

**September  
2025**

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## Pastor's Thoughts...

*Grace and peace to you, people of Palm!*

What a summer! So many in our congregation were able to enjoy time away and fun in the summer sun. In the midst of that, we had an extraordinary clothing drive, great success collecting for ministries we support, and a wonderful gathering for VBS. This has been a fun, rejuvenating summer, and now we look forward to a great program year ahead.

This year, a big goal for Palm will be welcoming in new members. We usually receive new members on All Saints (the first Sunday in November), and again on Easter. Last year, we had a good group for Easter, so let's keep the momentum going! Let's invite lots of new folks to come and enjoy the banquet of God's grace, and the fun community that we are, with us. Let's see how many we can welcome to the parish in November. See you on the journey there!

*Grace and peace,  
Pr. Carl*

# Palm Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

## August 12, 2025 Palm Conference Room

Members present : Dexter Daubert, Pastor Carl Rabbe (phone), Keith Kuhlengel, Vivian Rexrode, Kim Gillespie, Phyllis Thornton, Mike Bratton, Bonnie Housel, and Debbie Ricker. Absent: Elaine Bender, Ron Conard and Barry Felt.

- I. Call to order- Dexter called meeting to order at 7:00 pm
- II. Devotions - Pastor Carl provided a prayer for the evening devotions.
- III. Adoptions of Agenda - All in favor
- IV. Approval of July minutes - All in favor
- V. Announcements - Clothing Drive preparations are underway. It is a lot of work, but we will continue as it seems to be very well received by the community and most of us enjoy the event.
- VI. **Treasurer's Report** - Mike reported that giving has been light as a typical summer. Mortgage account has been good for July as there was good interest received from our Fulton account. Still feeling good about our finances. At Finance meeting Steve Ricker made all aware that the church does have an Endowment Fund which could possibly be used to help aid operating expenses. Mike explained that there is a concern for the high cost of our telephone service. There is a request for possibly someone in our congregation who has knowledge or experience with shopping for a new provider. Please contact our office if anyone is interested.
- VII. **Pastor's Report** - Pastor Carl has requested vacation for October 8-11, October 22-25. Wednesday thru Saturday since pulpit supply for vacation have been difficult. By doing this, Pastor makes it easier for us as he will be here on Sundays. Other request for time off in 2026 will be January 1-5 for Continuing Education and will need a supply pastor. All requests were approved. Pastor also reported there were two deaths during the month of July. We lost Janet Swartzbaugh and Dick Kern. In reviewing our surveys it was a request for absentee ballots for homebound members to participate in voting. Pastor indicated that we would need to change the constitution to allow that and we will vote on that item at our next annual meeting. He will announce that on Sunday. Other items were discussed that were brought up in our member surveys and we found that the requests have already been discussed and some have been remedied.
- VII. **Committee Reports - Property** committee is currently waiting for a second bid on the relocation of the painting. The first bid received was rather high. Funk and Sons have placed scaffolding at window where leak occurred but as of this meeting there has been no rain, so no solutions found as of yet. Bells to be relocated from Yewdall home to Ricker home as of 9/16/2025. The out of service hand soap dispensers are being replaced thanks to Kathy Myer through her employer MSC. Our woodworkers from the congregation are currently working on replacing bases for our Funeral signage. Lawn service that has been paid for by Chris Drupp for many years, will discontinue in the Fall of 2025. A thank you card will be sent to the Drupp family to show our appreciation. **Social Ministry** - Phyllis reports that we hope to work with First United Methodist for Flood Buckets and Rise to Hunger projects. In order to help fund the Rise to Hunger project, we will be placing Blessing Cups to have loose change donated to meet this need. Phyllis and Maureen Bratton will be doing a Temple Talk soon to explain this to the congregation.

**Personnel and Salary** - the committee is working on a 5 year plan to catch up with the Pastor's salary. Much discussion and some solutions to reaching a gradual correction. Deadline for budget coming up and of course there is concern with bill for insurance to surely be higher due to our water crisis this past year and catching up with the pastor's salary. A request from Fatima concerning sick time and rollover resulted in a motion to approve her sick time to rollover to next year with a maximum of 90 hours. If she leaves we are not financially compensable. Keith made the motion to approve. Bonnie seconded it. All in favor. Bonnie then suggested that we all know as council members where we stand with the finances/budget when it is settled.

IX. Motion to adjourn - Keith made motion to adjourn. Phyllis seconded. All in favor. Everyone stood for Lord's Prayer.

*Respectfully submitted, Debbie Ricker*

**Next meeting September 9th @7:00**

## **Music Notes From Holly**

Somewhere along life's way, I was asked to write my philosophy of music. Unbeknownst to me, at least at that time, I had one. I just did not consider it a philosophy. It seemed more like a collection of opinions. I dutifully attempted to write one, but mostly remember it as an assignment that received an average grade relative to the volume of effort I gave it. The instructor apparently agreed that my philosophy had not yet tightly coalesced from my collection of opinions, lol. A lifetime of many and varying musical experiences, and seminary which requires lots of thinking about lots of things theologically, would perhaps now produce a more coherent result. Or maybe not.

Instead, I'll just share what I've come to embrace regarding church music. For me the communal voice is the primary, most profound, and utterly beautiful voice of worship. All the other voices absolutely have their place and are of enormous value. We wouldn't invest time, talent, and treasure in them if that was not true! But the primary voice was, is, and always will be the collective you, and the songs you raise to the glory of God in repentance, praise, lament, thanksgiving, remembrance, and reflection are a powerful testament to the Gospel and a thing of beauty to behold. Psalms, hymns, liturgies - the whole thing. And that's coming from the person who spends most of her time listening to you while sitting back-to-back of you!!

Rally Day reminds us that it's time to re-gather for Sunday School, music, and youth activities. These ministries have taken on different form during the summer months (Music in the Park, VBS, clothing drive, a spontaneous funeral luncheon), but now it's time to rally and gather. "... hold us together, make us your own, all people together ..." (ELW #532 Gather Us In). If you've been away, welcome back. We've missed your song.

See you in church, **Holly**

## **Book Study**

On September 8 we resume with 'X is for Oxen', Luke 14: 15-24. We then have two more chapters to finish the book 'A is for Alabaster' We will then need a new book to read. Open to suggestions. See Linda Williams if you have a book to recommend or if you want to browse through my bag of possible reads. Our Monday discussions are great. Looking forward to diving into a new book (after we finish X, Oxen, Y, Yeast and Z, Zacheus). Point of contact, **Linda Williams**.



# Stephen Ministries

## Transitioning from Summer to Fall

As September ushers in the fall season, it's a time for reflection and growth. The transition from summer to fall can bring both peace and challenge. Most families experience changing routines including school and college and perhaps spending less time outdoors. This season of harvest reminds us of the potential for personal and spiritual growth. Below are meditations that can help guide us toward emotional healing, spiritual resilience, and deepened connection to our faith.

### 1. Embracing Change

This change of season is a perfect reminder that change is inevitable, but it is also a natural part of life. Fall invites us to reflect on the rhythm of life. There are times to grow, times to rest, times to grieve, and times to celebrate. Emotional and spiritual growth comes when we embrace these changes with open hearts, knowing that each season, while different, is part of a larger plan.

Meditation: Consider journaling about the transitions you're experiencing right now. What is changing in your life? How can you welcome this change as part of your personal growth journey?

### 2. Cultivating Gratitude

As the harvest (fall) season begins, it's a time to reflect on God's provision in our lives. We often focus on what's missing or what's challenging, but true emotional growth comes from recognizing the abundance around us. Whether it's the beauty of nature, relationships, or the small moments of peace, these are all signs of goodness in our lives. Gratitude shifts our focus from scarcity to abundance and helps us in the present moment.

Meditation: Take a moment each day this month to reflect on three things you're grateful for. Let this gratitude ground you in emotional resilience and joy.

### 3. Trusting God's Provision

Just as farmers trust the earth to bring forth a harvest, we are called to trust that God will provide for our emotional and spiritual needs. The season of fall reminds us that, while the future may feel uncertain, God equips us with the emotional and spiritual resources necessary for each new phase in life.

Meditation: Reflect on areas where you feel emotionally drained. How can you trust God to renew and supply the strength you need in these areas? Rest in the assurance that God will equip you for every season.

### 4. Nurturing Community and Connection

While autumn often draws us indoors, it is also a time to strengthen bonds with family, friends, and faith communities. Authentic connection is essential for emotional healing and spiritual support. Sharing experiences, offering encouragement, or simply being present with one another can uplift the spirit and encourage us during seasons of change. Through intentional acts of kindness and active listening, we create a nurturing environment where everyone can flourish.

## 5. Finding Peace Amidst Anxiety

As the fall season begins, many of us may be facing new challenges, whether in work, relationships, or personal struggles. The stress and pressure of change can trigger anxiety, but the process of spiritual growth invites us to bring those concerns to God. When we let go of control and trust that peace is available, we open ourselves to calm.

Meditation: When anxiety or worry arises, try pausing to reflect, breathe, and release your concerns. Allow peace to fill your heart, even in the face of uncertainty.

## 6. Choosing Peace

As the seasons change, so do our emotional landscapes. Peace is not just a feeling but a choice, one that requires intentional effort, especially when life feels chaotic. Peace isn't the absence of trouble but the presence of a deeper calm that transcends our understanding.

Meditation: Reflect on what disrupts your peace the most. What can you surrender to God to experience more of His peace? Try visualizing God's peace filling every part of your heart, allowing it to take over any anxiety or worry.

**September marks the beginning of a season of harvest, both in nature and in our hearts. As we reflect on these meditations, we are reminded that God is always at work within us, cultivating emotional and spiritual growth. Whether you're facing new transitions or looking for peace amidst chaos, take this time to center yourself in God's love and trust His process for your life.**

Ann Miller (717)507-4807, Sandy Geib (717)964-1823, Kitty Wolf (717)383-6355, Kristie Cavallaro (717)576-1595, or Suzy Fox (717)813-1844.

Our Stephen Ministers are available and can offer a listening ear and caring Christian support.

*Kitty Wolf*

## Social Ministries

### Flood Buckets

**For September**, we will be collecting scrub brushes, with or without handles. As a reminder, you can still bring dish washing detergent and laundry detergent if you missed it in June and July. We still need 5-gallon buckets with lids. They can be used with Logo's on the outside. The insides need to be clean. Please see bulletin board for items we will continue to collect for Hygiene Kits. The people around the U.S. and locally will certainly appreciate all your contributions. Thank You!

### Rise for Hunger Project

Also, during the month of September, Palm Lutheran will be teaming up with Palmyra First United Methodist Church for a Rise for Hunger project taking place on November 8, 2025. This is to help feed babies to adults in Third World countries where there is starvation. In order to contribute, please take a Blessing Cup to put your loose change in or if you go out to dinner, place that amount in a Blessing Cup. These folks need this nourishment in order to survive and become more independent. Thank you for all your support. Palmyra First United Methodist is also having a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to help raise funds for this project to take place on September 20 at their church. Please see Phyllis Moyer for tickets and with any question you may have.

***Social Ministry would like to thank everyone*** who volunteered to make the clothing drive successful again this year! Every year it gets better, and word gets around with people who place posters in and around surrounding areas. The team that sorted and folded clothes and spent long days on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Then came on Monday to take the excess to the needy and Dress for Success. Thank you to the behind-the-scenes people as well- Elaine Bender and Debbie Ricker for all their communications to make this happen, Bonnie Housel and her team to purchase and prepare food, the Palmyra Football team for unloading the trailer that Dexter Daubert supplied, plus the Property committee. We thank each and everyone of you!!! You are so appreciated!

## **Members of Palm**

Palm's church council provides a great opportunity to share your gifts and to serve through God's grace. We are currently seeking members that would like to be placed on the ballot as a council candidate for the November 2025 Congregational Meeting. In 2026 there will be an opening for at least 4 candidates. Our Constitution (C12.01) requires between 9 and 15 members to serve on church council. If you're interested in learning more about being a council member, or would like to be considered for nomination, please speak with the following Council Nomination Committee members before or after church or contact them at the following:

Matt Blanchard - [mdblanchard@comcast.net](mailto:mdblanchard@comcast.net) or (717) 832-0548

Ben Ricker - (717) 838-8175

Kim Allen - [kimjallen17028@gmail.com](mailto:kimjallen17028@gmail.com) or (717) 469-9645

Laurie Miller - [lamiller44@comcast.net](mailto:lamiller44@comcast.net) or (717) 344-6012

## **Rally Day**

Will be held Sunday September 7 at 9:00 am. Everyone is invited to join us in the multipurpose room to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. There will be breakfast snacks, games, crafts and a chance to see all the educational opportunities and other activities and groups at Palm. Games and activities will be based on stories from the lectionary of the fall curriculum. Bible stories include the lost sheep, the Saducee's question, the mustard seed, Zacchaeus and ten men healed. Collect a prize by visiting all the display tables! Hope to see you at Rally Day and throughout the year each Sunday at 9:00 am for Sunday School, where there are classes for every age. Also, join us for intergenerational programs the first Sunday of each month.

**Sunday School will meet each Sunday morning at 9:00 am  
before worship service.**

**Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Kathy Meyer, teacher, meets in the classroom in the secondary corridor.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade-5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Linda Williams, teacher, meets in the classroom located in the secondary corridor. They are also using the Spark lectionary series.



**Confirmation Class:** Craig Meyer and Pastor Carl, teachers, meets in the Confirmation Classroom off the secondary corridor, using the Faith Inkubators curriculum. This class includes grades 6-8 and anyone wishing to familiarize themselves with the fundamentals of the Lutheran Faith, based on Luther's Small Catechism.

**High School:** Michael Williams, youth director, is the teacher, meets in the Youth Room, located at the end of the main hallway.

**Palm's Parents of Little Lutherans:** Dexter and Rachel Daubert, discussion leaders. This group discussion class will meet in the room adjacent to the PreK room along the main corridor.

**Adult Group:** Scott Thomas leads this discussion, which meets in the conference room, located off the main corridor leading from the gathering area. This is a video based discussion group, centering on the day's lectionary.



Lutheran Community for Middle Schoolers

FRIENDS + GAMES + WORSHIP

FAITH CONVERSATION + CAMPFIRE

**'Better Together'**

The Holy Spirit gathers and places us in authentic community, where we find strength and joy with fellow Christians. We are connected to Christ and to one another and as such can help in building up others.



**Camp Nawakwa + September 26-28, 2025**

## Lay Assistants, Ushers and Greeters for September Services

If you are unable to participate on a given day, please contact Sue Nale at snale@verizon.net or (717) 884-5239 to make arrangements. Only contact the office when you know the replacement, so that the bulletin can be updated. All changes and questions go through the Director of Volunteer Ministries.

### Please Pick Up A Copy In The Narthex

<b>Lay Assistant</b>	<b>September 7 10:00 AM</b>	<b>September 14 10:00 AM</b>	<b>September 21 10:00 AM</b>	<b>September 28 10:00 AM</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Phyllis Moyer	Elizabeth Wentling	Rachel Daubert	Evvie Kohl
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Steve Kahl Patty Van Scyoc	Norah Kisekka Ben Ricker	Dexter Daubert Steve Kahl	Keith Kuhlengel Patty Van Scyoc
<b>Acolyte</b>	Phyllis Moyer	Elizabeth Wentling	Rachel Daubert	Evvie Kohl
<b>Torch Bearers</b>	Steve Kahl Patty Van Scyoc	Steve Kahl Ben Ricker	Dexter Daubert Steve Kahl	Keith Kuhlengel Patty Van Scyoc
<b>Lector</b>	Kitty Wolf	Ben Ricker	Linda Williams	Kevin Loy
<b>Greeters</b>	Elaine Tompson Kitty Wolf	Ron Conard Cora Lou Richards	Laurie Miller Tim Miller	Ellen Schnebel Jim Schnebel
<b>Ushers</b>	Rodney Ditzler Chris Kohr Steve Ricker Tom Gillispie	Rodney Ditzler Chris Kohr Steve Ricker Tom Gillispie	Rodney Ditzler Chris Kohr Steve Ricker Tom Gillispie	Rodney Ditzler Chris Kohr Steve Ricker Tom Gillispie
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Allison Felt Dorothy Felt	Phyllis Moyer Vivian Rexrode	Sue Kotzatoski Deb Ricker	Joyce Brander Elizabeth Wentling
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Craig Meyer	Pastor Carl	Michael Williams	Kathy Meyer
<b>A/V Ministry</b>	Scott Thomas	Scott Thomas	Scott Thomas	Scott Thomas



## New Deadline For Bulletin Announcements

The deadline for submitting announcements for the Sunday Bulletin will be end of day on Tuesday.

### Large Print Sunday Bulletins

If you need a large print bulletin for Sunday services, please contact Fatima Nelson, our Church Administrator via email (parish.secretary@palmchurch.org) or call the office (717-838-3311) the Wednesday before you plan to attend. This will ensure that a large print bulletin will be there for you. We are using this approach in order to make sure the large bulletin is available to those that need it and also reduce waste of our resources.



# Londonderry Village

**Communion Services are held the Fourth Tuesday of the Month.**

**All services begin at 10:00 am in the Home's Chapel. Volunteers are always needed to transport our members who attend the service.**

*“..if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday”*

*[Isaiah 58:10]*

### **FREE**

Medical Care to ALL low income Lebanon County Adults. Absolutely NO COST to YOU!  
Sore Throat, Asthma, Flu, Bronchitis, Urinary Tract Infection and other Minor Illnesses  
Call (717) 272-2252 Monday thru Friday 9AM to 4PM To schedule an appointment  
Lebanon Valley Volunteers in Medicine 711 S. 8th Street, Lebanon.

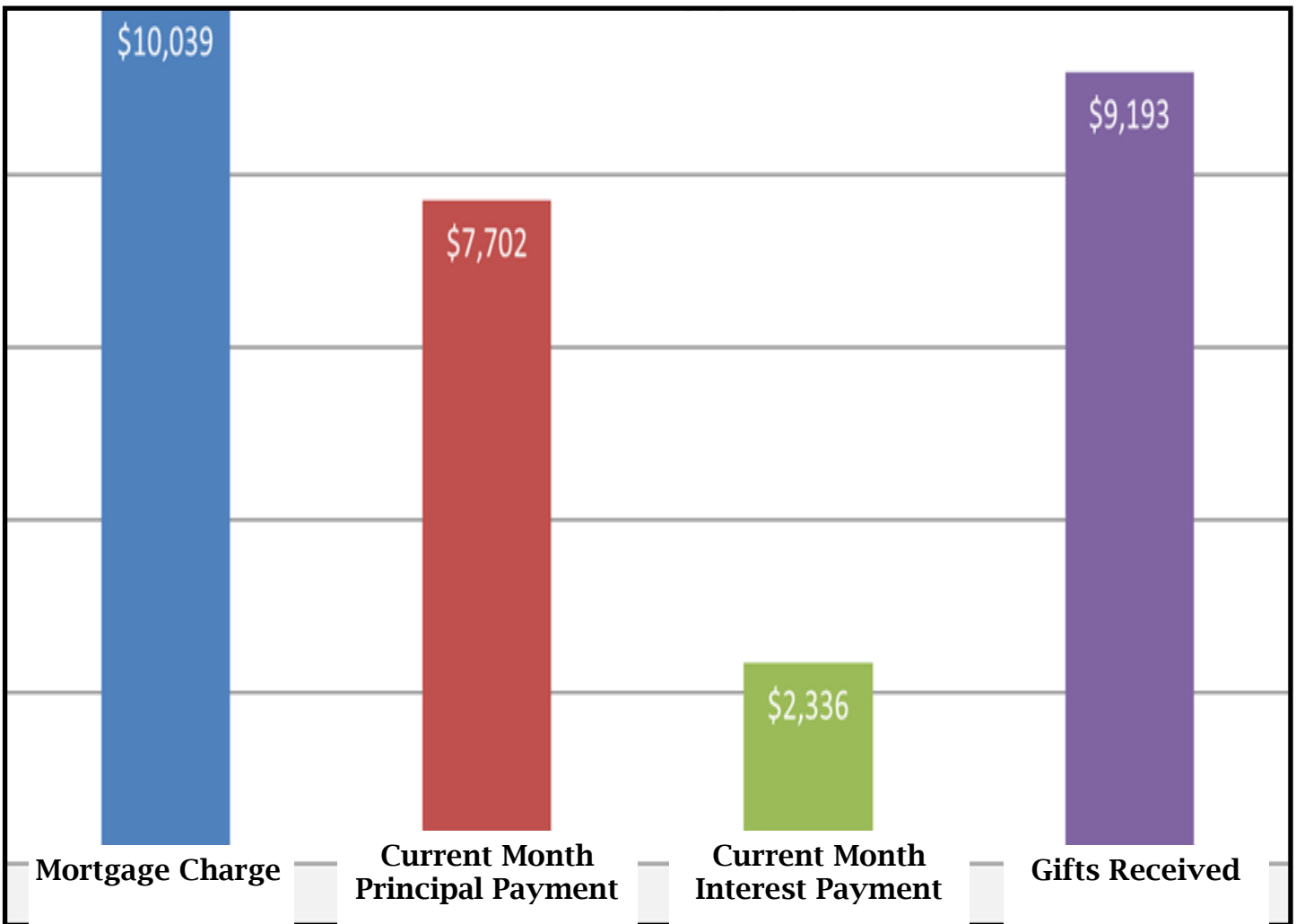
# Building into God's Future

## Mortgage Loan Update July 31, 2025

Beginning Mortgage Principal	\$1,720,000
Mortgage Principle	\$ 854,966
Gifts Received less Mortgage Payment	\$ - 846

### Designated Offering for September 2025

#### ELCA World Hunger Relief



Alcoholics Anonymous	717-279-4989	Poison Control Center	800-222-1222
Al-Anon	717-270-4974	LutherCare	717-626-1171
American Red Cross	717-273-2671	Narcotics Anonymous	717-277-7500
Caring Cupboard	717-838-9493	Suicide Prevention	800-273-8255
Child Abuse Hotline	800-932-0313	Crisis Intervention	717-274-3363
Domestic Violence Hotline	717-273-7190		



## September

## September

**September 1**  
Lillian Fox

**September 2**  
Laura Davis

**September 4**  
Kirsten Hurley  
Dennis Shreffler

**September 6**  
Christine Harmon

**September 9**  
Olivia Bleiler  
Brooks Williams

**September 10**  
Tracen Brown

**September 11**  
Dorothy Felt

**September 12**  
Christopher Huffman

**September 13**  
Harlan Cornick  
Anna Tilberg

**September 15**  
Norah Kisekka-Lwanga  
Phyllis Moyer  
Eileen Westley-

**September 16**  
Sue Kotzatoski

**September 18**  
Madelyn Tilley

**September 19**  
Wayne Fox

**September 22**  
William Huffman  
Ivan Kisekka  
Elisha Tilley

**September 23**  
Ailyn Harmon

**September 24**  
Kathryn Birch  
Dan Galvan  
Jake Nicely  
Kitty Wolf

**September 28**  
Gunther Gillespie  
David Thompson

**September 31**  
Laurie Miller

**September 1**  
Danielle & Daryl Daubert 9 yrs

**September 5**  
Harry & Karen Fox 55 yrs

**September 6**  
Frederick & Anna Tilberg 56 yrs

**September 13**  
David & Joyce Brander 50 yrs

**September 16**  
Carl & Yvonne Erb 64 yrs

**September 17**  
Robert & Kimberly Nicely 31 yrs

**September 18**  
Craig & Kathy Meyer 43 yrs

**September 20**  
Kenneth & Mary Lehman 66 yrs

**September 27**  
Matthew & Deborah Blanchard 28 yrs  
BJ & Stacey LaPine 12 yrs

**Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday or an anniversary during the month of September. If your name is missing, kindly contact the church office via email and we will update our records. Thank you!**

**September 2025  
Upcoming Meetings/Events**

<b>SEPTEMBER 1, LABOR DAY- CHURCH CLOSED</b>	
<b>Social Ministries</b>	<b>September 2, 10:00-11:00 am Parlor</b>
<b>Property Committee</b>	<b>September 2, 7:00-8:00 pm CR</b>
<b>Yoko Tokuda Recital</b>	<b>September 5, 6:30-7:30 pm Sanctuary</b>
<b>Rally Day</b>	<b>September 7, 9:00 am MPR</b>
<b>Book Club</b>	<b>September 8, 10:30-11:30 am GA</b>
<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>September 9, 7:00-8:30 pm CR</b>
<b>Memory Care Group</b>	<b>September 14, 10:00-11:30 Parlor</b>
<b>Book Club</b>	<b>September 15, 10:30-11:30 am GA</b>
<b>Parish Visitor Committee</b>	<b>September 16, 10:00 am GA</b>
<b>Noon Meal</b>	<b>September 18, 12:00 pm MPR</b>
<b>Katherine Merryman &amp; Elena Millar Concert</b>	<b>September 20, 6:00-8:00 pm Sanctuary</b>
<b>Londonderry Service</b>	<b>September 23, 10:00 -11:00 am</b>
<b>Book Club</b>	<b>September 29, 10:30-11:30 am GA</b>

**Lift classes are Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 10:00 am in the MPR**

# **Palm** Lutheran Church



## **Palm Lutheran Church**

11 West Cherry Street, Palmyra, Pennsylvania 17078

717.838.3311

[www.palmlutheran.org](http://www.palmlutheran.org)

**Office Hours:** Monday -Thursday, 8:30 AM. to 2:30 PM

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Pastor Carl Rabbe</b> 507-841-1329 <a href="mailto:pastorcarl@palmlutheran.org">pastorcarl@palmlutheran.org</a>
<b>Congregation Council President</b>	<b>Dexter Daubert</b> 717-383-0365 <a href="mailto:dexnred@gmail.com">dexnred@gmail.com</a>
<b>Director of Youth Ministry</b>	<b>Michael Williams</b> 717-265-6492 <a href="mailto:youth.director@palmlutheran.org">youth.director@palmlutheran.org</a>
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Holly Gainor</b> 717-579-9375 <a href="mailto:palmlutheranmusic@gmail.com">palmlutheranmusic@gmail.com</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	<b>Fatima Nelson</b> 717-838-3311 <a href="mailto:parish.secretary@palmlutheran.org">parish.secretary@palmlutheran.org</a>
<b>Director of Volunteer Ministries</b>	<b>Sue Nale</b> 717-884-5239 <a href="mailto:sanale@verizon.net">sanale@verizon.net</a>
<b>Sexton</b>	<b>Lauren Conard</b>

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