New Year's resolution is like entering a wrestling match. Wrestling with our health choices. Wrestling our relationships with friends, family, work, our causes, and our church.

Wrestling with the onslaught of reality, news and media from the little gremlin of a phone we keep in our pockets that daily inspire sorrow, terror, and sometimes delight.

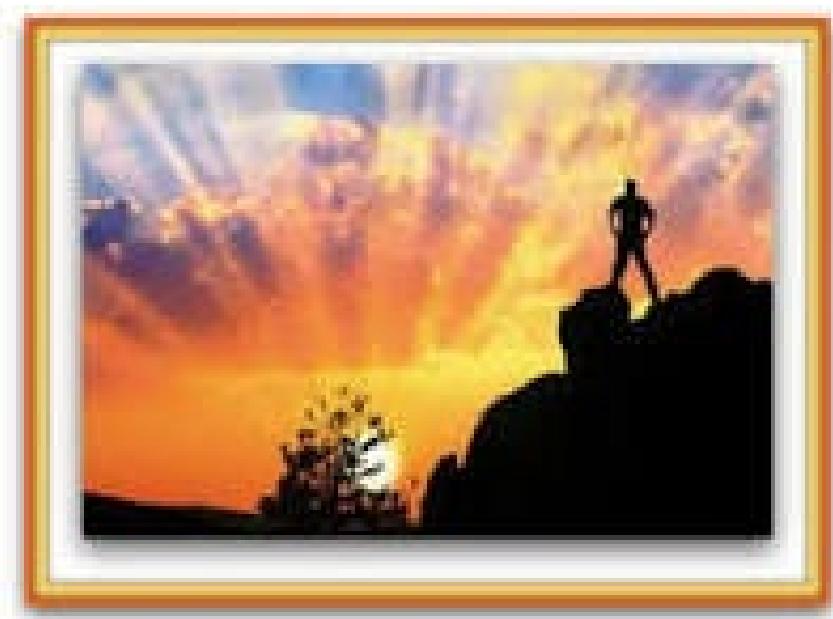
Sometimes we even wrestle with God. Parishioner, pastor, or unchurched alike, we all wrestle with God's place in our lives. We wrestle with the words of a prayer, or wrestle with how the world could be this way. We don't know where to go next, and because of that we wrestle with the Trinity, God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

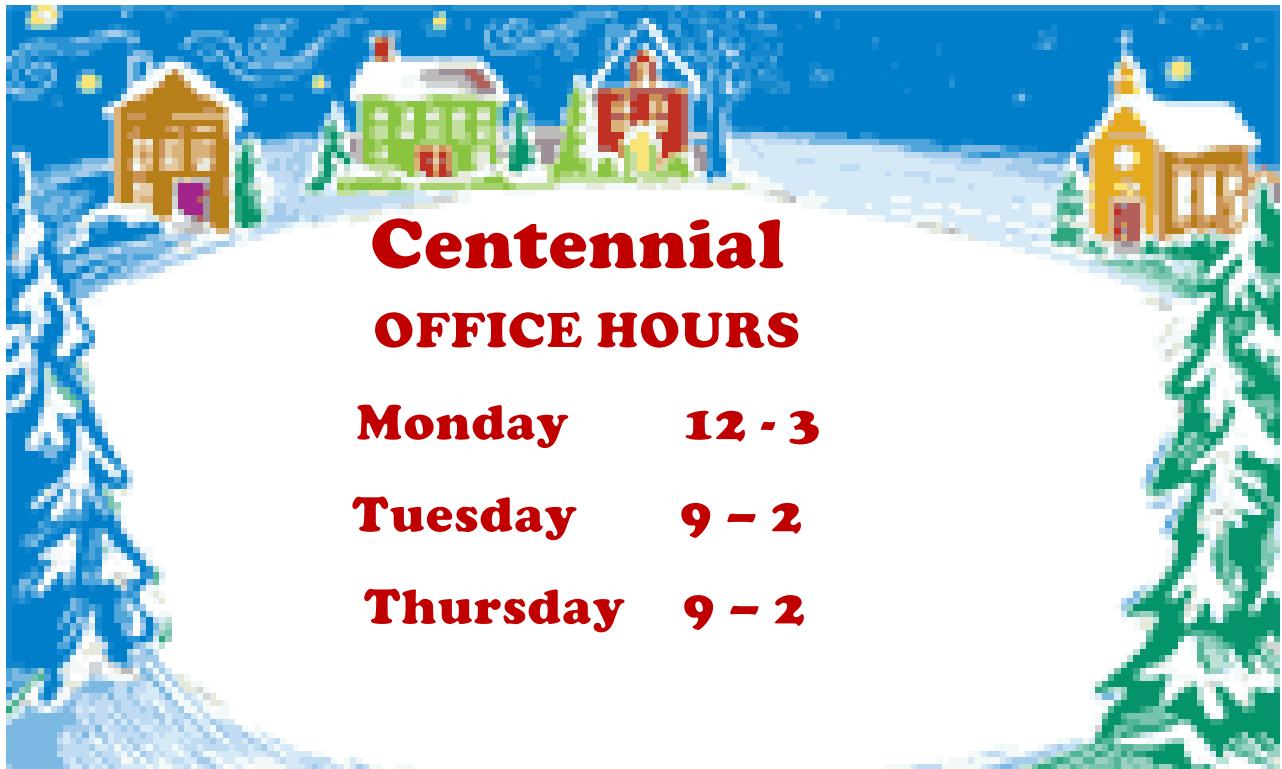
But that is never a bad thing!

When we wrestle with God it means we become prayerfully proactive in our lives. That means powering ourselves up with a willingness to face the future with the love and strength we draw from Jesus. We do not have the answers to what will happen this year, what will happen to our resolutions, or what the 150th anniversary of this church will be in 2026. Yet, we know that if we wrestle, and continue to wrestle, we will continue to see an emboldened daybreak just as Jacob saw! We can say, as in Isaiah, arise and shine, for our light has come, and that Glory of God will drive myself and all of you to do great things.

Let's use this year to wrestle with the many challenges and joys ahead, confident always in the inevitable daybreak.

Amen





JANUARY

- 5 Pastor Ian Clements
- 6 Bill Donovan
- 8 Sue Wambold
- 22 Bridget Gross
- 28 Randy Ferree



Isaiah 43:18-19 - “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SCHEDULE December

4	Larry Shumaker
11	Kathy Geiger
18	Sam Kuhl
25	Christine Holmes

Prayer List

To request prayer, first ***request permission from the individual in need of prayer*** (as requested by our Synod). Then you may send an email to prayers@centenniallutheran.org or call Jerene Gladfelter at 610-933-3542 or the church office at 610-933-1528. Please list the individual's name and a BRIEF description of the situation (i.e. chemo, dementia, auto accident, comfort and peace, etc.) along with the name of the requester and association (brother, co-worker, friend, etc.). Please also advise us when a prayer request is no longer valid. Printed prayer lists are issued at the beginning of each month as a bulletin insert. Please update us by the 25th of each month to ensure that your request is listed.

In addition, there is an email list of individuals desiring to be on the Prayer Chain to receive immediate prayer requests other than those listed monthly. If you wish to be included on this email list, please contact Jerene (610-933-3542) or the church office (610-933-1528) with your email address or telephone number.

Live Stream Worship Services

We have been live streaming the worship service on Centennial's Face Book page. This is available for you if you are not feeling well, or the weather is inclement or if you are traveling. You are still able to worship with us – in real time. Feel free to set aside bread, crackers, wine or grape juice to join with us at the time of Holy Communion. The service can be found on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/CentennialELC>

Pastoral Care

If anyone wants to have pastoral conversation with Pastor Ian you can do so by calling the office at 610-933-1528 or by emailing his at pastorianclements@gmail.com.

Conversation may take place in-person, on the phone, or via zoom chat depending on what works best for you.

St. John's Lutheran Church
Phoenixville, PA
2025-2026 Concert Series

dB

Stacy Arnold, Classical Guitarist

February 15, 2026, 4 PM

"A variety of guitar music, stylistically pleasing in every way."
www.stacyarnoldguitar.com

‡

Pine Forge Academy Choir

March 1, 2026, 4 PM

The choir is noted for its full, rich, and powerful harmonious quality as heard through its spirituals, gospels, anthems, and classical repertoire.
www.pineforgeacademy.org

‡

Providence Chamber Orchestra

April 19, 2026, 4 PM

Two sides of the Pond, America's 250th
Warlock & Vaughan Williams; Billings, Copland & Hanson

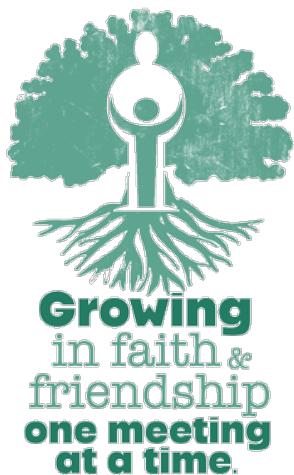
‡

St. John's Choir & Friends

May 3, 2026, 7 PM

Psalms and Songs

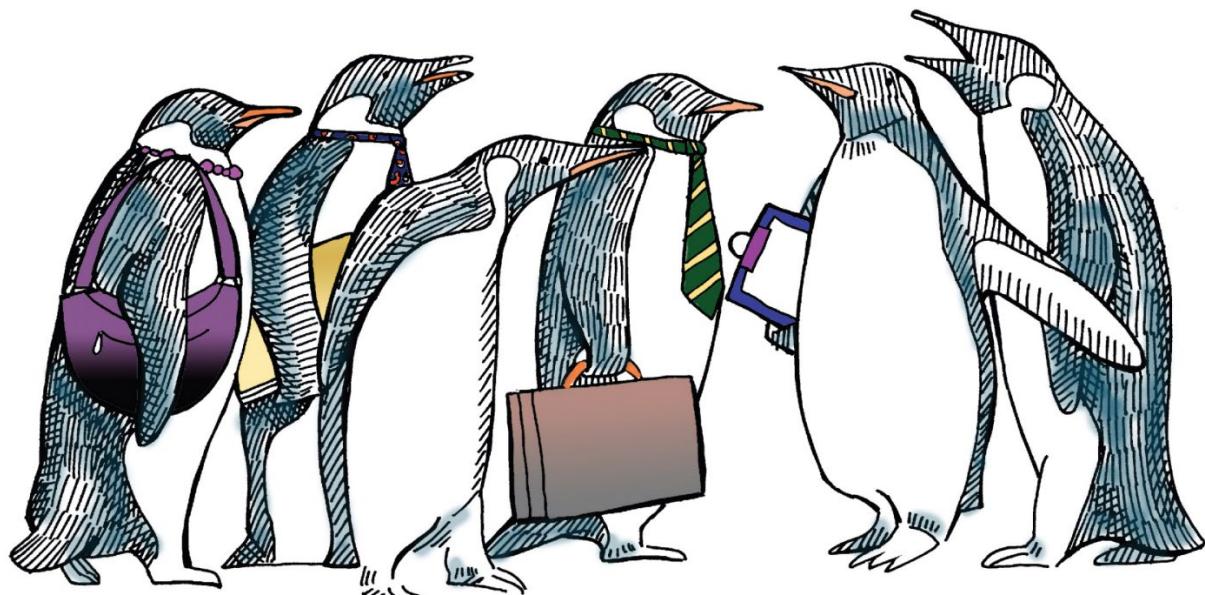
Thirty-third annual concert with singers from the community accompanied by the WCU Brass Ensemble & Organ
Rehearsals 7-9 pm, 3/22, 3/29, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26 – Singers welcome, no audition required



**Bible Study
Every Tuesday at 1:30 at
Centennial**

All are welcome!

**Tune into Facebook or email
for possible cancellations**



Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

Annual congregational Meeting is scheduled for
Sunday, February 15, 2026

MUHLENBERG PARISH EVENT

Hello!

Zion Youth Group is hosting an outing to the Reading Royals on March 14th – below you'll find the link to grab tickets! We have a ticket block, so we'll all be seated together in Section 110, but you'll be able to pick what Row you'd prefer.

Other Parish Churches: could you share this information with your congregations? Thanks!

[Zion Lutheran Church of Spring City](#) < link for Royals tix.

Thanks so much, hope to see you at the rink!

Erin Galamba – Office Manager

Zion Lutheran Church of Spring City

39 Bonnie Brae Rd * Spring City, PA 19475

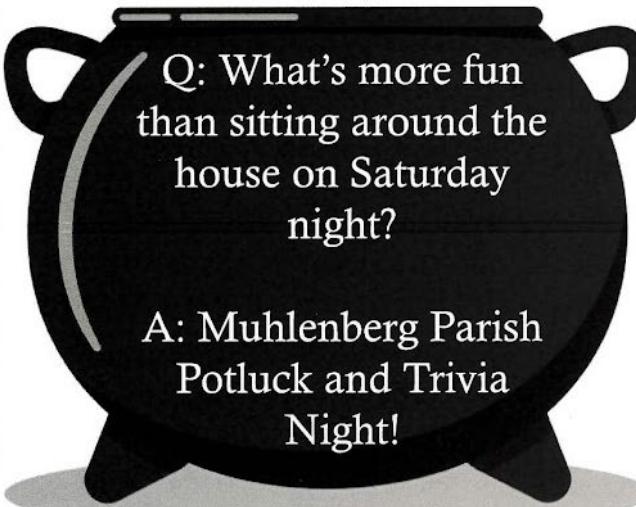
Phone: 610-948-3323

Pastoral Emergency/On-Call Pastor: 610-813-2040

Email: church@zionofspringcity.org

Website: www.zionofspringcity.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/zionofspringcity/



Q: What's more fun than sitting around the house on Saturday night?

A: Muhlenberg Parish Potluck and Trivia Night!

Potluck and Trivia Night

Saturday, January 24th, 6 pm
St. John's Lutheran Church, Phoenixville

Potluck dinner followed by rounds of team trivia

- ✗ Main dish and soft drinks provided
- ✗ Bring a salad, side or dessert to share
- ✗ BYOB

Please RSVP to Sue Starling at rofostarling@gmail.com. Please include # of adults/children attending, and if you'll bring a side, salad or dessert.

Kids activities will be offered.



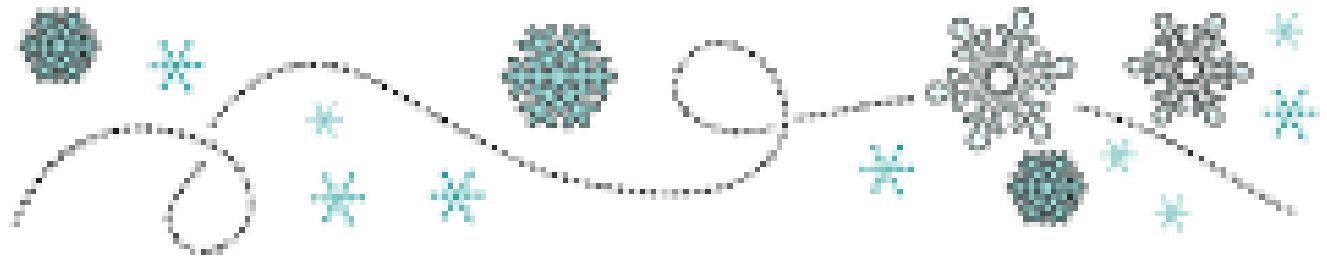
Please know your generosity during the holiday season is appreciated and acknowledged!

Note from Meals on Wheels:

Dear Nancy and John, Thank you and please thank your members for the kind and generous food donations that we will use for our snow emergency meals this year.

You went out of your way to spread the word, gather the huge amount of donations and deliver them to us. We appreciate all you did!

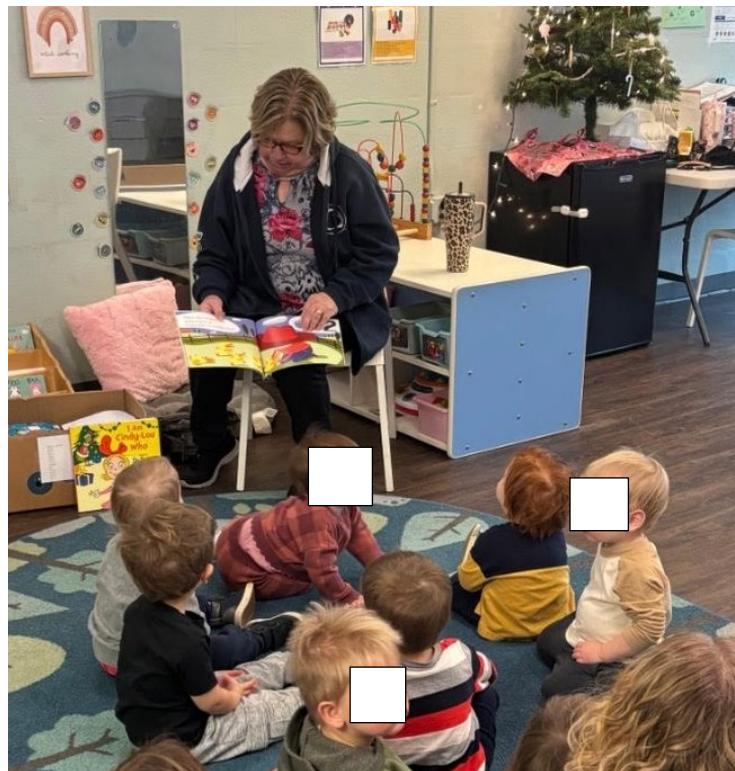
Fondly, the MOW staff



A note from a parent at the Phoenixville Area Child Care Center

Thank you very much for the books for my son. He attends PACLC and received 3 books today. He absolutely loves them! He even wanted to bring one into the bath with him tonight. Hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

Anna, Nick & Julian (13 months)





Dear Centennial Lutheran Church,

Dave and I want to thank you so very much for your kind and generous gift from the congregation. We are so grateful for your continued prayers and support of our work in Philadelphia. Warmly,
Dave and Katie



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

237 Bridge Street
Phoenixville, PA 19460
Phone: 610.415.1140
Fax: 610.415.1142
www.orioncommunities.org

December 19, 2025

Centennial Evangelical Lutheran Church
Reverend Ian Clements
PO Box 840
Kimberton, PA 19442-0840

Dear Rev. Clements,

Thank you for your recent donation to Orion Communities. Your support and commitment to our mission of helping those in need enables us to continue to provide essential resources to those who are vulnerable and have nowhere else to turn. We can't do it without you!

Orion not only addresses an immediate crisis, but we also help individuals develop the understanding, alternatives, and resources so that everyone can thrive. We offer case management services to build a broader plan toward long-term well-being. We provide children books, after school programs, and a summer camp and we also have targeted seminars for adults who want to develop themselves. With your support, we help close to 2,000 households each year.

We are so grateful for your gift of bedding, coats, gloves, and sweaters received on December 10, 2025.
It ensures that we will be able to continue to provide critical resources that empower individuals and families to move towards increased self-reliance and a brighter future. Thank you for believing in Orion and partnering with us in this important work.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margarita Queralt Mirkil".

Margarita Queralt Mirkil
Executive Director

"Neighbor is not a geographic term. It is a moral concept. It means our collective responsibility for the preservation of a person's dignity and integrity."
-Rabbi Joachim Prinz March on Washington, DC 1963

Orion Communities, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. Official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



What if your family's next meal depended on the kindness of strangers?

A young mom came into our market and said, "I hope you can help me." Her SNAP benefits had suddenly stopped. When she visited a pantry in a neighboring community, she was turned away because of her address. Out of options and worried about how she would feed her family, she came to us—hoping, but not sure, that we could help.

Our Market Manager immediately welcomed her into our market, and showed her all the fresh food, prepared meals, and other items that were available. She was also set up with a monthly food appointment, which supplies families with two weeks' worth of groceries, diapers, pet food, and essential items.

Relief washed over her face as she realized she wouldn't have to go home empty-handed.

Historic Demand

Over the past few weeks, many new guests affected by reduced or lost SNAP benefits, have come to PACS for help. On Monday, November 10, 2025, we had a record number of shoppers – 328! – visit the market. Food requests have gone up about 43% compared to this time last year.

Your Gift Brings Relief to Our Neighbors in Need

Give today and help a family breathe a little easier. Your kindness fills empty cupboards, provides diapers for little ones, and brings comfort to neighbors who are doing everything they can to get by. The need won't fade when the holidays pass—families will still be turning to us in the new year, hoping for a little help.

If you've recently given, please know
your generosity means the world to us.

If you prefer to mail a gift:

Please make checks payable to:

PACS

& Note "Fall Appeal 2025" in the memo.

Address: 101 Buchanan Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460



101 Buchanan Street • Phoenixville, PA 19460 • Phone: 610-933-1105
Email: info@pacspbx.org • Web Page: www.pacspbx.org

PACS aspires to be the lead resource for food insecurity in the community.

November 24, 2025

Centennial Evangelical Lutheran Church
PO Box 840
1330 Hares Hill Rd
Kimberton, PA 19442-0840

Dear Centennial Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Everyone who works at PACS, whether staff, board members, or volunteers, sincerely thanks you for your November 5, 2025 contribution of \$620.00. Most importantly, we thank you on behalf of our neighbors who we are able to help through your generosity.

Since COVID-19 life has dramatically changed. Cost of living is rising and more people continue to need our services. While it is discouraging to know so many people in the Phoenixville area are struggling to meet life's basic needs and worry how they are going to put food on their tables, your charitableness helps ensure that PACS will be here for them. Our dedication to not only help them through their crisis, but also assist them in getting back on their feet is stronger than ever!

Your neighbors in need - and all of us at PACS - deeply appreciate your support which enables us to continue our mission of helping those facing food insecurity within our community. By reaching out to help, you truly are making a real difference in their lives.

Thank you for supporting our mission and sharing our commitment to positively affect our community, providing hope and building a brighter future for those in need. As the saying goes, sometimes we're tested not to show our weaknesses but to discover our strengths. We are incredibly grateful to be part of the Phoenixville community.

With Gratitude,


Mary Fuller
President

*We are so grateful for the generosity
your congregation shares with us! You
are truly helping us feed many of our neighbors!*

PACS declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that there were no goods or services provided as part of this donation. Furthermore, as of the date of this receipt the above-mentioned organization is a current and valid 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in accordance with the standards and regulations of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The official registration and financial information of Phoenixville Area Community Services may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

A United Way Partner Agency



Centennial Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Church Council Meeting
 November 25, 2025

In Person: Harry Gladfelter, Makinzie Ackroyd, Karen Winning, Rick Henricks, Randy Ferree, John Miller, Pastor Clements

Via Zoom: Christine Holmes, Dennis Ray, Fred Stoudt

Excused: Sam Kuhl

Harry called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Pastor opened with a scripture reading from Isaiah 2:1-5 and prayer.

The minutes for the council meeting of October 28, 2025 were approved.

Pastor's Report:

- Attended the Bishop's convocation in Malvern. The bishop may have ideas for training lay people. (For example: Steven's Ministry, etc.)
- Officiated at Jessica Mahan's wedding
- Mid-week Lenten services: The first one will most likely be held indoors. The plan is to have the others outdoors with a fire pit for roasting s'mores.
- Pastor has been in touch with Barbara Murphy at the technical high school. She and the high school students, as interns, would be able to help us upgrade our website. They can help us with outreach and demographic research. They will work at the school. They may be able to start in January. Pastor Ian will send them information about our church. If they intern over 120 hours we will have to pay them.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

- Christine researched food handler training and is planning to become certified.
- The Episcopalian woman who wants to use one of our empty classrooms is planning to visit the first week in December to see the room.
- Church Council is looking for new members. Dave Winning has agreed to serve on council, giving us a total of ten. The constitution says we can have twelve. We have four members who must go off of council next year. The constitution does not permit them to serve another consecutive term.
- The Schuylkill Quakers have reached out to us and are offering us a good amount of information about our church. Centennial began as a Quaker religious organization. What is our shared history? We are planning to form a group here to work on this, possibly adding some Quaker members in the future. This will be a historical project. Barbara Ray will be involved. October 4th is when Centennial was named. Next year we will commemorate Centennial's 150th anniversary.
- Harry, Pastor Ian, and Kathy are still planning to meet with Verizon on a possible phone system upgrade. Date to be determined.
- Pastor Ian gave an update on our audio/video situation. What we need now is a foundational set-up which can be upgraded in the future as needed. We need a view of the entire front of the church. The Panasonic G7 is the top of the line. It can stream with very high quality. We do not need to zoom-in yet. The camera would be kept in one place, the shelf at the rear of the church. The control to turn the system on and off could be located outside of the sanctuary. The pastor could train four individuals in how to use it. Funds for an upgraded system have already been built into the budget.

TEAM REPORTS:

Finance: Rick reports income exceeded expenses for the year. Expenses tend to be even. Investments are doing well. If anyone has budget items for the coming year, please submit the information to Rick **before December 18**. If you have questions/input, contact Rick.

Property:

- Fred reports he measured three cracked windows for repair.
- The outdoor Nativity will be up and lit before the first Sunday in Advent.
- The refrigerator in the kitchen had been freezing things. Denis had a repair man in who adjusted the temperature valve and controller. The temperature should be between 36-38 degrees. The temperature will be monitored.
- There was an outdoor clean-up on Saturday (weeding, pruning, window wells) An air conditioner was removed in order to facilitate window repairs. Air conditioner will be returned to it's original location.

Music and Worship:

- John , Karen Hepler, and Pastor Ian met to discuss the 4:00 Christmas Eve service. Ajibola Rivers, the cello player, will be with us again. Jess and Ava will have solos.
- The last Sunday of the year, December 28, we will have a five-person brass ensemble.
- The new green altar paraments have been ordered and are expected to arrive in January.

Evangelism/Faith Development:

- April 25, 2026 is being held for an outdoor Flea Market. This is still in the planning phase. We would need help. Possibly check with the Brandywine Roller Derby? They could be the “people power” of the event. Vendors would bring their own tables.

Missions: Food insecurity continues to be an issue in our surrounding community. Keep pressing to support PACS, Meals on Wheels, etc.

Congregational Life/Hospitality:

- 5th Sunday Combined Services
December 29 – Zion

Palm Sunday is a fifth Sunday, but each church will have a service at their own respective church that day.

- January 15, 2026 - Congregational meeting Christine will check with Larry and Pat about lunch arrangements.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM with the Lord's Prayer.

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Winning

MINISTRY LEADERS

Church Council Members

Harry Gladfelter (President)	hgladfelter@aol.com
Christine Holmes (Vice President)	holmc63@yahoo.com
Fred Stoudt (Corp. Secretary)	fstoudt@yahoo.com
Randy Ferree (Recording Secretary)	psurandy74@gmail.com
Rick Henricks	rickclu@icloud.com
Makinzie Ackroyd	Makinzieackroyd@gmail.com
John Miller	jr_nsmiller@verizon.net
Dennis Ray	drayhome@comcast.net
Sam Kuhl	samuelkuhl@gmail.com
Karen Winning	kwinning11@aol.com

Team Leaders

Property Team Leader: Fred Stoudt fstoudt@yahoo.com

Finance Team Leader: Rick Henricks rickclu@icloud.com

Endowment Fund: Rick Henricks rickclu@icloud.com

Bookkeeping (receipts and monthly statements):

Denise Ackroyd dyack@hotmail.com

Bookkeeping (expenditures and checkbook):

Patt Shumaker 610-296-8761

Worship Team Leader: John Miller jr_nsmiller@verizon.net

Director of Music Ministry:

Karen Hepler karenhepler@comcast.net

Altar Guild Leader: Nancy Miller jr_nsmiller@verizon.net

Social Ministry/Global Missions Leaders:

Beth Wise bswise1212@msn.com

Patt Shumaker 610-296-8761

Nancy Miller jr_nsmiller@verizon.net

Hospitality Team Leader:

Karen Winning kwinning11@aol.com

Prayer Chain Coordinator: prayers@centenniallutheran.org

Jerene Gladfelter

Pastor

Ian T. Clements pastorianclements@gmail.com