

Calendar of Events

Sunday, February 26

8:30 am Confirmation Class
9:30 am Worship w/communion
10:40 am Sunday School

Monday, February 27

6:00 pm Sit Happens
6:15 pm Lifelong Faith Formation
7:00 pm Property Committee

Tuesday, February 28

6:30 pm Girl Scouts
7:00 pm WELCA

Wednesday, March 1

3:00 pm Odyssey of the Mind SWSD
7:00 pm Lenten Vespers/Bible Study

Thursday, March 2

10:00 am Knitters for Neighbors
1:00 pm Backpacks packing
7:30 pm NA

Friday, March 3

Saturday, March 4

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Messiah Lutheran
GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE

MESSIAH MESSENGER

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Why Fast During Lent

Some people “fast” during Lent. But what is “fasting?” When people hear that word “fasting” they think of giving up some kind of special food - for example, chocolate or cookies. But why do this? Well, we should NOT *fast* with the idea that we’re somehow earning points with God because there’s nothing we can do to earn His love or blessings because we deserve nothing and He gives all to us by pure grace.

In addition, we should NOT fast as a way to sympathize with the sufferings of Christ because how can the “suffering” we experience in giving up chocolate or cookies even begin to compare with the physical and spiritual suffering Christ endured for us on the cross? So, why SHOULD we fast? One reason for fasting is to create more time in our schedule for prayer and meditation on Scripture. In the early church it often took a lot of time and effort to gather food and prepare it for a meal. By fasting from a meal Christians would then use that extra time for prayer and meditation on God’s Word. Of course, in our modern world of cooking appliances and instant food, meal preparation doesn’t take as much time. Therefore, in order to make more time for prayer and meditation on Scripture we may need to fast from other things – such as watching TV or playing video games or work or sports or hobbies. Another reason for fasting from food or other things we enjoy is that we engage in self-discipline and learn to say “No” to ourselves and then also focus on saying “Yes” to serving others. For example, you might “fast” from eating out during Lent and give that money to the local food pantry. Or you might “fast” from watching TV and use that time to volunteer at a local charity or to help a needy neighbor. **With that in mind, we should all pray about how we might “fast” for our own spiritual benefit AND for the benefit of others this Lenten Season.**

Article from Concordia Lutheran Church/Sermon and Resources, by Pastor Tom Eckstein - concordiajt@daktel.com

February 26, 2023

Service Assistants	9:30
Ushers	Jody Fullmer, Rita & Dave Strickler, Arch Watkins, Jimmy Gardner
Lay Assistant	Anita Bair
Communion Assistant	Pam Eveleth
Altar Guild	Rita Strickler, Betty Fenstermacher
Greeters/Communion Presenters	Don and Shirley Fullmer
Acolyte	Ray Demarest
Cantor	Virginia Amme
Flower Delivery	Charles Luppert

Sunday, February 12, 2023 Attendance: **75**; Offering: **\$2580.57** Capital Campaign: **\$40.00**

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Martha Kropp's 94th birthday on February 22nd by her son Craig Kropp.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Helen Fila by her husband and family.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of David L. Riley, Carol Riley and David L. Riley, Jr. by David and Emily Bausinger, Connie and Gary Hess and their families.

Bible Readings

Sunday	Feb. 26 <i>Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11</i>
Monday	Feb. 27 <i>Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18</i>
Tuesday	Feb. 28 <i>Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10</i>
Wednesday	March 1 <i>Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14</i>
Thursday	March 2 <i>Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:3-7</i>
Friday	March 3 <i>Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31</i>
Saturday	March 4 <i>Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10</i>



Pastoral Care Number: Please call (570) 326-9171. (Available 24 hours a day) During work hours' office staff will assist you. After hours, please press "3" for a Pastoral Emergency to be connected directly to the Pastor.

Reminder: Articles for the Messenger are due in the office by Monday at Noon.



Soup sale will be March 25th, 9-noon. More details to come.

The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children – **Grandpa, is There a Heaven?** - "Grandpa, is There a heaven up so high--A place to go when we will die? Will I be lonely? Will I cry? Is there a heaven up so high?" When children ask questions about this sensitive subject, pull them onto your lap and read them this gentle book.

Full of important questions and answers, **Grandpa, is There a Heaven?** explains the compassion and beauty of God's plan for His people through Jesus, and how the Bible tells us it's true, Jesus is real. He's alive today. he's preparing a place for His people. And it's called heaven. Book on Children's shelf.

Adult - **Nine Fruits of the Spirit - JOY** - In this book you will learn about yourself, learn how to relate to others, and gain a deeper understanding of what being "in Christ" means. This book is another short book but powerful in talking about being in the Joy of Christ and having joy because of Him. This book is in the Poems, Prayers, Devotional and Meditations section of our library.



Kids in Mission: Lenten Bible School/Service Project Saturday, March 25, 9:00 am – 12:00pm. Adult and teen helpers will be needed. More details to come!

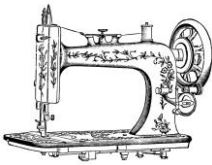


WEDNESDAY
Lenten Services

Lenten Evening Vespers will begin on March 1 at 7:00 pm. Janet Stroble, ALWL will lead the service followed by a Bible Study of scripture reflection with Carl Gee. *Hope you can join us!*

Copies of ***Man of Sorrows, People of Joy***, a Lenten Devotional Booklet are now available in the Narthex. Brought to you in partnership with the Lutheran Hour Ministries in the devotions ***Man of Sorrows, People of Joy*** paints a revealing picture of Jesus as He winds His way to the cross. Using Matthew's Gospel as its source, we see Jesus as teacher, healer, comforter, and Savior. Our Shepherd's crucifixion and resurrection now make joy and true life available to His followers—to those who through faith entrust their lives to Him.

Lenten Self-Denial Calendars & Banks that benefit Shepherd of the Streets are also in the Narthex plus current copies of the devotional booklets, Christ in Our Home and The Upper Room are available.



School Kits for Lutheran World Relief

Rev your engines ... your sewing machine engines, that is! The time has come to kick off our “School Kits for Lutheran World Relief” project. Volunteers have been busy cutting fabric and sewers are needed to make the backpacks so that they are ready in time for the older class

of kids to add the cords during Bible School week. The fabric pieces are available at the church office along with instructions on how to sew the backpacks.

Call Sally Congdon at 570-547-6193 if you have any questions regarding the sewing.

Church Women United will be holding their World Day of Prayer Celebration at St Luke Lutheran Church, 1400 Market Street, Williamsport, Pa 17701 on March 3rd at 1:30 PM. This year, the women of Taiwan call us to worship with the words, **“I Have Heard About Your Faith”** based on Ephesians 1:15-19, the letter sent to a faith community to express gratitude. Come join the women of Taiwan in prayer and song, supporting ecumenical efforts toward justice, peace, and healing. The offering will help meet the needs of families in Taiwan and around the world who are victims of many forms of poverty, violence, and injustice. There will also be donations received for walker and catheter bags, for **The Lap Robe Project**. Instructions are available by calling Ms. Patricia Wittig at 570.322.4330. Please contact Yvonne Shenuski, yon2@comcast.net, or www.wdp-usa.org for more information.



Camp Mount Luther/GROW in the Snow presents:

Wade in the Water for Youth in Grades 6-12

Friday-Saturday, March 17-18

The theme of this year's event will be baptism. Experience your Creator, play winter games and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter.

The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, but there is an option for youth and leaders to come just for the day on Saturday. The cost is \$73 per person for the whole program, or \$45 if you choose to come only for the day on Saturday.



Discounted Cost for Messiah Youth: Messiah will help to cover the cost of the retreat. If you have your registration to us no later than February 28, the cost to attend is just \$10. Please make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church and turn them in to the office along with your completed registration form.

You can find the registration form at <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2023-GITS-Flyer.pdf> or by contacting Kathy Wither.



Trivia Night held on Saturday, February 18 was a great success, with eight tables of players. We were able to give \$375.00 to Messiah Pre-School's Scholarship Fund. A great time was had by all.

WELCA will be meeting Tuesday, February 28, at 7:00 p.m. in Shaheen Hall. The speaker, Valerie Fessler, will tell us about the American Rescue Workers and how this organization has benefited the community since 1934 ... a truly remarkable length of time! Carol Winter will have Devotions. She and Marilyn will provide refreshments.



There will be a rehearsal be this Sunday morning at 8:45 am to practice this Sunday's anthem "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days". Rehearsal for next week's anthem will follow worship.

Sign-up now to be part of the Easter Choir.

Call the church office if interested or add your name to the sign-up sheet located in the Narthex. Rehearsals will start on Sunday, March 12, 2023 after worship service. Ages teens and up are welcome to take part!



Mountie Backpack Program will be having a Spaghetti Dinner, Saturday, March 11 ~ 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Adult \$12, Children 12 and under \$6, Children 3 and under free. *Tickets may be purchased at the door but advance sales are helpful in planning.* Tickets will also be available for purchase after church on

Sunday, February 26 and Sunday, March 5 or you can purchase them in the church office. *Benefits Mountie Backpack Program ~ Feeding Hungry Children in the South Williamsport Area School District*



Next Daniel's Closet will be held on Saturday, February 25, 8:30-11:00 a.m.