



## Calendar of Events

**Sunday, June 21**  
**Father's Day**

*First Day of Summer*

9:30 am Worship/Communion

**Monday, June 22**

6:30 pm Executive Committee

**Tuesday, June 23**

**Wednesday, June 24**

**Thursday, June 25**

7:30 pm NA

**Friday, June 26**

**Saturday, June 27**



**MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060**

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## MESSIAH MESSENGER

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[www.messiahsouth.org](http://www.messiahsouth.org) Phone: 570-326-9171

e-mail address: [messiahoffice@comcast.net](mailto:messiahoffice@comcast.net)

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*“I do not need the Church to be right where I am right... I rather need the Church to be right precisely where I am wrong.” (G.K. Chesterton)*

All too often, we want Jesus to say what we think “*he should say*”...or rather, perhaps, we want Jesus to say what we *want* him to say. We want to look first to ourselves—our desires, our wants, our “feels”—and then look to Jesus to “*back us up*.” In the “Pastor Biz,” we call that “*proof-texting*”: we go to the Bible and look for the snippets that seem to say what we are already thinking. The technical term for this is “*eisegesis*” (pronounced “*ice-ah-gee-sis*”); which means literally “*to find meaning from without*.” The role of the Faithful Pastor and Preacher is not to engage in “*eisegesis*” but “*exegesis*” (pronounced “*ex-ah-gee-sis*”) which means “*to find meaning from within*.”

Let’s be honest; we have a severe weakness for idolatry. Luther defines an “idol” in terms of what we “*fear, love, and trust above God*.” And let’s face it, in our contemporary culture, “*the self*” is the biggest idol out there. Is this not precisely what is happening when we come to the Bible—the Word of God...Jesus Christ, the Word Incarnate—and demand that he “*say what I want him to say*” and refuse to listen when he says something that I disagree with? Have I not, at that moment, created an idol—something that I “*fear, love, and trust*” above God himself? The moment I let my own preferences, my own opinions, my own “*feelings*” become the judge over the words of Christ...well, I have set up an idol far more deadly than that “Golden Calf” God’s people erected when Moses was up on Mount Sinai. The “Golden Calf” looks positively preposterous and cheap next to my dear and treasured “self.”

The Bible ought to bother us a great deal. We ought to sit up and take notice when Jesus says things like “*Do not fear the one who can kill the body, but cannot kill the soul*.” In truth, that should bother us very much because we spend a large amount of energy and time trying to protect this body. Oh that we would be so much on guard against the wicked foe who desires to kill our souls! Locked doors, vigilant watchmen...all these can perhaps protect the “body,” the physical parts of the Church, but not a one of them can protect us against the real and present danger. Locked doors cannot stop the real foe, for he creeps into our human heart and whispers seductively: “*Did God really say?*” And instead of looking TO the Word, we begin to judge the Word.

Don’t get me wrong, I’m not naïve in the least. We live in a dangerous and violent world. But there is something eternally worse than death—in the words of the Church “an evil and unprepared death,” eternal death. It is one of the absolutes of life: we...will...all...die. The question is not “*when*” or “*if*” but only “when” and “*will we be prepared?*” Jesus died. He really died. He died violently and at the hands of wicked men. He died, not because we were “good” but because we were already dead in our sins. We put him on that cross. He died for us. Are we so afraid of dying that we will refuse to follow him?

Like Chesterton, I very much need the Church to “be right” precisely where I am “wrong.” I need good exegesis to overthrow my idolatry, to confront me exactly where I have gone astray. I need the Church to point out the true and real danger when I get distracted or afraid. We all need this most desperately. And

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what do we find when we hear that we have erred? We suddenly find our faults, our sins, to be suddenly made glad for they have a great Savior indeed.

Pax Christi;

Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS



## Sunday, June 21, 2026

### SERVICE ASSISTANTS

**Ushers:** Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner, Paul Ulrich  
**Lay Asst:** Susan Bryan; **Comm. Asst.:** Mandy Feinberg; **Acolyte:** Weston Sherman  
**Altar Guild:** Vicki Bair, Doris Butt; **Greeters/Presenters:** Paul Weaver, Jean Weaver  
**Flower Delivery:** Charles Luppert

**Sunday, June 14:** Attendance: *In Church: 99; Online: 5*; Offering: **\$2,444.70**

### IN BLESSED MEMORY

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dave and Fae Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. William Mansel, Mrs. Kathy Thomas and William Thomas by Robert G. Thomas and family.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Rev. A. Bruce and Virginia Amme's 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary, by their children and grandchildren.

### BIBLE READINGS

**Sunday, June 21:** *Jeremiah 20:7-13; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39*

**Monday, June 22:** *Psalm 6; Micah 7:1-7; Revelation 2:1-7*

**Tuesday, June 23:** *Psalm 6; Jeremiah 26:1-12; Revelation 2:8-11*

**Wednesday, June 24:** *Psalm 6; Jeremiah 38:1-13; Matthew 10:5-23*

**Thursday, June 25:** *Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Jeremiah 25:1-7; Galatians 5:2-6*

**Friday, June 26:** *Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Jeremiah 25:8-14; Galatians 5:7-12*

**Saturday, June 27:** *Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Jeremiah 28:1-4; Luke 17:1-4*



**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



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



**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



**The 2026 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly** met June 6, 2026 at Camp Mount Luther. A Synod Assembly provides an opportunity to gather for worship and to make connections with other church partners. The theme for this year's assembly was "Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow." Keynote speaker was Rev. Amy Reumann, ELCA Senior Director, Witness in Society. She engaged the assembly about our Lutheran understanding of the church's role in the world.

The Assembly also included important items of business including adoption of several amendments to the Synod's Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions.

The highlight of the assembly was the recognition of Pastor Gerald Kliner and many other pastors of their anniversary of ordination. New pastors to the synod were also recognized.

Attending the assembly was Pastor Kliner, Ron Yeagle, and Mary Schultz.





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*Quilts = Healing!*

**Our Mission: to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.**

### **A Quilt of Valor is...**

From the beginning, Catherine Roberts had definite ideas about standards of excellence for Quilts of Valor:

I knew a Quilt of Valor had to be a quality-made quilt, not a “charity quilt.” A Quilt of Valor had to be quilted, not tied, which meant hand or machine quilting. It would be “awarded,” not just passed out like magazines or videos, and would say unequivocally, **“Thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor in serving our nation.”**

**On Sunday, June 14**, seven members of the congregation received a *Quilt of Valor* after worship in the Little Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Pastor Bruce Amme, Al Cole, Carl Gee, Diana Rooker, Paul Weaver, Bill Reasner and Fred Harbaugh. Rita Strickler made 5 of the 7 quilts that were handed out. Congratulations and *Thank You* for your service to our country.



**Those comforted as of  
May 31, 2026:**

Last Month - 2716

Year to Date - 11,679

Lifetime Total - 447,658



