



Calendar of Events

Sunday, July 19

9:30 am Worship/Communion

Monday, July 20

6:30 pm Executive Committee

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

Tuesday, July 21

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

Wednesday, July 22

12:00 pm “Noon Day Prayers”

Thursday, July 23

12:00 pm “Noon Day Prayers”

7:30 pm NA

Friday, July 24

Saturday, July 25

9:00 am Celebration breakfast set-up

12:00 pm “Noon Day Prayers”



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The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

What does this mean? We are to fear and love God so that we do not despise God's Word or Preaching, but gladly hear and learn it.

(Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

It should be interesting that, in his *Small Catechism*, Martin Luther doesn't pick out a specific "day" to commend "The Sabbath" but rather a specific set of behaviors. Our Jewish brothers and sisters begin the Sabbath at sunset (the "day" begins and ends with sunset...even in the Church to this very day) on Friday and keep Shabbat (Sabbath) until the sun sets on Saturday. This Old Testament pattern has led the "*Seventh Day Adventists*" to spurn Sunday as "*the Sabbath*" and return to a "Saturday" observance. The Christian Church universally keeps "Sabbath" on Sunday...the *first* day of the week...because this is the day that Christ rose from the dead and hallowed. But we should not get drawn into quibbling about the day, lest we miss the proverbial "*forest for all the trees*": the Sabbath Day is not about "*a day*" but more what we do with it.

People will sometimes ask me if I "believe" in a "*six day creation*." I usually chuckle at their recoil when I respond "NO." In fact, I believe, as the Church historically has, not in a "*six day creation*" but a "SEVEN day creation." On the "*seventh day*," God rests from his labors and hallows that day—the Sabbath—so that all his creation may rest with him. The Sabbath is woven into the fabric of Creation, not apart from it. It's a divine gift, for without rest and renewal, creation will be worked to death. We see a similar pattern taught to farmers in a commandment to let their field lay fallow every seventh year, and a command to "reset" the economy every fiftieth year (the Jubilee). Every so often, things need a rest.

If we're honest about it, this commandment to "*Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy*" doesn't make a whole lot of sense. "*Time*," it is said, "*is money*," and if we're being frank, time is perhaps more valuable than money these days. People cynically think that the Church "*wants their money*," but really we want your TIME even more than that. In Stewardship terms, we talk of "*a tithe*"—10% of your gifts right off the top. Well, there are 168 hours in a week; 10% of that would be 16.8 hours. I'll round down...**16**. How are you using those 16 hours every week that should go "*to the Church*"?

(continues on the inside cover)

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You see where I am going with this: even if we faithfully attend worship every week, if we were to attend Bible Study or sing in the choir or whatever...most of us are nowhere near approaching a tithe of our time. This is what the ***Third Commandment*** really is about; it's not about "*which day of the week*" but instead asks us how we are spending the time that God has entrusted to us. Is God important in your life? Do you "need" him? Will you come, as was promised in your Baptism, to come to "the services of God's House" and "partake of the Sacrament of the Altar?"

Sixteen hours a week. I'd be willing to bet you probably spend more hours staring at a screen. Will you not tarry with our Lord Jesus Christ, will you not keep watch with him even one hour? Our Lord's Body is true food and his blood is true drink, with him is the water that bubbles up to Eternal Life. Come and hurry then to his table, do not despise the Word made Flesh nor preaching of him. Come and be refreshed and made new.

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS



Sunday, July 19, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ, Greg Eckenrode
Lay Asst: Carola Storrs; **Comm. Asst.:** Mary Schultz; **Acolyte:** Malory Klemick
Altar Guild: Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser; **Greeters/Presenters:** Don and Mary Ellen Rosenbaum ; **Flower Delivery:** Charles Luppert

IN BLESSED MEMORY

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



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 (hours subject to change)

Pastoral Care Number: Please call (570) 326-9171. (Available 24 hours a day) During workhours and the office will assist you. After hours, please press "2" for a Pastoral Emergency to be connected directly to the Pastor.

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

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



BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, July 19: *Isaiah 44:6-8; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

Monday, July 20: *Psalm 75; Nahum 1:1-13; Revelation 14:12-20*

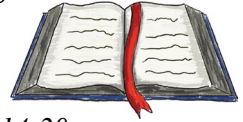
Tuesday, July 21: *Psalm 75; Zephaniah 3:1-13; Galatians 4:21-5:1*

Wednesday, July 22: *Psalm 75; Daniel 12:1-13; Matthew 12: 15-21*

Thursday, July 23: *Psalm 119:129-136; 1 Kings 1:28-37; 1 Corinthians 4:14-20*

Friday, July 24: *Psalm 119:129-136; 1 Kings 1:38-48; Acts 7:44-53*

Saturday, July 25: *Psalm 119:129-136; 1 Kings:2:1-4; Matthew 12:38-42*



The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children - **The Life of Martin Luther-Pop-up Book** - The Story of Martin Luther and his role in sparking the Protestant Reformation is given an interactive retelling in this beautiful and sturdy pop-up book. From Luther's decision to become a monk to his 95 theses, history jumps off the page through the vibrant, colorful illustrations. Full of surprising details this book will have kids coming back again and again to learn about this fascinating chapter in the history of the Christian faith. In the children's section of our library.

Youth - **We have several light fiction reads for summer.** Stop in the library and look for youth fiction. Our library continues to grow-so keep stopping back.



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.



"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.





School Supply Kits Collection for Lutheran World Relief

Thank you to all who have volunteered and donated to this project to date!

Due to this issue of the Messenger having been printed before last Sunday's donations came in, we are unable to give an accurate update on how many backpacks we can fill at this time. We *can* tell you that the number is climbing!

If you would like a list of supplies (with pictures!) that we are collecting, you can pick one up in the narthex on Sundays, from the church office, or you can download it here: https://messiahsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/LWR-SK-Flyers_2026.06.22_web.pdf.

Especially needed at this time to even out the piles: safety scissors, 24-pack crayons, black or blue stick pens, UN-sharpened pencils, and 2½" erasers. We also are still in need of more ***70-page spiral notebooks.***

Monetary donations are welcome! 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.

FAQ: We are often asked if we prefer you bring in supplies or if we prefer cash donations. The short answer is ... yes and yes! In other words, each has its advantages, so choose your pleasure! Donations of supplies are helpful because it saves us trips to the store and we love seeing what you choose, so if you love to shop, go for it! If shopping is not your jam for whatever reason – you are unable to get out, unsure, what to get, or just don't enjoy shopping – cash is always helpful because we can use it to shop for great deals when buying in bulk, and it also gives us the freedom to even out the piles when less of some items have come in than others.

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

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

✧ **Blessed to Be a Blessing** ✧

Thank you to the many volunteers – too many to name here – who help behind the scenes to pull this project together ... those who sew the packs, shop, donate, tie knots, set up for events, sort and count supplies, and countless other tasks.

*Pictured here is one of our most senior volunteers, Mart Kropp, who at age 97 is still going strong! Mart has been a huge help counting and sorting the notebooks by color as they come in, especially with the large order we placed in bulk. **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.*

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.*



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.



Daniel's Closet at Redeemer – Saturday, July 25, 8:30-11 a.m.

Daniel's Closet is a ministry of Redeemer Lutheran Church on Washington Boulevard to provide free clothing to anyone who has a need, regardless of income. ***All are welcome to come and "shop" the closet*** ... all they ask is that you take only what you need personally or can share with a friend.

Donations are accepted at Messiah in the blue bin in the alcove by the Chapel.

Daniel's Closet is especially in need this month of ...

♥ Clothing for Infants and Children ♥ Winter Coats for Men ♥

Please note: Winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves and boots will be accepted year round so that we have enough in storage once winter hits again next year.

