



## Calendar of Events

**Sunday, July 7**

9:30 am Worship/Communion

**Monday, July 8**

**Tuesday, July 9**

**Wednesday, July 10**

9:00 am Knot-A-Sack Event

**Thursday, July 11**

7:30 pm NA

**Friday, July 12**

**Saturday, July 13**



**MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060**

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# MESSIAH MESSENGER

*Published weekly by*

## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**July 3, 2024**

**VOL. 82 – NO. 27**

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**Symbols in the Church** - *Mrs. Blair's Class on Symbols*

### **Symbols on the Altar**

Front of the Altar, top row, from left-right



#### **THE PHOENIX** (Newness of Life)

One of the most widely used of all symbols of our Lord's Resurrection is the phoenix. The legends concerning this fabled bird vary slightly. According to one version of the phoenix legend, this bird, which resembles an eagle somewhat, lives to the age of four to five hundred years. It gathers a nest of sweet smelling twigs and spices. These are set on fire by the heat of the sun (a variation of the legend says by the fanning of the bird's wings), and she is consumed by the fire. Out of the ashes the bird rises again, recreated and young, destined to live another five hundred years.

The symbolism of the phoenix is two-fold. It may pertain to the resurrection of our Lord, or it may signify the fact that those who fall asleep in Christ shall rise again to newness of life. Without forcing a meaning into it, for the old Adam in us is drowned and destroyed with all the sin and evil lusts, and the new man comes forth, born again of water and of the spirit. (This is also on the back of the Altar also, third one in top row.)

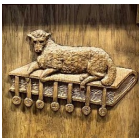


**THE AGNUS DEI** (Lamb of God) and **BANNER OF VICTORY** The use of the Lamb of God is likewise of most ancient origin. It is based upon such Scripture verses St. John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming unto him, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Any form of art must be symbolic if it is to convey a spiritual message. A representation of the Lamb of God must tell the story of man's sin, and the sacrifice of the Lamb of Calvary, it is to be devotional.

Similar reference is made in the book of Revelation, and subsequently in the great hymns and prayers of the Church. Quite often the symbol of the Lamb is found in one form or another on communion ware and liturgical hangings.

Sometimes the Lamb carries a resurrection banner, or a white pennant with a red cross on a cruciform standard. The white pennant represents the body of Christ, which is attached to the cruciform staff, representing the cross on which the Lamb of God died and through which the risen Christ saves the world. When the Lamb is depicted as laying down, reference is made to a suffering and burden-bearing Christ, on whom the Lord laid "the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6) When the Lamb is standing, suggestion is given that the Lamb of God is triumphant, risen.



**THE AGNUS DEI** (Lamb of God) and **BOOK OF SEVEN SEALS** In ancient time examples the Agnus Dei may be seen laying upon the Book of Seven Seals or carrying the banner of Victory. It must be crowned with the three-rayed nimbus, signifying that is a symbol of divinity.

*(Continues on inside cover)*

**Sunday, July 7, 2024**

**Service Assistants**

**USHERS:** Fred Harbaugh, AnnMarie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ

**LAY ASSISTANT:** Anita Bair; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Candy Watkins

**ACOLYTE:** Karrah Bair; **ALTAR GUILD:** Vicki Bair, Doris Butt

**GREETERS/COMMUNION PRESENTERS:** Mike and Dianne Larson

**CANTOR:** Janet Stroble; **FLOWER DELIVERY:** Arch Watkins

**Sunday, June 30:** Attendance: **102**; Offering: **\$5,112.38**; Cap. Campaign: **\$20.00**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Bill Miller with love by Linda, Mike, Nathan, Tammy and families.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Rev. A. Bruce and Virginia Amme's 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary, by their children and grandchildren.

**Bible Readings**

**Sunday, July 7:** *Ezekiel 2:1-5; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13*

**Monday, July 8:** *Psalm 119:81-88; Ezekiel 2:8-3:11; 2 Corinthians 11:16-33*

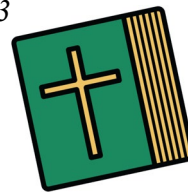
**Tuesday, July 9:** *Psalm 119:81-88; Jeremiah 16:1-13; James 5:7-12*

**Wednesday, July 10:** *Psalm 119:81-88; Jeremiah 16:14-21; John 7:1-9*

**Thursday, July 11:** *Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 2:6-16; Colossians 2:1-5*

**Friday, July 12:** *Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 3:1-12; Colossians 4:2-18*

**Saturday, July 14:** *Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 4:6-13; Luke 1:57-80*



**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.

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

*(Continued from cover)*



**THE BUTTERFLY** – This is one of the finest of all the symbols of the Resurrection, and of eternal life through Jesus Christ. With such splendid symbols as this available, why confine ourselves to two or three threadbare examples? The three stages in the life history of the butterfly represent three stages of the Christian. First is the crawling larva, representing the lowly condition of mortal man on this earth. Next is the chrysalis, lying in his shell, and seemingly lifeless. This depicts the body of man in the grave. Finally, the pupa bursts its outer shell, emerges, dries its wings and soars heavenward with a beautiful new body. So also does our Lord Jesus raise up all the dead at the last day, and the soul and glorified body are reunited, to dwell in heaven forever. What finer symbol is there of the power of our Savior to raise up faithful believers?

## **The Library Corner**



Children - **Bible Birds and Beasties** - Did you hear about the donkey who talked? Or the man who lived inside a big fish? Children will love this collection of best-loved Bible Stories, with Noah, Jonah, Daniel, Elijah, the stories of Jesus--and a few surprises too, all quirkily illustrated by the amazing T. S. Spookytooth! Book on Children's shelf.

Adult - **The Great House of God – a home for your heart**- In this book Max Lucado takes you on a tour of the home God intended for you. Warm your heart by the fire in the living room. Nourish your spirit in the kitchen. Seek fellowship in the family room. Step into the hallway and find forgiveness. It's the perfect home for you. After all it was created with you in mind. No house more complete, no structure more solid. This great read is in the Max Lucado section.



A new 13-week cycle of GriefShare at Redeemer will begin again on Monday, July 29, 2024, 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.*



**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 July 27, 8:30-11 a.m. All are welcome!***

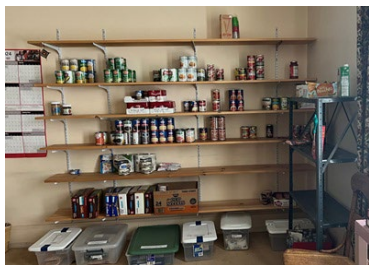




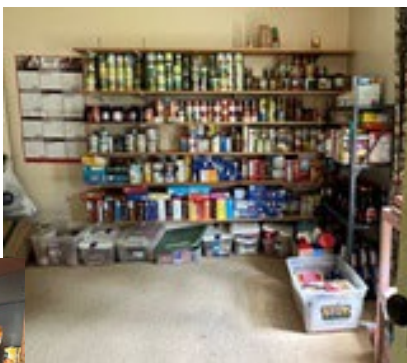
**Thank you to everyone who participated in our Pack the Pantry Challenge!** As you can see we have an over-abundance of food for our pantry shelves. This will definitely keep us stocked for a few months. After many trips from the sanctuary to the office it is now done.



The pews were filled (5 rows)



Pantry before



half way done



done and over flowing

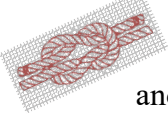
*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. **2 Corinthians 9:6-8***

**Our food pantry** was able to help 10 families in the month of June thanks to your generous giving.





The sacks are almost finished, and - when all is said and done - we will have nearly 600 backpacks available to be filled. Please see the insert in this week's Messenger for a list of needed items as we kick off our collection of school supplies. ***How will you hear the call to help out this year?***



**Knot-A-Sack Event** – because it's “not” a sack until it's “knotted!”

The women (with a few men helping) have sewn more than 575 backpacks and the Bible School children have strung the cord through the casing. One step remains to complete the sacks before we fill them – to thread the cord through the loops and tie square knots to secure the two ends together. That would be quite a task for one or two people, but working together we can accomplish so much more – and the fellowship we share is the icing on the cake! ***Come and join us for our “Knotty Party” on any of the following Wednesdays in July: July 10 ~ July 17 ~ July 24 ~ 9-11 a.m.***

Light refreshments will be offered. If you would like to help out but do not feel that you can manage the knots, please come anyway ... we can put you to work checking the knots, counting and stacking the finished packs neatly on the cart. ***Many hands make light work!***

### **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.



***Can't make it to church? Join us live on Facebook!***

Worship services will be broadcast on Facebook Live each Sunday beginning at 9:30 a.m. To watch the service live, visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahSouth>.

***If you are unable to join us live, videos will be made available to be viewed later.***

To link to the video archive and for additional worship resources, visit Messiah's web site at <https://messiahsouth.org/worship-resources/>.

A copy of the worship bulletin will be posted to both the web site and the Facebook page each week so that you can follow along.

***Did you know?*** Messiah's Facebook page is a public page, so even if you do not have a Facebook account, you are still able to view content on our page



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 575+ bags ... how many can we fill? Our Bible School kids got us off to a good running start, donating enough money to fill nearly 80 of the bags already. Now it's up to us to follow their lead, and to "dive in" 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 14

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 and Staples to have the best deals ... please let us know if you find better deals so we can share that information!*

*Tip: Online venues also offer good prices on some items when purchased in bulk.*

**Supplies and cash donations should be brought to the church by Sunday,  
August 18.**

***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

Call or Text Kathy Wither (570) 651-2802

**Lutheran World Relief School Kits Summer Collection**