

Mt. Hebron Lutheran Church

November 2025

A note from the Pastor's desk:

White, green, green, white, blue. Sorry, I was just reminding myself what color the paraments need to be for each Sunday in November. For the altar guild, this time of year can seem a little confusing! That's because one church year is coming to a close, and another one is starting. There are also several holidays thrown into the mix (Reformation, All Saints, and Christ the King Sundays). In general, you might say this is the time of year for both endings and beginnings.

On All Saints' Sunday (November 2nd), we remember our loved ones who have died, whose earthly sojourns have come to a close. The gospel reading on November 9th also deals with the themes of death and resurrection. Death seems like a very definite ending for us. But for them, it is the beginning of their time in God's perpetual care – at rest until that day when the trumpet shall sound, the Lord shall return, and we shall all be changed.

On November 16th – our final “green” Sunday for a while – Jesus speaks in dire tones about the coming destruction of the Temple, wars and insurrections, great earthquakes, famines and plagues, dreadful portents, and signs from heaven. Such signs would seem to indicate that the end of the world is drawing near. But perhaps we should say the end of the world *as we know it*, and the beginning of our Lord's return, along with the complete fulfillment of God's plan for all creation.

On November 23rd, we will celebrate Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday of the church year. But paradoxically, our gospel reading paints a picture of Jesus hanging on the cross – not an image one would typically expect for a king. For his followers, the crucifixion of Jesus seemed like the end of his ministry. What more could it have been? They would all just have to return to their old lives. Little did they know that it was but the beginning of something completely new. For the kingdom where Jesus would reign is not an earthly one, but rather in our hearts. After his resurrection and ascension, his disciples would go forth to extend that kingdom into all the world.

On November 30th, we will mark the first Sunday of the new church year, and the first Sunday of the season of Advent. The Israelites had been waiting for the Messiah for so long. At the birth of Jesus, their time of waiting was ended. God's visit to earth in human form had begun. We too wait for our Lord to once again come to earth and make all things right.

One theme that is common to all of these Sundays is the need for *hope*. When we see our loved ones die... when we see the innocent being killed... when we see natural disasters, and violence, and death and destruction everywhere we look... we must have hope that things will not stay this way. We must hope that when our Lord returns, the dead will be raised, every tear will be wiped from our eyes, and justice will prevail throughout the earth.

While we wait for these things to happen, we work to usher in the Kingdom of God, in our own little corner of the earth. And we pray, “Thy kingdom come.” And we lift up our heads, for “the world is about to turn” (ELW 723).

-Pastor Christopher

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Sunday, November 2nd is All Saints' Sunday. During worship, we will remember our loved ones who have died by lighting candles, saying special prayers, and reading their names.

If you would like the names of your loved ones read aloud during the service, please call, text, or email the pastor by Sunday morning. Or, you can fill out one of the forms in the narthex before worship, and hand it to the pastor.

HURRICANE MELISSA

On Tuesday, October 28th, the island of Jamaica was devastated as Hurricane Melissa came ashore with 175 mph winds. Other countries like Haiti and Cuba were also greatly affected by this storm.

Cleanup and recovery efforts will take years. If you would like to make a donation to assist with these efforts, one option is through Lutheran World Relief. You can visit:

lwr.org/donate-emergency

There, you will find an option to donate to the recovery efforts for Hurricane Melissa.

SEPTEMBER FINANCES

In September, the church had contributions to the General Fund totalling \$7,550, ~\$1,300 less than General Fund expenditures for the month.

The Maintenance Fund paid \$650 for maintenance work on the fellowship hall, and the other funds had little or no change.

Through September, the church's budgeted amount was \$105,426.00, and the church had expenses of ~\$101,000 – about \$4,400 under budget. This does not include Memorial Fund expenditures.

Overall, the General Fund stands at about \$24,445 behind for the year through September.

Join us for our Fall Festival on **Saturday, November 8th from 4–6pm!**

Catechism class will meet **November 2nd and 16th at 9:00am in the music room.**

Church council will meet **Sunday, November 9th at 8:30am.**

Lutheran Men in Mission will meet **Sunday, November 16th at 8:30am.**

LMM will host a 5th-**Sunday breakfast** on **Sunday, November 30th at 9:30am.** All are welcome!

WELCA will not meet in the month of November.

WOMEN'S SUNDAY

Join us for a special **Women's Sunday** planned by **WELCA on Sunday, November 16th!**

This inspiring service will be led entirely by women, featuring scripture readings, reflections, and special music shared by the women of our congregation.

Together, we'll celebrate the many gifts and voices of women in our church as we worship and give thanks.

All are welcome to be part of this meaningful time of fellowship and faith.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Lutheran Men are hosting their annual **Thanksgiving dinner** here at the church on **Sunday, November 23rd at 6:00.**

The congregation is asked to bring side dishes, desserts, and drinks.

Afterwards, we will assemble the Chrismon tree in the sanctuary. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend! Everyone is invited to enjoy a wonderful evening filled with food, fun, and fellowship!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



This month we're excited to spotlight one of our amazing youth, Ahylar Derrick, who has been part of Mt. Hebron his whole life — 13 years and counting! Ahylar attends with his twin brother Atley, his sister Windsor, and parents Evan and Kristen.

Ahylar serves faithfully as an acolyte and torchbearer, helping lead our worship services each week. His favorite part of the service is communion, because he enjoys moving around, and says it feels like a “special time with God.” Ahylar is also going through his second year of catechism!

When asked about favorite memories, Ahylar remembered the slip ‘n slide at Vacation Bible School this summer, which was a highlight for many of our young people. He also laughs about the time he poured slime on Mr. Benji — a moment that still brings a smile to many faces!

Outside of church, you'll most likely find Ahylar deer hunting, playing baseball, or hanging out with friends. He's an 8th-grader at Batesburg-Leesville Middle School, where his favorite subject (unsurprisingly) is PE.

Something interesting you may not know about Ahylar: he's a little bit ambidextrous! He writes with his right hand, but shoots left-handed. His mom, Kristen, jokes, “We think he was supposed to be left-handed, and it got all mixed up along the way!”

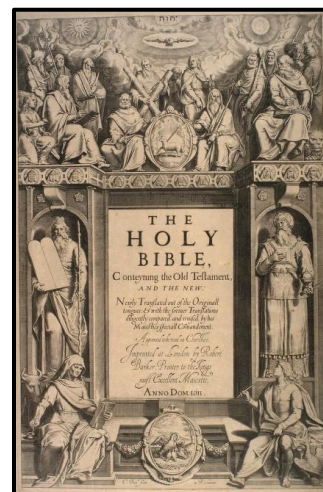
We're so grateful for Ahylar's joyful spirit and the energy he brings to Mt. Hebron!

CHURCH HISTORY FROM A TO Z

K is for King Jr., Martin Luther. 20th-century civil rights activist, Baptist minister, martyr. King was born January 15th, 1929, the son and grandson of Baptist ministers. After college and grad school, he served Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. In 1959, he was called to Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, to serve with his father. He led the civil rights movement until his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4th, 1968. His faith is what led him to work for equality for African-Americans, and justice for the oppressed.

K is for King James Version, an English translation of the Bible first published in 1611. This translation was authorized by King James I for the Church of England. It included all 66 books of the Bible, plus 14 books from the Apocrypha. Since its publication, the KJV has become one of the most widely read and printed books in all of history — and it is still widely used today. Some people claim that the KJV is superior to all other translations. However, this is a tough case to make, due to the discovery of thousands of manuscripts in the last 400 years, along with advances in the translation of Greek and Hebrew.

K is for Kingdom of God, a phrase used by Jesus in the New Testament. Throughout history, Christians have tried to forge governments and nations where God alone is worshipped, only God's laws are observed, and followers of other religions are excluded. (Other religions have also done likewise.) Such efforts are misguided, since God's kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36). The parables of Jesus paint quite a different picture of the kingdom (see Matthew 13, for example — the “Parable Discourse”). Ultimately, the Kingdom of God is wherever God's love, compassion, justice, and forgiveness are made known to all.



Title page of the 1611 King James Version Bible

Memory Verse of the Month

Let's memorize scripture together!
Take time this month to memorize
the following verse:

*"Giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for
everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,"*

-Ephesians 5:20

JOKE OF THE MONTH

What kind of car does Jesus drive?

A Christ-ler! 🚗

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for the residents of Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti, and all
those who have suffered loss at the hands of
Hurricane Melissa. Pray for recovery efforts.

Pray for Marilyn Bedenbaugh and Robert Sawicki as
they recover from recent hospital stays. Pray for
Delores Spires as she continues to regain strength.

Pray for our newly-elected council members Brad
Derrick, Evan Derrick, and Heather Lindler, and all of
church council, as they strive to lead the church.

As Thanksgiving draws near, pray the Lord would
make us ever thankful for our many blessings. Pray
for those who are travelling to see loved ones.

Pray for our Fall Festival, that the Lord would bless
the efforts of our Youth Committee, and bring
community members that we can welcome and love!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

11/14 - Windsor Derrick
11/21 - Richard Brown
11/29 - Farrah Leaphart



Each week we are live streaming our
worship service on Facebook
for those who'd like to watch.
If you'd like to receive updates please
be sure to subscribe.

NOVEMBER HELPERS

Greeters / Ushers

Heather Lindler and Ethan Barr

Lectors

11/2 - Beverly Barr
11/9 - Del Derrick
11/16 - Denise Derrick
11/23 - Heather Lindler
11/30 - Candace Oxner

Tabulators

Clay Derrick and Kevin Shealy
Alternate: Farrah Leaphart

Altar Guild

Candace and Adrianna Oxner

Acolytes

11/2 - Atley Derrick
11/9 - Kellen Shealy
11/16 - Windsor Derrick
11/23 - Matthew Leaphart
11/30 - Garrett Barr

Torchbearers

11/2 - Ayler Derrick and Matthew Leaphart
11/23 - Atley Derrick and Kellen Shealy

Crucifers

11/2 - Garrett Barr
11/23 - Ahyler Derrick

Flowers

11/2 - OPEN
11/9 - Jo Ann Williams
11/16 - Sheree Caughman
11/23 - Lindler Family
11/30 - OPEN

Nursery

11/2 - Sarah Shealy and Heather Worthy
11/9 - Farrah Leaphart and Kristen Derrick
11/16 - Benji Leaphart and Heather Worthy
11/23 - Sarah Shealy and Amy Harman
11/30 - Carlin Shealy and Kristen Derrick

Contact Pastor Christopher!

If you have a prayer request, questions,
or would like to speak with our pastor,
you can reach him at:

803-580-5215 (office)
803-940-7143 (cell)

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