



Calendar of Events

Sunday, August 9

9:30 am Worship/Communion

Monday, August 10

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
6:30 pm Worship and Music
Committee

Tuesday, August 11

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
6:30 pm Preschool Committee

Wednesday, August 12

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

Thursday, August 13

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

Friday, August 14

Saturday, August 15

8:15 am Worship Service "Mary Day"



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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 Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We are to fear and love God so that we lead pure and decent lives in word and deed, and each of us loves and honors his or her spouse.

(Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

If you've ever studied Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*, it may have struck you that Luther has a particular pattern in his explanation of the *Ten Commandments*. In each of the "explanations" he begins, ***"We are to fear and love God..."*** and then he typically moves to list the key behaviors that the Commandment prohibits us from doing. So, for example, in his explanation of *The Fifth Commandment* (***"You shall not murder"***), he begins: ***"We are to fear and love God, SO THAT we do not endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors..."*** In fact, he follows this pattern for EIGHT of the *Ten Commandments*. Which two Commandments does he break this pattern on? *The First Commandment* and here, *The Sixth Commandment*.

It's striking, not the least, because we are obsessed with sex and expect a long list of things from Luther that *"we should not do."* That's typically the way our culture approaches the subject of sex: we treat sex like a taboo, something nasty or indecent, and typically we talk *"around the subject"* rather than *"about the subject."* Don't for a moment think that the Germans of Luther's day were somehow naïve or *"innocent babes in the wood"*—if pressed, I'm sure Luther could list *"50 things we should not do"* when it comes to adultery and *The Sixth Commandment*. But here, Luther refrains from listing the "negative" behaviors and states only the positive: ***"we are to lead pure and decent (chaste) lives in word and in deed and each of us is to honor and love his or her spouse."***

This actually *"ups the ante"* on the great sin of adultery. Instead of listing a few, specific examples that we should avoid, adultery becomes, by definition, anything that *"is impure and indecent in word AND in deed, and does NOT honor or love your spouse."* Lust, pornography—even the "written" variety, lewd conduct, (so-called) *"emotional affairs,"* sexual harassment, unwanted advances—**ALL** of these things break the Commandment and are hence, prohibited. Adultery is more than *"sexual intercourse outside of marriage,"* it cheapens and demeans sex, it objectifies another person, it robs us—and another person—of our God given dignity. We all are created in the *"Imago Dei"*—the *"Image of God"*, and adultery denies this and reduces other people to mere objects to satisfy our greedy needs, which distorts that Sacred Image upon ourselves as well!

Many times, people will dismiss adultery as a *"victimless crime."* We'll instead talk about *"consent"* and *"trust."* What that fails to understand is that there are ALWAYS victims in adultery. Talk to someone who has been betrayed in the vows of marriage. Talk to someone who has been betrayed by one whom they "trusted." The wounds of adultery are real and they are deep. **Psalm 55** says: *"It is not enemies who taunt me—I could bear that; it is not adversaries who deal insolently with me—I could hide from them. But it is you, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend, with whom I kept pleasant company; we walked in the house of God with the throng."* The worst betrayals come from the closest of company for this is where we are the most vulnerable.

We see this betrayal mirrored in the betrayal of our Lord; it is not someone on the *"fringe of the crowd"* who betrays Jesus, but one of his own Apostles, Judas, who will betray him. Saint Peter, whom Jesus called *"Rock"* will deny him three times before the sun even has a chance to come up.

This is the magnitude of Adultery. Adultery cannot be winnowed down to a couple of specific behaviors; it is a crisis that cuts to the depth of our understanding of who we are as humans.

The good news is this: there is a remedy for this sin. It is Confession and Forgiveness. Saint Peter receives this forgiveness when he meets the Risen Christ. Judas would have received it as well if he had not hung himself in shame. We are, all of us, called to surrender our sins to Jesus Christ and let him take them to their death on the Cross. For he alone “*takes away the sins of the world.*”

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS



Sunday, August 9, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Charles Luppert, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon, Larry and Donna Britton;
Lay Asst: Kim Brofee; **Comm. Asst.:** Mandy Feinberg; **Acolyte:** Alivia Klemick
Altar Guild: Susan Bryan, April Gardner; **Greeters/Presenters:** Mary Schultz, Ron Yeagle
Flower Delivery: Susan Bryan

Sunday, August 2: Attendance: *In Church: 77; Online: 11; Offering: \$9,035.00*

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Munro and Gladys Webb Munro on the anniversary of their wedding, August 15, 1941, by their nephews, Nelson, John, Gary, Andy and their families.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, August 9: *1 Kings 19:9-18; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33*
Monday, August 10: *Psalm 18:1-19; Genesis 7:11-8:5; 2 Peter 2:4-10*
Tuesday, August 11: *Psalm 18:1-19; Genesis 19:1-29; Romans 9:14-29*
Wednesday, August 12: *Psalm 18:1-19; Job 36:24-33, 37:14-24; Matthew 8:23-27*
Thursday, August 13: *Psalm 67; Isaiah 45:20-25; Revelation 15:1-4*
Friday, August 14: *Psalm 67; Isaiah 63:15-19; Acts 14:19-28*
Saturday, August 15: *Psalm 67; Isaiah 56:1-5; Matthew 14:34-36*



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



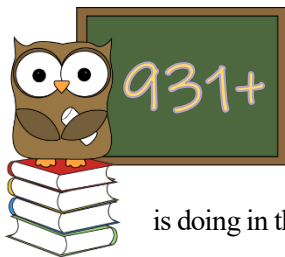
Since the 1980s, Messiah’s Men’s Quartet has performed numerous times at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, as well as other churches and countless other venues throughout Lycoming County. Sadly, two of the original members (Craig Harris and Sam Hessert) and the Quartet’s beloved long-time director, Jane Landon, are no longer with us. As a tribute to them, three of the current Men’s Quartet members (Ben Landon, Bob Schweppenheiser, and Mike Yoder) will be joined by Janet Stroble in singing *It is Well with my Soul* on Sunday, August 9. The song was very special to Sam and Craig, as well as being a favorite of the entire group.





The Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord

Pastor Jerry invites you to come out on Saturday morning, August 15, for time of learning and reflection on the role of Saint Mary, the Mother of our Lord. Morning Prayer (Matins) will be said in the Chapel at 8:15, with a presentation on Mary's role in the life of the Lutheran Churches in the Jensen Lounge beginning at 9:00am. Holy Communion will be celebrated at Noon (12:00pm) in the Chapel. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.



Lutheran World Relief School Kits ~ *Blessed!*

We said in the beginning that often God's plans are bigger than our plans, but *whoa!* We are absolutely *blown away* by how this project has unfolded this year! "*Unbelievable*" is a comment we often make to each other as we watch the donations of supplies and money for shopping pouring in. *Humbled* may well be a better word to describe how we feel as we witness the work the Lord

is doing in this church through *all of you*.

The *joyful* response to our collection this year has again been *overwhelmingly heartwarming*. The Lord called ... and *you opened your hearts* and your pocketbooks to help. People came in with more supplies last Sunday as well as cash donations to shop for more items. We now have enough school supplies to fill every single backpack that was sewn this year ... and then some! In fact, the response has been so generous that we feel we should sew some more backpacks –and fortunately, we have a small stash of serged material on hand so that we can do so. And we already have one of our sewing elves helping out by sewing some of them at home.

We cannot say often enough how thankful we are. We are so very blessed as a congregation to be able to joyfully give of ourselves in this way. This is undoubtedly a church of good-hearted, Spirit-led people, *blessed to be a blessing!*

Please note: *If you have already purchased items or have a longing in your heart to do so, please do bring them in.* *We will sew as many more backpacks as we have material for and any surplus items can be used next year. Donations may be placed in the schoolhouse in the narthex or brought to the church office from now through August 16.*



Blessed be the Tie

Thank you for your amazing spirit of generosity!

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, or ever and ever! Amen. ~ *Ephesians 3:20-21*

Knotty Party – the Sequel! Amazing news – the response to the school supply collection has been so generous that we need to sew – and string – more backpacks ... which means more knots to tie! Please join us on **Wednesday, August 19, 9 a.m.-???** if you can help. We will be both stringing the packs and knotting them. Stringing the packs is easy to do and we can show you how to do it. Choose the task that suits you best, ask for other ways to help, or come for the fellowship. As always, we will have a snack break featuring Sally's beloved tollhouse cookies.