



Calendar of Events

Sunday, July 21

9:30 am Worship/Communion

Monday, July 22

Tuesday, July 23

Wednesday, July 24

Thursday, July 25

7:30 pm NA

Friday, July 26

Saturday, July 27



MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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

Symbols on the Altar

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



CHRISTMAS ROSE

This is a Nativity symbol. The poinsettia is believed by some to have the same meaning,



GLASTONBURY THORN (The Nativity)

The ancient thorn-tree, which stands just within the gates of the great ruined Abbey at Glastonbury, Somersetshire, England, is believed by many to be a descendant of the Thornwood staff planted by St. Joseph of Arimathaea, who is said to have introduced Christianity into England in the year 63 A.D. The Glastonbury thorn has the remarkable habit of bursting into bloom about Christmas day each year, as any of the citizens of the town will attest. Because of this fact, the blossoms of the Glastonbury Thorn are symbols of our Lord's Nativity. Recent archaeological investigations carried on at the Glastonbury seem to verify the tradition of the extreme antiquity of British Christianity, and to make it possible that the thorn tree was planted by early missionaries. The original tree, which was of great age, was destroyed by a puritan fanatic.



THE GLADIOLUS (The Word Made Flesh)

The Gladiolus is a symbol of the Incarnation: The Word made Flesh



THE FISH

The fish is another very early symbol. A rebus (a mode of expressing words and phrases by signs) I X O Y C meaning "fish". Each letter was regarded as the initial of a word in the sentence. This is translated as Jesus Christ Son's God Savior. Used at first in the first century, its meaning may not have been known to pagan persecutors, yet to the early Christians it was an emblem of profound significance, and at all times it was a sermon in stone, expressing the fact of man's need of a savior, and the fact of salvation only through Jesus Christ.

In the days when it was dangerous to be a Christian, the followers of Jesus resorted to secret signs and symbols to keep from exposing themselves unnecessarily to the foes of Christianity. For example, a man sometimes drew the picture of a fish in the sand while talking with another. If the figure was recognized to signify more than an unconscious movement during the course of a conversation, the two would identify each other in the Christian faith.

(continues on the inside)

Sunday, July 21, 2024

Service Assistants

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

LAY ASSISTANT: Kim Brofee; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Mary Schultz

ACOLYTE: Brennen Hess; **ALTAR GUILD:** Marie Welter, April Gardner

GREETERS/COMMUNION PRESENTERS: Don and Mary Ellen Rosenbaum

CANTOR: Bob Schweppenheiser; **FLOWER DELIVERY:** Jody Fullmer

Sunday, July 14: Attendance:100; Offering: \$4,520.88; Cap. Campaign: \$10.00

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of William F. Gilbert Sr. by his wife Suzanne and family.

Bible Readings

Sunday, July 21: *Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56*

Monday, July 22: *Psalms 100; Jeremiah 50:1-7; Hebrews 13:17-25*

Tuesday, July 23: *Psalms 100; Zechariah 9:14-10:2; Acts 20:17-38*

Wednesday, July 24: *Psalms 100; 2 Samuel 5:1-12; Luke 15:1-7*

Thursday, July 25: *Psalms 145:10-18; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Colossians 1:9-14*

Friday, July 26: *Psalms 145:10-18; 2 Kings 3:4-20; Colossians 3:12-17*

Saturday, July 27: *Psalms 145:10-18; 2 Kings 4:38-41; John 4:31-38*



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

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent out Sunday, July 21st. Please let the office know if you are not available to take communion. If anyone is homebound, can't get to church and would like to receive Communion please notify the church office at 570-326-9171.

(Continued from cover)

During the days when Christians had to worship in secret, visiting Christians could find their way to the worship center in the long underground passageways by simply looking at the fish on the wall pointing in the direction in which way they were to go.

The strange symbol of the fish has an intricate background. The Greek word for fish (pronounced ichthus) is formed by using the first letter of each of the words in Greek IXOYC which spells out "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior". It is precisely because the symbol was difficult to understand that it was precious. It was a protection from non-Christians.

While the single fish represents the Savior, several fish represents faithful Christians. In Matthew 4:19 the beginnings of the development of the symbol can be seen: "And he said to them, 'follow me, and I will make you fishers of men'."

The fish as a symbol does not appear often today, but whenever we see it, we think of the heroic time when Christians underwent persecutions and trials for their faith and succeeded in spreading the gospel despite many obstacles.

The Library Corner

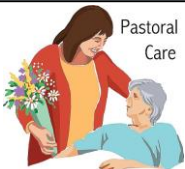


Children Children/Youth - **The Real Story of The Flood** - One vessel large enough for a pair of every kind of animal in creation. One faithful man and his family. One global catastrophe, and one God capable of creating, destroying, and ultimately, saving our world and everything in it. In this book, scholar and author Paul L. Maier explains the Great Flood in a unique way. No myth or romanticized version, here is the true story of mankind's second chance and our loving God's promise to preserve us for all time. This book is in the children's section of the library.

Adult - **The Gift to Listen - The Courage to Hear** - This book interweaves listening techniques with spiritual principles that emphasize the importance of listening and provide a framework for more effective listening. Using real-life anecdotes drawn from her experience as a minister, counselor, and organization development consultant, Cari Jackson explores common causes of communication breakdowns and offers strategies for moving toward communication breakthroughs. This practical and inspiring book will deepen the rewards of human relationships in business, love and family life. The book is found in the topical issues section of our library.



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.



Pastoral
Care

Please contact the church office if you or a family member are in the hospital or are ill. Pastor Jeff LeCrone is available for visits or phone calls (*see contact information above.*) The office will also contact our prayer chain leaders so that your fellow church members may pray to help you be restored to wellness. *Prayer is a powerful healer!*



WE NEED YOU!

The Nominating Committee will be meeting at the end of the July and is looking to fill four vacant council spots. Please consider becoming a member of council. For more information, please contact Susan Christ, Sherri Holtzman or Larry Solomon.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5



Lutheran Summer Music invites you to livestream over 30 inspiring concerts, recitals, and worship services throughout the entire month of July. Performances and services are shared by over 250 students, faculty, fellows, worship staff, and guest artists who come together to create a vibrant community of music-makers. Visit

LSMacademy.org/2024 to explore the schedule and access the livestream and video archive. You won't want to miss this!



Lutheran World Relief School Kits Summer Collection

Throughout the summer, we will continue to collect school supplies to fill school kits to be sent to children in need around the world. *These supplies often mean the difference between getting an education or not.*

Nearly 600 backpacks are available to be filled. *How will you hear the call to help this year?*

Needed items: Please see the insert in last week's Messenger for a list of needed items. You can also pick up the list in the narthex or from the church office.

Be a good steward! Watch for the sales to get "the best bang for your buck" and donate as you are able. If you are good with a computer, you can shop for deals online, too!

Love to shop? Go for it, and have fun picking things out! We love to see the items you choose for the children, and it's one less trip for us to make to the store.

Monetary donations are welcome! Don't like to shop or unsure what to get? We'll do the shopping for you! We can shop the local deals with our tax-exempt status to save money, and we can get great deals online when we shop in bulk and buy enough to get free shipping. Make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church with LWR School Kits in the memo line. Cash should be placed in an envelope marked LWR School Kits.

Items may be placed in the schoolhouse in the narthex from now through August 18.



A Great Big Shout-out to all who took part in our "Knotty Party" on July 10 – *woo hoo!* We had such a "knotty" time that we finished knotting every last bag that was sewn. We don't have an official count as of yet, but as of the last report there were at least 575 bags sewn x 2 knots each – you do the math! Everyone had a great time and we thank you all so much for joining us for fun and fellowship as we laughed and worked together to accomplish this task.

Please note: *Because we were able to finish in one session, the July 17 and July 24 sessions are cancelled.*

Again **THANK YOU!** *Many hands and happy hearts made light work!*

➤➤➤ **SAVE THE DATE** <<<<

Pack-A-Sack and Pizza Supper ~ Saturday, September 14, 5 p.m.-???

Grade 3* through Adult

**Younger children may attend if helped by an adult.*

Questions? Call Sally at (570) 547-6193 or call/text Kathy at (570) 651-2802

Thank you for your support!

**In the presence of our Lord
As we start our Sabbath Day,
Some people choose a place to sit
And then begin to pray
And others choose to read a hymn
And others read a Psalm
Preparing heart and mind and soul
In Worshipful, peaceful calm.**

**We certainly like to greet each other
And share our thoughts and news,
But maybe we could be more mindful
Of those who are in the pews.**

**We could use our smaller voices
Before our worship starts
Maintaining a reverent quiet
That speaks to our souls and hearts.**

**We need your help to lower the level
As we enter God's holy house.
We could all just talk in whispers.
Be as quiet as a mouse.**

Author Unknown



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>.

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 the web site 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.