



GALATIANS 6:2. ESV

## Calendar of Events

### Sunday, September 22

9:30 am Worship/Communion

9:30 am Sunday School

6:00 pm South Little League

### Monday, September 23

5:30 pm Sit Happens

7:00 pm Property Committee

### Tuesday, September 24

### Wednesday, September 25

### Thursday, September 26

1:00 pm Back Pack Packing

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm NA

### Friday, September 27

### Saturday, September 28



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

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September 18, 2024

VOL. 82 – NO. 38

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### Lutheran World Relief School Kits – Blessed to Be a Blessing

September is here and we have completed another successful year of collecting school supplies for children around the globe. Backpacks have been sewn, strung, knotted, packed with the needed supplies that were collected over the summer, and safely tucked away in boxes to be taken to the synod's LWR Ingathering in October. And – probably for the first time in my life, I am absolutely ... absolutely ... speechless. Final tally? **Read on ...**

When we kicked off our school kits project this year, I stood in front of the congregation and told you, “Our sewing group has made nearly 600 backpacks. Are we going to ask you to fill them all? *Well ... let's just see where the Spirit leads.*”

Did Sally and I think we would be able to fill all 600 backpacks? The short answer is ... no. That seemed like a pretty tall order! But the short answer is never the end of the story. God has a way of turning a situation on its head and we know that, so we thought, okay, let's do what we said ... sit back, **trust**, and see where the Spirit leads.

Well ... the Spirit led. And did He ever lead! And did you ever follow! To be honest, the image I have of you all is that of a family of eager children skipping along ahead of their Father while he tries to keep up! Final tally? **Read on ...**

We did things a bit differently this year, and the project took on a whole life of its own. It's no longer just about school kits. It's not just about collecting supplies and sending them to kids around the world. It's about camaraderie. It's about bonding people in a common mission.

We held our first ever sew-a-thon. Women **and men** gathered in Shaheen Hall to measure and cut fabric, iron and pin, move materials around, and to sew, all while engaging in conversation and getting to know each other a little better. Then the Bible School kids strung the packs. They flew like the wind this year and strung a record 574 backpacks while also contributing nearly \$400 in offerings toward the supplies. Then we had a “knotty” party, because somebody had to tie the cords together that close the backpacks – and that was a **lot** of knots to tie! Men and women and a few teens showed up to help and again the light-hearted conversation made time fly.

Then it was time to shop for supplies. To say that it was a humbling experience is an understatement. As we were shown again and again that God cannot be put in a box, we surrendered it all to Him and felt nothing but peace. The trend continued and even more amazing things began to happen. Besides the donations from those who sit in our pews every Sunday, members whom we have not seen in a while called or came to the church with donations, and folks who had some sort of tie with Messiah but don't attend had heard about it and also brought in donations. One of the most memorable days was when I came in to find a huge pile of donations on the stage ... right at Jesus' feet. It felt like Christmas morning - coming downstairs to see the presents under the tree.

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Then there was the pack-a-sack to put the supplies into the backpacks and the final task of loading the backpacks into shipping boxes before sending them off to the ingathering. So ... what was the final tally? **606 school kits completed!!**

But the true success of the event was not in the numbers. Throughout the entire project this year, new friends were made, old friendships were rekindled, bonds were forged. Folks united in a common mission. There was a sense of community. And it became apparent that *Messiah is not just a church*. Messiah is a family. Messiah is a Spirit-led congregation. Messiah is a people “blessed to be a blessing.”

And so shall it be with the children who receive the blessing that you have provided to them. The possibilities are endless. A child in Ukraine who receives one of these backpacks may become a doctor who one day saves your life. A child in Tanzania may one day discover a cure for AIDS or become a teacher shaping the young minds of his or her students. A child in Liberia may one day forge a peace treaty that will change the world.

Sally and I cannot say it enough ... to all who came to the events, gave donations, worked behind the scenes, prayed, and cheered us on ... **thank you, thank you, thank you** for the **overwhelming** outpouring of love. ~ Kathy Wither

*Lord, you have blessed the people of Messiah to be a blessing and you have poured out your Spirit upon them. May you bless each and every one of the children who receives these school supplies as well as their teachers so that they, too, may become a blessing to others. Amen.*

*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ~ Romans 8:14*



## **The Library Corner**



Children - **Maybe God is like that too** - When a young boy wonders where to find God in his city, his grandma reminds him that he just needs to know where to look. It turns out God's spirit is at work all around him. Found in the Children's section.

Adult - **MARY called Magdalene-a novel** - Mary Magdalene, the beloved disciple and companion of Jesus, the Woman with the Alabaster Jar, has had a mystique since her name first appeared in the Gospel of Mark. Who was she? Can we ever know? This book is the author's most ambitious work yet and brilliantly grounded in both biblical and secular historical research. Book in the Adult Fiction section of our library.



*Thank you to everyone for your cards, prayers and well wishes throughout my surgery recovery. I am so grateful for your kindness and support.*

*God's blessings.*

*Sandy Jansson*



Sunday, September 22, 2024

Service Assistants	
USHERS	Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Bill Reasner, Sally Congdon, Mike Gardner
LAY ASSISTANT	David Bausinger
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Sherri Holtzman
ACOLYTE	Brennen Hess
ALTAR GUILD	Rita Strickler, Carol Winter
GREETERS/COMMUNION PRESENTERS	Linda Miller, Mary Schultz
CANTOR	Carol Waltz
FLOWER DELIVERY	Susan Bryan

**Sunday, September 15:** Attendance: **83**; Offering: **\$4,055.38**; Capital Campaign: **\$20.00**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my parents, Bernard and Juanita Collins, by their daughter Sandy Ream and family.

**Bible Readings**

**Sunday, September 22:** *Jeremiah 11:18-20; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37*

**Monday, September 23:** *Psalms 139:1-18; 2 Kings 5:1-14; James 4:8-17*

**Tuesday, September 24:** *Psalms 139:1-18; 2 Kings 11:21-12:16; James 5:1-6*

**Wednesday, September 25:** *Psalms 139:1-18; Jeremiah 1:4-10; John 8:21-38*

**Thursday, September 26:** *Psalms 19:7-14; Exodus 18:13-27; Acts 4:13-31*

**Friday, September 27:** *Psalms 19:7-14; Deuteronomy 1:1-18; Acts 12:20-25*

**Saturday, September 28:** *Psalms 19:7-14; Deuteronomy 27:1-10; Matthew 5:13-20*



**Presiding over our worship this Sunday**, September 22, will be Janet Stroble, ALWL. Next Sunday, September 29, 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 PastoralEmergency 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 mixed fruit or any canned fruit, egg noodles, canned and boxed potatoes, granola bars, dessert mixes (brownies, cake mixes), jello and peanut butter.



**Usher's Meeting:** Current ushers and anyone willing to serve please plan on meeting in the Chapel following the worship service on Sunday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. *Thank you.*



Please join us for Bible Study and fellowship on Wednesday evenings starting next Wednesday at 7:00 pm. We will start with Psalm 139. *All are welcome!*



**Preschool Mums Fundraiser!** We still have tickets left! The deadline to pick up your mums is September 30. Tickets are \$10.00 each. Take your ticket to the Potting Bench and pick out your mum.



**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.

**The Mountie Backpack Program is ready for the new school year. Bagging is on**

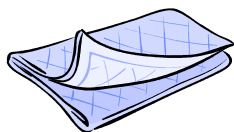


Mountie  
Backpack Program

**Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in Shaheen Hall** beginning September 26<sup>th</sup>. Needed again are two volunteers to deliver the food bags on Fridays to Central Elementary School. Please contact Dianne Larson, 570-220-3702; Connie McLaughlin, 570-326-3618, or Mary Schultz, 570-772-8021.

*Many hands lighten the load*

**Harvest Home and Blanket Sunday** is on Sunday, October 6, 2024. Worshippers will be invited to bring forward their gifts of canned goods, boxes of pasta, or monetary offerings for the hungry during the singing of the Hymn of Praise. **Decorating for Harvest Home** will take place on Saturday, October 5 at 10:00 am. Donations of fresh produce (pumpkins, potatoes, apples, squash, etc.), cornstalks and gourds to use in decorating are very much needed. **These perishable items** may be dropped off at the church office any time Thursday-Friday, October 3-4, or by 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 5. **Monetary gifts in lieu of in-kind gifts may be placed in plain envelopes marked “Harvest Home.”** Checks should be made payable to “Messiah Lutheran Church”.



**Blanket Sunday: Donated blankets and quilts** will be distributed by Lutheran World Relief. Please place clean blankets or quilts in the **gray** bin located in the elevator entrance **no later than October 5**. **Monetary gifts may be placed in an envelope on which you mark “Blankets.”** Checks should be made payable to “Messiah Lutheran Church.” These monetary gifts also will be received during the singing of the Hymn of Praise. **ONE NOTE**, LWR does not want fleece blankets, BECAUSE people wash them in streams, and the lint pollutes the streams. Thank you for your help, *Carol Winter*





## ***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.*



**Saturday, October 26,** The Messiah Preschool will be hosting a Gift Card Bingo to benefit the Preschool. To make this event a success we are asking the congregation for your support.

**Tickets will be available,** before and after the service in the Narthex on these dates:

Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> and October 6

**P R E S C H O O L**



Other ways you can help:

- Donate a gift card of your choice for our Gift Card Bingo
- Make a themed basket to donate for our Chinese Auction
- Make baked goods to sell during the event

We will have examples of items for you to see on display.

Deadline for gift cards and themed baskets is October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Baked good items are due Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> by **NOON** in the church office.

**PLEASE DROP OFF ALL DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE**

**Clothing for Daniel's Closet is accepted year-round at Messiah.**

**Please call the church office with names and addresses** of college students or service members for *WELCA's annual mailing of cookie boxes* which will be packed and sent on **November 19<sup>th</sup>**. Donations of cookies or other snack items by that date will also be greatly appreciated. Label donations "**For WELCA**" and place in church kitchen.



**We Need You!** Would you be interested in serving on Messiah's Congregation Council? If you would like to submit your name or if you want to submit a name from the congregation at large (permission from that member must be obtained before submission) please let someone from the Nominating Committee

or Council know asap. Members of the Nominating Committee are: Sherri Holtzman, Larry Solomon, Sue Christ.

***Please give some prayerful thought to serving in this important role.***

