



Calendar of Events

Sunday, July 26

9:30 am Worship/Communion
10:30 am Pastor Kliner's
25th Anniversary Breakfast

Monday, July 27

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
5:15 pm Preschool BINGO Meeting
6:00 pm Preschool Meeting
6:30 pm LLFF Committee Meeting
7:00 pm Finance Meeting

Tuesday, July 28

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

Wednesday, July 29

12:00 pm "Noon Day Prayers"

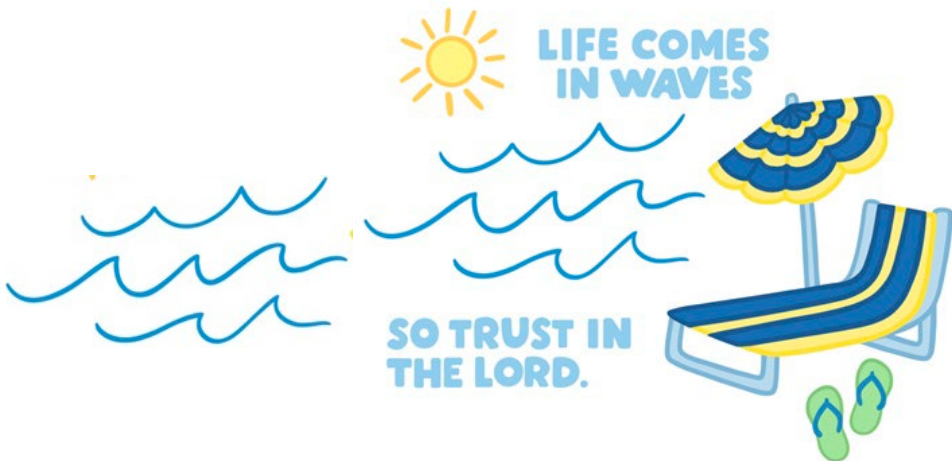
Thursday, July 30

12:00 pm "Noon Day Prayers"
7:30 pm NA

Friday, July 31

Saturday, August 1

12:00 pm "Noon Day Prayers"



MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

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The Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? We are to fear and love God so that we neither despise nor anger our parents and others in authority, but instead honor, serve, obey, love, and respect them.

(Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

Whenever I teach the **Ten Commandments**, I always ask “Which two or three Commandments do you find the most challenging?” Just to be clear, all of the Commandments are “challenging” (that is to say difficult), but at different stages and ages of our lives, different Commandments will rise to challenge us differently. For instance, especially for children, the **Fourth Commandment**—“**Honor your father and your mother**”—will predictably be rather important and difficult, since so much of their lives rely around home and their relationship with their parents.

Not that this Commandment somehow ceases when we become “adults” and “move out” of our parents’ home. Really, the Commandment doesn’t even end when our parents die...all of us carry around a lot of “baggage” from our “family of origin.” None of us are perfect and none of our parents are perfect and none of us will ever be perfect parents. “*The parents have eaten sour grapes and the children’s teeth are set on edge...*” the Psalmist writes. Our parents pass on their issues and flaws to us, and then we too pass them onto our children. Such is the nature of our frail human flesh; our sins and brokenness never affect only “us” but always affect those around us, including generations yet to come.

The Command to “**Honor your father and your mother**” encompasses so many relationships—how we relate to other people all comes out of how we relate to our parents. For instance, if we have problems with our parents it will usually show up with our relationships with others in authority. “*Authority Issues*” we usually call it. These “*Authority Issues*” not only show themselves “going up” (when we deal with people in “higher” authority positions) but also “going down” when we are dealing with people in subordinate positions to us. When we fail to “**honor, serve, obey, love, and respect**” our parents, we will inevitably also fail to “**honor, serve, obey, love, and respect**” our spouses, children, and those around us as well.

Not to mention the simple fact that we are invited to call God our “Father” as well. Often, when people react poorly to calling God “Father” it is a reaction to their own fragmented and difficult relationship with their biological parents. Were we to merely change the title to “Mother” we’d be no better off because our earthly mothers are afflicted with the same sins as our earthly fathers. No, the only remedy is to deal seriously with our broken, earthly relationships. And here, the Church has a balm for the wound: Confession and Forgiveness. As a Parent, I am bid to confess my failures to my children and seek their forgiveness. Likewise, as a child, I am bid to wrestle with my parent’s failures and forgive them as well. We should take advantage of the time we have in this life to have these conversations, because when death occurs all speaking stops. What a blessing it is when parents can share their lives with their children and children can likewise share forgiveness with their parents!

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS

Sunday, July 26, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ, Greg Eckenrode
Lay Asst: Georgette Copp; **Comm. Asst.:** Mary Schultz; **Acolyte:** Doriann Morris
Altar Guild: Vicki Bair, Doris Butt; **Greeters/Presenters:** Don and Mary Ellen Rosenbaum
Flower Delivery: Paul Weaver

Sunday, July 12: Attendance: *In Church: 110; Online: 5; Offering: \$5,293.00*

Sunday, July 19: Attendance: *In Church: 106; Online: 6; Offering: \$4,702.25*

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Karen Hockman Thomas, who passed away 15 years ago, August 3rd by her sister Linda and nephews Matthew, Michael and grandson Michael.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dennis Ream on the fourth-year anniversary of his passing July 28, 2022, by his wife Sandy and children Dennis Jr., Kelley and their families.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of David Hutchinson by his family.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, July 26: *1 Kings 3:5-12; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52*

Monday, July 27: *Psalm 119:121-128; 1 Kings 3:16-28; James 3:13-18*

Tuesday, July 28: *Psalm 119:121-128; 1 Kings 4:29-34; Ephesians 6:10-18*

Wednesday, July 29: *Psalm 119:121-128; Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33; Mark 4:30-34*

Thursday, July 30: *Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Proverbs 10:1-5; Philippians 4:10-15*

Friday, July 31: *Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Isaiah 51:17-23; Romans 9:6-13*

Saturday, August 1: *Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Isaiah 44:1-5; Matthew 7:7-11*



*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

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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.



This Sunday, July 26, 2026 we will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Pastor Kliner's ordination. In honor of this special occasion, please join us immediately following worship for a coffee hour/reception in Shaheen Hall.

The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children - **Maybe God is like that too** - When a young boy wonders where to find God in his city, his grandma reminds him that he just needs to know where to look. It turns out God's spirit is at work all around him. Found in the Children's section.

Family - **Can I have the Keys to the Car?** - Whether it's the keys to the car or the keys to life, parents and teens need to find ways to talk to each other about tough issues, such as: safe driving, alcohol and drugs, sex, study habits and grades. Honesty, schedules and curfews, family chores, self-discipline. These issues often tear families apart. But talking about them doesn't have to be destructive or boring. This book is reassuring and practical that helps teens and parents talk together about life's tough issues. Book found in our Youth themed section.



“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.

2026 2nd Quarter - Profit / Loss Statement

Fund Name	2026 Budget 1st Half	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Overage or Shortfall
General Fund	\$172,944.50	\$119,377.23	\$127,440.00	-\$8,062.77
Rebuilding Fund	\$25,000.00	\$19,043.50	\$22,693.69	-\$3,650.19
Children's Ministry	\$3,075.00	\$4,684.31	\$1,944.01	\$2,740.30



An enormous thank you to all who showed up to the Knotty Party to finish the backpacks! Your help was so very much appreciated and the fellowship we all shared was truly a treasure.

Thank you so much! ~ *Sal and Kath*

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds 😊



Thank you for the flowers, they were greatly appreciated.

Margaret Huyck



SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS for Lutheran World Relief

Throughout the summer, we will continue to collect school supplies to fill school kits to be sent to children in need around the world. **These supplies often mean the difference between getting an education or not.**

The ladies sewed 927 backpacks this year. How many will we fill? ***Listen to your heart and we will end up exactly where God wants us to be. How will you hear the call to help?***

Items we are collecting are as follows:

- ♥ 70-sheet notebooks (wide-ruled or college-ruled, approx. 8" x 10 ½") – 4 per backpack
- ♥ black or blue ball point pens (STICK pens – NO gel ink) – 5 per backpack
- ♥ safety scissors ♥ 2 ½" eraser ♥ box of **24** crayons

Whether you choose to buy multiples of one item or to buy all the items needed to fill a pack is up to you ... all donations are so appreciated.

Don't like to shop? Monetary donations are also welcome! Make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church with LWR School Kits in the memo line and place in the offering plate or in the smaller schoolhouse at the back of the church.

So ... Where do we stand in our collection at this time? WOW! Did we get off to a running start this year! We were blessed to receive right off the bat several large cash donations. Adding that to the Bible School offerings enabled us to purchase quite a few items PLUS there's the vast array of items that you have so generously shopped for and brought in to us! ***Thank you so much!!!***

Our best estimate at the time of this printing is that we can fill ***at least 350*** backpacks. We do have a couple of orders scheduled to arrive this week that were purchased with the cash donations. The count is likely much higher, but we don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves until we are sure the items we have ordered will actually be delivered. We have to go with the smallest number of items ***in hand*** because that is the number of bags we can actually ***complete*** at this time. As we stated before, nothing about this project is a perfect science – and all of it is a measure of faith!

Epecially needed this week: notebooks, pens, scissors, erasers, and crayons. **Please note:** *Once our order arrives, we should have more than enough pencils to fill all of the packs.* All of the rest of the piles are pretty close to each other in count, with the notebooks pile being slightly lower than the others, so any of the five items listed will be helpful! Shop for some of each or shop for your favorites ... it always seems to even out in the end. ☺

Items may be placed in the schoolhouse in the narthex from now through August 17.

350 and counting – good job, everyone! Keep 'em coming!



ICYMI

USS Young Adult in Global Mission!

Hannah Haussmann, a member of St. Mark's, Williamsport (*Pastor Brian Vasey*) has been accepted as an ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission. Hannah will serve in Cambodia later this summer. She is currently in a fundraising campaign to raise at least \$10,000 toward the experience.



Give here



Dr. Robert S. Yasui commissioned the Peace Tower in the mid-1980s. He hoped that it would provide a place of meditation for the community; a place where those struggling with obstacles in their life might find rest. At night, the tower is well lit and seems to beckon you to come and take a minute to reflect on the bench that surrounds it. The plaque on the Tower reads, "Dedicated...to the humanity that makes us all one."

