

## Calendar of Events

**Sunday, August 24**

9:30 am Worship/Communion

**Monday, August 25**

**Tuesday, August 26**

**Wednesday, August 27**

**Thursday, August 28**

7:30 pm NA

**Friday, August 29**

**Saturday, August 30**



**MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060**

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## MESSIAH MESSENGER

*Published weekly by*

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**August 20, 2025**

**VOL. 83 – NO. 33**

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### CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

In answer to the question that has been recently asked of me, the Call Committee is still intact. We knew when we started the endeavor to call a new pastor that it may take some time. Since the formation of the Call Committee, the number of available pastors has decreased even more.

Recently, statistics have been presented to the congregation on the situation outlining the current pastor availability. To reiterate those statistics, the fact is that over half of the current pastors are retired and the graduating class of seminary students is very low. There are many congregations currently without a called pastor.

The Synod is working through this shortfall as best as they can but there is no “quick fix”. Unfortunately, the Upper Susquehanna Synod is not the only Synod experiencing this situation. It is nationwide and is not only impacting the Lutheran denomination but the churches with whom we are in a full communion partnership.

We ask that you remain patient as we continue to work through the issues. Please continue to keep all of God’s churches in your prayers.

Kathryn Pratt, Call Committee Chairperson



**August 24, 2025**

**Service Assistants**

**Ushers:** Charles Luppert, Larry and Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **Lay Assistant:** Carola Storrs; **Communion Assistant:** Mary Schultz  
**Acolyte:** Jonathan Hess; **Altar Guild:** Rita Strickler, Carol Winter  
**Greeters/Presenters:** Carol Winter, Marilyn Winter; **Cantor:** Candy Watkins  
**Flower Delivery:** Cindy Bennett

**Sunday, August 17, 2025:** Attendance: *In Church: 75; Online: 10*; Offering: **\$2,155.38**

**IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Gary and Connie Hess on their 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, with love from their family

**The Basket of Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of McClellan and Esther Denius by their family.

**BIBLE READINGS**

**Sunday, August 24:** *Isaiah 58:9b-14; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17*

**Monday, August 25:** *Psalm 109:21-31; Ezekiel 20:1-17; Hebrews 3:7-4:11*

**Tuesday, August 26:** *Psalm 109:21-31; Ezekiel 20:18-32; Revelation 3:7-13*

**Wednesday, August 27:** *Psalm 109:21-31; Ezekiel 20:33-44; Luke 6:6-11*

**Thursday, August 28:** *Psalm 112; Proverbs 15:13-17; 1 Peter 3:8-12*

**Friday, August 29:** *Psalm 112; Proverbs 18:6-12; 1 Peter 4:7-11*

**Saturday, August 30:** *Psalm 112; Proverbs 21:1-4, 24-26; Matthew 20:20-28*



**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.*

**Pam will be on vacation** August 23 - September 1. Any important information that you would like to go into the August 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the Messenger please have to the office by August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you!



**Church Picnic**

Please join us for our **Welcome Back** picnic on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. This year we will be recognizing all of our volunteers within the church. How many volunteers are there? Come to the picnic and see for yourself. Please fill out the reservation slip and return it to the office or place in the offering plate by August 31.

## The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children/families/adults/teachers - Have you ever wondered how to explain to children about the church year? What does each season mean and information about each of those seasons of the church year? Well, there is a great book called **THE TIME OF THE CHURCH.** There is a reading book as well as an activity book (which can be copied) to help children understand the church year with a variety of puzzles, games, coloring sheets, prayers, etc. Both books are found in Teacher Helps section of our library.



**Singing Our Praise to God** - Choir rehearsals will start on Thursday, September 4. We hope you will consider adding your voice to our worship services. We practice at 7 PM for about an hour and we would love to have you join us. If you like to sing, there's a place for you in the choir.

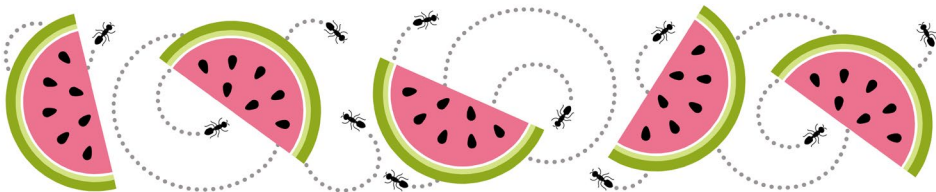
If you would consider singing with us occasionally, we will have several opportunities throughout the year for you to join us on "Saints in Song" Sundays. We would rehearse an anthem 1) after church on a given Sunday, 2) at the Thursday night rehearsal that week, and 3) at 8:45 on the following Sunday before the worship service. You need not attend all three rehearsals. You could sit with your family and friends in church and just move to the choir loft at the anthem time. No robe required. Our first "Saints in Song" Sunday will be October 19, so mark your calendar for October 12 and plan to stay after worship for a short rehearsal. We could lift our voices together to praise our God.



**Messiah's Women of the ELCA** are once again asking for "good used shoes" for **SOLES4SOULS** ... shoes for children and adults. **The campaign runs from August 13 thru September 14 with a goal of collecting 200 pairs of shoes.** Please put your donations in the blue bin. Children's shoes are especially needed ... wearing shoes enables a child to attend school in a Third World country.



**Tuesday, September 16 at 5:30 p.m. – Patio Picnic** at Ruth Doran's home. Table Service, meats and beverages will be provided. Please bring food to share. **Spouses are welcome!** Bob Schweppenheiser has been invited to come and play for us as he did last year.





*Thanks be  
to God!*

## Lutheran World Relief School Kits

***We are in the home stretch!*** This past Sunday was our final official week to collect supplies for the school kits. We will finish the shopping this week. If you have already purchased supplies, please bring them in as soon as possible so that we can finalize the count and begin preparing the items to be packed in the backpacks.

**The response this year has been UNBELIEVABLE!** While we cannot yet tell you the official count, we can tell you that it is far above what we collected last year. Many, many children who would not have been able to attend school otherwise will now have the opportunity to receive an education, *thanks to you*. **Thank you all so very, very much for answering the call!** 😊

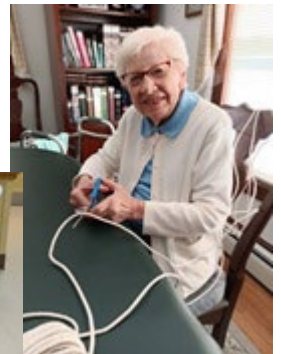


### **Save the Date! Saturday, September 27, 5:00 p.m. – Pack-A-Sack Event**

This is when we finally see all the work we have done come to fruition. Members of the congregation, those who attended Bible School, and friends are invited to join us for a pizza supper and to pack the bags assembly-line style. All ages may take part, but we ask that anyone under grade 3 be accompanied/supervised by an adult. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex soon. *We are really going to need all hands on deck this year - plan now to join the fun!*

***Thank you to all those who have helped make the backpacks*** which will be filled with the supplies you have brought in ... those who took part in the sew-a-thon or sewed/surged at home, those who took part in the Knotty Party to tie the knots, the children who strung the cord through the backpacks during Bible School, and those who helped behind the scenes by cutting the cord to the proper length. All in all, 808 backpacks were sewn this year, 590 of which were strung by the children during VBS Week.

***Thanks to all of you who donated supplies,*** we have far surpassed that number of school kits, so we have invited the children back to string more of the backpacks this week! ***We are still in awe*** of the outpouring of donations and volunteerism this year!



Pictured here is one of our most senior “behind the scenes” volunteers, Ethel Emenheiser (age 97) who helped her daughter, Susan Bryan, cut cord at home.

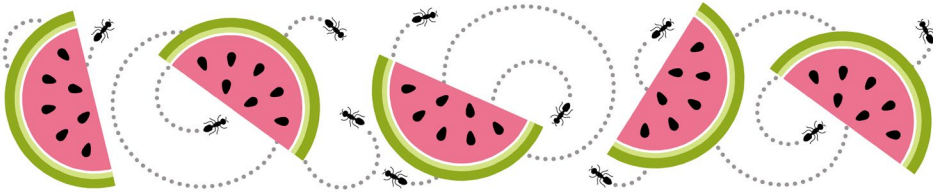


## BECAUSE WE CARE...

### PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH:

- When your home phone number or address changes. Church records need to be updated. There is a small fee from the USPS every time a newsletter comes back because of an incorrect address.
- When a baby arrives in your family or in the family of another church member.
- When a member of your family is sick or admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made.
- When a member of your immediate or extended family dies.
- When a family member leaves home for college or to establish a new residence.
- When something good happens to you or your family that you would like to share.

***Please note: If you have been in the hospital or have been ill and have not been visited by the Pastor or anyone from the church, or if your name is not on the prayer list, it may be because no one notified us. You or a family member should notify the church of illness or hospitalization. Please also get permission before sharing information with the church if the person is NOT a family member. Thank You!!***



Camp Mount Luther is hosting a benefit 5K and 10K entry-level trail run race, **“The Dandelion Run,”** on Saturday, August 30, 2025. The race starts at 9:00 a.m. with “day of” registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. Cost is \$35. Register by midnight, August 10, to receive a T-shirt.



### BB Bus Trips \* 2025

Sight and Sound, Lancaster

All Shows are at 11:00 AM - Lunch following at Hershey Farms (STC)

**CALL BETTY AT 570-323-5112 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE**

**Noah**

Thursday  
Sept 25, 2025

**Noah**

Thursday  
Oct 16, 2025

**Noah**

Thursday  
Nov 20, 2025

***Plan Ahead! \* Please keep all dates available to ensure a seat***