



Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 9

2:00 am



9:30 am Worship/Communion

9:30 am Sunday School

Monday, March 10

6:00 pm Sit Happens

Tuesday, March 11

7:00 pm WELCA Meeting



Wednesday, March 12

1:00 pm Backpacks Packing

6:30 pm Lenten Vespers/Bible Study

Thursday, March 13

7:00 pm Choir

7:30 pm NA

Friday, March 14

Saturday, March 15



MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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A Word from Council Concerning Our Child Protection Policy/Child Abuse Clearances

In 2009, Messiah Lutheran Church established a Child Protection Policy which states in part: “Because they cannot speak for themselves, children ... are vulnerable to emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. Messiah Lutheran Church hears God’s call to protect the weakest among us. Just dealings with children ... include the need for taking steps to provide a safe and healthy environment for children; to minimize the risk for abuse during church activities or activities held on the property of the congregation; and to investigate, report, and act to stop child abuse if and when it occurs. Just dealings with volunteers and staff of this congregation involve the need to provide structures, procedures, and practices for ministry which minimize the risk of unfounded accusations of child abuse.”

“In addition, Messiah Lutheran Church recognizes the legitimate, God-given role of government in protecting the weakest from abuse of any kind. Thus, in its ministries with children, youth, and the disabled, this congregation seeks to conform its conduct with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and with standards of best practice.”

Pennsylvania State Law requires all adult volunteers who will have direct contact with children or who will be responsible for the care or supervision of children to submit state-mandated clearances/information prior to approval and commencement of said service.

Because we hold dear God’s call to proclaim the Gospel to children and because of the potential for direct contact, ***all on site adult volunteers involved in a program geared specifically for children*** (Vacation Bible School, Kids in Mission, Youth Group meetings, Sunday School, etc.) ***will be required to submit the following clearances regardless of their role.***

- 1) PA Child Abuse History Certification from DHS (PA Child Abuse);
- 2) Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Record Check (PSP);
- 3) A written statement swearing and affirming that they have not committed certain crimes which would disqualify them from volunteering with children ***and*** that the volunteer has been a resident of PA for the entirety of the previous 10- year period or has received a DHS FBI since establishing residency in PA.*

*If the prospective volunteer has lived outside the state of PA at any time during the previous ten years, they are required to submit a DHS fingerprint-based Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal History Background Check (DHS FBI).

(continued on inside)

(Child Abuse Clearances - continued from cover)

It is to be understood that adults who attend as **participants** in intergenerational events where children are present are **not** required to submit clearances **unless** they are responsible for the care, supervision, or instruction of the children. However, it is prudent to have cleared adults present for these activities to monitor the events. (Examples of these events might include an intergenerational service project, family game night, etc.)

Clearances must be updated at a minimum of every 5 years. The State Police Clearance is free of charge for volunteers at all times. The PA Child Abuse Clearance (Form CY-113) is free of charge for volunteers once every 57 months. The Disclosure Statement is simply a document to be signed and witnessed; however, for those who have lived out of state and need the FBI Fingerprint clearance, there is a fee which will be paid for by the church.

Questions? To check the status of your clearances, to obtain the necessary forms/information to apply, or to answer any questions you may have, please contact Kathy Wither at (570) 651-2802 (text or call – if calling, please leave a message) or witherhaven@verizon.net and she will be glad to assist you.

We sincerely appreciate your understanding and patience as you join us to honor our call to care for the children entrusted to our care. *“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these the kingdom of God belongs” ~ Luke 18:16*

March 9, 2025

Service Assistants

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

Lay Assistant: Georgette Copp; **Communion Assistant:** Dave Bausinger; **Acolyte:** Weston Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Rita Strickler, Carol Winter; **Greeters/Presenters:** Al Cole and Judy Berfield; **Cantor:** Bob Schweppenheiser; **Flower Delivery:** Susan Bryan

March 2, 2025: Attendance: *In Church:* **98**; Offering: **\$8,254.38**

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones by Jane Hassler.



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

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent out Sunday, March 16th. Please let the office know if you are not available next Sunday. If anyone is homebound, can't get to church and would like to receive Communion please notify the church office at 570-326-9171.

Bible Readings

Sunday, March 9: *Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13*

Monday, March 10: *Psalms 17; 1 Chronicles 21:1-17; 1 John 2:1-6*

Tuesday, March 11: *Psalms 17; Zechariah 3:1-10; 2 Peter 2:4-21*

Wednesday, March 12: *Psalms 17; Job 1:1-22; Luke 21:34-22:6*

Thursday, March 13: *Psalms 27; Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18; Philippians 3:2-12*

Friday, March 14: *Psalms 27; Genesis 14:17-24; Philippians 3:17-20*

Saturday, March 15: *Psalms 27; Psalm 118:26-29; Matthew 23:37-39*



The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children - **The Holy Moly Easter Story** - Full of stirring storytelling and imaginative illustrations. This book brings Holy Week to awe-inspiring life. From Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey to the women discovering the empty tomb, kids will be captivated with this story of hope and new life. Book in the Easter Holiday Section of our library. We also have a DVD with the same name in the Easter section.

Adult - **A Violent Grace by Michael Card** - To believers today, the cross has lost much of its appeal as a symbol of Christianity. Yet what Christ did at the cross remains central to our faith. Michael Card calls upon us to focus our attention once again on the cross. Explore with this impassioned troubadour the Old Testament prophecies and Gospel accounts of Jesus' self-sacrifice. Follow Jesus to the cross and realize anew that God's free gift of grace to you was purchased at the cost of inconceivable violence to His Son. The book can be found in the Easter Section of the library.



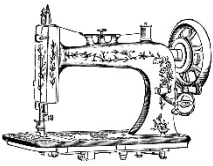
Lenten Vespers and Bible study are Wednesday evenings during Lent. Vespers will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel followed by a brief Bible study. Please make a commitment to join us for Wednesday prayer and the study of God's Word this Lent.

Copies of *Servant of the Lord*, a Lenten Devotional Booklet are now available in the Narthex. Brought to you in partnership with the Lutheran Hour Ministries. In *Servant of the Lord*, we see Jesus as God's Son and our Redeemer. He has made the Heavenly Father known to us. Proclaiming the kingdom of God, Jesus served us—lovingly, patiently, compassionately—as He died for our sins and rose three days later in Easter victory.

Lenten Self-Denial Calendars & Banks that benefit Shepherd of the Streets are also in the Narthex plus current copies of the devotional booklets, Christ in Our Home and The Upper Room are available.



Urgently Needed for Food Pantry: There are a few items that we are *completely out of* in our food pantry. **Most needed items this week: canned potatoes, egg noodles, white rice, baked beans, canned chicken, instant oatmeal.** *Thank you for your generosity as you open your hearts to help feed God's children!*



Rev your engines ... sewing machine engines, that is! This week we will kick off our “**School Kits for Lutheran World Relief**” project. It’s time to get sewing so that the backpacks are ready in time for the older class of kids to add the cords during Bible School week. We’ve been shopping and came home with a LOT of fabric in beautiful fun colors and patterns. Fabric pieces cut to size - along with instructions on how to sew the backpacks – will be available in the narthex this coming Sunday or at the church office beginning Monday, March 10.

We are also hoping to have another Sew-a-thon this year for those who enjoy working in a group. There will be plenty of non-sewing jobs to do, too! Watch for more information coming soon. **In the meantime, please call Sally Congdon at 570-547-6193 or Kathy Wither at 570-651-2802 if you’d like more information.**



Order your Easter Flowers now; several varieties of flowers are available. More information can be found on the order form. Pick one up from Ushers’ table in the back of the Sanctuary. The flowers may be picked up immediately after Worship on Easter, April 20th. **PLEASE RETURN THE ORDER FORM BY SUNDAY, MARCH 30th.** Call the church office 570-326-9171 if you have any questions.

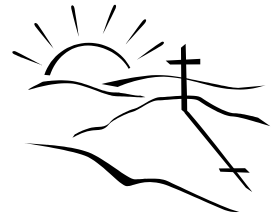
Kids in Mission: Lenten Activities/Service Project
Saturday, March 29, 9 A.M. - 12 Noon

Age 4 through Grade 6

Join us on a Lenten journey to Easter:



Story Time
Pretzel baking
Story Time
Crafts and Games



Contact the church office at 570-326-9171 with any questions or to register. Registration forms can be acquired on our website.



Messiah Lutheran Preschool is now accepting registrations for the 2025-2026 school year. The program is Monday – Friday. We have a morning class from 8:30 am – 11:30 am for 3 and 4 year olds (the child needs to be 3-years old by Sept. 1st) and an afternoon class from 11:30 am -2:30 pm. This is the Pre-K class for 4 and 5 year olds who expect to begin kindergarten in the Fall 2026. **For more information**, please call to speak with or leave a message for the preschool volunteer coordinator Linda Miller at 570-326-5405.

preschool registration



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

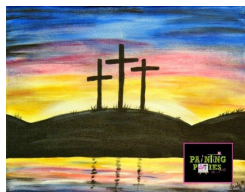


Camp brochures are now available online

at: <https://www.campmountluther.org/summer-camp/> As we do not have a camp person this year, anyone who wishes to attend camp should contact the camp directly to register or with any questions. Anyone who may be interested in being camp person should contact Kathryn Pratt or the church office and you will be put in touch with the director of the camp, Chad Hershberger.

The 20th 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, 2024.

Please contact the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org.



USSWO Day of Learning and Renewal "Brushstrokes of Faith and Strength:" The USS Women's Organization invites you to join us on Saturday, April 26th at Salem Lutheran Church, Selingsgrove, for a day of Learning and Renewal while helping Women at Risk Survivors. The event will begin with registration at 9:30 am. The cost for the day will \$25.00 which will include all of your painting supplies and lunch. Pre-registration and payment are due by April 1st.

Daniel's Closet



Donations of gently used clothing and accessories for Daniel's Closet are being accepted at Messiah. Clothing and accessories, shoes, bags and purses, suitcases, and outerwear are accepted. You may place your donations in the large blue bin in the alcove outside of the Chapel whenever the church or the office is open. Please bag all items and try to limit the size of the bag to no larger than a kitchen sized trash bag as anything larger than that is very heavy

and difficult for our volunteers to handle or to lift out of the bin. 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. **The next Closet is March 22, 8:30-11:00 a.m.**

