



## Calendar of Events

### **Sunday, October 5**

#### **Harvest Home Sunday**

9:30 am Worship/Communion

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Saints in Song Rehearsal

### **Monday, October 6**

6:30 pm Fellowship Committee

7:30 pm Worship and Music

### **Tuesday, October 7**

7:00 pm Council

### **Wednesday, October 8**

6:30 pm Bible Study and Fellowship

### **Thursday, October 9**

1:00 pm Back Pack Packing

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm NA

### **Friday, October 10**

### **Saturday, October 11**

6:00 pm Trivia Night



### **MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060**

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## MESSIAH MESSENGER

*Published weekly by*

### MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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October 1, 2025

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### Lutheran World Relief School Kits – If You Sew Them, They Will Be Filled!



We've said it before, but – **Wow!** Did we *ever* learn a lesson this year about not putting God in a box! When we started out at the beginning of Summer and stood up front and told you how many backpacks had been sewn and said, "Let's see where the Spirit leads," did we think that we would fill them all? **Noooope.** Did we think that we would **not** fill them all? Also no! Because we've learned over the years that the Messiah family **is truly** a Spirit-led church – and we've seen what the Spirit can do. The two of us have experienced first-hand what your love and generosity can do, how everyone pulls together for the common good, each bringing their own gifts to the table, and amazing – sometimes even *seemingly unbelievable* – things happen. ***If it is God's will, He will provide a way.***

From beginning to end, we have been amazed. Our ladies who sewed, along with the help of the Bible School kids and our knotters, ended up completing a grand total of **824** backpacks this year. Then they needed to be filled ... and the donations started pouring in.

First, the notebooks came - 3,304 notebooks to be exact. And then the shoppers came, and monetary donations, and all of the other supplies – so many, in fact, that we have a surplus of items for next year. We even received a surprise donation – 100% free, including delivery – of 2 very large bolts of fabric which we estimate will get us through the next two years!

Then the question became, "How will we do the work to actually put together that many school kits?" Again, the Spirit did not disappoint. Many of our Bible School children and their families came to join with many of you from our own Messiah family to tackle the task. Shaheen Hall was packed last Saturday night with quite a jolly crew to fill the backpacks, inspect them, and pack them into cartons.

All said and done, we filled **all 824** backpacks that were sewn **plus one more.** When we initially counted the crayons, there were 825 boxes. Kathy couldn't bear to not use up that last box, so Sally obliged and sewed another backpack.

The Spirit called ... and **825 children** will be able to attend school because ***you answered*** the call. Each child who is blessed to receive an education as a result of your help will have a chance to go on and be a blessing to others. Who knows what gifts they will bring to the world?

We cannot say it enough ... ***thank you, thank you, thank you*** for the ***incredible*** outpouring of support. The two of us were left speechless on more than one occasion as this project came to fruition. You have shown us without a doubt what it means to be "blessed to be a blessing."

***This is what family does!*** ~ With grateful and humbled hearts, Sal and Kath

October 5, 2025

**SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

**Ushers:** Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Rita and Dave Strickler, Jimmy Gardner

**Lay Assistant:** Janet Stroble; **Communion Assistant:** Sherri Holtzman; **Acolyte:** Weston

Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Marie Welter, April Gardner; **Greeters/Presenters:** Kim Brofee, Doris Butt; **Cantor:** Janet Stroble; **Flower Delivery:** Cindy Bennett

**Sunday, September 28, 2025:** Attendance: **71**; Online: **7**; Offering: **\$2,940.38**

**IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Howard and B.Z. Goodbrod and Raymond and Hazel Rosenbaum with love by Don and Mary Ellen Rosenbaum.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Pat Hammaker on the anniversary of her birthday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jeanie Laurrell, on her first heavenly birthday, October 1st. With love from her daughter Jennifer, Frank and grandson Jack Klotz.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Albert Kelley on the anniversary of his birthday with love from his family.

**BIBLE READINGS**

**Sunday, October 5:** *Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10*

**Monday, October 6:** *Psalm 3; Habakkuk 1:5-17; James 1:2-11*

**Tuesday, October 7:** *Psalm 3; Habakkuk 2:5-11; 1 John 5:1-5, 13-21*

**Wednesday, October 8:** *Psalm 3; Habakkuk 2:12-20; Mark 11:12-14, 20-24*

**Thursday, October 9:** *Psalm 111; Leviticus 14:33-53; 2 Timothy 1:13-18*

**Friday, October 10:** *Psalm 111; Numbers 4:34-5:4; 2 Timothy 2:1-7*

**Saturday, October 11:** *Psalm 111; Numbers 12:1-15; Luke 5:12-16*



**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.*



Mark your calendar for **"TRIVIA NIGHT"** on Saturday, **October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.** George Jansson will be our quiz master for the evening. Pizza and beverages will be supplied. Please bring a snack to share with everyone. The fees are ... \$8.00 per person; \$15.00 per couple. The beneficiary is Messiah's Backpack Project.



**Bible Study and fellowship** continues on Wednesday's at 6:30 pm. *All are welcome!*

## The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children - **The Life of Martin Luther-Pop-up Book** - The Story of Martin Luther and his role in sparking the Protestant Reformation is given an interactive retelling in this beautiful and sturdy pop-up book. From Luther's decision to become a monk to his 95 theses, history jumps off the page through the vibrant, colorful illustrations. Full of surprising details this book will have kids coming back again and again to learn about this fascinating chapter in the history of the Christian faith. In the Children's section of our library.

Adult - **The Wit of Martin Luther** - An interesting and entertaining entry into Luther's thought. This little book brings out the sublime religious meaning at stake in the theological thwacks and thuds of the Reformer's life. Found in the Reformation, Lutheran Church history section.

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**MLP Gift Card Bingo** is Saturday, October 25 at 12:30 pm. The doors will open at 11:30. Presale tickets are \$20 and at the door \$25. Tickets will be available *anytime in the church office*. **To make this event a success we are asking the congregation for your support. Ways you can help:** donate a gift card of your choice for our Gift Card Bingo; make a themed basket to donate for our Chinese Auction; or make baked goods to sell during the event. Deadline for gift cards and themed baskets is **October 17<sup>th</sup>**. Baked good items are due **Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> by NOON** in the church office. **PLEASE DROP OFF ALL DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

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Mountie  
Backpack Program

**The Mountie Backpack Program**, centered here at Messiah, has begun. Volunteers are needed to help pack the food bags on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 pm. Two volunteers are needed to deliver the food bags on Fridays before 11 am to Central Elementary School. Please contact Dianne Larson, 570-220-3702, or Connie McLaughlin, 570-356-3618 to schedule a Friday. These food bags close the gap in meals for children over the weekends and longer holidays. Success of this program depends on your help to relieve children's hunger in our area. ***Many hands make the load light.***

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**Do you have a special occasion or a special someone** that you would like to remember or honor with Altar flowers? The cost runs around \$37 to \$40 for both bouquets. **We are also looking for volunteers** to help deliver the flowers. It is a great opportunity to put a smile on someone's face that needs it. Please contact Cindy Bennett if interested at 570-326-7944.

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**You are cordially invited to sing** a special anthem with Saints in Song on October 12 during our worship service. There will be a short rehearsal following worship Sunday, October 5, another at the beginning of choir rehearsal at 7 PM on October 9, and again at 8:45 AM on October 12. Please plan on attending at least one. The anthem we will sing is easy to learn. If you like to sing, we would love to have you sing with us.



**White Gifts Project Soon to Begin ...** Each year, Messiah has put up an angel tree to provide gifts to those in the local community and in our congregation who can use a helping hand. Families in our congregation who are experiencing a need and can benefit are encouraged to call the church office. *Forms will be provided for gift suggestions, which will need to be returned to us **no later than October 31*** so that we have time to prepare the tags for the tree.



*I would like to thank my Messiah family for the beautiful mum and flowers that Linda Miller and Susie Bryan brought to me. Also thank you to everyone for all you do.*

*Margaret Huyck*



Thanks for your generosity the WELCA Project for SOLES4SOULS garnered **59 pairs of children's shoes and 70 pairs of adult shoes.** Again, our thanks!



**Messiah's Women of the ELCA will meet in Shaheen Hall on Tuesday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m.** Our special guest is Dr. Lynette (Doran) Reitz who will speak on "What Social Workers Do: Advocacy, Support and Change". Ruth Doran will lead Devotions; Hostesses are Brenda Cromley and Ruth Doran. Everyone is welcome!

Dr. Reitz directed the Social Work Program (undergraduate degree) at Lock Haven University until her retirement ... then headed the Social Work Program (Master's level) at New Jersey's Montclair State University for five years. ... is now Professor of Social Work for Chamberlain University, Chicago, teaching remotely.

Her Master's Degree in Social Work is from the University of Chicago and her doctorate from Marywood University. She and her husband, Jeff--a Social Worker at Geisinger--serve as "on-call" volunteers for Trauma Counselling with area Fire Companies and Ambulance services in cases of horrific incidents.

**Pack A Sack Volunteers** – *photo taken by Janet Stroble*

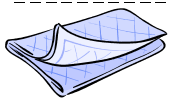






**Harvest Home and Blanket Sunday is Sunday, October 5, 2025.** Worshippers will be invited to bring forward their gifts of canned goods, boxes of pasta, or monetary offerings for the hungry during the singing of the Hymn of Praise.

**Donations of fresh produce (pumpkins, potatoes, apples, squash, etc.), cornstalks and gourds to use in decorating are very much needed. All perishable items** may be dropped off at the church office any time Thursday-Friday, October 2-3, or you may bring the day of the set-up on Saturday, October 4. ***Where does the food go?*** All perishable gifts of food received will be shared with the United Churches Food Pantry and the canned goods will stock our own food pantry and help to supply the Christmas baskets. ***Monetary gifts in lieu of in-kind gifts may be placed in plain envelopes marked "Harvest Home." Checks should be made payable to "Messiah Lutheran Church" and be sure to include your envelope number if you would like your offering recorded.*** **\*Please note the Change in time\* for decorating for Harvest Home, it will take place on Saturday, October 4 at 10:00 am.**



**Blanket Sunday: Donated blankets and quilts** will be distributed by Lutheran World Relief. Please place clean blankets or quilts in the **gray bin** located in the elevator entrance ***no later than October 5.***

***Monetary gifts may be placed in an envelope on which you mark "Blankets." Checks should be made payable to "Messiah Lutheran Church."*** These monetary gifts also will be received during the singing of the Hymn of Praise.

**ONE NOTE,** LWR does not want fleece blankets, BECAUSE people wash them in streams, and the lint pollutes the streams. Thank you for your help.

## MISSION TO SEAFARERS



Did you realize that **90% of everything we wear, use, and consume**, come to us by merchant ships, operated by 1.5 million seafarers? On ships for 9 to 10 months at a time, the seafarers face many hardships: storms, piracy, abandonment, and loss of contact with their families. Often the only contact they have beyond the ship, the Chaplains provide emotional and spiritual support.

Join in the Chaplains' mission of showing Christ's love.

Remember Matthew 25: 35, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Help fill gift satchels that the Chaplains deliver to the seafarers, in the weeks before Christmas. Each satchel should contain the following:

- 1 sweatshirt, unhooded or hooded (the preferred) – size M, L or XL**
- 3 pair of socks, thermal or white gym**
- 1 casual pullover T shirt – size M, L or XL**
- 1 heavy knit winter cap**
- 1 can of nuts or large bar of chocolate**
- Christmas card**

## NO ADDITIONS AND NO SUBSTITUTIONS

Items need to be at the church by **October 26<sup>th</sup>**. *Thank you.*