



## Calendar of Events

### Sunday, February 23

9:30 am Worship/Communion  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Friendship Luncheon  
6:30 pm SW Little League

### Monday, February 24

6:00 pm Sit Happens  
6:30 pm LLFF Committee Meeting  
7:00 pm Property Committee

### Tuesday, February 25

### Wednesday, February 26

6:30 pm Bible Study

**NO BIBLE STUDY THIS EVENING**

### Thursday, February 27

1:00 pm Backpacks Packing  
7:00 pm Choir  
7:30 pm NA

### Friday, February 28

### Saturday, March 1

10:00 am WELCA Event  
“World Day of Prayer”



### MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

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## MESSIAH MESSENGER

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### Lion or Lamb?

**“In a loud voice they were saying, ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise.’” *Revelation 5:12***

Does March really come in like a lion and go out like a lamb? I would like to think so. This old folkloric saying gives me hope that warmer weather may just be on the way. I am not sure though, just how reliable this saying is. Its source is simply from farmer’s observations over the centuries. But in any case, March often serves as a transition month between seasons.

The image of a lion and a lamb is used in Scripture to refer to Jesus Christ. He is the “Lion of Judah” spoken of in this same chapter (verse 5) as He was born in the line of Judah. *Revelation 5:12* honors Jesus as the Lamb of God. He is the sacrificial Lamb that is forever victorious!

It is much more comfortable to think of Jesus as a lamb than a strong ferocious lion. Yet He is both. His avenging justice and judgement reminds me of a lion. His gentle warm love reminds me of a lamb. Both are true. He would not be a God worth worshipping if He did not use His mighty power to right wrongs. As a lamb He is worthy as well of all our love and adoration for the ultimate sacrifice He made. The Lamb of God is undeniably as strong and victorious as a lion. The two images seem to come together in this heavenly scene. But because Jesus is my sacrificial Lamb, I can approach His holy, ferocious and fearsome presence with confidence.

Thank you Lord, for Your incredible mercy and grace!

Article from Devotions by Jan, Lion or Lamb? Published March 2, 2015 in [www.devotionsbyjan.com](http://www.devotionsbyjan.com).



February 23, 2025	Service Assistants
<b>Ushers</b>	Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Jimmy Gardner, Dave & Rita Strickler
<b>Lay Assistant</b>	Carol Waltz
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Georgette Copp
<b>Acolyte</b>	Dylan Sherman
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower
<b>Greeters/Presenters</b>	Mike & Dianne Larson
<b>Cantor</b>	Candy Watkins
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Paul Weaver
<b>Preaching</b>	Janet Stroble, ALWL



**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.

**February 16, 2025: Attendance: *In Church: 57; Online: 15; Offering: 2,847.13***

**IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Roland Weaver on the anniversary of his passing, February 21, 2012, by his wife, Jean and family.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Helen Fila by her husband and family.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of the one year passing of "OB" O'Brien, by his wife Gail, children and their families.

**Bible Readings**

**Sunday, February 23:** *Genesis 45:3-11, 15; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38*

**Monday, February 24:** *Psalm 38; Genesis 33:1-17; 1 Corinthians 11:12-16*

**Tuesday, February 25:** *Psalm 38; 1 Samuel 24:1-22; 1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33*

**Wednesday, February 26:** *Psalm 38; Leviticus 5:1-13; Luke 17:1-4*

**Thursday, February 27:** *Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:1-5; Acts 3:11-16*

**Friday, February 28:** *Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:6-14; Acts 10:1-8*

**Saturday, March 1:** *Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:15-24; Luke 10:21-24*

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

**Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm for Bible Study and Fellowship. All are Welcome!**

**Come to the "World Day of Prayer Service"** on Saturday, March 1st at 10:00 am in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Hear the stories of three Polynesian women who live in the Cook Islands ... islands first discovered by Captain James Cook in the 1770's who planted the British flag. The 15 inhabited islands are Christian and independent. The Service is under the auspices of Church Women United of Lycoming County. Light refreshments in Shaheen Hall will follow the Service.



## **The Library Corner – Highlighted Books**



Children – **The Lord's Prayer** - very easy to read and amazing pictures of contemporary scenes. Found in the Children's section of the library.

Adult – **The Word on the Street** – Rob Lacey's "dangerously real" retelling of Scripture vividly demonstrates that the Bible is packed full of stories/poems/images that resonate with the big issues of today. This book is found in the adult nonfiction section.



**Change of date:** The choir is inviting you to sing a special anthem with us on March 2. Join us for a rehearsal after worship on February 23 and Sunday, March 2, before worship at 8:45.

### **\*PLEASE NOTE\***



Friendship Sunday, February 16, 2025 **was changed to this Sunday, February 23 due to inclement weather.**

**Invite your friends and family** to join us for worship this Sunday and immediately following the service we will go down to Shaheen Hall for a Soup and Sandwich luncheon along with some great conversation and getting to know our neighbors, hosted by the Fellowship Committee.

## **Messiah Lutheran Preschool is now accepting registrations for the 2025-2026 school year.**

The program is Monday – Friday. We have a morning class 8:30 am – 11:30 am for 3 and 4 year olds (the child needs to be 3-years old by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>) and the afternoon class is 11:30 am -2:30 pm this is the Pre-K class for 4 and 5 year olds who expect to begin kindergarten in Fall 2025. **For more information**, please call 570-326-9171 (option 2) to speak with or leave a message for the volunteer preschool coordinator, Linda Miller.

**Registration forms are also available in the church office. *Since space is limited early registration is encouraged. Thank you.***

preschool registration





Hungry for camp but can't wait until the summer? Always wanted to try camp but not sure you'll like it? Camp Mount Luther has an event for you! On February 23, 2025, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., you can get a Taste of Camp! Enjoy songs, food, games, a campfire program, information on the 2025 program, and more! Those who attend will get Camel Bucks to spend in the camp store this summer.

**The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop's Open Golf Classic, May 12, 2025, 11:00 a.m.,  
Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam.**

Benefits Camp Mount Luther. A flyer/bulletin insert containing information and registration form is available here: <https://www.campmountluther.org>

**Deadline for Registration is May 1, 2025.**

**Please contact the camp office at 570-922-1587 or [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org).**



**Daniel's Closet at Redeemer – Saturday, February 22, 8:30-11 a.m.**

Daniel's Closet is a ministry of Redeemer Lutheran Church on Washington Boulevard to provide free clothing to anyone who has a need, regardless of income. ***All are welcome to come and "shop" the closet*** ... all they ask is that you take only what you need personally or can share with a friend.

**Donations are accepted** at Messiah in the blue bin in the alcove by the Chapel.  
**Daniel's Closet is especially in need this month of ...**

- **coats** for everyone ... *all sizes!*
- **men's clothing** in all sizes but *especially small and medium*
- We are in **desperate need** of **children's clothing** ... *for boys, girls, and babies.*
- People are always looking for **shoes**.
- We need **hats and gloves for the blessing hedges**, *especially hats for men and boys as well as gloves for everyone.*

You may also drop off donations at Redeemer on Thursday, February 20, from 4-6 p.m.

**Looking for a way to serve while making friends with fellow Christians in our community?**

Help is always needed to sort the clothing. Sorting will take place at Redeemer on February 20 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. **and** every Wednesday morning from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

***Our friends at Redeemer thank you for your support.*** 😊



## Social Concerns in Our Community

### Homelessness is real ... and it's right here in our own backyard.

Homelessness in the Williamsport area is on the rise. Most people do not “choose” homelessness. The causes are many and varied. As of this printing, we have received word that the Code Blue shelter is at maximum capacity of 30 people per night.



### U.S. Homelessness Up 18% in 2024

The United States saw an 18.1% increase in homelessness in 2024, a dramatic rise driven mostly by a lack of affordable housing according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. That increase comes on top of a 12% increase in 2023, which HUD blamed on soaring rents and the end of pandemic assistance. The 2023 increase also was driven by people experiencing homelessness for the first time. The numbers overall represent 23 of every 10,000 people in the U.S., with Black people being overrepresented among the homeless population. Among the most concerning trends was a nearly 40% rise in family homelessness (Source: Associated Press)

### Why Are U.S. Families Hungry?

Low-income households already spend a greater share of their income on food. Food accounts for 16.4 percent of spending for households making less than \$10,000 per year compared to the U.S. average of 12.7 percent. A person working full-time at the minimum wage earns about \$14,500 a year.

Approximately 13.5 percent of U.S. households — more than 47 million Americans, including nearly 14 million children — struggle to put food on the table. Here the measure of hunger is “food insecurity” — an ongoing uncertainty of where the next meal will come from. More than 1 in 5 U.S. children are at risk of hunger (1 in 3 among Black and Latino(a) children). To the surprise of many, most Americans (51.4 percent) will live in poverty at some point before age 65.

