

Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 11

Mother's Day

9:30 am Worship/Communion

9:30 am Sunday School

Monday, May 12

9:00 am Sew-A-Sack

Tuesday, May 13

9:00 am Sew-A-Sack

Wednesday, May 14

9:00 am Sew-A-Sack

6:30 pm Bible Study and Fellowship

Thursday, May 15

1:00 pm Backpack packing

5:00 pm Lions Club Banquet

7:00 pm Choir

7:30 pm NA

Friday, May 16

Saturday, May 17



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Through the Valley

Published in *Living Lutheran* on May 11, 2020, by Tiffany Chaney

The texts for the fourth Sunday of Easter include *Psalms 23*, which brings many of us feelings of nostalgia and comfort. It's tempting to focus only on the desirable images from this psalm—green pastures, still waters, soul restoration, goodness and mercy. But we also must mind the valley.

The psalmist didn't say that he walked around the valley of the shadow of death, or that the valley disappeared, or that he turned and went the other way. The psalmist said, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death" (verse 4, King James Version).

The Lord has promised to be with us in the valley. This isn't a promise to let us circumvent, erase or ignore our problems. It's a promise that when we go through challenges in our lives, God will be with us.

I preached on this psalm in 2013, the Sunday after the Boston Marathon bombings. The neighborhood I served, known as Dorchester, was home to the family of Martin Richard, the 8-year-old who died in the bombings, and his 5-year-old sister, Jane, who lost her leg. Their home was blocks from our church, and several congregants' children had played with them. *For a full day, Boston sat eerily still while the authorities worked to find the bombers. Then, on Sunday, we went to church.* On the Monday after the bombings, we grappled with the numerous, senseless deaths and injuries. On Friday, we awakened to a "shelter in place" order. For a full day, the city sat eerily still while the authorities worked to find the bombers. Then, on Sunday, we went to church.

Psalms 23 is made for a week like that one. This is a psalm of comfort, trust and confidence. It's a song of hope and strength in times of doubt, death and fear. Sometimes it's hard to reconcile the troubles of this world and the presence of God. Yet, we have to remember God never promised us a world without trouble.

God did promise that we would not walk this world alone. The Lord is our shepherd who makes, keeps, leads, stills and protects. We know God provides for us and gives us strength and refuge in times of trouble.

Strengthened by this knowledge, we keep walking through life's valleys.

At an interfaith service following the bombings, I noticed a girl in the *Boston Children's Chorus* who cried the entire time she sang. Sometimes we have to sing through our tears, knowing the Shepherd is with us. Perhaps the psalmist wept while singing this psalm too.

We all have experiences when we simultaneously grieve and give thanks, when we cry and sing. I hope that, in those times, we will remember the celebration at the end of Psalms 23: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long" (verse 6, New Revised Standard Version).

The word translated here as "follow" is *radaph* in the original Hebrew, which means "pursue." The goodness and mercy of the Lord pursues you. No matter the destination, you can't escape God. So, while you're singing and maybe even crying, remember, your Shepherd is with you—in green pastures, in still waters and, yes, through the valley.

May 11, 2025

Service Assistants

Ushers: Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee; **Lay Assistant:** Carola Storrs; **Communion Assistant:** Candy Watkins; **Acolyte:** Jonathan Hess
Altar Guild: Rita Strickler, Carol Winter; **Greeters/Presenters:** Yvonne Kaiser, Rhonda Koch
Cantor: Janet Stroble; **Flower Delivery:** Jody Fullmer

Sunday, May 4, 2025: Attendance: *In Church: 119; Online: 7; Offering: \$7,712.38*

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones.
The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Percy Batey and Gladys Reigel Batey, by the Steiner, McCracken and Packard families.

Bible Readings

Sunday, May 11: Acts 9:36-43; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
Monday, May 12: Psalm 100; Ezekiel 37:15-28; Revelation 15:1-4
Tuesday, May 13: Psalm 100; Ezekiel 45:1-9; Acts 9:32-35
Wednesday, May 14: Psalm 100; Jeremiah 50:17-20; John 10:31-42
Thursday, May 15: Psalm 148; Ezekiel 2:8-3:11; Revelation 10:1-11
Friday, May 16: Psalm 148; Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 11:15
Saturday, May 17: Psalm 148; Daniel 7:27; Revelation 11:16-19



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.

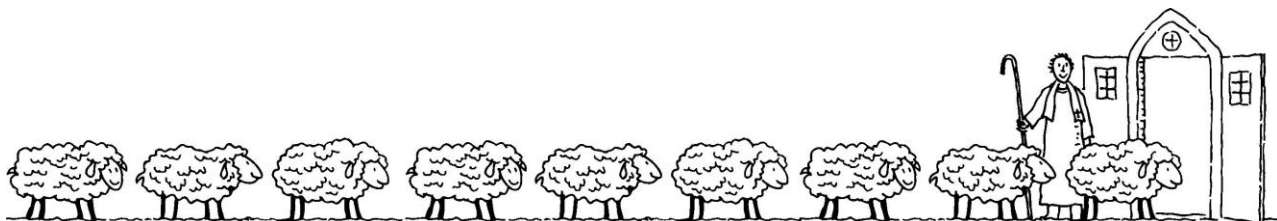
Reminder: Articles for the Messenger and Bulletin are due in the office by Monday at noon.



Most Needed Items for the Food Pantry this week: crackers, jello mixes, and brownie mixes. *Thank you for your continued commitment to feeding the hungry!*



Seeking Names of Graduates: Please call the church office by June 1st, with the name/address of anyone in your family who is graduating from High School and Undergrad or Grad School this spring. Your Messiah family would like to recognize your accomplishment. *Thank you!*

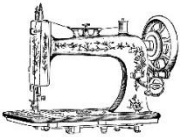


The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children - DVD - **Quigley's Village Spike's Grumpy Grumbly Day** - When Spike gets up on the wrong side of the bed, she forgets that the words that we say to people can either help or hurt them. Quigley's Village is a delightful place where children learn Christian values. This award-winning series provides the very best in entertainment with important lessons to help children learn and grow! Great family DVD. Found in the Quigley's Village DVD section.

Adult Book - **15 Minutes of Peace with God** - Does your daily schedule have more appointments and commitments than you can keep? Do you desire a "time out" from your busy life? Emilie Barnes knows the need women have for peaceful times with their heavenly Father. And she understands how the pace of life can often squeeze out these important moments. Her solution? A simple yet effective plan that takes 15 minutes or less. Relevant scriptures and heart-to-heart stories will calm your spirit in the midst of your active day. The book is found in the Poems, Prayers, Devotionals and Meditation Section of our Library.



Lutheran World Relief School Kits “Sew-A-Sack” ~ PART TWO! Monday–Tuesday-Wednesday, May 12-13-14, 2025 ~ 9:00 a.m.-???

One ...Two ... Three! Yes, *three* days of fun and camaraderie. Join us for a time of fellowship as we work together to sew the backpacks needed for the school kits.

Come for one day or all three or any portion of the event that you can - even if it's just for an hour or two! *Come when you can, leave when you must!*

Can't sew, or don't have a machine? No problem! We can put you (GUYS – you, too!) to work marking fabric, cutting, pinning, pressing casings (it's easy and we'll show you how), or helping in other ways. At noon, we will share conversation over a light lunch. ***Please sign up in the narthex on Sunday or in the church office during the week.***



In addition to wearing red on Pentecost Sunday, Messiah will be decorating the chancel with *red* geraniums. ***If you would like to sponsor a geranium, please submit the order form to the church office by June 4th.***

Those who order geraniums may pick them up immediately after the Worship Service on Pentecost, Sunday, June 8th, or on Monday, June 9th.

Call the church office at (570) 326-9171 if you have any questions.

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent out Sunday, May 18th. 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.





To My Messiah Family,
Thank you for all the prayers, the cards, the Easter lily
and for all the visits. Also thank you to Marilyn
Winter for bringing me the bouquet of flowers on
Sunday after church.

Love, Betty Fenstermacher



Dear Friends,
Although my journey continues, recent tests show that
I'm headed in the right direction. Along the path I
have been warmed and encouraged by your concern,
calls and cards with wonderful messages. Thank you
very, very, much.

Arch Watkins



Messiah friends and Kids in Mission,
Thank you for the Easter lily and cards. The lily is
beautiful and smells wonderful.

Linda Smith

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 May 24, 8:30-11:00 a.m.**



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 from the parking lot **at Messiah** at 7:00 a.m.

Please park at the back of the lot. 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.



This year's VBS will be held June 23rd - 27th. The topic will be "MAGNIFIED! Discovering the BIGNESS of God in the SMALLEST of things". Volunteers will be needed if you are available all week or just on certain days. Please call or text me at 570-244-6964 if you are interested. Further information will follow. Oh, and please start saving your toilet paper rolls and 16 oz. Whipped Topping or margarine containers and lids. We're looking forward to another great year at VBS. Thanks in advance. Kathryn Pratt



Kids Helping Kids! Kids in Mission held on **Saturday, May 3rd**, had approximately eight children in attendance. The service project for that event was to decorate and assemble **Children's Care Kits for Shepherd of the Streets**. A great time was had by all in attendance.

