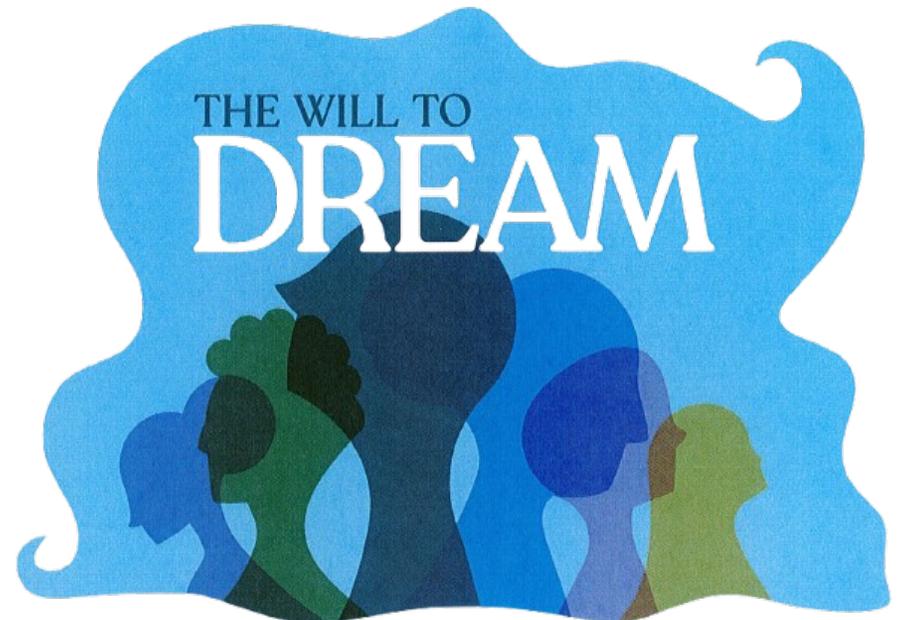


# Mountville Church of the Brethren



## LONGEST NIGHT/BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Join Pastor Angela and other pastors from the Mountville Ministerium at Concordia Lutheran Church on Monday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. for a special service. While Christmas is a time of joy for many, for others there is a sense of loss as we approach the holidays. Some may grieve that this year won't be the same as last year – or the year before – or 50 years ago. We may be mourning the loss of a loved one – or the loss of the physical space where we all used to gather – or the loss of good health and strength of our bodies to celebrate the way we used to. All of those emotions are precious, and this is a safe space to acknowledge them. As we approach the longest night of the year – the day with the fewest hours of sunlight – we lean into that darkness together, knowing that the light is coming that the darkness cannot overcome.

## FRIDAYS ARE PASTOR ANGELA'S SABBATH

Friday's prayer concerns should be directed to Cathy Funderwhite and Karen Strine. If you want to leave a non-urgent message for Pastor Angela on Fridays or any day after 9:00 p.m., please send an email rather than a text. She keeps her phone on 24/7 for emergencies.

**December 7, 2025**

Worship 10:15 a.m.

60 Clay St., Mountville, PA 17554

717-285-5122

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

email: [office@MountvilleCOB.org](mailto:office@MountvilleCOB.org)

# MOUNTVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



*In joyful community, we follow Jesus to  
embody God's love with all our neighbors.*

December 7, 2025 10:15 a.m.

**Hearing assistance devices are available at the sound booth.  
Large print bulletins and hymnals are available in the narthex.  
\*Congregation stands in body or spirit.**

## GATHERING MUSIC

CHIMES

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE *A Bethlehem Lullaby* Paxton

## CALLING US TO IMAGINE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP^

We gather together in this place:

**prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,**

we who dare to imagine a world renewed;

**we who dare to dream God's dream.**

We watch with John, the prophet and the Baptist.

**God's peace will soon appear.**

The hills and valleys will meet,

**and all things will be at rest.**

We long for a world restored, renewed.

**The fire of God's justice burns in our hearts.**

Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.

**We have come to wonder and praise.**

### \*INVOCATION^

\*HYMN *On Jordan's banks, the Baptist's cry* 183

## ADVENT WREATH: KINDLING THE LIGHT

**Today, we light the candle of peace because peace requires us to  
pay attention to the needs of those around us.**

## INSPIRING OUR DREAMS

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 3:1-12 NT 2

### THE PROPHET'S STORY

*Children stay in sanctuary for Family Worship.*

### ADVENT PRAYER of PEACE

CHORAL PRAYER RESONSE *The Lord's Prayer* Harlan

ANTHEM *Light a Candle for Peace* Schram

## LIVING OUT OUR VISION

### INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *He Comes in Peace* Smith

\*DOXOLOGY *Paise God from whom* Overhead

*To the tune of # 172 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

### \*PRAYER OF BLESSING^

HYMN *Bless'd be the God of Israel* 174

MESSAGE *Prophetic Peace* Rev. Angela Finet

## SHARING OUR PEACE WITH THE WORLD

\*HYMN *It came upon a midnight clear* 195

### \*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Fughetta in D* Dubois

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^Illustrated Ministry. Used with permission. Copyright 2025.

**Please remember to sign the attendance pads.**

## THIS WEEK

Today: 10:15 a.m. – Worship, Sanctuary  
2:30 p.m. – Community Christmas Concert & Carol Sing  
4:30 p.m. – Christmas Supper & Caroling, Fellowship Hall  
Mon: 7:00 p.m. – Blue Christmas Service, Concordia Lutheran Church  
Tues: 7:00 p.m. – Scripture Chat, Rm. 102 and Zoom  
Wed: 10:00 a.m. – Loss Support Group, Hospitality Room  
11:45 a.m. – Stitch ‘n Sew ‘n Share: Lunch @ Olive Garden  
7:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir, Sanctuary  
Thurs: 2:45 p.m. – Power Packs

## Next Sunday, December 14, 2025

### 9:00-9:50 a.m. Christian Education for all ages.

- Adult Sunday School studies meets in Room 102 featuring Andy Langford's Advent series "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" with Cece O' Day.
- Birth through pre-K meets in the nursery, room 122.
- Elementary class for grades K-6 meets in room 123.
- Jr. High class meets in room 100.

### 10:15 a.m. We gather to worship God.

Next Sunday Pastor Angela shares “Unexpected Joy” from Luke 1:39-55, Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11. Harold Ulmer is the worship leader. A string quartet from the Lancaster Symphony under the direction of Erica Milbourne will provide special music for the service. Invite your friends and neighbors.

Nursery is available in room 122.

### Children’s Worship:

Children will begin worship in the sanctuary with their families. Those ages 4 - 6th grade are invited to join the Children's Worship Leaders at the back of the sanctuary at the designated time for their own special worship.

### JACKIE’S OFFICE SCHEDULE

Jackie will not be in the Church Office Monday, Dec. 8.

## In God’s Service Today

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Ministers ALL of Us  
Pastor Rev. Angela Finet  
Music Director John Hess  
Organist Gloria Hess  
Worship Leader Cindy Dale  
Prophet’s Story Bill Kepner  
Advent Candles Regina, Fiona, and Mia Schulz  
Ushers Beth Hess, Bob Keller, Barry Lauver, Holly Mele  
Choral Anthem Chancel Choir  
Soloist: Kathy Long Cello: Stephen Lavender  
Children’s Ministry Family Worship  
Nursery Betsy Thomas  
Greeters Bob & Heidi Keller, Nanette Bushong, Don Wagner  
Prayer Chain Cathy Funderwhite, Karen Strine  
Security Harry Light  
=====

Jeralyn Rettew and Dawn & Joel Musser give the flowers in the worship center to the glory and honor of God and in memory of Jeralyn and Dawn’s mother Edith Kauffman.

### SCRIPTURE CHAT

We will gather by Zoom and in room 102 each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. for Scripture Chat. This week’s scriptures are Luke 1:39-55, Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11. The link will be sent each Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome. All you need is a Bible, or one can be provided to you.

DURING ADVENT (November 30 to December 24), we will not share spoken announcements at the beginning of worship. Please provide your announcements to the office by Wednesday morning of each week so that Jackie can include them in the bulletin and prepare an overhead slide for display during our gathering time.

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you used offering envelopes this year you should have a box for 2026 in your church mailbox. If you did not previously use envelopes but would now like to, please see Greg Smith.

## Prayer Ministry Update

*The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.* (James 5:16b)

From the Pastoral Relations Team: Loving God, guide Pastor Angela and our congregation as we transition from a season of thankfulness to this new season of loving, giving and sharing. Make us aware that gifts are more than items chosen. Help us to give love, share time, and be a positive presence in this holy season. Amen. - Pastoral Relations Team

Please include the following people in your prayers:

- Louise, Lew & Fay, John, the Fitze family, and Nick.
- Joe Buohl as he continues his ministry training.
- Please pray for peace in Israel, Gaza, Pakistan, India, Ukraine, Nigeria, Haiti, Sudan, Venezuela, and around the world.
- Pray for the people in Jamaica in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.
- District Prayers: Today we are praying for Iglesia Berith, Oasis de Esperanza, Lebanon. Amwell COB is praying for us.

### CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR BHA FAMILY

This year we are sharing Christmas gifts with one family at BHA; a mother and two daughters, ages 7 and 3. Their wish list is on the table in the narthex. Please sign up today for any items that are still needed. Gifts need to be wrapped and brought to church by next Sunday, December 14.

### GLIMPSES FROM CHRISTMAS PAST

Be sure to stop by the bulletin board opposite the kitchen to view all the Christmas pictures shared by: Wendy Allshouse, Sue Beiler, Marian Bollinger, Nanette Bushong, Ruthie Bushong, Kitty Collier, Jeanne Dickel, Gail Druck, Terry Few, Heidi Keller, Phyllis Kepner, Lori Lauver, MCOB Archives, Dawn Musser, Deb Musser, Janet Schwert, Shirley Smith, Harold & Janice Ulmer, Sara Wagner, Dianna Zimmerman. The pictures will be on display all the Sundays in December and will be returned to the owners in January. Many thanks to those who shared pictures - it's quite an assortment. A huge thanks also to Harold Ulmer for scanning each picture, editing if necessary, designing the layout and helping to hang it all! It was much more of an undertaking than I initially imagined!

### STATISTICS for November 30, 2025

Received for: General Fund.....	\$ 4,420.00
DESIGNATED FUND	
Poinsettias .....	73.00
Sunday Flowers.....	43.00
Mountville Elementary Gifts .....	20.00
Food Bank.....	20.00

Worship in Person: 92    Online: 48    Sunday School: 30

### SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE SPECIAL MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

Today: Community Christmas Concert, 2:30 p.m.

Today: Christmas Supper & Carol Sing, 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 8: Blue Christmas Service at Concordia Lutheran, 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 13: Men's & Women's Breakfasts @ Black Olive Diner, 9:00 am

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Columbia Food Bank receives our December Food Cart items. These can be placed in the cart in the lower entrance by the elevator. Please remember no perishables, **glass**, or outdated items. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering with "food bank" on the envelope.

### CHRISTMAS CARD BAGS

Christmas Card Bags for our church family who worship remotely are on the table outside the kitchen. You may bring in a card for each person on the list or just a few. It is whatever you feel led to do. Those who cannot worship in person with us really enjoy hearing from us each year. The list of names for Christmas bags can be located on the table across from the kitchen. Also, if you could sign up to deliver a bag or two, it would be greatly appreciated. The sign-up sheet for bag delivery is on the table across from the kitchen. DEADLINE for bringing in cards is Sunday, December 21! If you have questions, please ask Jeanne Dickel at 717-314-6159. Please leave a message! I don't answer calls from phone numbers that I do not recognize.