



Calendar of Events

Sunday, August 2

9:30 am Worship/Communion

Monday, August 3

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

6:30 pm Fellowship Committee

Tuesday, August 4

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

Wednesday, August 5

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayer

Thursday, August 6

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

7:30 pm NA

Friday, August 7

Saturday, August 8

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers



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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.

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The Fifth Commandment: You shall not murder.

What does this mean? We are to fear and love God so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all of life's needs.

(Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

Oftentimes, when I list the *Ten Commandments*, people will stop and ask me about certain choices of language; usually they learned the Commandments using certain words and now I introduce those Commandments with a different phrase. Sometimes, it's a matter of "*old English*" (colloquially known as "*Elizabethan English*") versus a more contemporary choice of wording (as is the case of the old word "*vain*" in the *Second Commandment* ("*You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain*"): the issue is not so much with the accuracy of the translation but rather that the word "*vain*" has ceased to be used in our modern parlance. Another "*pinch point*" usually occurs with the *Fifth Commandment*, where people often have learned it as "*You shall not kill.*" And here, we do run into a critical accuracy issue, because the Hebrew uses not the generic word "*kill*" but rather the substantive word "*murder.*"

Life is a divine gift from God alone, and as such "*death*" is also not man's authority but is God's province alone. It is a grave issue to take life from something, simply because it was not ours to "*give*" and so we ought not lightly "*take*" it either. But it is a simple fact of our fallen existence that in order for something to live, something else must die. When we eat, we necessarily kill. This is serious and ought to make us pause, especially in a culture where the source of our food is increasingly distant from our everyday lives. We survive off the sacrifice of nature, animals, and other people who toiled and gave their lives to provide the very stuff that sustains our life, our "*Daily Bread.*" God alone is the giver of life; despite our technological sophistication, we still cannot "*make life happen*". As a physician once told me, "*I can give you a hundred reasons why you should be dead right now, but I cannot give you a single reason why you're still alive.*"

So why the word "*murder*" and not "*kill*"? Well, to "*murder*" in Hebrew means "*To take innocent life.*" "*War*"—soldiers in armed combat—is not included in the word "*murder*" though that may not necessarily make it "right" or "moral." "*Self-Defense*"—the act of taking a life to defend life—is also not included in the term "*murder*," though again that may not necessarily make it "just." Even in ancient Hebrew, these circumstances were well known and yet God chooses the word "*murder*" in the Commandment.

But before you go thinking that somehow we've gone and "*lightened the load*" from this Commandment, read it again more carefully. Especially in our (so-called) "*modern world*" where we can dispatch death with the "*push of a button*," half-a-world away, we are more weighed down with the responsibilities of "*You shall not murder*" than ever. Weapons of "*Mass Destruction*" kill "*combatant*" and "*civilian*" indiscriminately. The ability for us to wield a gun brings about a huge responsibility; once the round is fired, it is beyond our control and if it strikes someone we did not intend it doesn't reduce our culpability. We routinely strap ourselves into a multi-ton rolling piece of metal and zoom down the street—even the most innocuous of trips could find us meeting a person whom we did not set out to meet and taking a life we never intended to take. And, perhaps

worst of all, we sit at computers and defame and destroy lives we do not know; our “words” have the ability to wound and murder more than any piece of sharpened steel of days gone by.

Think about that for a moment. Too often we pat ourselves on the back and compliment ourselves when the day is over that we did not “*kill*” someone today. And we ought to thank God that our daily labors did not involve the taking of a life. But the ***Fifth Commandment*** should trouble us greatly as we reflect on it: did I endanger or harm the life of my neighbor? Did I “help” and “support” them in their life’s needs? Or did I secretly (or not so secretly) wish them harm? Did I “murder” them in my heart, in my mind, and in my words? Did I treat this divine gift of God—Life—as something that I had the authority and the gall to take for myself? Luther spoke of the ***Commandments*** in terms of “*Lex semper accusat*” — “*The Law always accuses.*” Far from being content that we have not merely “*killed*” today, this Commandment should trouble us and make us reflect on life and how we treat it.

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS



THANK YOU!!!

I would like to thank everyone at Messiah Lutheran Church for celebrating the 25th Anniversary of my Ordination on Sunday! The cards, gifts, and prayers were wonderful and I am overwhelmed by your show of support. I’m looking forward to the honor of serving you as your Pastor in the days and years to come!

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner



Sunday, August 2, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Charles Luppert, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon, Larry and Donna Britton;
Lay Asst: Carola Storrs; **Comm. Asst.:** Sherri Holtzman; **Acolyte:** Doriann Morris
Altar Guild: Jody Fullmer, Lauren Russell; **Greeters/Presenters:** Dave and Rita Strickler
Flower Delivery: Jody Fullmer

Sunday, July 26: Attendance: *In Church: 96; Online: 6; Offering: \$2,83.13*

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my daughter, Susan, on her birthday, August 9th, by Sylvia McCarty.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, August 2: *Isaiah 55:1-5; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21*

Monday, August 3: *Psalms 78:1-8, 17-29; Deuteronomy 8:1-10; Romans 1:8-15*

Tuesday, August 4: *Psalms 78:1-8, 17-29; Deuteronomy 26:1-15; Acts 2:37-47*

Wednesday, August 5: *Psalms 78:1-8, 17-29; Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35; Matthew 15:32-39*

Thursday, August 6: *Psalms 85:8-13; 1 Kings 18:1-6; Acts 17:10-15*

Friday, August 7: *Psalms 85:8-13; 1 Kings 18:17-19, 30-40; Acts 18:24-28*

Saturday, August 8: *Psalms 85:8-13; 1 Kings 18:41-46; Matthew 16:1-4*



School Supply Kits Collection for Lutheran World Relief

WOWZA! We have enough supplies to fill 775 complete backpacks ... *already!* As we stated before, nothing about this project is a perfect science and the only predictable thing about it is that it is unpredictable!

The response this year has again been unbelievably **generous**. We know that Messiah is a family of good-hearted people and that has proven to be true once again. The tables are piled high with school supplies and our hearts are full. ☺

Please note: We have more than enough of the following to fill all of the backpacks that were sewn – pencils, crayons, and pens! If you have already purchased these items but haven't brought them in yet, don't dismay ... bring them anyway and we will either fill more packs or save them for next year. **MOST NEEDED ITEMS THIS WEEK:** We can still use a small number of scissors and pens. But where we really need your help is with **NOTEBOOKS**. If we are to fill all of the backpacks that were sewn, **605 more notebooks are needed**. We have enough cash to purchase 320 of them, so that leaves just under 300 more notebooks needed.

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.

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!

The Spirit is truly at work here!