



Calendar of Events

Sunday, July 2

9:30 am Worship w/communion

Monday, July 3

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, July 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, July 5

Thursday, July 6

7:30 pm NA

Friday, July 7

Saturday, July 8



The Church office *will be closed*

July 3 & July 4

To celebrate Independence Day!

MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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FLOWERS ANYONE?

*An article was shared with me from someone in the congregation who frequents a church when they are in Florida, and I was happy to put my own spin on it and just use some inserts from the article itself. The original article titled “**Flowers Anyone?**” Was written by Bob Kolterman.*

Every Sunday there is a bright spot in our church. Can you guess what that is? Am I speaking of the smiling faces of the Greeters and Ushers welcoming you, the hymns, the sermon, the choir, the quiet time and prayer. Let’s not forget the fellowship we find with one another after worship. But one thing always catches my eye and brings a smile to my face; it never asks for anything in return and provides its own ministry. Did you guess it? If you said ***the altar flowers*** you are correct. How do they get there every week? Who puts them there? Who pays for them? Where do they go once the service is over?

Sunday, December 22, 1940, the church accepted two beautiful ALTAR VASES as memorials which match our cross and candlesticks. It was said that they came to us as a splendid token, without solicitation, from a family that has always been interested in our dear church. They have been dedicated “To the glory of God, and in loving memory of all of Messiah Church who have departed this life in the Christian Faith.”

Excerpt from Messiah Messenger, December 22, 1940, Volume 1, Number 13

Hometown Florists provides and delivers the flowers on a weekly basis week after week, rain or shine, cloudy or sunny, difficulties or not; they are always here providing a presence of hope and freshness. They are delivered every Saturday and then moved into the Sanctuary on Sunday by the Ushers and placed behind the altar. Think of how many hands have touched these flowers: the grower who grew them, the artisan who put the arrangements together, the driver who delivered them and then our Ushers who lovingly place them on the altar. Here they listen to the music, the prayers and the sermon; but their job is not done yet.

Every Sunday someone has the flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one placed on the altar. They may choose to take those flowers or leave for our volunteer flower delivery person to take to some who may need a visit. After Worship the flowers are put in a decorative can and taken to brighten someone’s day.

Here is a cute story I’d like to share: Mike and I signed up for flowers one Sunday in honor of a friend who was in a nursing home recovering from a bad accident. We decided to take the flowers to her after church that day. Now you will see that the flowers’ work was not

(continued on next page)

yet done. As we stood at the front desk asking for our friend's room number, the receptionist commented on how beautiful the flowers were and wished someone would bring her flowers. I looked at her and then looked at the flowers and pulled one out and said, 'guess what? This one has your name written on it, the smile on her face was worth the trip there! As we were walking down the hall a nurse stopped us and said: "Look how beautiful. Are those for me?" After looking at her nametag, I answered: "Actually, Nancy, I believe this one has your name on it," and proceeded to pull out another flower for her. And so it went several times more until we came upon a frail elderly lady sitting in a wheelchair in the hall. As we walked by she just stared at the flowers. I asked her what her name was; she did not answer. She finally looked up at me and said: "My husband used to buy me flowers." Not sure what to say, I asked her what his name was. With no reply, I asked: "Is his name Joe?" She quickly replied; "No, it was David." I then picked out a flower, handed it to her and simply said: "this is in *remembrance* of David."

The flower had done its job again as it placed a smile on the woman's face. Well, the flowers, minus several, finally made it to its destination where they brightened another room. As we walked down the hall to exit the nursing home after our visit, the same elderly frail woman was in the same spot in her wheelchair; she had her eyes closed clutching her single flower, obviously lost in yesteryear. But the flower had done its job.

Those flowers had traveled so much and touched so many people that it was, in and of itself, a small miracle. All this because I signed up to have flowers on the altar.

Please sign up and brighten the church's altar and see if it takes you on a journey like we had, won't you?

Volunteer to deliver the Altar Flowers; you never know where the flowers will take you!

July 2, 2023

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

USHERS: Fred Harbaugh, Pam Eveleth, Ann Marie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker and Sue Christ; **LAY ASSISTANT:** Pam Eveleth; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Fred Harbaugh;

ACOLYTE: Brennen Hess; **ALTAR GUILD:** Rita Strickler, Betty

Fenstermacher; **GREETERS/COMMUNION PRESENTERS:** Arch and Candy Watkins;

CANTOR: Dave Bausinger; **FLOWER DELIVERY:** Chuck Luppert

Sunday, June 18, 2023, Attendance: 80; Offering: \$2986.36; Capital Campaign: \$20.00

Sunday, June 25, 2023, Attendance: 68; Offering: \$2095.01; Capital Campaign: \$30.00

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Lexi and Nicholas McWilliams wedding on July 1st.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Gary and Gladys Hilling's 61st wedding anniversary on June 30th with love by their children.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of Carl Fenstermacher by his wife and daughters.



Bible Readings

Sunday	July 2	<i>Jeremiah 28:5-9; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42</i>
Monday	July 3	<i>Psalms 119:161-168; 1 Kings 21:1-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12</i>
Tuesday	July 4	<i>Psalms 119:161-168; 1 Kings 21:17-29; 1 John 4:1-6</i>
Wednesday	July 5	<i>Psalms 119:161-168; Jeremiah 18:1-11; Matthew 11:20-24</i>
Thursday	July 6	<i>Psalms 145:8-14; Zechariah 1:1-6; Romans 7:1-6</i>
Friday	July 7	<i>Psalms 145:8-14; Zechariah 2:6-13; Romans 7:7-20</i>
Saturday	July 8	<i>Psalms 145:8-14; Zechariah 4:1-7; Luke 10:21-24</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.

The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children/Family - **The Bernstein Bears Say Their Prayers** - Brother Bear discovers that God answers every prayer-in his own way and time. Children will learn, along with Brother Bear, that praying isn't just for bedtime. Found in the Children's books (Bernstein Bears) section.

Adult - **For Such a Time as This - Gospels** - This devotional book has the Gospels theme. So, each Bible verse is from one of the four Gospels and these one page meditations work perfectly with the scripture verse(s). There is also a prayer at the end of each meditation. Great for using alone, with family or in a group for openings or discussion starter. This book is in the Poems, Prayers, Devotional and Meditations section of our library.

Free Summer Meals for Kids

Many kids right here in our community who rely on school meals struggle to get enough to eat during the summer months. Many churches and organizations have programs that help with summer meals. Find a program near you that



provides free summer meals by either going to the government website

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids> or by texting the word 'FOOD' to the No Kid Hungry organization's number 877-877.





Shepherd of the Streets is in need of the following **adult hygiene items:** combs, shampoo, conditioner, large bars of soap, and deodorant. **Children's and infants' hygiene items needed include:** children's toothbrushes, combs, hair ties, baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby soap, and baby powder. Donated items may be placed in the gray bin in the elevator alcove or brought to the church office during normal business hours. ***Thank you for your support of this vital ministry to our community!***

Daniel's Closet



Clothing Donations are being accepted at Messiah for Daniel's Closet.

Daniel's Closet is a ministry of Redeemer Lutheran Church on Washington Boulevard to provide free clothing to anyone who has a need. Clothing and accessories (belts, shoes, ties, gloves, purses, bags, etc.) may be placed in the large blue bin inside the alley entrance at Messiah on Sunday mornings or whenever the church is open for other functions. Please bag all clothing in kitchen size trash bags or smaller so that our volunteers can handle them ... clothing is heavy!

The next closet will be open June 25, 8:30-11 a.m. All are welcome!



A new 13-week cycle of GriefShare at Redeemer will begin again on Monday, July 17, 2023, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Any adult who is grieving the loss of a loved one or friend is welcome to join us each Monday. Redeemer Lutheran Church covers the cost of materials, but a donation is welcome.

Please go to the [GriefShare.org](https://www.GriefShare.org) website, find our group and pre-register for this new cycle. Contact Barb Horn at 570-974-3744 if you have questions. We are located at 1101 Washington Blvd. Please use the main Washington Blvd entrance.

What is shared at GriefShare stays at GriefShare.

Camp Mount Luther News: The summer camping season is underway, having begun on June 11 and continuing through the first week of August. Please keep the camp staff, volunteers, and those attending camp in your prayers throughout the summer! We will publish the names of Messiah members who are attending camp each week so that you may especially remember them in your prayers.



Go, my children, off to camp with Christ by your side.

May He go before you, let His light be your guide.

May He go behind to guard you,

Stand beside you to befriend you.

May you know His peace, and in His love e'er abide





Thank you so much for your continued prayers, cards and flowers. Your Kindness is very much appreciated.

Janet and Donald Green



Thanks so very much to all who grabbed a copy of my book “On Journey With Christ: Homilies For Life’s Seasons.” Every copy that I made available was whisked away over the two Sundays that I offered it in May at church. As promised, after expenses, a donation will be sent off to United Lutheran Seminary. That donation will be in the amount of \$200.00. Should anyone still be looking to get hands on a copy, please let me know. Contact me at abamme46@gmail.com or 570-337-8484.

Pastor Bruce Amme



African Dresses & Britches It’s time to make Dresses and Britches again. Look for pillow cases, no white, please. Also we need colored tee shirts. Then the fun begins. If this interests you, call AnnMarie Hohman, 570-244-1226 and leave a message or call the church office at 570-326-9171.

There will be no Summer Bible Study class this Wednesday. Next class will be Wednesday, July 12 at 7:00 pm.



Looking for someone to lead the card committee. It isn’t a difficult job; everything is done through email. Please contact Pam at the church office for more information, 570-326-9171.



Church Picnic: Sunday, August 13. Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to come. All are welcome, whether or not you have signed up, but this gives us an idea how many supplies are needed. More details to come.





Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS

Can you help us fill school supply kits for children around the world who are in need due to poverty, natural disasters, conflict, or other issues make it difficult to attend school? For many of these children, **these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not.**

This year's collection is now officially under way! Our volunteer sew-ers have completed an astounding 353 bags ... how many can we fill? Our Bible School kids got us off to a good running start, donating enough money to fill 65 of the bags already. Now it's up to us to follow their lead to "share our light" as we see how many more we can fill.

How can you help?

- **Donate supplies.**

You may choose to buy multiples of a specific item
or to buy all of the items to fill one bag.

See other side for a list of items we are collecting!

- **Monetary donations will also be accepted.**

Make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church
(memo: LWR School Kits)

- **Help pack the bags in September.**

Grades 3 through Adult ~ Saturday, September 9

Watch the Messenger for more information!

Be a good steward – get more for your money.

Watch the summer sales for school supplies!

We have found WalMart, Staples, and Big Lots to have the best deals ... please let us know if you find better deals so we can share that information!

**Supplies and cash donations should be brought to the church by Sunday,
August 20.**

Thank you for your support!

ITEMS WE ARE COLLECTING



×4

70-sheet notebooks
Wide-ruled or college-ruled
Approx.. 8"x10 ½"



×1

Blunt scissors (safety scissors with
embedded steel blades work well)



×5

#2 pencils
UNSHARPENED!



×5

Black or blue ball point pens
NO gel ink - STICK, NOT
CLICK!



×1

Box of 24 crayons



×1

2 ½" eraser
(Any color but you will know
them as the pink kind)

Guidelines

- Please give ***new items only***, except where otherwise noted
- Please ***do not*** donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your congregation's name.
- Please ***do not*** donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Pencils ***must*** be ***unsharpened*** ... LWR will not accept pre-sharpened pencils.
- Monetary donations accepted: Make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church (memo: LWR School Kits)

Questions? Call: Sally Congdon (570) 547-6193

