



## Calendar of Events

### **Sunday, February 22**

9:30 am Worship/Communion

### **Monday, February 23**

7:00 pm Finance Committee

### **Tuesday, February 24**

7:30 pm Property Committee

### **Wednesday, February 25**

6:30 pm Lenten Vespers

### **Thursday, February 26**

1:00 pm Backpacks Packing

2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm Bell Choir

7:30 pm NA

### **Friday, February 27**

### **Saturday, February 28**

9 am - 12 pm Soup Sale



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

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## MESSIAH MESSENGER

*Published weekly by*

### MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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#### **Serving Others During Lent: Less Chocolate, More Love**

Lent, that sacred season when we all give up chocolate, complain about giving up chocolate, and then, at some point, wonder if Jesus would be okay with us having just one piece because, you know, grace.

Lent is more than just self-denial, it's a time of repentance, reflection, and most importantly, service. We know that good works don't save us (Ephesians 2:8-9 makes that clear), but we also know that we are "created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Ephesians 2:10). Lent is the perfect time to live that out by serving others, not because we have to, but because we get to.

So why serve during Lent? Lent reminds us of Christ's ultimate act of service: giving His life for us. Jesus Himself said, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). If that's how He lived, then following Him means rolling up our sleeves and loving our neighbors in real, tangible ways.

Also, serving others shifts our focus. It's easy to spend Lent thinking only about what we are giving up. But when we step outside ourselves and serve, we see Jesus in those around us. Suddenly, Lent isn't just about self-denial, it's about self-giving.

#### **A Few Ways to Serve During Lent:**

1. **Feed the Hungry (Literally and Spiritually):** Jesus didn't just preach to people—He fed them. Consider making a meal for a neighbor or inviting someone over for dinner. And while you're at it, share the Bread of Life—offer to pray with someone or share a Bible verse.
2. **Encourage Someone Who's Struggling:** Life can be hard. Send a handwritten note, make a phone call, or check in on someone who might be lonely. It can be as simple as reminding someone they're loved.
3. **Serve in your Church:** Even small acts of service make a big difference.
4. **Practice the Art of Listening:** In a world that talks a lot, truly, listening is a gift. Remember to be quick to hear and slow to speak. Ask someone how they're really doing—and then just listen.
5. **Give Generously:** Whether it's money, time, or talents, Lent is a great time to be generous.

Lent is about drawing closer to Jesus. And there's no better way to do that than by loving and serving others. So, as we journey through this season, let's remember it's not about what we give up, but about what we give out. Serve joyfully, and if you're still giving up chocolate—stay strong, my friend. Easter is coming.

*Written by: **Kelsey Wilbern**, March 13, 2025 Blog from Peace Lutheran Church, Arvada, Co*

**Sunday, February 22, 2026**

**SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

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

**Lay Asst:** Carol Waltz; **Comm. Asst.:** Fred Harbaugh; **Acolyte:** Weston Sherman

**Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower; **Greeters/Presenters:** Fred and Meg Harbaugh

**Cantor:** Virginia Amme; **Flower Delivery:** Susan Bryan

**Sunday, February 15:** Attendance: *In Church: 85; Online: 9*; Offering: **\$7,210.38**

**IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Martha Kropp's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 22<sup>nd</sup> by her son Craig Kropp.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of O'B, by his wife Gail, children and their families.

**BIBLE READINGS**

**Sunday, February 22:** *Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11*

**Monday, February 23:** *Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18*

**Tuesday, February 24:** *Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10*

**Wednesday, February 25:** *Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14*

**Thursday, February 26:** *Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:3-7*

**Friday, February 27:** *Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31*

**Saturday, February 28:** *Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10*



**Presiding over our worship this Sunday, February 22** will be Janet Stroble, ALWL.

**Pastoral Care Number:** Please call (570) 326-9171. (Available 24 hours a day) During work hours office staff will assist you. After hours, please press "3" for a Pastoral Emergency to be connected directly to the Pastor.

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



**NOW IS THE TIME to put in your reservation for memorial Easter Flowers.** Several varieties of flowers are available. More information can be found on the order form. The flowers may be picked up immediately after Worship on Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. **PLEASE RETURN THE ORDER FORM BY SUNDAY, MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>.** Call the church office 570-326-9171 if you have any questions.

**Thanks!**

**Great Fellowship and conversation was had** by all who joined us Sunday for the soup and sandwich meal hosted by the fellowship committee. We had approximately 40 in attendance.

**Grant dollars were awarded** from the Andrew and Elizabeth Spuler Fund at the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania.



## The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children - **Quigley's Village - Spike and the Terrible Tripped-Up Tap Dance DVD** - This is the day for the Quigley's Village talent show!

Everyone is hard at work preparing their performances except Spike who is going to tap dance. She sees no point in practicing even though she has never tap danced before. The show is a big success for everyone but Spike who

learns that tapping is not all its "cracked up" to be especially when you don't prepare. This is found in the Religious themed DVD section.

Adult - **101 Amazing Things God Thinks About You - Discover Your God-given Purpose and Identity** - This book offers you incredible facts from the Bible that will inspire, encourage, humble, amaze and even surprise you. Let God's thoughts about you change how you see yourself and make you bold in achieving the destiny and purpose He has planned for your life. Found in the Topical Issues section of the library.

**SOUP SALE: Next Saturday, February 28, 2026 - Are you a soup maker?** We are still in need of soup donations. Quart containers are available in the church office for your convenience. **Drop off for the soup will be on Friday, February 27, 6pm-8pm or on Saturday morning, February 28<sup>th</sup> before the "drive-by sale" begins in the Bald Eagle Alley at 9am. The sale continues until noon or until all the soup is sold. *Volunteers are needed to set up/tear down and help with the sale.* **HELP MAKE IT A "SOUP-ER DAY!"****



Our March 17th (at 7:00 p.m.) meeting will feature Candy Watkins' "Stations of the Cross". Georgette Copp will present "Sojourner Truth" as our "Woman in History" and Candy will provide music. Ruth Doran will lead Devotions; Sandy Jansson and Becky Pryor are Hostesses.

Daniel's Closet



**Daniel's Closet at Redeemer – Saturday, February 28, 8:30-11 a.m.**

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. **All are welcome to come and "shop" the closet** ... all they ask is that you take only what you need personally or can share with a friend.

**Donations are accepted** at Messiah in the blue bin in the alcove by the Chapel.

**Daniel's Closet is especially in need this month of ...**

- **Kids' clothes** – sizes infant to teens
- **Coats** for everyone ... all sizes!
- **Men's clothing** in all sizes but especially small and medium
- We are in **desperate need of men's winter coats**
- People are always looking for **shoes**.
- We need **hats and gloves for the blessing hedges**, especially hats for men and boys as well as gloves for everyone



**Messiah Lutheran Preschool is now accepting registrations for the 2026-2027 school year.**

The program is Monday – Friday. We have a morning class 8:30 am – 11:30 am for 3 and 4 year olds (the child needs to be 3-years old by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>) and the afternoon class is 11:30 am -2:30 pm; this is the Pre-K class for 4 and 5 year olds who expect to begin kindergarten in Fall 2026. **For more information**, please call 570-326-9171 (option 2) to speak with or leave a message for the volunteer preschool coordinator, Linda Miller.

**Registration forms are also available in the church office. Since space is limited early registration is encouraged. Thank you.**

preschool registration



**Messiah Lutheran Preschool** will have an Open House on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm – 7:00 pm.



**The Kids Lent Event will be held Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 - noon.**

Registration forms can be found online or in the alleyway entrance. We are still in need of volunteers so if you are able and willing to help please contact me as soon as you can. Thank you in advance for your continued support of these wonderful outreach programs for the children in our communities.

**Are you handy with a screwdriver?** If so, we could use some help putting together a couple of table games for in the Harry Seltzer Room. Please contact me or the office.

Kathryn Pratt



**The Mountie Backpack Program continues into the Spring Semester to make sure no child goes hungry.**

We are in need of volunteers to take a turn to deliver the food bags each Thursday after we pack the bags. To schedule a Thursday, please contact Connie

McLaughlin, 570-326-3618. We pack the food bags in Shaheen Hall on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. if you would like to come join us. *Thank you in advance.*

**Copies of *Behold Your King!* a Lenten Devotional Booklet** are now available in the Narthex.

Brought to you in partnership with the Lutheran Hour Ministries. In ***Behold Your King!*** Jesus comes to us in flesh and blood as a Man, as God's own Son, and as the lowly Servant-King bearing the sins of the world. Though He was forlorn and forsaken, He did not abandon His mission or shirk His obedience to the Father. He followed through- and in so doing He won for each of us the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life in His presence.

**Lenten Self-Denial Calendars & Banks** that benefit Habitat for Humanity are also in the Narthex. Current copies of the devotional booklets *The Upper Room* and *Christ in Our Home* are available in the Narthex and the church office.







## WEAR LOVE!

This year's curriculum theme is "Wear Love"! Together, we will see how God wants us to put on love every day, just like our favorite clothes. At camp, we will learn to show love through kindness, humility, calmness, sticking with

what's right, and forgiving others. When we wear love, we help our community grow stronger and share God's love with the world!

**Camp brochures are now available online at:**

<https://www.campmountluther.org/summer-camp/>

As we do not have a camp person this year, anyone who wishes to attend camp should contact the camp directly to register or with any questions.

Anyone who may be interested in being camp person should contact Kathryn Pratt or the church office and you will be put in touch with the director of the camp, Chad Hershberger.



## Summer 2026 is coming fast, and Camp Mount Luther is hiring!



We're looking for college-aged students (or people you know) who want a meaningful summer building leadership skills, community, and faith. Serving on camp staff creates lifelong friendships and real-world experience that lasts well beyond summer.

Our greatest need is for **cabin leaders**, who care for and guide up to 15 children or youth each week. It's a big responsibility—but also incredibly fun and rewarding.

Staff receive **two weeks of training in early June**, with campers arriving June 15. Camp runs through August 5 and includes **housing and meals**. Scheduling conflicts? Let us know—we'll work with you. **Apply today for a summer full of leadership, friendship, and FUN!** Need internship credit? Tell us—we'll help make it work.



**World Day of Prayer service and celebration**, this year prepared by the women of Nigeria, and sponsored by Church Women United of Lycoming County, will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 10 am, at the Clarkstown United Methodist Church. The theme is "I Will Give You Rest: Come." All women are invited.

