



## Calendar of Events

### **Sunday, June 7**

9:30 am Worship/Communion  
12:45 pm SW Little League

### **Monday, June 8**

### **Tuesday, June 9**

6:00 pm WELCA Picnic

### **Wednesday, June 10**

5:30 pm SW LL District 12

### **Thursday, June 11**

7:30 pm NA

### **Friday, June 12**

### **Saturday, June 13**



**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**

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**May 27, 2026**

**VOL. 83 – NO. 20**

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**“When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’ But when he heard this, he said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.’” (Matthew 9:11-12)**

Martin Luther famously asks, in his *Small Catechism*: “Who is worthy to receive the Sacrament (of Holy Communion)?” His answer follows like this: “*Fasting and bodily preparation are, in fact, a fine external discipline. But a person who has faith in these words, ‘Given for you...’ and ‘Shed for you...for the forgiveness of sins,’ is truly well prepared...[to receive the Sacrament].*” His point is simple: to be truly prepared to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, one must begin, not with their “worthiness,” but with their sinfulness.

Christianity is not a spiritual “self-help” course, a simple matter of telling you “how to fix” yourself. The Law (the Ten Commandments and everything that flows out of them) is not a simple matter of “telling you the rules.” If it were so, I could simply charge you with the Law and command you to “try a little harder next time” and “just straighten up and fly right.” Anyone who has tried to follow the Law, even for a single day, knows all too well that it is impossible for us to fulfill God’s Law with our broken, fallen human nature. Not that God’s Law is to be forgotten or dismissed, but instead of being a “self-help” course in “being a highly effective Christian,” the Law functions instead like a mirror, showing us just how fallen we truly are.

If we had not sinned, if somehow we *COULD* fulfill God’s holy and just Law, then we would have no need of Jesus...and by extension, we would have no need of the Sacrament. Saint Ignatius of Antioch called the Eucharist “*the medicine of immortality.*” Likewise, Luther would encourage the sickest—the most sinful among us—to flee to the Eucharist, and likened those who could feel no pain from their sin (those who were the most self-righteous) as lepers who could not feel their dead extremities any longer. Without Jesus, “the Bread of Life,” we surely die. But with Christ, we receive the medicine our sick souls need. The Body and Blood of Christ is shed, not for the worthy, but for those who are “the chief of sinners.”

The American (Presbyterian) Preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon, once remarked, “*I have a very great need for a Savior...*” He recognizes his need, his failures. But he continued on, “*Fortunately, I have a great Savior for my need!*” The liturgy likewise echoes Saint John the Baptist: “*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world! Have mercy on us!*” Jesus Christ did not come because the world was sinless, but because the world was lost and dead in sin. He does not come to heal the healthy, but to heal the sick. He does not love you because you were “good” and “worthy,” but because you were a poor, miserable sinner.

Oftentimes, I’ll ask “*Are you behaving yourself?*” The obvious answer you want to give is “**Yes.**” Sometimes, someone will slyly grin and wink at me and say “**No.**” But the theologically correct answer is “***I have tried and I have failed! Please forgive me!***” If we have not sinned, then Christ need not have died on the cross. If we do not care that we have sinned, then we mock the Christ as he dies. But if we know

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ourselves to be a sinner and despise ourselves because of it, if we know ourselves to “*have a great need of a Savior*,” then suddenly, to our sorrowing eyes, we see that we indeed have “*a great Savior for our need*.” The Easter Vigil liturgy talks of “*such a happy fault to have such a great Redeemer!*” Our sins have been cured, our mortal illness has been healed, by the Body and Blood of our Messiah, our Savior, our True Friend, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pax Christi;

Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS



## Sunday, June 7, 2026

### SERVICE ASSISTANTS

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

**Lay Asst:** Carola Storrs; **Comm. Asst.:** Rhonda Koch; **Acolyte:** Malory Klemick

**Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower; **Greeters/Presenters:** Dave and Emily Bausinger

**Flower Delivery:** Jody Fullmer

**Sunday, May 31:** Attendance: *In Church: 144; Online: 10*; Offering: **\$4,250.25**

### IN BLESSED MEMORY

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

The **Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Betty Weiskerger on her heavenly 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 12<sup>th</sup> by her family.

### BIBLE READINGS

**Sunday, June 7:** *Hosea 5:15-6:6; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26*

**Monday, June 8:** *Psalms 40:1-8; Leviticus 15:25-31; 22:1-9; 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:2*

**Tuesday, June 9:** *Psalms 40:1-8; Hosea 8:11-14; 10:1-2; Hebrews 13:1-16*

**Wednesday, June 10:** *Psalms 40:1-8; Hosea 14:1-9; Matthew 12:1-8*

**Thursday, June 11:** *Psalms 100; Exodus 4:18-23; Hebrews 3:1-6*

**Friday, June 12:** *Psalms 100; Exodus 4:27-31; Acts 7:35-43*

**Saturday, June 13:** *Psalms 100; Exodus 6:28-7:13; Mark 7:1-13*



**Office Phone: 570-326-9171**

**Senior Pastor:** Pastor Gerald Kliner, STS ... Ext. 206, email: [PastorKliner@messiahsouth.org](mailto:PastorKliner@messiahsouth.org)



**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.

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

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



## The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Youth - **Caution: Dangerous Devotions - an exciting journey through the New Testament** - This book will take you where you've never gone before.

Proceed, if you dare. The trip may get dangerous! You could be challenged to learn something about yourself and God's Word. Expect the unexpected. This book will make you stop and think, but beware, the trip will be fun and exciting. As you hike through the New Testament, you'll gain a whole new perspective of God's Word and how it speaks to every area in your life. You will see how God put each book in its place to give you direction for your life. This book is in the Youth themed section of our library.

Adult - **Image and Spirit - Finding meaning in Visual Art** - provides a theological and aesthetic background for a view of art as visible Word - as embodiment of the transcendent. Geared to the non-specialist, the book develops the reader's ability to interpret and appreciate artworks, of any style and from any period, from a spiritual perspective. In addition, it explores the communal aspect of art, as a prophetic Word that challenges, mobilizes and sensitizes the Christian community; and as a pastoral Word that enriches the spiritual and aesthetic journey of a community of faith. Book is in the Music section of our Library.

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## Vacation Bible School



### "TROPICAL TREK"

### Jesus Comes to Seek and Save

Monday, June 15 through

Friday, June 19, 2026

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

CHILDREN AGE 4 - GRADE 6

Teen helpers welcome!



### Messiah Lutheran Church

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**For More Information:** Call church office or e-mail to address shown above.

**\*\*T-SHIRT PAINTING IS ON MONDAY, PLEASE DRESS KIDS APPROPRIATELY, T-SHIRTS PROVIDED\*\***





Thank-you to my Messiah family for all the cards and well wishes. Also to the preschool children and Mary who brought me communion.

God's Blessings,  
Gail O'Brien



**THANK YOU!**

I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome and the wonderful Installation Service and dinner as I begin our ministry together here at Messiah Lutheran Church. It is a joy to be serving as your Pastor and I look forward to our time together!

Pax Christi;  
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS



Many, many thanks to all who made desserts for the installation dinner. The desserts were delicious and presented on beautiful plates! The variety of desserts was awesome! Thanks for making my vision possible.

Barb Houseknecht



**This Sunday, June 7** we will recognize our high school senior, **Nathan Rudio**. Nathan will be going to the University of Buffalo majoring in Environmental Architecture.



**This Sunday, June 7**, anyone who likes to sing is invited to sing “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” along with the choir. All of us “Saints in Song” will rehearse just before worship at 8:45.



**Sunday, June 7** after worship there will be a coffee hour in Shaheen Hall. *Please join us!*



**An ice cream social is planned for June 28<sup>th</sup>** after church in Shaheen Hall. There will be vanilla and chocolate ice cream with various toppings.

**ATTENTION!**

**Will the individual who removed** the table cloth clips from the closet in Shaheen hall please return them to the Church Office. Thank you, Chuck Luppert

