



Calendar of Events

Sunday, June 14

9:30 am Worship/Communion
6:30 pm SW Little League

Monday, June 15

9:00 am VBS

Tuesday, June 16

9:00 am VBS

Wednesday, June 17

9:00 am VBS

Thursday, June 18

9:00 am VBS
7:30 pm NA

Friday, June 19

9:00 am VBS

Saturday, June 20



Vacation Bible School

"TROPICAL TREK"

Jesus Comes to Seek and Save

starts this Monday, June 15th thru Friday, June 19 from -

9:00 am - 12:00 pm. CHILDREN AGE 4 - GRADE 6: Teen helpers welcome!

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

MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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On the Feast of the Holy Cross (September 14), 2005, I pledged myself, for the “sake of the promises I made at my Ordination,” to keep the *Rule of the Society of the Holy Trinity*, and I wrote my name in a ledger in front of the fellow members of the *Society of the Holy Trinity (STS)*, in a stuffy chapel in Mundelein, IL. I had subscribed to a *Rule*, a set of expectations that flowed from the promises I made at my Ordination, almost twenty-five years ago, and a *Society*—an *order* if you will—fellow Lutheran Pastors also seeking to faithfully live out their Ordination vows as well.

I try hard not to be judgmental about my fellow clergy...there are challenges and pressures that are put on clergy that people who have never been in this office could scarcely imagine...but, frankly, we don't spend much time talking about “Faithfulness” in our Pastoral conferences and for many of my colleagues, I think often “unfaithfulness” is seen as being avant-garde and “edgy.” Amongst clergy, heresy all-too-often seems to be embraced and celebrated, and outright blasphemy is, all-too-often, extolled as being “the cutting edge.” The idea of “being faithful” to our Ordination Vows is treated as being “pharisaical, or perhaps “quaint” and “backwards.” *The Society of the Holy Trinity* and *The Rule* came into being precisely because clergy NEED the encouragement of each other—and the accountability of each other—to pursue a Faithful life of ministry. We NEED to see other Pastors who are also concerned about their Vows—at least as concerned about their Vows as they are about their pay, their career advancement, their “likes,” or any other myriad things we tend concern ourselves about on a daily basis.

So we subscribe to a *Rule* that commits us to daily prayer, visitation, study, and retreat. As with God's Law, we try...and often we fail...to live this rule out. We visit each other and talk frankly about how we're doing with our Ordination Vows and the Rule. We pray for each other. This is what an “Order” is: a group of Faithful men and women, set apart for a specific work. In the Roman Catholic Church, for example, “*The Benedictines*” (OSB) are monks who dedicate themselves to “*Ora et Labora*”—“Prayer and Work,” “*The Dominicans*” (OP) dedicate themselves to study and preaching, “*Franciscans*” (OFM) dedicate themselves to poverty and service. In like fashion, the Pastors who use the title *STS* (Latin: *Societas Trinitatis Sanctae*) identify themselves as members of an order that dedicates itself to faithfully living out the vows we made at our Ordination.

Next Sunday (June 14), I will make the long trip to Saint Meinrad, IN, for the annual “*General Chapter Retreat*” of the Society. (Locally, I belong to the “*Susquehanna Chapter*” that has members from across the eastern half of Pennsylvania...) We will take three days for prayer, confession, teaching, and encouragement. It is NOT a “vacation,” but something more akin to “Continuing Education.” We will also elect a new *Senior*, the chief officer of our Society. I ask you to hold me in your prayers this next week as I travel.

Congregations sometimes ask: “What's in this for us?” I would simply answer that having “a faithful Pastor” ought to be good enough. We have all seen the damage an unfaithful Pastor can wreak on a Parish; no small amount of the ELCA's “woes” in terms of a rapidly shrinking Church are self-inflicted because of

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unfaithful clergy. Oh, that MORE pastors might be concerned about remaining faithful to their Ordination Vows! So hold the Society and its members in your prayers this next week! Pray for all Pastors that they may be faithful to their Ordination Vows, pray for an increase in vocations in the Church. We desperately need these things in our Church for the living of these days.

Pax Christi;

Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS

Sunday, June 14, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

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

Lay Asst: Kim Brofee; **Comm. Asst.:** Georgette Copp; **Acolyte:** Alivia Klemick

Altar Guild: Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser; **Greeters/Presenters:** Susan and Dennis Shoemaker

Flower Delivery: Susan Bryan

Sunday, June 7: Attendance: *In Church: 100; Online: 8;* Offering: **\$7,070.01**

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Judge and Mrs. H. W. Whitehead, Mr. and Mrs. George L. Stearns and Eleanor Stearns and Henry Perciballi by their family.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, June 14: *Exodus 19:2-8; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8-23*

Monday, June 15: *Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Joshua 1:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5*

Tuesday, June 16: *Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; 1 Samuel 3:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5*

Wednesday, June 17: *Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Proverbs 4:10-27; Luke 6:12-19*

Thursday, June 18: *Psalm 69:7-18; Jeremiah 18:12-17; Hebrews 2:5-9*

Friday, June 19: *Psalm 69:7-18; Jeremiah 18:18-23; Acts 5:17-26*

Saturday, June 20: *Psalm 69:7-18; Jeremiah 20:1-6; Luke 11:53-12:3*



Office Phone: 570-326-9171

Senior Pastor: Pastor Gerald Kliner, STS..... Ext. 206, email: 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 Pastor
Will Be Away**

Pastor Kliner will be out of the office Sunday, June 14th after worship until Saturday, June 20th for a STS (the Society of the Holy Trinity) Chapter Retreat. Pastor Brian Vasey of St. Marks, Williamsport will be covering for Pastor while he is gone. If you have an emergency during office hours, please call the church office at 570-326-9171 and we will assist you. After hours Pastor Vasey will take calls at 570-323-4619.

The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children - **Daddy Promises** - this book is about the special relationship between a father and his child. Most important, it is about the one of a kind relationship between our heavenly Father and His chosen children. This book is found in the Children's Section of our library.

Adult - **Stewards in the Kingdom - A Theology of Life in All Its Fullness** - The author unpacks what it means for us to be stewards in the kingdom of the triune God of grace. This theology of the abundant life, which encompasses all aspects of our world, our life and our possessions, begins, appropriately, with the very being of our gracious Creator God. From there Rodin dismantles the myth of the two kingdoms, one that is under God's control and one that is not. In so doing he crafts a portrait of faithful stewards who live as God's children in the one reality that is marked by death behind us and life ahead. This book is in the Church History Theology section of our library.



An ice cream social is planned for June 28th 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



Our Food Pantry is Closing

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the closure of our food pantry.

We are making this change because our community traffic has dropped significantly. Unfortunately, because we have so few visitors right now, we are facing a tough problem with food waste. Good food is regularly expiring on our shelves before we can hand it out. We feel it is no longer responsible to spend our time and resources running a pantry that is not being highly utilized.

Please know that your past support was not a waste. Your kindness helped us feed many families when they needed it most. We are deeply grateful for every hour you volunteered and every item you donated.

To ensure our current inventory does not go to waste, we are packing up our remaining non-expired food. We are donating everything to **United Churches Food Pantry** so it can still feed hungry people.

With much Gratitude, The Missional Outreach Committee



Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers. I enjoy looking at them and am reminded of my friends at Messiah.

Fay Seltzer



What a blessing to hear our Saints in Song Praise God yesterday! Thanks to all of those who sang with the choir. Please join us when the next Saints in Song Sunday is scheduled.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ at Messiah Church,

Ginny and I are so very grateful for the gift, the coffee hour, and the recognition that were shared with us on Sunday, June 7. It was all a joyful surprise. Though we had roles that we responded to fill over the years of pastoral vacancy that we experienced as a congregation, so many others among us also shared their faith, their skills, their time, and their efforts to ensure that our life together in Christ at Messiah Church would continue in meaningful, joyful and fulfilling ways. We're grateful to all who sacrificed and gave of themselves in ministry for the Gospel in this place. Thank you for your love, your thoughtfulness, and your gift on a very special Sunday.

Pastor Bruce Amme

Dear Messiah Church Council and Church Family Members,

I would like to thank you all for the recognition gifts presented to me last Sunday. The card, hand-made by Emily Bausinger, was perfectly beautiful and is currently adorning the top shelf of my desk. Thank you also for the extremely generous gift card for DiSalvo's, and many thanks to the organizers and kitchen workers for an enjoyable gathering afterward in Shaheen Hall. I am so grateful for all the kind remarks that have been shared with me since my sermon on 4/26. As I told you all on that day, it has been the honor of my life to be able to serve my church family for the past five years.

Sincerely,

Janet M. Stroble, SAM

Lutheran World Relief School Kits – Blessing Others Locally in an Unexpected Way

As you all know, we have been busy making backpacks for the school kits we will fill in the fall. But did you know there is another group of sew-ers in the area who have been able to put some of the scraps to good use to benefit others locally?

Read on for the rest of the story ...

Last fall, we were blessed with an unexpected donation of 2 very large untouched bolts of red-white-and-blue fabric. Let it suffice to say that they provided us with material for quite a few backpacks – and left us with quite a lot of scraps! Seeking to be good stewards and keep them out of the landfill, we were delighted learn that we could share that blessing by donating them to a nonprofit located in Williamsport – *Creations of Courage* – *who put them to good use to make patriotic bags to celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary while supporting the services provided within the YWCA Northcentral PA.*

Creations of Courage is a sewing project of the **YWCA Northcentral PA**. A volunteer group of women – including Susanne Frey from our sister church, Redeemer Lutheran - gather together to create a variety of bags and just about everything you could imagine ... change purses; cross body bags; several styles of small pouches, purses and bags; placemats; aprons; bowl cozies; tote bags large and small; shopping bags; backpacks; fashion accessory items ... **all made from reclaimed denim clothing that would otherwise end up in the landfill.** Each product is a unique one-of-a kind design. No two are alike!



Proceeds aid individuals escaping domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or homelessness by supporting programs offered by the YWCA. Thousands of dollars are raised each year to help with immediate shelter needs, legal advocacy, and everything in between. This past year, sales of these items brought in over \$6,000. To learn more about how you can help, email Kahlie Dehotman at kdehotman@ywcawilliamsport.org.

Where can you acquire these wonderful creations?

You can find them for sale year-round in *The Boutique* at the **YWCA**, located at 815 West 4th Street, Williamsport PA. They can also be found at tables set up during the Williamsport Grower's Market season and at various crafts shows and other events throughout the year such as the Victorian Christmas event held each holiday season and the upcoming Bald Eagle Art League Garden Art Show in Ways Garden on **June 13-14**.

To learn more about the mission of YWCA Northcentral PA and how you can help, visit their website at <https://www.ywcawilliamsport.org/>.