

Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 3

9:30 am Worship/Communion

Monday, May 4

5:30 pm Sit Happens

6:30 pm Fellowship Committee

Tuesday, May 5

6:00 pm Womens Banquet

Wednesday, May 6

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Thursday, May 7

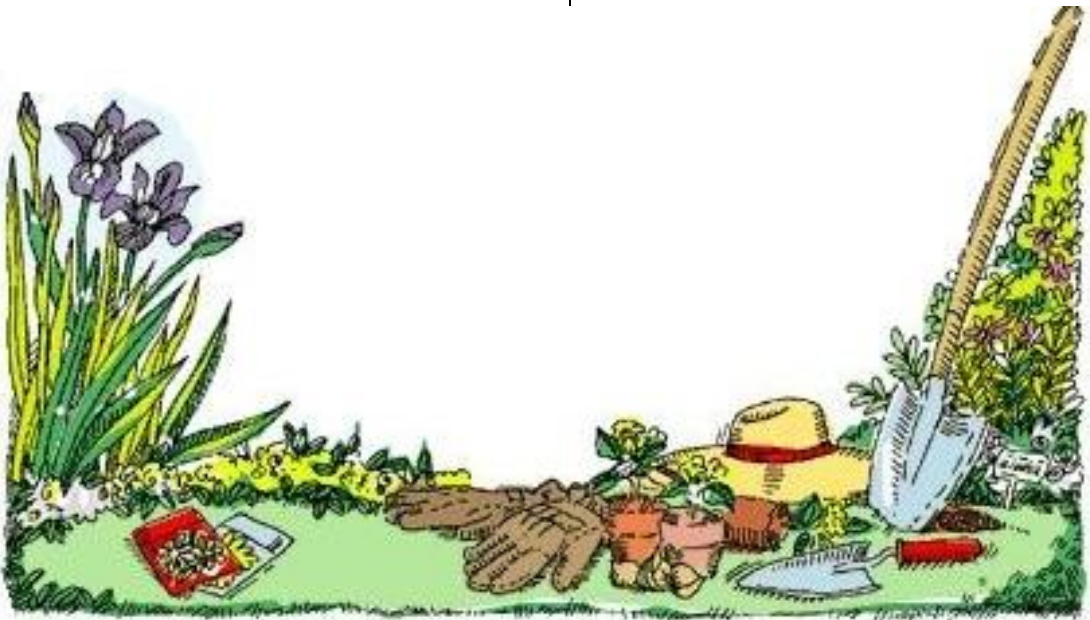
1:00 pm Backpacks Packing

2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm NA

Friday, May 8

Saturday, May 9



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

April 29, 2026

VOL. 83 – NO. 17



“The eyes of all look to you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season. You open wide your hand and satisfy every living thing with delight!

O Lord, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts, which we receive through your bountiful goodness, through (+) Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.” (*“The Blessing at Mealtimes”* Martin Luther’s *“Small Catechism”*)

In the “old” calendar (the one in the *Service Book and Hymnal*), this Fifth Sunday of Easter was known as *Rogate* (pronounced Rho-gat-Tay). It was customary on this Sunday to go out into the neighboring farm fields and bless them so that they would be fruitful for the upcoming growing season. For rural, agrarian communities, the link between “the earth” and “survival” was visceral: a bad growing season meant a lean winter and the crops were that fragile link between “contentment” and “want.” And so, in the “old days,” following the Service, the Pastor would lead their congregation in a procession, out the door and into the fields to seek God’s blessing upon the good earth. Farmers would also bring seeds and the Pastor would bless them for the welfare of the whole community, praying for God’s blessings on what these seeds would become.

Of course, as we (Lutherans) become less agrarian based and more urbanized, the links between us and “the good earth” became less immediate and more ethereal. Fewer of us had direct contact with subsistence farming (outside of gardens, perhaps) and fewer and fewer Church buildings had fields within easy distance of them. “Rogation Sundays” got supplanted first by “*Arbor Day*” (traditionally April 24) and then “*Earth Day*” (traditionally April 22), and in many places just...well...forgotten altogether. In the ecumenical liturgical calendar that came about in the late 1960’s, the traditional names for the “Sundays” got dropped completely...but that’s a longer story for a different time.

Let us never forget that God created the entire cosmos in his wisdom and love and he entrusted the earth to us so that we might rejoice in it and be sustained by it. The Garden of Eden, before the Fall, is a wondrous vision of what our eternal hope and calling is: that the entire Creation might be restored through Christ’s redemption and that we shall dwell in that renewed and restored Creation where sin and death are known no more. Let us pray always for the fields and those who till them, that the harvest that is sown today might yield a bountiful harvest tomorrow and that all might be fed with the bounty of God’s good earth!

“Taste and see, the Lord is Good!” the Psalmist writes. Never weary in prayer, giving thanks to the Lord, our God, for his goodness and mercy.

Pax Christi;

Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS

Sunday, May 3, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee
Lay Asst: Carol Waltz; **Comm. Asst.:** Mary Schultz; **Acolyte:** Alivia Klemick
Altar Guild: Susan Bryan, Jeannie Bower; **Greeters/Presenters:** Georgette Copp, Ray Demarest
Cantor: Mike Yoder; **Flower Delivery:** Paul Weaver

Sunday, April 26: Attendance: *In Church: 95; Online:3*; Offering: **\$1666.00**

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving and living memory of George, Annamary, Susan and David Hutchinson by the Hutchinson and Nancarrow families.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Shirley Fullmer’s 92nd birthday, by her family.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of the 79th wedding anniversary of David and Martha Larson, May 3rd, by their son Mike, daughter-in-law Dianne and family.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of Susan Hutchinson, with love Gary and family.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, May 3: Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Monday, May 4: Psalm 102:1-17; Exodus 13:17-22; Acts 7:17-40

Tuesday, May 5: Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:5-12; Acts 7:44-56

Wednesday, May 6: Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:13-18; John 8:31-38

Thursday, May 7: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 6:5-22; Acts 27:1-12

Friday, May 8: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 7:1-24; Acts 27:13-38

Saturday, May 9: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 8:13-19; John 14:27-29



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

OUR STAFF

OFFICE NUMBER: 570-326-9171

- Senior Pastor:** Rev. Gerald Kliner Ext. 206
- Secretary:** Pam Eveleth Ext.201
- Financial Secretary:** Jean Kelley..... Ext. 207
- Organist:** Jared Gist..... call the office
- Sexton:** Chris Haefner..... Ext. 208
- Preschool Co - Coordinators:** Linda Miller (volunteer) and Deb Wheeler

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 A.M – 3:00 P.M and Friday, 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

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



The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



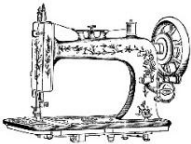
Children - **Mommy Promises** - From tucking them in at night to waving goodbye at the bus stop, from teaching them to tie their shoelaces to teaching them to lace their fingers in prayer, a mother's love for her child is reflected in so many ways. This book celebrates and affirms that love. In words and pictures this book takes a warm and wonderful look at the special relationship between mother and child and at the one of a kind relationship between our heavenly Father and His chosen children. Book is in the Children's section of our library.

Adults - **Ideals Mother's Day** - This is a book that shares stories, poems, a recipe and even a craft for Spring and highlighting Mother's Day. A wonderful way to reminisce and look forward. Great book to share with mothers of all ages. Book is in the Other Holiday Section of our library.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is right around the corner. If you would like to volunteer to help, please give me a call at 570-244-6964 or call the church office. Even if you can only do it for a day or two, it would be helpful. The theme this year is "Tropical Trek" and it will be held June 15-19 from 9:00-noon.

THINGS WE NEED: If you have any artificial ivy, ferns or other house plants/trees that we can borrow or have, it would be appreciated (no Christmas trees or evergreen garlands). If you do want them returned, please make sure to put your name on them somewhere. We will also be collecting brown packaging paper like what comes in Amazon shipments. There will be a box put in the alcove near the elevator. More to come.... Thank you in advance, Kathryn Pratt



Because you asked ... Our sew-a-thons were very productive this year, but a few people have approached us asking to sew additional backpacks at home. If you enjoy sewing and would like something to keep you busy, we do have a small stash of backpacks in various stages of production that could be finished. Please contact Kathy Wither at 570-651-2802, call or text, and she will get them to you. ***Thank you for your continued interest and support!***



Seeking Names of Graduates: Please call the church office by May 31st, with the name/address of anyone in your family who is graduating from High School and Undergrad or Grad School this spring. Your Messiah family would like to recognize your

accomplishment. *Thank you!*

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent out Sunday, May 17th. Please let the office know if you are not available to take communion. If anyone is homebound, can't get to church and would like to receive Communion please notify the church office at 570-326-9171.



Thank you for the cards, treats, KIM, preschool; and church flowers.

Doris Butt