



Calendar of Events

Sunday, October 15

9:30 am Worship w/Communion
 9:30 am Sunday School
 5:00 pm Sit Happens (Advanced Class)

Monday, October 16

6:30 pm Sit Happens
 6:30 pm Executive Committee
 7:00 pm S. Little League District meeting

Tuesday, October 17

6:15 pm Life Long Faith Formation
 7:00 pm WELCA

Wednesday, October 18

7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, October 19

1:00 pm Mountie Back Pack packing
 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
 7:30 pm NA

Friday, October 20

Saturday, October 21



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

www.messiahsouth.org Phone: 570-326-9171

e-mail address: messiahoffice@comcast.net

October 11, 2023

VOL. 81 – NO. 40

Note: With all the rain we have had lately, this seemed like a fitting time to reprint the following article written by Kathy Wither, which originally appeared in the August 23, 2017 issue of the Messenger.

A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. ☞ Proverbs 17:22

Last Friday night, our family kept with our annual tradition and set out to Knoebel's to see Parrot Beach Band, (a Jimmy Buffet Tribute band.) We were enjoying the music when, about halfway through the concert, one little toddler stole the show . . .

It had rained hard that day – again! – and the dance area was transformed into a miniature replica of the “Great Lakes.” Concert goers tiptoed gingerly around the pools of water and carefully chose seats that were not inundated with puddles underneath. But not this little guy! Undaunted, he headed straight for the rippling pond on the center of the dance floor, then splashed and danced with glee for the next 20 minutes. Even when he fell down, he would just get right back up and keep on going with grins and giggles of pure joy.

I could not help but think how this can be a lesson to us all . . .

So often, we become weighed down by our troubles and begin drowning in negativity, seeing only the rain that has fallen. We wallow in self-pity, fret about someone's judgement of us, or worry about how we will ever accomplish the many tasks set before us. But St. Paul invites us to dwell not on the negatives but on the good gifts that God gives us. “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” ☞ Philippians 4:8

While it is true that most toddlers will run through a puddle rather than go around it, the more important point here is this: what others viewed as a bane, this child recognized as a blessing! When we change our perspective, adversity can become an opportunity. When we trust God as our Father and look at life through the eyes of a child, everything is transformed. This child knew the secret to making the best of the situation:

“You can cry when it rains . . . or you can dance and splash in the puddle!”

What will you choose to do with the “puddles” you encounter today?

Peace be with you! ~ Kathy Wither

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ☞ Psalm 118:24

October 15, 2023

Service Assistants

Ushers: Carl Gee, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jody Fullmer, Jimmy Gardner, Arch Watkins

Lay Assistant: Kim Brofee; **Communion Assistant:** Sandy Ream

Acolyte: Karrah Bair; **Altar Guild:** Rita Strickler, Betty Fenstermacher

Greeters/Communion Presenters: Howard and Jean Wilt

Cantor: Carol Waltz; **Flower Delivery:** Marilyn Winter

Correction **Sunday, October 1**, there were **96** people in attendance, not 71.

Sunday, October 8, Attendance: **86**; Offering: **\$5025.35** Cap. Campaign: **\$10**.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of my family members birthdays, with love by Sandy Jansson.

Bible Readings

Sunday, October 15 - Isaiah 25:1-9; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-4

Monday, October 16 - Psalm 34; Exodus 19:7-20; Jude 17-25

Tuesday, October 17 - Psalm 34; Amos 9:5-15; Philippians 3:13-4:1

Wednesday, October 18 - Psalm 34; Song of Solomon 7:10-8:4; John 6:25-35

Thursday, October 19 - Psalm 96:1-13; Judges 17:1-6; 3 John 9-12

Friday, October 20 - Psalm 96:1-13; Deuteronomy 17:14-20; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Saturday, October 21 - Psalm 96:1-13; Isaiah 14:3-11; Matthew 14:1-12



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



Food Pantry is in need of egg noodles, boxed potatoes, canned potatoes, baked beans, dry milk, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned chicken, tuna fish, crackers, jello, beef stew and chili, syrup, pancake mix and pudding cups.



Please join us on Wednesday evenings for Bible Study and Fellowship at 7:00 pm. *All are welcome*



The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children - **The Life of Martin Luther-Pop-up Book** - The Story of Martin Luther and his role in sparking the Protestant Reformation is given an interactive retelling in this beautiful and sturdy pop-up book. From Luther's decision to become a monk to his 95 theses, history jumps off the page through the vibrant, colorful illustrations. Full of surprising details, this book will have kids coming back again and again to learn about this fascinating chapter in the history of the Christian faith. In the Children's section of our library.

Adult - **The Freedom of a Christian 1520 - the Annotated Luther Study Edition** - This book provides fresh translations of a dozen core Luther texts from the pd. 1517 to 1520. Public statements, sermons, major treatises, and letters that were previously scattered widely across five different volumes of the American Edition of Luther's Works (plus the welcome addition of the lesser-known Sermon on Indulgences and Grace, which doesn't appear in Luther's Works. If you like reading about Luther, you'll really enjoy this book put together by Timothy Wengert. This book is in the Reformation/Lutheran History section of our library.

MISSION TO SEAFARERS



Did you realize that **90% of everything we wear, use, and consume**, come to us by merchant ships, operated by 1.5 million seafarers? On ships for 9 to 10 months at a time, the seafarers face many hardships: storms, piracy, abandonment, and loss of contact with their families. Often the only contact they have beyond the ship, the Chaplains provide emotional and spiritual support. Join in the Chaplains' mission of showing Christ's love.

Remember Matthew 25: 35, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Help fill gift satchels that the Chaplains deliver to the seafarers, in the weeks before Christmas. Each satchel should contain the following:

1 sweatshirt, unhooded or hooded (the preferred) – size M, L or XL

3 pair of socks, thermal or white gym

1 casual pullover T shirt – size M, L or XL

1 heavy knit winter cap

1 can of nuts or large bar of chocolate

Christmas card

NO ADDITIONS AND NO SUBSTITUTIONS

Items need to be at the church by **October 30**. *Thank you.*



*Dearest Messiah Friends,
Words can not express the depth of appreciation in our hearts for all your cards, thoughts, prayers, and support over the past six months with Mike's cancer diagnosis. We don't know how we would have made it thru without our faith in God and the love of our friends. Although we are waiting for the final pathology report, we are praying that any future treatment goals are to "MAINTAIN HEALTH" for as many decades as we are blessed with.
It has been a long road and the most frightening path we have traveled in our 40 years of marriage, we couldn't have done it without all your cards, love, support, prayers and encouragement. Hope to see you soon!*

*God's blessings to all,
Pam and Mike Yoder*



First Communion class will be held at 8:30 AM on Sunday, October 22 in Jensen Lounge. Any young people in third grade or higher are welcome to attend. First Communion will be celebrated on Reformation Sunday, October 29, during the worship service. Please contact the church office to register.

Tickets for the Preschool "Gift Card Bingo" on Saturday, November 4th at 11:30am are available in the church office or by contacting Mary Schultz at 570-772-8021. We are still taking donations of gift cards, themed baskets and baked goods for the event. The deadline is October 15th for the gift cards and themed baskets. Baked goods are due Friday, November 3 by noon in the church office or bring to Independent Fire Company on the day of the event.

***Please Note* The venue change** for the gift card bingo. It will now be held at the **Independent Fire Company, NOT** the Duboistown Fire Hall. If you already purchased tickets they will still be accepted at the event.

Dresses and Britches for Africa



November 1st is the completion date for the Dresses and Britches project for this year. Please finish any dresses and britches you are working on and turn in by that date or call to let me know about delays. Ann Marie Hohman, 570-244-1226 and leave a message. *Thank you.*





Messiah's Women of the ELCA will meet in Shaheen Hall on **Tuesday, October 17, at 7:00 p.m.** The program will feature the owner of Home Town Floral demonstrating how to make a "Fall Floral Decoration" which will then go to some lucky lady in the audience. Devotions will be led by Carol Winter; hostesses are Carol and Marilyn Winter. Everyone is welcome!

Messiah's Women of the ELCA will pack **"Cookie Boxes"** in November for college students and military personnel. PLEASE GIVE NAMES AND ADDRESSES to the Church Office by November 10. We will also pack **"Cookie Tins"** for Messiah's home-bound members and ask that the congregation help to provide "sweet treats" (and some "non-sugar") to be brought to the Church Kitchen on or before November 12 and marked "for WELCA".



Church Women United



World Community Day Celebration, Saturday, November 4, 10:00am at Heshbon Park United Methodist Church, 2898 Heshbon Road, Williamsport, PA 17701. The National theme for our 2023 Celebrations is, "Living a Legacy of Love: Doing God's Work" with the scripture reference of Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) - "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Refreshments will be served following the celebration. Join us in prayer and fellowship.

Christmas Stocking Project: We will be preparing gift items for over 1,125 nursing home residents. We are asking for a \$4.00 donation per stocking. Items included in the stockings are: pens, notebooks, hand creams, emery boards, tissues, and combs. All donations will be used for the Christmas Stocking Project.

Workday Monday: Filling of the Christmas stockings will be on Monday, November 13, 2023 at First Church of Christ (Disciples), Williamsport, beginning at 9 a.m.

