



Calendar of Events

Sunday, June 28

9:30 am Worship/Communion

Monday, June 2

Tuesday, June 30

Wednesday, July 1

Thursday, July 2

7:30 pm NA

Friday, July 3

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, July 4



MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS

It's that time again ... time to do our "back to school" shopping!

This coming Sunday, June 28, we will kick off the shopping portion of our Lutheran World Relief School Kits project. Back-to-school sales have already begun, *so let's get ready to roll!*

Our Sew-A-Sack had a splendid turnout. Volunteers produced an incredible number of bags, thanks in part to the unexpected donation of the two full bolts of fabric as well as the ladies who surged the edges of the material beforehand to make sewing the bags a breeze.

The older class of Bible School kids eagerly strung the cords through the casings this past week and all of the children brought in offerings to be used to purchase school supplies. There is yet one step remaining to finish the bags ... a "knotty" party to tie the knots in the drawstrings. (See inside for details.) And then it's time to fill them!



So ... the million-dollar question: How many bags are we aiming to fill?

Last year, we were blessed (and still awestruck!) to be able to send 825 school kits around the world. It was a Spirit-led effort and that's what we will do again ... we will see where the Spirit leads. By God's grace, we will fill as many packs as we are able. But we have to start somewhere, so here are the numbers:

- * Approximately \$5 will fill one backpack – although we can often do it for less if we shop wisely and in bulk.
- * Bible School offerings totaled an amazing **\$555.48** for the week, enough to fill **111** of the packs to start us off.
- * The children strung **350** backpacks and another event is planned to string some more.
- * And the number sewn? Hold onto your hats because our ladies LOVE to sew ... **927!**

Will we fill them all? Only the Spirit knows. We do know this ... *if it is God's will, He will provide a way*. So, let's put those shopping carts in gear and watch for the back-to-school sales for the best deals! Flyers listing what we collect will be available on Sunday, in this Messenger, and on our web site at <https://messiahsouth.org/community/>. **Happy Shopping!**

Sunday, June 28, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner, Paul Ulrich
Lay Asst: Georgette Copp; **Comm. Asst.:** Sherri Holtzman; **Acolyte:** Doriann Morris
Altar Guild: Rita Strickler, Lauren Russell; **Greeters/Presenters:** Kathy Stiber, Nicole Morris
Flower Delivery: Paul Weaver

Sunday, June 21: Attendance: *In Church: 89; Online: 7; Offering: \$2,355.50*

IN BLESSED MEMORY

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

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Gary and Gladys Hilling's 64th wedding anniversary on June 30th with love by their children.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of William and Charlotte Winter on the anniversary of their wedding in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd on June 29, 1944. Given by their daughters, Carol and Marilyn.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory and in honor of Carl and Betty Fenstermacher's 74th wedding Anniversary.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, June 28: *Jeremiah 28:5-9; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42*

Monday, June 29: *Psalm 119:161-168; 1 Kings 21:1-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12*

Tuesday, June 30: *Psalm 119:161-168; 1 Kings 21:17-29; 1 John 4:1-6*

Wednesday, July 1: *Psalm 119:161-168; Jeremiah 18:1-11; Matthew 11:20-24*

Thursday, July 2: *Psalm 145:8-14; Zechariah 1:1-6; Romans 7:1-6*

Friday, July 3: *Psalm 145:8-14; Zechariah 2:6-13; Romans 7:7-20*

Saturday, July 4: *Psalm 145:8-14; Zechariah 4:1-7; Luke 10:21-24*



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.*



Please join us for an ice cream social this Sunday, June 28th after church in Shaheen Hall. There will be vanilla and chocolate ice cream with various toppings.

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent out Sunday, July 19th. 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.

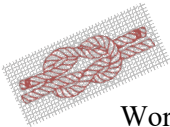


The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Summer Family Movie - **Quigley Village - Scary Sounds in the Campground DVD** - Mr. Quigley takes the guys camping and they have a wonderful time eating and telling stories until bedtime when Bubba hears strange noises. The noises get louder and Bubba's imagination runs wild until he confronts his fear and discovers the culprit. This is #11 in the Quigley's Village DVD series in the Family Movies section of our library.

Adult - **The Wit of Martin Luther** - An interesting and entertaining entry into Luther's thought. This little book brings out the sublime religious meaning at stake in the theological thwacks and thuds of the Reformer's life. Found in the Reformation, Lutheran Church history section.



Come join us for our “Knotty Party” on Wednesday, July 15, 9-11 a.m.

Knot-A-Sack Event – because it’s “not” a sack until it’s “knotted!”

One step remains to complete the backpacks that were sewn for the Lutheran World Relief School Kits before we fill them – to thread the cord through the loops and tie knots to secure the two ends together. That would be quite a task for one or two people, but working together we can accomplish so much more – *and the fellowship we share is the icing on the cake!*

350 backpacks have been strung so far, but the children are eager to string more. We did not have as much time allotted to stringing the bags this year, so we invited the class to join us for the Knotty Party to string more sacks while we grown-ups tie knots.

Light refreshments will be offered. If you would like to help out but do not feel that you can manage the knots, please come anyway ... we can put you to work checking the knots, counting, and stacking the finished packs neatly on the cart. Or the children can show you how to string a bag! *Many hands make light work! We had such a great time last year ... we really hope to see you there!*



A HUGE THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped with VBS this year. Without your continued support and dedication to this program, it would not be possible. The 37 kids and 7 teen helpers had a wonderful time because of your efforts. Thanks to all of those people who helped out behind the scenes, as well! *Kathryn*



It is time that we cover more flower cans. I have the wallpaper cut; all I need are several volunteers. If you are interested, please contact the church office with days of the week and times that you would be available. Then we can set one or two days that fit the greatest number of individual's schedules. Thank you. Chuck Luppert



I wish a big thank you to all in attendance at the Quilt of Valor, the group of men I was with were impressive. Rita Strickler is Amazing.

Bill Reasner



ITEMS WE ARE COLLECTING



×4

70-sheet notebooks
Wide-ruled or college-ruled
Approx. 8"x10 ½"



×1

Blunt scissors (safety scissors with
embedded steel blades work well)



×5

#2 pencils
UNSHARPENED!



×5

Black or blue ball point pens
NO gel ink - STICK, NOT
CLICK!



×1

Box of 24 crayons



×1

2 ½" eraser
(Any color but you will know
them as the pink kind)

Guidelines

- Please give ***new items only***.
- Please ***do not*** donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your congregation's name.
- Please ***do not*** donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Pencils ***must*** be ***unsharpened*** ... LWR will not accept pre-sharpened pencils.
- Monetary donations accepted: Make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church (memo: LWR School Kits)

Questions? Sally (570) 547-6193 (call)

or Kathy (570) 651-2802 (call or text)



***“The ordinary person, especially in the villages, knows absolutely nothing about the Christian Faith, and unfortunately many Pastors are completely unskilled and incompetent teachers....”
(Martin Luther, reflecting on his Saxon Visitation)***

In 1529, as the Lutheran Reformation began to stabilize, Martin Luther undertook a journey to survey the situation facing the Church by wandering through the countryside of Saxony and visiting local parishes. He asked basic questions of those whom he met—both laity and Pastors—and was shocked at how little they knew about their Christian Faith. Few could name the Ten Commandments, or recite the Creeds (much less explain them), or even the Lord’s Prayer. Remember, at this time in history, the liturgy was in Latin and often poorly chanted Latin at that. Even many Priests and Pastors did not know what the words they were chanting meant. The situation literally broke Luther’s heart—to see so many Christians unaware of what their Faith meant or the role it had in their daily living.

Before we get too indignant about Latin or the liturgy or the Roman Catholic Church, let’s take a sober look at our own situation. How able are we to name the Commandments? How able is the “everyday” person able to recite the Creeds without having them written in front of us? How often do we pray the Lord’s Prayer, and pray it without rushing through it? Are we really so much better off than those Saxony Christians Luther encountered? What would Luther say about us in South Williamsport almost 500 years later?

Luther’s response to the situation in Saxony was to sit down and pen two Catechisms. The one most of us are familiar with is Luther’s ***Small Catechism***, which most of us encountered in our Confirmation studies. Ironically, this ***Small Catechism*** was not intended for Church use; Luther intended this to be taught at home, by parents to their children. Luther’s ***Larger Catechism*** was addressed to the Clergy whom Luther was truly disappointed with.

A “***Catechism***” literally is a “book of questions” and the idea did not originate with Martin Luther. By definition, the ***Catechism*** seeks to teach by asking a series of questions; in the case of Luther’s Catechisms, the question that gets asked over and over again is, “***What does this mean?***” It’s a good question: “*What does this mean?*” We hear repeatedly that the Blessed Virgin Mary “*ponders these things*” and “*treasures them in her heart.*” She ponders “*What does this mean?*”

I like teaching the Catechisms because this question “*What does this mean?*” draws me more deeply into the mystery that is our Christian Faith. The Catechisms aren’t just meant for our younger years—this question “*What does this mean?*” means more to me as I grow older than when I was twelve. So I’m going to use my space in ***The Messenger*** this summer to reflect on the ***Small Catechism***. I hope that you’ll join me as we walk this path.

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS

BECAUSE WE CARE...

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH:

- When your home phone number or address changes. Church records need to be updated. There is a small fee from the USPS every time a newsletter comes back because of an incorrect address.
- When a baby arrives in your family or in the family of another church member.
- When a member of your family is sick or admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made.
- When a member of your immediate or extended family dies.
- When a family member leaves home for college or to establish a new residence.
- When something good happens to you or your family that you would like to share.

Please note: If you have been in the hospital or have been ill and have not been visited by the Pastor or anyone from the church, or if your name is not on the prayer list, it may be because no one notified us. You or a family member should notify the church of illness or hospitalization. Please also get permission before sharing information with the church if the person is NOT a family member. Thank You!!





SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Lutheran World Relief School Kits contain essential supplies to help children continue learning in the face of serious obstacles such as poverty, natural disasters, or conflicts. For many children, **these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not.**

How can you help?

- ***Donate supplies.***

You may choose to buy multiples of a specific item
or to buy all of the items to fill one bag.

See other side for a list of items we are collecting!

- ***Monetary donations will also be accepted.***

Make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church
(memo: LWR School Kits)

- ***Help pack the bags in September.***

Grades 3 through Adult ~ Saturday, September 19
Watch the Messenger for more information!

Be a good steward – get more for your money.

Watch the summer sales for school supplies!

*We have found Wal-Mart, Staples & Target to have the best deals ... please let us know if
you find better deals so we can share that info!*

**Supplies and cash donations should be brought to the church by Sunday,
August 16.**

Thank you for your support!