

HEBRON EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Volume 52, Issue 12

DECEMBER 2022



December 2022

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Advent is, like Lent, a season of preparation. We prepare for Christ's "Coming" (the meaning of Advent in Latin) in remembering his birth in Bethlehem, and his promise of coming again at the end of all things. In both senses, we are anticipating a radical change in our lives and in the world by God's incarnate presence among us. Therefore, we use the term "Emanuel" at this time of the year especially, which in Hebrew means "God with us." There are many important parts of the nativity story that we'll remember together: how Mary and Joseph were homeless as they sought a place to rest and prepare for the birth of Jesus. How the first to learn about the birth of the Messiah were not kings or governors, but lowly shepherds in the hills. How when the Magi visited Jesus from far away, they brought him not only kingly gifts of gold and frankincense incense, but also myrrh, an aromatic resin made into incense or oil that was used in the process of preparing the dead for burial in the ancient world. Even at his birth, his crucifixion is foreshadowed by this gift. For as we anticipate his birth and dwelling among us, we also remember his death and the promise of the resurrection.

One way that we'll be remembering this story and anticipating Christ's coming is through music. Both through the music we will sing together during Sunday worship, as well as a special event coming up in just a few weeks on **December 2nd at 6:30pm, Winter Wonderland, a Christmas Recital**. Our musical director, Gregg LeMay, has organized a recital to help us to get into the spirit of Advent and come together to enjoy some of the many wonderful musical pieces that we associate with this time of year. Gregg will be playing both sacred music as well as some secular Christmas music that everyone will recognize. The recital will also feature some shared pieces with other musicians, and our churches' joint choir will be singing an anthem at the recital. I've been singing along with this choir for the past few weeks, and it's so nice to be part of a choir again- I missed it a lot! Hebron's sanctuary will also feature special decorations to help us to be fully immersed in the season. After the concert, we'll be gathering in Hebron's social hall for fellowship and refreshments. To connect this recital with Christ's mission in the world, we'll be gathering items for the **Five Forces Homeless Heroes Stocking Project**, which is collecting personal care items for homeless veterans around western Pennsylvania. Monetary donations will also be accepted. We're hoping that this recital tradition will continue each year rotating between our two churches. Please spread the word about this exciting opportunity to come together and listen to the beautiful music of Advent and Christmas.

But as always, the best way to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming is to join us in worship on Sunday mornings throughout Advent, as we light the candles on the wreath and remember the longing of the people of God for Christ to show us the way of peace. We will have our usual **"Blue Christmas" Service at St Paul's Highfield on the winter solstice, Wednesday, December 21st at 6pm** for anyone who is missing their loved ones at this time of the year. And we will of course have our **Candlelight Christmas Eve services this year- 6pm at Hebron and 8pm at St Paul's Highfield**. Since it lands on a Sunday this year, we'll just have **one worship service on Christmas morning, at Hebron, at 8:30am**.

In anticipation of Christ's Coming,
Pastor Ryan

Hebron's 2022 Finance Report

MONTH	CURRENT GIVING	INCOME	NEEDED GIVING	OVER/(SHORT) MONTH TO DATE	OVER/(SHORT) YEAR TO DATE	ATTENDANCE
January	\$3,562.00	\$5,166.60	\$9,671.22	\$(942.62)	\$(942.62)	109
February	\$4,110.00	\$2,663.19	\$9,671.22	\$(2,898.03)	\$(3,840.65)	98
March	\$4,147.40	\$6,996.80	\$9,671.22	\$1,472.98	\$(2,543.69)	137
April	\$6,352.00	\$202.00	\$9,671.22	\$(3,117.22)	\$(5,660.91)	110
May	\$4,590.00	\$5,527.38	\$9,671.22	\$446.16	\$(5,214.75)	69
June	\$2,765.00	\$4,653.40	\$9,671.22	\$(2,252.82)	\$(7,467.57)	89
July	\$6,162.24	\$6,468.50	\$9,671.22	\$2,959.52	\$(4,508.05)	93
August	\$5,164.00	\$3,128.27	\$9,671.22	\$(1,378.95)	\$(5,887.00)	68
September	\$5,062.00	\$4,038.40	\$9,671.22	\$(570.82)	\$(6,457.82)	75
October	\$5,430.00	\$6,828.53	\$9,671.22	\$2,587.31	\$(3,870.51)	73

It is noted that the income column includes monies the church receives from endowments, gas well royalties, and the monthly SPH reimbursement check. If you have any questions, please see any member of the finance team. A complete financial report was included in the 2021 Annual Report. Copies are available upon request. Attendance *does not* include those who worship online via Zoom or Facebook.



HEBRON'S CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be held on Saturday, December 24, 2022, at 6PM.

CHRISTMAS ABIDING MEMORIALS are due to the church office no later than **Friday, December 16, 2022**. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

A COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS for Pastor Ryan and the church staff has begun. If you would like to donate, please put your donation in an envelope marked "CHRISTMAS GIFTS" and place it in the weekly offering. Donations can also be sent to the church office.



WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Bronwyn (Bonnie) Hinderliter. Bonnie passed into the hands of God on November 7, 2022, at the age of 91.

WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Frances "Fran" Ashworth. Frances passed into the hands of God on November 17, 2022.

THE DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 6PM. Many thanks to *Nancy Fondrk* and *Nathan Boarts* for their many years of dedication to Hebron's Church Council!



Celebrating Birthdays in December!

- 1 Kendra Smail
- 3 Tiffany Smietana-Lysell
- 3 Oliver Smith
- 5 Daniel Bollinger
- 9 Johnathan Toy
- 10 Martha Bash
- 12 Sarah Imbarlina
- 14 Velma Knell
- 14 Elsie Taylor
- 15 Ralph Kilgore, Sr.
- 15 Charles Klingensmith
- 15 Kelly Klingensmith
- 16 Michael Henry
- 16 Al Smail
- 17 Christine (Roofner) Wilson
- 19 Shirley Camp
- 29 Becky Bollinger
- 30 Kristi Garrone
- 31 Barb Talmadge



Celebrating Anniversaries in December!

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|------------------|
| 7 | Louis & Gina Bono | 30 th |
| 10 | Mike & Pam Nuttall | 17 th |
| 16 | Robert & Melissa Sproull | 24 th |
| 30 | Paul & Mary Gene Shaner | 70 th |

THE DECEMBER 2022
NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED
BY PAUL AND MARY GENE
SHANER IN HONOR OF THEIR
70TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY.



OUTREACH PROJECTS FOR DECEMBER:

THE PAJAMA AND BOOK PROJECT: The Leechburg Rotary and the Leechburg High School Interact Club is sponsoring “The Pajama & Book Project” from *November 13 to December 13*. They are asking for **NEW** pajamas in any size; ranging from infant to adult. Along with the pajamas, they are also asking for sleep pants for men or women. Again, they are collecting **NEW** children’s books. Donations can be placed in the designated wrapped box in the back of the church. All donations will be given to Social Services agencies for Christmas. Monetary donations may be sent to: Rotary Club of Leechburg: Pajama Project, P.O. Box 163, Leechburg, PA 15656.

FIVE FORCES HOMELESS HEROES STOCKING PROJECT: This year, Hebron is a drop off location for the Five Forces Homeless Heroes Stocking Project. The HHSP works with the Veterans Leadership Program of Western PA to help provide supply stockings to the 2500+ homeless Veterans in the area during the Christmas holiday. They are asking for donations of FULL-SIZE shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush holders, wash cloths, soap, plastic soap holders, socks, gloves, drawstring backpacks or \$10 gift cards to Walmart or Giant Eagle.

If you have any questions regarding either project, please call the church office.



CHRISTMAS GOODY BAGS will once again be made for the shut-in members of our church. Monetary donations will be accepted this year. These donations can be mailed to Velma Knell at 1194 Maple Road, Vandergrift, PA 15690 or Sandy Grantz at 1352 Maple Road, Vandergrift, PA 15690. Donations will also be accepted through weekly offering. Please clearly mark the envelope “CHRISTMAS GOODY BAGS.” Checks can be made payable to Velma or Sandy. **Donations will be accepted until December 10, 2022.**



CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet on alternating Sundays, from 1PM to 3PM. Five congregations will be making this confirmation journey together – First, Hebron, and Forks-Zion in Leechburg; Bethesda in Lower Burrell; and St. Paul’s Highfield in Vandergrift. Three to four consecutive classes will be held at each church during the year. Snacks are provided by the host church, and parents are invited to attend classes as often as possible. The most basic requirement is to attend classes and Sunday worship. Classes will NOT be on Zoom this year. As weather permits, some classes may be outdoors. The confirmation journey is two years, beginning at 7th grade. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Ryan. The October classes and location are listed below:

December 18, 2022 – Christmas Caroling at Pine View Personal Care Home in North Vandergrift – For details please contact Pastor Jim or Pastor Ryan.



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THESE DATES:

Thursday, December 22, 2022
Friday, December 23, 2022
Monday, December 26, 2022
Friday, December 30, 2022
Monday, January 2, 2023

THE OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FROM 9A – 1P ON THESE DATES:

Wednesday, December 21, 2022
Tuesday, December 27, 2022
Tuesday, January 3, 2023

PASTOR RYAN AND HEBRON CHURCH’S STAFF would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who donated their time or who made monetary donations to the many projects we had this year! Hebron would not be a church without **ALL** of you!



THE 2023 ALTAR FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSOR LIST IS NOW OPEN! If you have a specific date(s) that you would like to reserve, please send a list to the church office by mail or email: luther201@windstream.net. Dates are reserved on a first come, first serve basis. Letters will be sent out again in mid-December to see if anyone is interested in the remaining open dates. We will also be trying something new next year, if enough people are interested. Hebron is considering having artificial arrangements available to use for the Sunday you have sponsored flowers. There would be a small fee for the use of the flowers and there would be multiple arrangements to choose from. More information on this will be included in the letters sent out in December. Thank you for your continued support of your Hebron church! Questions? Please call the church office.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS RECITAL ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2022, AT 6:30PM, HERE AT HEBRON!

The evening will be filled with beautiful music performed by our wonderful organist, Gregg. A joint choir, including members from Hebron and St. Paul’s Highfield, will also be performing. The sanctuary and social hall will also be decorated to really make you feel like you are in a “winter wonderland.” A reception will immediately follow. We hope to see everyone at the recital!



A FRIENDLY REMINDER to please send your payment in if you sponsored any bulletins this year. The cost is \$5/per bulletin/Sunday and checks can be made payable to Hebron Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Is Thanksgiving Really Over?

The leftovers have been eaten and the refrigerator is almost back to its pre- Thanksgiving appearance. The extra chairs and the tables are put back into proper storage. And the wonderful gatherings of love, fellowship and thanksgiving have been replaced by cherished memories. But is Thanksgiving *really* over?

In Thessalonians 5:18 we are encouraged to “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”. Really? In *all* situations? That’s a tough one. How can we be thankful in our human condition as we experience brokenness, loss, grief, physical pain, financial challenges, relationship struggles and the host of other burdens that afflict us?

Insight into this difficult question lies in the coming of Advent, which we have just entered. This is the time of preparation for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Because he was born, lived as man and God, and died on the cross for our sins, we have been given the greatest gift ever, eternal life.

It’s fitting that Thanksgiving Day precedes Advent, as our hearts are already filled with gratitude from all the blessings that God has bestowed on us. This prepares our hearts to celebrate Jesus’ birth more fully; to love and to give to others more freely because of the great gift that we’ve been given. As we know that his birth comes first, then his life, then his death on the cross for our sins. If Jesus had not been born, we would be subject to sin and there would be no inheritance of eternal life.

So maybe now, we can answer the difficult question asked in the above paragraph. Can we really, “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus?” the answer is a resounding “YES”. This is because, as believers, we know that we have been blessed with our lives here, and all the God has given us. But we also know and embrace that this life is finite and at some later time, God will call us to our eternal home. So, we know that whatever difficulties we endure here will not last but will dissolve with our lives here and will not follow us into eternal life. In the end, it will all be good; correction, not good - GREAT.

With gratitude,
Barb Talmadge

The Christmas holiday is right around the corner! Many of us will begin the marathon of cooking and baking. Need a new recipe? Here is one from our cookbook *Tastefully Hebron*. If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please send it to the church office!

GRAM’S MOLASSES COOKIES:

½ cup brown sugar
1 egg
2 ½ cups sifted flour
½ tsp. cinnamon
½ cup shortening
½ cup molasses
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. baking soda mixed in ¼ cup hot water




1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
2. Cream together brown sugar and shortening
3. Add egg and molasses
4. Add flour, salt, cinnamon and baking soda mixture
5. Beat until all ingredients are combined
6. Drop by teaspoon onto a cookie sheet
7. Bake for approximately 12 minutes

Submitted by Carolyn Smith-Hickman

Recipe by Her Grandmother, Stella A. Smeltzer



DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 DECORATING FOR THE RECITAL 12PM	2  RECITAL @ 6:30PM	3
4 WORSHIP 8:30AM	5 GLADE RUN PRESENTS AND TAGS DUE	6	7	8 GAME NIGHT	9	10 CHRISTMAS GOODY BAG MONEY DUE
11 WORSHIP 8:30AM	12 PJs/BOOKS DUE FOR ROTARY CLUB PROJECT	13 COUNCIL MEETING 6PM	14	15	16 CHRISTMAS ABIDING MEMORIALS DUE	17
18 WORSHIP 8:30AM	19 OFFICE OPEN 9AM-1PM	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21 OFFICE OPEN 9AM-1PM	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6PM
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! WORSHIP 8:30AM	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE OPEN 9AM-1PM	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 OFFICE OPEN 9AM-1PM	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31



DECEMBER 2022

DATE/DAY/COLOR	USHERS	ALTAR FLOWERS	BULLETINS
<p style="text-align: center;">December 4 Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Blue</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Charles Klingensmith & Jean Stull</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In honor of Our Mother's, SHIRLEY CAMP, December 19th birthday. By: Her Daughters: Jean Stull and Kathy Klingensmith</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In memory of LOVED ONES. By: Paul and Mary Gene Shaner</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">December 11 Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Blue</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Barb Talmadge & Chelsae Hickman</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In memory of LOVED ONES. By: The Daughters of Wilbert & Rose Anna Hileman</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In honor of HEBRON LUTHERAN CHURCH. By: Charles Klingensmith</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Blue</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Marty Bash & Charlie Stull</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>OPEN</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In memory of Their Father, NORMAN SHANER. By: His Family</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">December 24 Nativity of Our Lord</p> <p style="text-align: center;">White</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Members of Council</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In memory of the HILL & HUNTER FAMILIES. By: Janice Hill</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i><u>FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE LECTERN:</u></i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">In memory of CHARLES G. CAMP and SUE BROWN. By: Their Family: Shirley, Jean, Kathy, Ted, Brandy, Lisa, Jessica, Allan and Charlie</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In memory of Her Mom, MARY CLAIRE HILEMAN, and Her Dad, ROBERT D. HILEMAN. By: Lori Hileman</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">December 25 Nativity of Our Lord II: Christmas Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">White</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Members of Council</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In memory of NORMAN SHANER. By: Violet Stivason</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In memory of the December 29th birthday of grandfather, great-grandfather, and great- great-grandfather, SILAS W. SMELTZER. By: Lloyd, Carolyn & Chelsae Hickman and Charlie, Ashley, Kenley & Karsyn Rogers</p>

NOVEMBER 2022 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES:

FINANCE:

- Nathan presented the 2023 budget with the recommendation from the finance committee
- Motion made and carried to present for vote the 2023 budget at the Congregational Meeting on November 13, 2022

PERSONNEL/MUTUAL MINISTRY:

- Personnel Committee met with Pastor on October 26 to assess and review findings from the completed Ministry Review
- Council was given a copy of the recommendations presented to Pastor from the Personnel Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

- Working on definite dates for Tiffany Smietana-Lysell and Gabrielle Passino to teach Sunday school lesson

PROPERTY:

- Sean is trying to find a more modern AC unit for the office; also working on getting the outside lights fixed
- Boiler #1 is in need of repair – the actual part is covered under the manufacturer’s warranty; will need to pay for labor

WORSHIP & MUSIC:

- A joint choir will sing at the Christmas Recital
- Need to pick hymns for December

OUTREACH:

- Glade Run Christmas Angel Program tags are on the small Christmas tree in the back of the church
- Will begin “Coins for Cancer” in January 2023
- Made \$53 at the Halloween Parade; Made over \$300 with the soup sale – both will go towards initial sponsorship for Pink Day 2023
- Hebron is a collection/drop-off location for the Five Forces Homeless Heroes Stocking Project; will also heavily promote this with the Christmas recital

JOINT COUNCIL:

- Recommended that the tri-council attend Christmas caroling at Concordia on December 17, 2022 at 1PM; will also invite congregation members
- Next meeting in January 2023

NEW BUSINESS:

- Gregg attended the meeting to talk about and give details regarding the Christmas Recital
- Motion made and carried to split costs of the recital decorations, etc. with St. Paul’s Highfield 50/50.
- Gregg also spoke to council regarding the upkeep of the piano; the piano needs tuned and Gregg has found someone to do it
- Motion made and carried to pay for the piano tuning from the Worship & Music Fund
- December meeting will be before the Council/Joint Council/Staff Christmas/End of the Year Dinner; Ham BBQs will be prepared for the dinner – we are asking others to bring a side or dessert to share
- December meeting: December 13, 2022 at 6PM in the Social Hall
- Pastor Ryan will be in Arizona for the 1st Sunday in January (January 1, 2023)

**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON:**

Dave Bash

P.O. Box 435, Leechburg, PA 15656

Teresa Brechbill

4218 Frederick Drive, Lower Burrell, PA 15068

Shirley Camp

341 Godfrey Road, Leechburg, PA 15656

Dolores Freilino

414 Third Street, Leechburg, PA 15656

Marjorie Henry

826 Evergreen Road, Leechburg, PA 15656

Dave Klingensmith

308 Beale Avenue, Leechburg, PA 15656

Ralph Kilgore

204 Dolores Drive, Apollo, PA 15613

Emilio & Judy Perez

Concordia—112 Marwood Road, Haven 1 – APT 4341,
Cabot, PA 16023

Lara Ludwigen

5071 Shearsburg Road, Leechburg, PA 15656

Paul & Mary Gene Shaner

403 Pershing Drive, New Kensington, PA 15068

Helen Shaffer

1474 State Route 356, Leechburg, PA 15656

Sandy & Kevin Silliman

102 Schall Lane, West Leechburg, PA 15656

Virginia Shaner

100 North Grant Avenue, APT 1F, Kittanning, PA 16201

Paul & Margie Sober

Concordia – 1871 Highpointe Lane, APT 1128, Allison
Park, PA 15101

Dorothy Sober

Concordia –112 Marwood Road, Haven 1 – APT 4118,
Cabot, PA 16023

Lynn Stouffer

Concordia – 134 Marwood Road, Bachman Hall – RM 2043,
Cabot, PA 16023

Lyda Jane Shuster

Concordia – 134 Marwood Road, Lund Building – RM
2255, Cabot, PA 16023

**HEBRON EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

201 Main Street

Leechburg, PA 15656

724-842-0801

luther201@windstream.net

Pastor Ryan Pusch: PH: 262-707-3038

Office Hours: Friday 10A-1P

Ms. Chelsae A. Hickman, Church Secretary

Office Hours: Monday, Thursday & Friday 9A-1P

Mrs. Kasey Boarts, Church Sexton

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS:

President:	Nathan Boarts
Vice President:	Barb Talmadge
Secretary:	Nancy Fondrk
Treasurer:	Jean Camp Stull
Financial Secretary:	Lori Hileman
Endowment Fund:	Marty Bash

2022 COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Nathan Boarts	Barb Talmadge
Charles Klingensmith	Marty Bash
Nancy Fondrk	Carolyn Smith-Hickman
Sean McCracken	

HEBRON'S MINISTRY COMMITTEES:

Christian Education: Nancy Fondrk
Charles Klingensmith

Outreach: Barb Talmadge

Finance/Stewardship: Martha Bash
Nathan Boarts

Property: Sean McCracken
Martha Bash

Worship & Music: Barb Talmadge

Personnel/Mutual Ministry: Nathan Boarts
Barb Talmadge

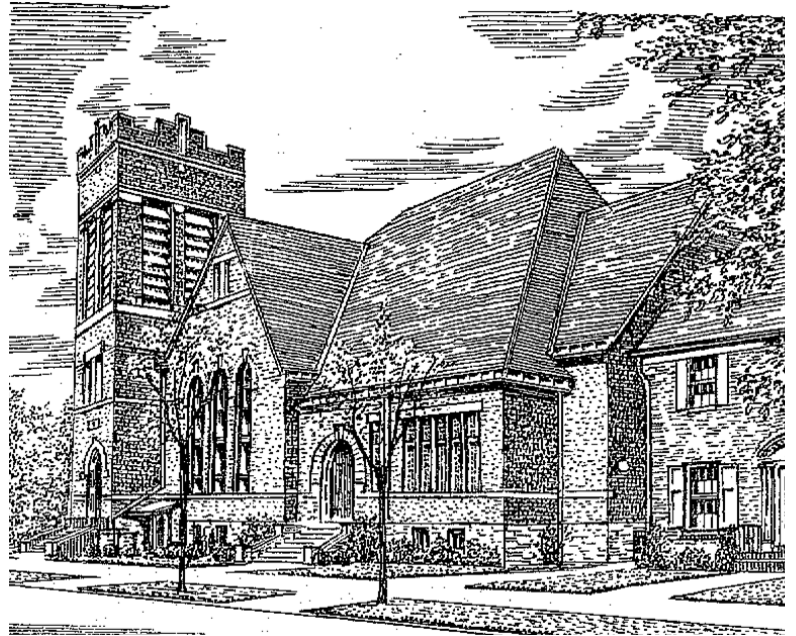
Joint Council: Nancy Fondrk, Joint Council President
Velma Knell
Pauline Bish

HEBRON EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2022

201 MAIN STREET
LEECHBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
15656-1604

luther201@windstream.net
724-842-0801

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call or email the church office.



Hebron Evangelical Lutheran Church
201 Main Street
Leechburg, PA 15656

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

