



Calendar of Events

Sunday, July 13

9:30 am Worship/Communion

Monday, July 14

7:00 pm Preschool Gift Card Bingo Meeting

Tuesday, July 15

Wednesday, July 16

Thursday, July 17

7:30 pm NA

Friday, July 18

Saturday, July 19



Reminder

OFFICE HOURS

Week of July 14 – July 18

9:00 am - Noon



MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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A Matter of Proximity

Published in Sundays and Seasons.com 7/10/2022

Most people consider clarifying questions to be helpful things. That is, of course, unless the questions are attempts to find loopholes or ways around doing what is moral and just. Today we find that Jesus is not a fan of loopholes when it comes to serving our neighbors. In fact, the tale he weaves for the listeners today is shocking on its face. To suggest that the outsider, a Samaritan, saves the day in the story probably went a bit too far for those first hearers. Perhaps that's true for hearers today too, when we truly listen. The Samaritan is an unlikely hero.

LOVE
the Lord your God
with all your
HEART
and with all your
SOUL
and with all your
STRENGTH
and with all your
MIND...
L U K E 10:27

This parable, often called “The Good Samaritan,” highlights proximity as a tool in extending God’s grace in the world. Those who do not want to help the injured person pass on the other side of the street. Perhaps the physical distance helps them feel disconnected from moral responsibility.

But notice the extreme proximity that the merciful Samaritan employs: he gets near to treat the beaten man’s wounds, puts his own wine on the injuries as a sanitary agent, puts the man on his own beast, and pays for the man’s needs with his own money. For Jesus, being a neighbor doesn’t just mean tending to those who happen to be next to us. For Jesus, being a neighbor means leaning in, especially when others want to avoid the situation altogether.

To truly attend to the needs of the world we must come in close proximity to need. After all, Jesus himself, fully God, became fully human to get in proximity to us. And like the Samaritan, this wandering preacher from a nowhere town with a ragtag group of followers will save the day for us all. God in Jesus is the unlikely hero who draws close to our need.



July 13, 2025

Service Assistants

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

Lay Assistant: Janet Stroble; **Communion Assistant:** Georgette Copp

Acolyte: Weston Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Vicki Bair, Doris Butt

Greeters/Presenters: Kathy Stiber, Nicole Morris; **Cantor:** Janet Stroble

Flower Delivery: Susan Bryan



Sunday, July 6, 2025: Attendance and offering will be recorded in next weeks

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Gary and Hali Fullmer by their family.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of Nancy Porter, by her family.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, July 13: *Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37*

Monday, July 14: *Psalm 25:11-20; Job 24:1-8; James 2:1-7*

Tuesday, July 15: *Psalm 25:11-20; Proverbs 19:1-17; 1 John 3:11-17*

Wednesday, July 16: *Psalm 25:11-20; Ecclesiastes 9:13-18; Matthew 25:31-46*

Thursday, July 17: *Psalm 15; Genesis 12:10-20; Hebrews 5:1-6*

Friday, July 18: *Psalm 15; Genesis 13:1-18; Ephesians 3:14-21*

Saturday, July 19: *Psalm 15; Genesis 14:1-16; Luke 8:4-10*



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.



Knot-A-Sack Event – because it's "not" a sack until it's "knotted!"

590 backpacks have been strung so far for our school kits project, with a "few" more sitting in the wings if needed. One step remains to complete the sacks before we fill them – to thread the cord through the loops and tie knots to secure the two ends together. That would be quite a task for one or two people, but working together we can accomplish so much more – and the fellowship we share is the icing on the cake! ***Come and join us for our "Knotty Party" on Wednesday, July 23, 9-11 a.m.***

Light refreshments will be offered. If you would like to help out but do not feel that you can manage the knots, please come anyway ... we can put you to work checking the knots, counting, and stacking the finished packs neatly on the cart. ***Many hands make light work!***

We had such a great time last year ... we really hope to see you there!

The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Youth - **Caution: Dangerous Devotions - an exciting journey through the New Testament** - This book will take you where you've never gone before.

Proceed, if you dare. The trip may get dangerous! You could be challenged to learn something about yourself and God's Word. Expect the unexpected. This book will make you stop and think, but beware, the trip will be fun and exciting.

As you hike through the New Testament, you'll gain a whole new perspective of God's Word and how it speaks to every area in your life. You will see how God put each book in its place to give you direction for your life. This book is in the Youth themed section of our library. Adult - **Image and Spirit - Finding meaning in Visual Art** - provides a theological and aesthetic background for a view of art as visible Word - as embodiment of the transcendent. Geared to the non-specialist, the book develops the reader's ability to interpret and appreciate artworks, of any style and from any period, from a spiritual perspective. In addition, it explores the communal aspect of art, as a prophetic Word that challenges, mobilizes and sensitizes the Christian community; and as a pastoral Word that enriches the spiritual and aesthetic journey of a community of faith. Book is in the Music section of our Library.



The Third Annual Gift Card Bingo benefiting the Messiah Lutheran Preschool has been scheduled for Saturday, October 25, 2025. Before this can take place, volunteers are needed to help make this event a great success. If you are interested in helping, please attend the initial meeting **MONDAY, JULY 14 at 7:00 PM in JENSEN LOUNGE.**



YOUTH GROUP LEADERS NEEDED: Details are still being worked out, but it would be great to have someone volunteer soon so they can be part of the discussions and decision making. There are a number of fourth and fifth grade youth already interested, and we would also like to offer something for high school youth. Contact Kathryn Pratt at 570-244-6964 if you have any questions. Please prayerfully consider helping with this very worthwhile opportunity.





Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS

Can you help us fill school supply kits for children around the world who are in need due to poverty, natural disasters, conflict, or other issues make it difficult to attend school? For many of these children, **these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not.**

This year's collection is now officially under way! Our volunteer sew-ers have completed an astounding 773+ bags, 590 of which the children have strung ... how many can we fill? Our Bible School kids got us off to a good running start, donating enough money to fill nearly 102 of the bags already. Now it's up to us to follow their lead, and to "dive in" as we see how many more we can fill.

How can you help?

- **Donate supplies.**

You may choose to buy multiples of a specific item
or to buy all of the items to fill one bag.

See other side for a list of items we are collecting!

- **Monetary donations will also be accepted.**

Make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church
(memo: LWR School Kits)

- **Help pack the bags in September – Save the Date!**

Grades 3 through Adult ~ Saturday, September 27

Watch the Messenger for more information!

Be a good steward – get more for your money.

Watch the summer sales for school supplies!

We have found in the past that WalMart and Staples have the best deals ... please let us know if you find better deals so we can share that information!

Tip: Online venues also offer good prices on some items when purchased in bulk.

**Supplies and cash donations should be brought to the church by Sunday,
August 17.**

Thank you for your support!

ITEMS WE ARE COLLECTING



×4

70-sheet notebooks
Wide-ruled or college-ruled
Approx. 8"x10 ½"



×1

Blunt scissors (safety scissors with
embedded steel blades work well)



×5

#2 pencils
UNSHARPENED!



×5

Black or blue ball point pens
NO gel ink - STICK, NOT
CLICK!



×1

Box of 24 crayons



×1

2 ½" eraser
(Any color but you will know
them as the pink kind)

Guidelines

- Please give ***new items only***, except where otherwise noted
- Please ***do not*** donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your congregation's name.
- Please ***do not*** donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Pencils ***must*** be ***unsharpened*** ... LWR will not accept pre-sharpened pencils.
- Monetary donations accepted: Make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church (memo: LWR School Kits)

Questions? *Call Sally Congdon (570) 547-6193*

Call or Text Kathy Wither (570) 651-2802

Lutheran World Relief School Kits Summer Collection