



Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 22

9:30 am Worship/Communion

Monday, March 23

7:00 pm Property Committee

Tuesday, March 24

Wednesday, March 25

Lions Club

6:30 pm Lenten Vespers

Thursday, March 26

1:00 pm Backpacks Packing

6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

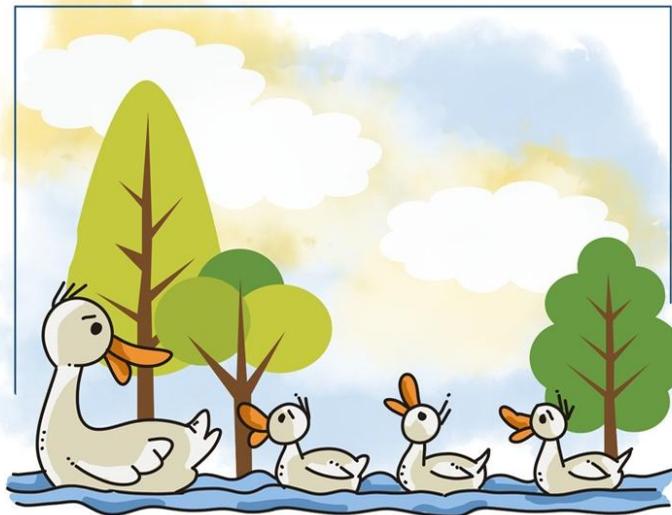
7:00 pm Bell Choir

7:30 pm NA

Friday, March 27

Saturday, March 28

9:00 am Palm Prep



MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

Published each week by Messiah Lutheran Church, 324 South Howard Street, South Williamsport, PA. Publication Office, 324 South Howard Street. Entered as a periodical October 15, 1940, at the Post Office at Williamsport, PA under the Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Messiah Lutheran Church,
324 South Howard Street, South Williamsport, PA 17702.



MESSIAH MESSENGER

Published weekly by

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.messiahsouth.org Phone: 570-326-9171

e-mail address: messiahoffice@comcast.net

March 18, 2026

VOL. 83 – NO. 11

1 John 4:7-11 – ⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.* ⁹ *God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.* ¹⁰ *In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.* ¹¹ *Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.*



Some years ago I went camping with a group of Scouts and we decided to follow a local creek until we found its source. We didn't know where the spring was, but we knew there had to be one; —after all, we could see the stream! So we followed it. After lots of walking and climbing through a jungle of plants higher than our heads, we finally found it; —the spot where the water welled up from a rocky ledge. That was the spring, the origin of the water that flowed past our campsite. All the water the kids played and splashed in started from that single spot.

In today's reading, John tells us where love comes from; —not from our personal feelings or hard work, but from God Himself. He is the Spring of love, and His love overflows to water our thirsty lives. We ourselves are not the Spring; —God is, and how do we know? Because He has given us Jesus to be our Savior, to lay down His life for us so that we might become forgiven, clean, beloved children of God. Jesus died and rose for us so that we might live forever, and His saving love is the water of life that runs all through our lives. That stream of love is the way we know God's spring exists.

If you've ever gone camping, you know how necessary water is. We need it for drinking, for cooking, for washing, and even for playing. And yet we cannot make water; —we can only take our buckets and go where the water already is to get it. Love is like that. We can't force ourselves to love people; —that's like taking a bucket to a dry rock and demanding that it quench your thirst!

No, if we have any sense, we take our empty buckets to the Spring of love, to God Himself. When we trust in Him, His love fills us and overflows to meet our needs and the needs of the people around us; —even the most unlovable. Then it will not be us doing the loving; —it will be God Himself doing it through us.

WE PRAY: Dear Father, You have loved us in Your Son Jesus. Let that love overflow our lives to reach other people. Amen.

This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo. April 24, 202

Sunday, March 22, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ, Greg Eckenrode
Lay Asst: Janet Stroble; **Comm. Asst.:** Mandy Feinberg; **Acolyte:** Weston Sherman
Altar Guild: Susie Bryan, April Gardner; **Greeters/Presenters:** Mike and Dianne Larson
Cantor: Virginia Amme; **Flower Delivery:** Susan Bryan

Sunday, March 15: Attendance: *In Church: 142; Online: 15*; Offering: **\$3,013.38**

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones from Sylvia.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Marie Welter for her birthday March 25th, with love from her husband Bob and children Zach and Olivia.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of Marie Welter's birthday on March 25th with love from her husband Bob.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, March 22: *Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45*

Monday, March 23: *Psalm 143; 1 Kings 17:17-24; Acts 20:7-12*

Tuesday, March 24: *Psalm 143; 2 Kings 4:18-37; Ephesians 2:1-10*

Wednesday, March 25: *Psalm 143; Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41; Matthew 22:23-33*

Thursday, March 26: *Psalm 31:9-16; 1 Samuel 16:11-13; Philippians 1:1-11*

Friday, March 27: *Psalm 31:9-16; Job 13:13-19; Philippians 1:21-30*

Saturday, March 28: *Psalm 31:9-16; Lamentations 3:55-66; Mark 10:32-34*



Presiding over our worship this Sunday, March 22 will be Ray Huff, 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.

Copies of Behold Your King! a Lenten Devotional Booklet, Lenten Self-Denial Calendars & Banks that benefit Habitat for Humanity are available in the Narthex; plus, current copies of the devotional booklets The Upper Room and Christ in Our Home are available in the Narthex and the church office.



If you would like to help get the Palms ready for Palm Sunday Worship, please join us Saturday morning, March 28th at 9:00 am.

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent out Sunday, March 22. Please let the office know if you are not available next Sunday. If anyone is homebound, can't get to church and would like to receive Communion please notify the church office at 570-326-9171.

The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children -DVD- **Twas the Night Before Easter by Veggie Tales** -It's Easter time in Crisper County and cable news reporter Marlee Meade is hunting for a way to help others. On a tip that the old town theater will be shut down, Marlee cooks up a plan to save the stage and make a difference through the power of musical theater! With a cast of costume-clad townies, massive props and a 20 ft. robot rabbi, "Up with Bunnies" is hatched. When news spreads that singing sensation Cassie Cassava is arriving to perform in her hometown church's Easter service, Marlee gets worried. Concerned about the competition, she schemes to steal the starlet for her own pageant! But when things go haywire, will it be curtains for Marlee's dreams-or will she discover the true meaning of Easter and what helping others is really all about? This DVD is in the Easter Section of the library.

Adult - **Before and After Easter - Activities and Ideas-Lent to Pentecost** - For each day of Lent, each week of Easter and the Day of Pentecost, there are...activities, service projects, crafts and recipes, Bible readings, fascinating facts, family worship ideas...and full color illustrations on every page make activities and projects a snap! The book is in the Easter section of our Library.



Calling all pie makers!! If you like to bake, especially pies, please share your favorite pie with us at our **pie social**. The fellowship committee will be hosting a pie social on **March 29th**, immediately following worship and would love to see how many pies we can get. If you would be willing to make a pie for our social, please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex. The fellowship committee will provide the beverages and cool whip; we just need the pies.



PLEASE NOTE: THE EASTER FLOWERS ARE \$8.00

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 5th. **PLEASE RETURN THE ORDER FORM BY SUNDAY, MARCH 29th.** Call the church office 570-326-9171 if you have any questions.



What comfort it is to know, when in time of need, someone is praying for us. That is what our prayer chain does. Call the church office if you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, 570-326-9171.



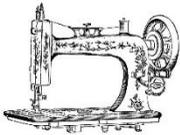
We are looking for volunteers to deliver Easter flowers to our homebound members. If you are able please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Thank you!





Trivia Night is Saturday, April 18 (6:00 p.m.) Registration fees are \$8.00 per person or \$15.00 per couple and all monies go to the beneficiary—Messiah Pre-School's Scholarship Fund. Please bring food to share; pizza and beverages will be provided. George Jansson is our Quiz-master.

Are you intrigued by antique cars? Well, on SUNDAY, APRIL 26, members of the Williamsport Model T Club are also going to tour the THOMAS T. TABER MUSEUM just as we are leaving. You'll see "history" inside and out! So we need to car-pool after our sandwich/salad lunch to leave space for their cars to park. If you plan to be a "Museum Tourist" the tickets will be available--\$6.50 per person—on April 12 and 19.



Lutheran World Relief School Kits are well underway!

Monday and Tuesday, women and men alike worked together at our third annual Sew-A-Sack sew-a-thon to start making backpacks. At the time of this printing, we will not yet have a total for you, but there are still opportunities to help make backpacks for those who like to participate in this way!

Those who were unable to attend the Sew-A-Sack but would still like to make backpacks at home may pick up pre-surg-ed fabric pieces and instructions in the narthex on Sunday mornings or from the church office during the week. Because these pieces have been prepared in advance with this special stitching around the edges, it greatly simplifies the process and makes sewing the backpacks a breeze!

Questions?? Call Sally Congdon at 570-547-6193 or Kathy Wither at 570-651-2802.



The Lifelong Faith Formation Committee will have an *Easter Egg Hunt* directly after the Easter Sunday service, Sunday, April 5. More information to come.



We are in need of: spaghetti sauce, cream of mushroom soup, jelly, canned fruit, pudding, tomato soup, chicken noodle soup and tuna.

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. 1st) 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 the volunteer preschool coordinator, Linda Miller at 570-326-5405 or 1-272-230-7215. **Registration forms are also available in the church office. Since space is limited early registration is encouraged. Thank you**





Taste of Camp March 29, 2026 @ 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Can't wait for summer camp? Get a Taste of Camp Mount Luther on March 29, 2026, from 3:00–5:00 p.m. You'll enjoy camp songs, a tour, snacks, games, a campfire program, a preview of Summer 2026 programs. Programs are available for elementary, middle, and senior high youth — plus adults and families. This is a great opportunity for new campers to learn more and for returning campers to get their camp fix! Stop scrolling. Get outside. Start growing this summer at camp. Questions? Email cml@campmountluther.org. You are also invited to stay for our monthly dinner church after.

∞ Scholarship Available to the Pennsylvania State University

The Jane Elizabeth Newlin and Everett Mason Batschelet Memorial Scholarship is offered annually to an incoming first year student who will be enrolled at any campus of the Pennsylvania State University *including the Pennsylvania College of Technology*. To qualify for the Newlin-Batschelet scholarship, an applicant must be a public high school graduate or prospective graduate. The recipient will be nominated by a committee appointed by our Congregation Council. Nominees will be submitted to the Pennsylvania State University in order to verify the nominee's financial eligibility as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Approved candidates will be informed by Penn State and will receive an annual scholarship of \$5,000.00 for a maximum of four years, as long as they are enrolled as a full-time student on a Penn State campus, remain eligible, and funds are available.

Applications for this scholarship may be obtained by calling the church office. **All applications are due in the church office by Monday, May 4th**. **Because references, SAT scores, and transcripts must also be filed, applicants should obtain an application as soon as possible.**

Daniel's Closet



Daniel's Closet at Redeemer – Saturday, March 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 ...

- ♥ Clothing for Infants and Children ♥ Winter Coats for Men ♥

Please note: Winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves and boots will be accepted year round so that we have enough in storage once winter hits again next year.

