



Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 17

9:30 am Worship/Communion
5:45 pm South Little League

Monday, May 18

6:30 pm Missional Outreach

Tuesday, May 19

6:00 am – 8:00pm Primary Election
6:00 pm WELCA Garage Picnic

Wednesday, May 20

Thursday, May 21

1:00 pm Backpacks Packing
2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm Bell Choir
7:30 pm NA

Friday, May 22

Saturday, May 23

Our Staff

Office Number: 570-326-9171

Senior Pastor: Pastor Gerald Kliner, STS..... Ext. 206, email: PastorKliner@messiahsouth.org

Secretary: Pam Eveleth..... Ext.201, email: messiahoffice@comcast.net

Financial Secretary: Jean Kelley Ext. 207, email: Messiahfinance@comcast.net

Organist: Jared Gist email: deereboy2007@yahoo.com

Sexton: Chris Haefner Ext. 208, 570-220-1186

Preschool Co - Coordinators: Linda Miller (volunteer) and Deb Wheeler – call the office

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.

MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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“Although he [Jesus Christ] is God and man, he is not divided, but is one Christ. He is united because God has taken humanity into himself; he does not transform deity into humanity...” (The Athanasian Creed)

On Thursday, May 14, the Church will mark the Feast of *The Ascension of our Lord*, the fortieth day of Easter, the moment Jesus Christ bodily ascends to “sit at the right hand of the Father...” and from which he shall, on the day appointed for him, will come again to “judge the living and the dead.” Perhaps because it always occurs in the midweek, *The Ascension of our Lord* often gets lost in the midst of the to-and-fro of daily living. This is truly unfortunate, since the image of our Lord ascending into heaven has so many critical implications for us.

A critical aspect of the Ascension of our Lord is that he is bodily taken up into heaven: he doesn't “shed” or “drop” his body like an empty container, his physical body is taken up—“assumed” as it were—into heaven where it remains for all eternity. Think about it for a moment, for the implication is startling: Jesus didn't become human “for a little while” ...he **IS** human. Right now. Today. Forever. Not only has humanity found a place in Eternity, humanity sits “at the right hand” of God the Father! God the Son doesn't come to “visit humanity,” to come by and “slum it” among the humans for a while (as if we were an attraction at a zoo or some such) only to “drop the appearances” to go home again. The Incarnation goes far deeper than that; Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, **IS** indeed Fully-God-and-fully-man for ALL ETERNITY. When we shall behold him in Heaven, we shall behold him even as his Apostles did when they walked and ate with him on earth, we too shall behold his wounded hands as they did, we shall gaze upon his pierced side, forever wounded but glorified, just as they did at that first Easter night.

Not only that, but in bodily ascending into heaven, Jesus Christ makes a place for our flesh-and-blood to have a place there too. When we say “I believe in the resurrection of the body” we mean exactly that: **we believe in the resurrection of our physical, flesh-and-blood bodies.** We can dare to say such an audacious thing BECAUSE Jesus makes a place in heaven for those bodies. Just as his resurrected and glorious body is in heaven, so too do our resurrected bodies have a place there as well. Do not be at all ashamed of your body! Your body was made “In the image of God” and will be restored in that image in heaven! Our physical bodies which pain us in this life, which ail us here on earth, and ultimately will fail us at the moment of death, will be restored to glorious and Eternal Life, because Jesus Christ has first opened the way to that joy through his resurrection and ascension!

God indeed “has taken humanity into himself.” We see this truth most clearly as our Lord is taken up into heaven to sit forever at God the Father's right hand, from which he will come again to judge the living and the dead. Our Lord ascends, glorious and risen from the dead himself, glorious in his body—behold him now in his glory and rejoice, for God has indeed taken humanity into himself forever! Alleluia!

Pax Christi;

Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS

Sunday, May 17, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee
Lay Asst: Georgette Copp; **Comm. Asst.:** Mandy Feinberg; **Acolyte:** Malory Klemick
Altar Guild; Vicki Bair, Doris Butt; **Greeters/Presenters:** April and Mike Gardner **Cantor:**
Virginia Amme; **Flower Delivery:** Susan Bryan

Sunday, May 10: Attendance: *In Church: 107; Online:6*; Offering: **\$4,140.00**

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of our 46th Wedding Anniversary by Alice and Albert Morrison.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Carol Hessert's birthday, May 21, by her daughter Pam.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Storrs and Angela Crimbring by their families.

***The Basket of Flowers that was in last Sunday, May 10** was given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my mom, Jeanie Laurrell by Jennifer, Frank and Jack Klotz.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, May 17: Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Monday, May 18: Psalm 99; Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24; 1 Peter 4:1-6

Tuesday, May 19: Psalm 99; Numbers 16:41-50; 1 Peter 4:7-11

Wednesday, May 20: Psalm 99; 1 Kings 8:54-65; John 3:31-36

Thursday, May 21: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:1-9a; Acts 2:1-11

Friday, May 22: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:16-25; Romans 8:14-17

Saturday, May 23: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 20:1-21; Matthew 5:1-12



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



A Special Invitation

Saturday, May 30, 4:00 p.m.
Installation of The Rev. Gerald Kliner

Rejoice and celebrate with us as Pastor Gerald Kliner is installed as Senior Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church.

A Catered Buffet Meal with Dessert will be held in Shaheen Hall following the Worship Service.

The congregation is invited to attend.
Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are able to attend.

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent out this Sunday, May 17th. Please let the office know if you are not available to take communion.

The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children - DVD - **Quigley's Village Spike's Grumpy Grumbly Day** - When Spike gets up on the wrong side of the bed, she forgets that the words that we say to people can either help or hurt them. Quigley's Village is a delightful place where children learn Christian values. This award-winning series provides the very best in entertainment with important lessons to help children learn and grow! Great family DVD. Found in the Quigley's Village DVD section.

Adult Book - **15 Minutes of Peace with God** -Does your daily schedule have more appointments and commitments than you can keep? Do you desire a "time out" from your busy life? Emilie Barnes knows the need women have for peaceful times with their heavenly Father. And she understands how the pace of life can often squeeze out these important moments. Her solution? A simple yet effective plan that takes 15 minutes or less. Relevant scriptures and heart-to-heart stories will calm your spirit in the midst of your active day. The book is found in the Poems, Prayers, Devotionals and Meditation Section of our Library.



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!*



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "Tropical Trek" will be held Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19. **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. Please place your items in the box in the alcove near the elevator.

Thank you, Kathryn Pratt



Lutheran World Relief School Kits Ministry ~ Dates to Save:

June 15-19 – Bible School – children will take part by stringing the backpacks. VBS offerings will go toward the school supplies to fill the backpacks.

Sunday, June 28 – Kick-off for the School Supplies Collection over the summer.

Wednesday, July 15, 9:00 a.m. – Knot-A-Sack “Knotty Party” – Join us for a time of fellowship, good conversation, (and Sally’s cookies!) while we knot the drawstrings to complete the backpacks.

Saturday, September 19, 5:00 p.m. – Pack-A-Sack – Join us for a light supper, after which we will work together to pack the school kits and box them for shipping.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information!



The choir will sing the last anthem before their summer break on June 7. We would like to invite anyone who likes to sing join us for a Saints in Song Sunday on that day. The anthem for that day is based on the favorite hymn, “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” and it is easy to learn. Rehearsals will be after church on May 31 and at 8:45 on June 7. Please join us to sing praise to God.

what's
coming up

Sunday, May 24 – Pentecost Sunday



Confirmation 

Coffee Hour in Shaheen Hall



Monday, May 25 –

MEMORIAL DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, May 30 – Pastor Kliner's Installation at 4:00 pm



Friday, May 29 –



Preschool Graduation at 6:00 pm

Sunday, May 31 - Trinity Sunday



Baccalaureate Service at 7:00 pm

**RED GERANIUMS
PENTECOST SUNDAY
May 24, 2026**

NAME _____

NO. OF PLANTS _____

MONEY ENCLOSED (\$6.00 EA.)

Geraniums will be ordered through the church office. They may be picked up immediately after the Worship Service on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th, or on Tuesday, May 26th (*Office is Closed Monday, May 25th*). Call the church office (326-9171) if you have any questions. **Order forms must be returned to the church office by Wednesday, May 20th.**

If you wish to order a geranium but do not want to take it home, the extra flowers will be planted around the church grounds.

