

Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 16

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

Monday, April 17

6:00 pm Sit Happens
6:30 pm Executive Committee
6:30 pm Missional Outreach
Committee

Tuesday, April 18

6:30 pm Girl Scouts

Wednesday, April 19

7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, April 20

11:00 am Messiah Food Pantry
1:00 pm Backpacks packing
7:30 pm NA

Friday, April 21

Saturday, April 22



MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

Published each week by Messiah Lutheran Church, 324 South Howard Street, South Williamsport, PA. Publication Office, 324 South Howard Street. Entered as a periodical October 15, 1940, at the Post Office at Williamsport, PA under the Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Messiah Lutheran Church,
324 South Howard Street, South Williamsport, PA 17702.



MESSIAH MESSENGER

Published weekly by

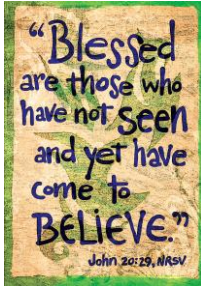
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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April 12, 2023

VOL. 81 – NO. 14



Doubting Believers

It is not the faithful women (who told the doubting disciples of their risen Lord) with whom I identify most in the cast of characters who surround Jesus in the days before and after his death and resurrection. No, as I examine myself and my struggle with faith and doubt, I find that it is Thomas with whom I most identify.

Thomas was more than simply one doubting disciple who held out for proof of the resurrection – a skeptic who will be remembered forever for his lack of faith. No, Thomas stood in for all the rest of the followers of Jesus who, through the ages, have been afflicted with a disposition toward doubt. Like him, we are disciples, but disciples who are cynical at times, who often need more time to assimilate and test the facts.

Thomas merits no praise for his unbelieving mindset. But he and the other disciples, who initially doubted, offer skeptics through the ages assurance because they did not take for granted anything involving the Easter events. Indeed, the most powerful evidence for the resurrection of Jesus is the very fact that the disciples doubted. They were not like some people who are ready to latch on to any rumor or report that comes along – particularly if it bolsters their position. No, they demanded proof, and in doing so benefited the Christian church for all time.

For Jesus, however, the disciples' lack of faith was a deep disappointment, and I know that my own lack of faith at times surely must grieve the heart of my Lord. Yet, I know he understands my struggle, and I know he understands my prayer that reiterates the plea of another who struggled with unbelief when he cried out, "I do believe; help me overcome my disbelief!" (Mark 9:24)



Doubting Believers, AUTHOR: Ruth A. Tucker

Excerpt from *The Original Collection of Daily Devotions from Godly Women*
In the NIV Women's Devotional Bible Copyright 1990

April 16, 2023

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Service Assistants | 9:30 |
| Ushers | Charles Luppert, Rhonda Koch, Larry & Donna Britton, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon |
| Lay Assistant | Dave Bausinger |
| Communion Assistant | Rhonda Koch |
| Altar Guild | Vicki Bair, Doris Butt |
| Greeters/Communion Presenters | Gladys and Gary Hilling |
| Acolyte | Karrah Bair |
| Cantor | Dave Bausinger |
| Flower Delivery | Susan Bryan |

Thursday, April 6, 2023 Attendance: 46

Friday, April 7, 2023 Attendance: 37

Sunday, April 9, 2023 Attendance: 149; Offering: \$6423.00 Capital Campaign: \$270.00

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde E. Smith, by Vonnie Kaiser and family.

The Sanctuary Lamp was given to the Glory of God and in memory of Dennis Ream Sr.'s 73rd birthday, that would have been April 5, on Maundy Thursday

Bible Readings

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--|
| Sunday | April 16 | <i>Acts 2:14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31</i> |
| Monday | April 17 | <i>Psalms 114; Judges 6:36-40; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20</i> |
| Tuesday | April 18 | <i>Psalms 114; Jonah 1:1-17; 1 Corinthians 15:19-28</i> |
| Wednesday | April 19 | <i>Psalms 114; Jonah 2:1-10; Matthew 12:38-42</i> |
| Thursday | April 20 | <i>Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:1-5; 1 Peter 1:8b-12</i> |
| Friday | April 21 | <i>Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 26:1-4; 1 Peter 1:13-16</i> |
| Saturday | April 22 | <i>Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:6-9; Luke 14:12-14</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



The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children - **Miss Fannie's Hat** - Miss Fannie is 99 years old. And very small. In fact, she's grown to be about the same size she was as a little girl. Miss Fannie has lots of hats and each one is her favorite. But when she gives up her very favorite hat to help raise money in the church auction, she and the reader are in for a real treat. Jan Karon from the "Midford" series wrote this book which is in the Easter section of our Library.

Adult - **The Day Christ Died** - This is a book about the most dramatic day in the history of the world, the day on which Jesus of Nazareth died. It opens at 6 p.m.-the beginning of the Hebrew day-with Jesus and ten of the apostles coming through the pass between Mt. of Olives and the Mt. of Offense en route to Jerusalem and the Last Supper. It closes at 4 p.m. of the following afternoon, when Jesus was taken down from the cross. This book is very thought-provoking. found in the Easter Section in the library.

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Food Pantry: *Items most needed this week* are canned peas, canned fruit, and egg noodles (for tuna noodle casserole). ***We are completely out of canned peas and egg noodles. Please note: NO applesauce, spaghetti or other shapes of pasta at this time, please - We currently have an overabundance of these.***



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER NEWS

LAST CHANCE to sign up for camp before **April 15** to get the **Early Bird Discount!** To see all of the camping opportunities available, visit <https://www.campmountluther.org/summer/programs/>.

Messiah will pay a portion of the cost for members to attend camp.

Contact our camperson, Kathy Wither, for more information.

witherhaven@verizon.net or 570-651-2802 talk or text



Spring Clean Up: Saturday, May 6th, 8:00 am – Noon: Rain or Shine!



Volunteers needed for *outdoor* projects. Bring wheelbarrows, pitchforks, shovels, brooms, blowers, weed whackers, gloves, rags, buckets, etc. Please sign up to help on the sheet labeled “Spring Clean-up” in the Narthex. **Hope to see you there!**



Messiah's annual MOTHER'S DAY DINNER with Messiah's “Kitchen Crew” – under the able leadership of Chef David Bausinger – the ticket prices for the MOTHER'S DAY DINNER on May 9 have “plunged” from last years high (due to outside actering). The cost for adults (age 13 and up) - \$12.00; children (ages 6-12) - \$6.00; children (ages 5 and under) – free. Tickets will be available in the Narthex on April 23rd and 30th before and after the Service; also at the Church Office until May 1st.



Where have all the Lutheran World Relief School Kits gone?

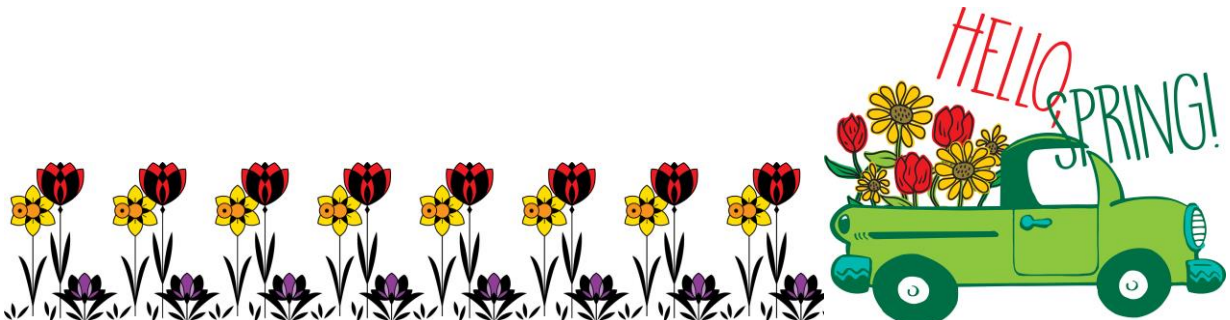
Information on where last year's school kits have gone is unavailable as of yet because the kits can sometimes take long as 9 months to ship. However, following is a list of where our donations of school kits have made an impact in the past: March 2017 – El Salvador and Jordan; June 2018 – El Salvador; February 2020 – Honduras; & June 2020 – Georgia

Thank you to all who have contributed! God's Work. Our Hands.

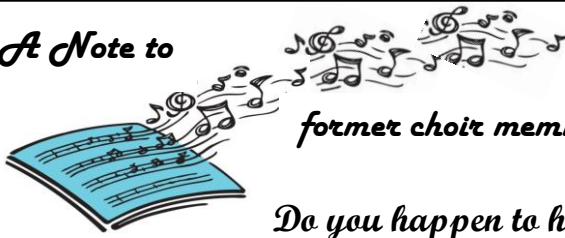


The annual Bishop Open's Golf Classic is set for May 8, 2023, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam. The tournament benefits Camp Mount Luther and the camp's annual fund. Information and registration form are on the here:

https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/01_Golf_Tournament_Flyer-2023.pdf



A Note to



former choir members

Do you happen to have any choir music in a closet or piano bench at your house? (Everyone has those favorite pieces they like to sing again and again.) We are trying to get the Choir Room organized and ALL the music finally put away.

The cost of a single piece of choral music has gone up and up, like everything else. We have a nice variety of anthems from years past that can be used again and again, unless too many copies have gone missing.

You may return the anthems or books to the collection boxes that will be placed by the choir room door and one in the Narthex for the next couple of weeks. Thank you!

A note from the Church Secretary, my apologies to everyone, if I forgot to put something in the messenger or bulletin this past month, and also for mistakenly forgetting to see that there were names missing in the Easter Flower Memorial list. Even with a proof reader things get missed. I will be reprinting the Easter Memorial list this week and it will be available on Sunday morning for you. *"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."* Philippians 4:13



Please notify the church office if a family member is in the hospital. Or if you are the one in the hospital, let the hospital chaplain know to notify your church. The chaplain's office does not always contact us. 570-326-9171

