

### Calendar of Events

#### Sunday, September 8

9:30 am Worship/Communion  
9:30 am Sunday School  
11:00 am "Welcome Back Picnic"

#### Monday, September 9

6:30 pm Fellowship Committee

#### Tuesday, September 10

5:30 pm District 12 Meeting

#### Wednesday, September 11

#### Thursday, September 12

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm NA

#### Friday, September 13

#### Saturday, September 14

5:00 pm Pack-A-Sack Event



#### MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

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## MESSIAH MESSENGER

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### “Welcome Back”

Fall is one of my favorite seasons. Although it doesn't officially begin until September 22nd, we will certainly start to see it. The temperatures will soon cool down, the scents of autumn are occasionally distinguished in the fresh breeze. People have traded in their swimsuits for sweatshirts. High School and College football has started and the start of the NFL season is just around the corner. We've seen our kids and grandkids go back to school. There's more traffic on the roads as adults head back into the office.

I am not sure where or when I read this phrase, but the phrase, “**Fall is a Great Time to Return**” has stuck with me. Schools and businesses alike are eager to welcome back those who have been otherwise gone during these summer months. Add our church to that list. Fall is a great time to return to *Messiah Lutheran Church*. Messiah is eager to welcome you back. Come for worship; stick around for our coffee hours, adult Bible study and Sunday School. Our attendance has certainly nosedived a bit over the summer months; this is normal for just about every church. But as we all settle back into the work/school routine, I'm hopeful to see many of you back again.

Yet even as we search for a regular routine, two things remain the same. First, our lives are just as busy as ever before. Summer sun-filled activities are quickly replaced by soccer games or football practices, schoolwork, meetings and household chores. There is no restful peace to be found. No matter the time of year, we're always on the go.

The second thing that never changes is our need for God's strength and grace in Jesus. “*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*” (Psalm 1:1-2) These words of the psalmist give a life-giving prescription and important perspective—we need to be seeking counsel in the Lord and spending time in His word. Regularly. Daily. Intentionally. Thus, the yearning to have you all return to church. Why? Because our church is better when we're together. And the more that gather, the better. To be sure, God is present regardless of our pew-sitting numbers. But it's been far too long since our church has

*(Continues on the inside cover)*

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been filled. It's time to return, time to come back. Time to gather together and think about how we can impact those around us at work, at home, at play. In Psalm 1, we are told that we are "*blessed*" when we walk into the house of the Lord and sit in the "*congregation of the righteous.*" This fall, come regularly to worship. Be fed by the Word of God. Be comforted and challenged by His Word that is read, taught, and preached. Find strength and peace from the body and blood of Jesus found every time we celebrate communion. Be encouraged by fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who pray and sing together. Grow further in wisdom as you engage in different Bible studies. Bring your kids to Sunday School, youth group, or confirmation classes. Grow in old friendships and create new ones as you participate in choir or other fellowship activities.

This fall, and every changing season thereafter, we hope to see you return to church because we are in the business of delivering the love and mercy of God. We are a "*congregation of the righteous*" because the message we share is always about the love and forgiveness of God on display in the great selfless act of our Savior's cross. We have a beautiful, freeing message to proclaim and we want you here to hear it!

*Inserts from "Happy Fall Y'All" blog, author is Pastor Steve Vera at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Mountain Lakes, NJ*



### **The Library Corner**



Youth – **Caution: Dangerous Devotions – an exciting journey through the New Testament** – As you hike through the NT, you'll gain a whole new perspective of God's Word and how it speaks to every area of your life. You will see how God put each book in its place to give you direction for your life. All you'll need is a compass (the Bible) to help you keep your bearings, a map (this book) so you won't lose your way, and a willingness to listen to God. This book is great for individual youth as well as great for youth meetings. Book is in the Youth Section.

Adult – **A Life Worth Leading** – People are yearning for lives that have purpose, significance and direction. Even more, they are searching for a faith that can transform their lives and the lives of others. This book is based on the Apostle Paul's admonition to "lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called. Wonderful study on your own or with a group. Found in our Teaching Curriculum section.



**Choir rehearsals began** on Thursday, September 5, at 7 PM. If you like to sing and would be willing to add your voice in singing praises to God, please join us.

Sunday, September 8, 2024

Service Assistants	
USHERS	Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Bill Reasner, Sally Congdon, Mike Gardner
LAY ASSISTANT	Susan Bryan
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Fred Harbaugh
ACOLYTE	Jonathan Hess
ALTAR GUILD	Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser
GREETERS/COMMUNION PRESENTERS	
CANTOR	Bob Schweppenheiser
FLOWER DELIVERY	Paul Weaver

**Sunday, September 1:** Attendance: **69**; Offering: **\$4,016.00**; Capital Campaign: **\$60.00**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sam Hessert's 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday on September 13<sup>th</sup>, with love from his wife Carol and family.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Roland Weaver on the anniversary of his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, with love from his wife, Jean and family.

### Bible Readings

**Sunday, September 8:** *Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37*

**Monday, September 9:** *Isaiah 38:10-20; Joshua 6:1-21; Hebrews 11:29-12:2*

**Tuesday, September 10:** *Isaiah 38:10-20; Joshua 8:1-23; Hebrews 12:3-13*

**Wednesday, September 11:** *Isaiah 38:10-20; Judges 15:9-20; Matthew 17:14-21*

**Thursday, September 12:** *Psalms 116:1-9; Joshua 2:1-14; Hebrews 11:17-22*

**Friday, September 13:** *Psalms 116:1-9; Joshua 2:15-24; James 2:17-26*

**Saturday, September 14:** *Psalms 116:1-9; Joshua 6:22-27; Matthew 21:23-32*



**Presiding over our worship this Sunday**, September 8<sup>th</sup>, will be Pr. Ron Montgomery. Next Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> will be Ray Huff, ALWL.

**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.

**Articles for the Messenger and Bulletin are due in the office by Monday at noon.**



**Food Pantry: Items most needed this week** are tuna fish, canned chicken, mac and cheese, mashed potatoes and dry milk.



**Sunday School begins** this Sunday, September 8 at 9:30 am and we can't wait to see you!



## Lutheran World Relief School Kits ~ God's Work. Our Hands.

### Pack-a-Sack ~ Part 1 ~ Saturday, September 14, 5:00p.m.

Now the real fun begins. Please join us for a Pizza Supper followed by a work session to fill the LWR Backpacks with school supplies.



***We need you!***

Please sign up in the narthex so that we know how much help is available and how much pizza to order. We have OODLES of packs to fill – *hope to see you there!*

### Pack-a-Sack ~ Part 2 ~ Sunday, September 15, after worship

On Sunday, September 15, we will bless the backpacks during the worship service. Following worship, we invite anyone who is willing and able to stay after church to help pack the completed school kits into cartons for shipping. The boxed kits will then be safely stored until they are taken to the ingathering on October 19. Many hands make light work!



Messiah's Women of the ELCA will host a **Coffee Hour** in Shaheen Hall on **Sunday, September 15**, following the Service. on **Tuesday, September 17**, we will meet at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Barb and Doug Houseknecht, 518 Clinton Street, South Williamsport., for a "**Garage Picnic**". Please bring a covered dish to share.



### **WE NEED YOU!**

**The Nominating Committee is still in need of Council members.** *Please give some prayerful thought to serving in this important role.* 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



Our community's annual walk to fight hunger, the **CROP Walk**, is scheduled for **Sunday, October 13, 2024**. Registration and Walk will begin at 1 p.m. in front of St. Mark's Lutheran Church (142 Market Street). Walkers can walk 3, 6, or 9 miles on the River Walk. Other structured opportunities will be in Hughesville, in Quiggleville, and in Trout Run. You, or members of your congregation, may wish to walk on your own instead or create another location! This year is our 46th Walk, and to date, we have raised over 1 million dollars to help stop hunger! Last year we raised almost \$6,000. We hope we can count on your congregation's participation. Please contact Tammey as soon as possible at [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org), or at 570-322-1110, with a contact person from your congregation. Please supply their name, address, phone, and email.



**Preschool Mums Fundraiser!** It's time to order your fall mums. This is our **Fifth** year working with the Potting Bench, for our Mums Fundraiser and the mums have been beautiful! The **\$10 tickets** for the mums will be available the next few Sundays after worship in the Narthex or church office. For more information, contact Linda Miller at 570-326-5405. You will be able to take your tickets to the Potting Bench at 324 Matthews Blvd. in S. Williamsport and choose your very own 9-inch potted mum(s). *More info on when the deadline is to pick up your mums. **THANK YOU for Your Support!***



**Mums for loved ones:** If anyone would like to help the preschool by donating a mum to the church, Kathy will plant the mums around the church and the office building in memory of your loved ones. If you would like the name of your loved one listed in the Messenger, please provide the information to the church office. Your donation will add to the beauty of our church – possibly for years to come! Mums that were planted last year are thriving and now grace our entrance. **TIP:** The earlier you bring your mum to the church to be planted, the better chance it has of becoming established and blooming again next year!



Camp Mount Luther recently ended their summer camping season. Around 336 participants took part in programs during the six-week session. Before the campers arrived, the staff participated in two and a half weeks of intense training. This summer, 178 campers enjoyed on-site programs including mini, day, weeklong, and family camps. This year's theme at Camp Mount Luther was "Created to Be." Campers and staff explored how God gives us freedom to be our authentic selves and what it means to be siblings in Christ—humans who are brave enough to encourage and stand up for each other, sharing burdens as well as joys. We can use that bravery to do out and serve God in the world.



Please join us for Bible Study and fellowship on Wednesday evenings starting on Wednesday, September 18, at 7:00 pm. *All are welcome!*

**Eucharistic Ministers** will be sent out Sunday, September 15th. 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.

### ***Dresses and Britches for Africa***



Please help the needy children of Africa by sewing dresses and/or britches. Shirts, pillowcases and trim are available in the Narthex on and under the table displayed, also included are the instructions. For questions contact Ann Marie Hohman, 570-244-1226 and leave a message. *Thank you.*

