



Calendar of Events

Sunday, July 12

9:30 am Worship/Communion

Monday, July 13

9:00 am-Noon **Office Hours**

12:00 pm "Noon Day Prayers"

Tuesday, July 14

9:00 am-Noon **Office Hours**

12:00 pm "Noon Day Prayers"



Wednesday, July 15

9:00 am Knotty Party

12:00 pm "Noon Day Prayers"

Thursday, July 16

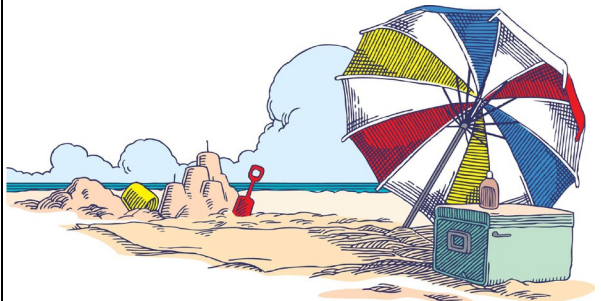
12:00 pm "Noon Day Prayers"

7:30 pm NA

Friday, July 17

Saturday, July 18

12:00 pm "Noon Day Prayers"



Please Note the office hours for Monday and Tuesday, I will be on vacation. Please have any *articles for the Messenger and Bulletin to the office by noon on Thursday, July 9th* so it will be sure to get printed in the July 15th publication of the Messenger. Thank you, Pam

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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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e-mail address: messiahoffice@comcast.net

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The Second Commandment: You shall not make wrongful use of the Name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean? We are to fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, practice magic, lie, or deceive using God's name, but instead use that very name in every time of need to call upon, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God.
(Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

In all likelihood, you learned this Commandment using the old, Elizabethan English rendering: ***You shalt not take the Lord's name in vain.*** When I was in high school, we had a Spanish teacher whose name was "Mr. Davilla." When we'd ask him a question by using his name, he'd always answer "*That's my name, don't use it up.*" I think many of us learned this type of lesson in not "*using the Lord's name in vain*"; that somehow if we used God's name carelessly or too frequently, we'd "*use it up*" or perhaps "*wear it out.*" When we look at the Hebrew form of the Commandment, something else rises to the fore: "*You shall not make **WRONGFUL** use of the Name of the Lord your God.*" It's not "using" God's name that is the issue here, but using God's name correctly...**RIGHTFULLY.**

Let me spend a moment on using God's Holy Name "wrongfully." When we break the Second Commandment, we are guilty of the grave and damnable sin of **Blasphemy.** Luther explains that, among the ways we commit blasphemy is when we use God's Name to "curse," (that is to wish evil upon someone or something), "swear," (that is to use God's name as an oath), "practice magic," (that is to use God as our servant), "lie, or deceive," (that is to use God's Name to perpetrate fraud). Of these, perhaps the most common is to use God's Name as a curse—to literally use God to invoke evil ("*God damn...*"). Think of the liturgy; God's Name is a **Benediction—a Blessing.** We NEVER use God's Name to wish evil upon someone because God is GOOD.

But more importantly than "*the wrong way*" we misuse God's Name is the commandment to make **RIGHT USE** of God's Name. You see, in many religions, the "name" of the deity is a "secret" and known to a precious few. Like in the tale of "*Rumpelstiltskin*", names have power; to be able to use a name implies consent and relationship. GOD WANTS US TO USE HIS NAME TO CALL UPON HIM! Again, from Luther: "*We are to use that very name in every time of need to call upon, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God.*" It's not that God doesn't want us to "*use his name up*" ...it's that he wants us to use it WELL.

Here you might think of the **First Petition** of "*The Lord's Prayer*": "*Hallowed be thy Name.*" God's Name is HOLY and we should regard it as such. If something is Holy, then we take special care of it, we treat it with love and respect. God's Name is Holy and we should therefore use it well and deliberately. We should invoke God's Name when we most need it but we should be aware of the honor and the privilege of what being given that Name to call on means.

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Are you praying regularly? If not, that's a subtle form of blasphemy because you are misusing God's Holy Name. **God wants you** to pray; that's part of this Commandment as well. The idea of a "Christian who doesn't pray" should be as ridiculous to us as the idea of a "person who doesn't breathe." Of course anyone who is "alive" needs to breathe and likewise "Christians" need to pray. Prayer is the prime privilege of being a Christian: you don't need any special faith to feed the hungry or clothe the naked...but you DO need Faith to Pray! It's not that the other good works we do are not important, but Prayer is the one thing Christians can do that atheists cannot. God is waiting for you. Just call out his Name...

Pax Christi;

Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS



Sunday, July 12, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ, Greg Eckenrode; **Lay Asst:** Anita Bair; **Comm. Asst.:** Mary Schultz; **Acolyte:** Dylan Sherman
Altar Guild: Rita Strickler, Jeannie Bower; **Greeters/Presenters:** Fred and Meg Harbaugh
Flower Delivery: Susan Bryan

Sunday, July 5: Attendance: *In Church: 70; Online: 10; Offering: \$4,840.26*

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Gary and Hali Fullmer by their family.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of Nancy Porter.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, July 12: *Isaiah 55:10-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

Monday, July 13: *Psalm 92; Leviticus 26:3-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8*

Tuesday, July 14: *Psalm 92; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Ephesians 4:17-5:2*

Wednesday, July 15: *Psalm 92; Proverbs 11:23-30; Matthew 13:10-17*

Thursday, July 16: *Psalm 86:11-17; Isaiah 41:21-29; Hebrews 2:1-9*

Friday, July 17: *Psalm 86:11-17; Isaiah 44:9-17; Hebrews 6:13-20*

Saturday, July 18: *Psalm 86:11-17; Isaiah 44:9-17; Matthew 7:15-20*



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



Office Phone: 570-326-9171

Senior Pastor: Pastor Gerald Kliner, STS

Ext. 206 Email: PastorKliner@messiahsouth.org

Pastor Kliner Office Hours – Monday-Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (subject to change)

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 "2" for a Pastoral Emergency to be connected directly to the Pastor.



On July 26, 2026 we will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Pastor Kliner's ordination. While Pastor Kliner has only been leading our congregation for a few short months, we have already been deeply blessed by his vision, warmth, and leadership. We want to honor the quarter-century of dedication, sacrifice, and spiritual leadership Pastor Kliner has given to the wider Body of Christ.

In honor of this special occasion, please join us on Sunday, July 26 immediately following worship for a coffee hour/reception in Shaheen Hall. Although his journey with us is just beginning, we want to honor the quarter-century of dedication, sacrifice, and spiritual leadership Pastor Kliner has given to the wider Body of Christ. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex by July 19th or call the church office and be sure to put how many will be attending so that we can properly prepare for seating and refreshments.

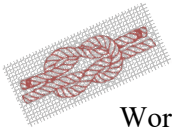


Join Pastor Jerry Monday-Thursday and Saturday's at 12:00pm for his *"Noon Day Prayer"* in the Little Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent next 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.



"Save the Date" The Fourth Annual Gift Card Bingo benefiting the Messiah Lutheran Preschool has been scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2026. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed to help make this event a great success. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office.



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 of the 927 sewn 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 ... make friends! The children can show you how to string a bag! Or we can put you to work checking the knots, counting, and stacking the finished packs neatly on the cart ... or just enjoy the fellowship. 😊 Please sign up in the narthex this coming Sunday!

Many hands make light work! We had such a great time last year ... we really hope to see you there!



School Supply Kits Collection for Lutheran World Relief

We are off to a running start! Notebooks have come pouring in, as well as some of the other supplies and some generous cash donations. If you plan to buy supplies for the school kits but have not yet picked up a list, you can get one in the narthex on Sundays or download it here:

https://messiahsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/LWR-SK-Flyers_2026.06.22_web.pdf.

Especially needed at this time: **safety scissors, 24-pack crayons, black or blue stick pens, UN-sharpened pencils, and 2½” erasers.** We are actually ahead of the game this year on **70-page spiral notebooks** but we can still use some more.

Monetary donations are welcome! We can shop the local deals with our tax-exempt status to save money, and we can get great deals online when we shop in bulk and buy enough to get free shipping. Make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church with LWR School Kits in the memo line. Cash should be placed in an envelope marked LWR School Kits.

Items may be placed in the schoolhouse in the narthex now through August 16.

Questions? Call Sally at (570) 547-6193 or call/text Kathy at (570) 651-2802

To all who have donated or volunteered, thank you for heeding the call!

✪ Blessed to Be a Blessing ✪

✂ CLIP'N'SAVE



Lutheran World Relief

SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS ITEMS WE ARE COLLECTING

and how many of each are needed per pack:

70-page <u>spiral</u> notebooks (<i>wide ruled or college ruled</i>)	x 4 per backpack
#2 pencils – must be <u>UN-sharpened!</u>	x 5 per backpack
Black or blue <u>stick</u> (<i>not click</i>) ink pens (<i>NO gel ink</i>)	x 5 per backpack
Blunt <u>safety</u> scissors	x 1 per backpack
24-pack crayons (<i>any brand – basic colors</i>)	x 1 per backpack
2 ½” erasers	x 1 per backpack

Monetary donations welcome, too!

The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children book - **Grandpa is there a Heaven?** - When children ask questions about this sensitive subject, pull them onto your lap and read them this gentle book. Full of important questions and answers, this book explains the compassion and beauty of God's plan for His people through Jesus, and how the Bible tells us it's true. Jesus is real. He's alive today. He's preparing a place for His people. And it's called heaven. This book is found in the children's section of the library.

Youth book - **You ask about...Faith - questions Teens are asking** - When you ask questions about faith, it's because the answers you find affect your life for all eternity. With questions like these, you want to be certain the answers are correct. This book contains a bunch of questions and answers; it has its limits--there are a lot of questions that don't get answered here. But here's the beset reason to read this book -- the answers are true. They are true because they follow God's Word, and it's the final authority. The book can be found in the Youth section of our Library.

Messiah Messenger Newsletter



Did you know that the Messiah Messenger is available in different formats? The Messenger is available on Messiah's webpage: www.MessiahSouth.org or the Messenger is delivered by email every week to your inbox. Finally, we also publish large print issues.

If you are interested in receiving your Messenger by email or if you would like to receive a large print copy please contact the office. *Thank you.*



**New Number?
New Address?
New Email?
Let Us Know!**

If you have recently moved, purchased a new phone with a new phone number or updated/changed your email address PLEASE notify the church office with your new information.

When snail mail is returned to us we pay a small postage due fee. If we do not have a current address, phone number or email we

have no way to contact you with important information. *Thank you.*



Can't make it to church? Join us live on Facebook!

Worship services will be broadcast on Facebook Live each Sunday beginning at 9:30 a.m. To watch the service live, visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahSouth>.

If you are unable to join us live, videos will be made available to be viewed later.

To link to the video archive and for additional worship resources, visit Messiah's web site at <https://messiahsouth.org/worship-resources/>.

A copy of the worship bulletin will be posted to the web site each week so that you can follow along.

