



Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 30

9:30 am Worship/Communion
2:00 pm West Branch Conference

Monday, March 31

Tuesday, April 1

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 2

6:30 pm Lenten Vespers/Bible Study

Thursday, April 3

10:00 pm Knitters for Neighbors
1:00 pm Backpacks Packing
6:30 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Choir
7:30 pm NA

Friday, April 4

Saturday, April 5



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The Legend of the Dogwood

-Author Unknown

In Jesus time, the dogwood grew
To a stately size and a lovely hue.
'Twas strong & firm it's branches interwoven
For the cross of Christ its timbers were chosen.
Seeing the distress at this use of their wood
Christ made a promise which still holds good:
"Never again shall the dogwood grow
Large enough to be used so
Slender & twisted, it shall be
With blossoms like the cross for all to see.
As blood stains the petals marked in brown
The blossom's center wears a thorny crown.
All who see it will remember me
Crucified on a cross from the dogwood tree.
Cherished and protected this tree shall be
A reminder to all of my agony."

The legend of the dogwood most likely originated in the United States in the 20th century. While we know Dogwoods are not native to the Middle East, nor would they have been found growing there in Jesus' time, this story is one to think about and ponder! Nevertheless, the legend persists, and many Christians revere the beloved dogwood as it continues to remind them of Jesus' love and sacrifice

March 30, 2025

Service Assistants

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, Susan Christ, AnnMarie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker
Lay Assistant: Carola Storrs; **Communion Assistant:** Mary Schultz; **Acolyte:** Jordan Morris
Altar Guild: Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser; **Greeters/Presenters:** Sherri Holtzman, Jody Fullmer; **Cantor:** Virginia Amme; **Flower Delivery:** Jody Fullmer

March 23, 2025: Attendance: *In Church:* **93**; *Online:* **12**; Offering: **\$2,784.38**

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Nathan Rundio's 17th birthday, March 31st, with love from Grammy and Pappy Bausinger and his Uncle Mike.

Bible Readings

Sunday, March 30: *Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

Monday, March 31: *Psalm 53; Leviticus 23:26-41; Revelation 19:1-8*

Tuesday, April 1: *Psalm 53; Leviticus 25:1-19; Revelation 19:9-10*

Wednesday, April 2: *Psalm 53; 2 Kings 4:1-7; Luke 9:10-17*

Thursday, April 3: *Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:1-7; Philippians 2:19-24*

Friday, April 4: *Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:8-15; Philippians 2:25-3:1*

Saturday, April 5: *Psalm 126; Exodus 12:21-27; John 11:45-57*



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.



Thank you to all who donated to the Food Pantry last week!

Most Needed Items This Week are: canned beans (baked beans, black beans, pinto beans, etc.), and dessert mixes (brownies, cake mix, jello mix).

Every donation is appreciated – no donation is too small.

Thank you to all who help to keep our food pantry open!



Thank you to my Messiah family for all the prayers, cards and home communion. I feel very blessed.

Peace be with you, Betty Fenstermacher



The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Family - **Family Countdown to Easter** - The perfect get-ready-for-Easter book: a day-at-a-glance calendar filled with fun and fascinating facts. Beginning with the day before Lent begins--Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras--and ending on Easter Sunday, this book turns each day of the season into a celebration. Every colorful page is packed with crafts, recipes, activities, and information about the holidays. This is a wonderful book for entire families to share the meaning of the Lenten and Easter season through a variety of activities. Book is found in the Easter section of our Library.

Children/Youth - **The Very First Christians** - Twelve year old Christopher has always tried to sort truth from fiction. Ever since The Very First Christmas and the Very First Easter; he has looked for the story behind the story. This time, Christopher's grandfather teaches him about the drama of Pentecost and the powerful change God brought to the world through Peter, Paul and the very first Christians. This book is in the Children's 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.



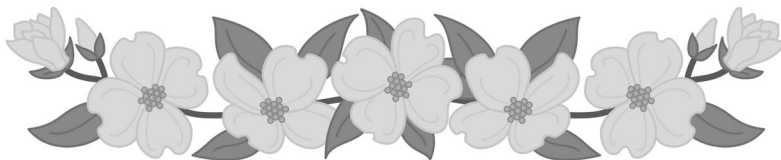
Calling all pie makers!! If you like to bake, especially pies, please share your favorite pie with us at our **pie social**. The fellowship committee will be hosting a pie social on April 13th immediately following worship and would love to see how many pies we can get. If you would be willing to make a pie for our social, please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex. The fellowship committee will provide the beverages and cool whip; we just need the pies.



Attention Thrivent Members: The deadline for directing Choice dollars is **Monday, March 31, 2025**. Messiah Lutheran Church and Messiah Lutheran Preschool are among the non-profits which can be designated. Go to www.thrivent.com or call 800-847-4836



We are looking for volunteers to deliver Easter flowers to our homebound members. If you are able please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Thank you!

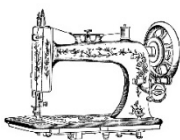




Kids Helping Kids! In addition to our Kids in Mission event on March 29, we are going to hold a **second springtime Kids in Mission this year on May 3.**

Our service project for that event will be to decorate and assemble **Children's Care Kits for Shepherd of the Streets ... and we can use your help!**

Throughout the month of April, we will be collecting items to fill the kits. The following **children's** items are needed: *toothbrushes and toothpaste, band aids, hair ties, combs, socks, kids' soap, kids' shampoo, crayons and coloring or activity books, and small toys or fun items* (think dollar store toys which will fit inside a large lunch bag). Please place your items in the container in the narthex on Sundays or drop them off at the church office during the week. We will accept donations through Sunday, April 27. *Thank you for your help!*



Lutheran World Relief School Kits

More fabric has been marked and cut. Fabric pieces as well as instruction sheets are available in the narthex or in the church office for those who wish to help by sewing at home ... either by simply sewing a hem around the edges or by sewing a complete bag.

Questions?? Call Sally Congdon at 570-547-6193 or Kathy Wither at 570-651-2802.



Did your child ever attend Messiah Preschool? This marks the 50th year, and a celebration will take place May 18th immediately following worship. We would love to have photos, name of your child or children, year they attended Messiah preschool

and the teacher at that time. If you recall any interesting stories your child experienced during their years at Messiah preschool and would like to share, drop off the information to the church office by April 30th. **Please note**, include names and years on all pictures shared so you are sure to get them back. Thank you, the Preschool Board.



Volunteers Needed: Readers for the Passion of Luke are needed for Passion Sunday, April 13, 2025. Call the church office or use the sign-up sheet found in the Narthex. *Thank you.*



If you would like to help get the palms ready for Palm Sunday Worship, please join us Saturday morning, April 12 at 9:00 am.



Messiah's Women of the ELCA have arranged for all interested persons to hear **Tammey Edkin** talk about the community outreach of the **United Churches of Lycoming County** ... also to learn how **Wendy and Marty McCormick** are teaching baking skills to ex-offenders (in their **Rise Up Village Bakery**) as these young people reenter the community. This event will take place on **Tuesday, April 8, at New Covenant UCC, 202 E. Third Street, Williamsport.** We will gather at New Covenant at **7 o'clock** to meet with Tammey and the McCormicks. *Everyone is welcome!*

☞ **Scholarship Available to the Pennsylvania State University**

The Jane Elizabeth Newlin and Everett Mason Batschelet Memorial Scholarship is offered annually to an incoming first year student who will be enrolled at any campus of the Pennsylvania State University *including the Pennsylvania College of Technology*. To qualify for the Newlin-Batschelet scholarship, an applicant must be a public high school graduate or prospective graduate **who is an active youth member of Messiah Lutheran Church**.

The recipient will be nominated by a committee appointed by our Congregation Council. Nominees will be submitted to the Pennsylvania State University in order to verify the nominee's financial eligibility as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Approved candidates will be informed by Penn State and will receive an annual scholarship of \$5,000.00 for a maximum of four years, as long as they are enrolled as a full-time student on a Penn State campus, remain eligible, and funds are available.

Applications for this scholarship may be obtained by calling the church office. **All applications are due in the church office by Monday, May 5th**. **Because references, SAT scores, and transcripts must also be filed, applicants should obtain an application as soon as possible.**



Bus trip to Sight & Sound Theatre to See *Noah* - Tuesday, June 17

Redeemer Lutheran Church will be hosting a bus trip to Sight & Sound Theatre on Tuesday, June 17. We will be leaving Williamsport at 7:00 a.m.

The exact pick-up location has not yet been determined ... *watch for details to come*.

The cost of \$150 per person includes the show ticket and a seat on the bus. On our way home, we will stop at Kitchen Kettle Village for a meal and shopping on your own.

To reserve your seats or for more information, please call Sharon Ault at 570-337-7095.

Once you have confirmed your reservations with Sharon, you may mail your payment.

Make checks payable to Sharon Ault. Mail payment to: Sharon Ault, c/o Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1101 Washington Blvd, Williamsport, Pa. 17701

Along with your payment, please include names of each individual attending and a cell phone number for the seat(s) you are reserving.

