



Calendar of Events

Sunday, August 16

9:30 am Worship/Communion
10:45 am Quilt of Valor Presentation

Monday, August 17

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
4:00 pm West End Senior Travelers
6:30 pm Executive Committee

Tuesday, August 18

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

Wednesday, August 19

9:00 am Knotty Party
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

Thursday, August 20

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

Friday, August 21

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, August 22

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers



Pastor Kliner will be off Monday, August 24 – Wednesday, August 26. Pastor Jeff LeCrone will cover for emergencies while Pastor is away. During office hours call the church office and they will assist you. After office hours you may reach Pastor LeCrone at 570-323-7309 or 570-220-3631.

ATTENTION!

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There will be no “Noon Day” prayers, Monday, August 24 – Wednesday, August 26. Pastor Kliner will be out of office these 3 days, but will still be available for emergencies.

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LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS

What happens to all of the school kits we make?

After all of the sewing and stringing and knotting and collecting/counting/organizing the supplies, we will have our Pack-a-Sack in September to put the kits together. After filling the backpacks, we pack them in cartons and then volunteers from the congregation will deliver the cartons to the synod-wide Ingathering at Faith Lutheran Church in Lewisburg, where they are loaded on a trailer. Kits of all kinds as well as quilts donated by Messiah and other participating churches in the synod are all taken to this location. *(This is also where the blankets we collect for Blanket Sunday go.)*

From the Ingathering, all of the kits received will be trucked to the newly established Regional Drop-off Point in Mechanicsburg, PA. This is a change from how things have been done previously. Late last year, Lutheran World Relief closed their Maryland warehouse and consolidated its primary warehouse operations to a single main facility in South St. Paul, Minnesota. All kits received at regional drop-off points will be taken there.

Upon being received at the warehouse in Minnesota, the cartons are opened and each kit is checked before re-packing them into large shipping containers. Thousands of School Kits are shipped out in one container at a time to areas around the world experiencing a need due to poverty, natural disasters, conflict, or other issues that make it difficult to attend school **and who request aid**. After reaching their destination, they are distributed through an approved program or center. ***Kits are not handed out randomly. The recipients have verifiable need.***

Some of you have asked if any of the kits are sent here in the United States. The answer is YES, often they are. While the primary focus of Lutheran World Relief is to offer aid on a global level, they do also distribute kits in the U.S. to areas that have been affected by natural disasters, ***when those areas request them***. If you visit the display in the narthex, you can see some of the states in the U.S. who have received the kits because of hardships caused by wildfires, severe flooding, hurricanes, and other extreme weather events, as well as the different countries where they are sent.

You can view the Distribution Map on our display in the narthex or download it here: https://lwr.org/ai_file_subscribe/file/8407

See inside for a current progress report on our collection as well as more information about where our backpacks go.

In 2025, a total of 803,801 quilts and kits were distributed in 15 countries. **179,200 School Kits** were distributed globally, including states located in Central, Western, and Eastern regions of the U.S. Following are two videos you can watch that show the impact of the school kits on those who receive them ...



LWR quilts and kits touch the lives of people around the world:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwCPiQxcTL8>

Equipping students in Tanzania to succeed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgp3Otpkn34>

Sunday, August 16, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Charles Luppert, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon, Larry and Donna Britton; **Lay Asst:** Anita Bair; **Comm. Asst.:** Fred Harbaugh; **Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower; **Greeters/Presenters:** Georgette Copp, Sandy Jansson
Flower Delivery: Charles Luppert

Sunday, August 9: Attendance: *In Church: 107; Online: 4; Offering: \$4,393.75*

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Bill Miller, a loving father, grandfather, and husband. With love from Michael, Nathan, Tammy, David, Nathaniel and Linda.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of Nita and Eugene Hamm.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, August 16: *Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:10-28*

Monday, August 17: *Psalm 87; 2 Kings 5:1-14; Acts 15:1-21*

Tuesday, August 18: *Psalm 87; Isaiah 43:8-13; Romans 11:13-29*

Wednesday, August 19: *Psalm 87; Isaiah 66:18-23; Matthew 8:1-13*

Thursday, August 20: *Psalm 138; Ezekiel 28:11-19; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11*

Friday, August 21: *Psalm 138; Ezekiel 31:15-18; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18*

Saturday, August 22: *Psalm 138; Ezekiel 36:33-38; Matthew 16:5-12*



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



September



Sunday, September 6 - Sunday School Kick-Off, Milestone presentation during Worship with a Coffee Hour immediately following worship.

Wednesday, September 9 – Every Wednesday Pastor Kliner will lead a bible study starting at 6:30 pm. *All are welcome!*

Sunday, September 13th – First day of Sunday School that will begin in the Little Chapel of the Good Shepherd at 8:15 am. *This is for all ages!* Depending on the amount of children we get will determine their classroom. Sunday School will be every Sunday, 8:15 am – 9:15 am.

Sunday, September 13 – Church Picnic. This will be held in Shaheen Hall immediately following worship. *More details to come.*

Saturday, September 19 – 5:00 pm Pack-A-Sack Event. *More details to come.*

Sunday, September 27 – WELCA will hold a coffee hour immediately following worship.

Choir will resume sometime in September. Please keep an eye out for when that will pick back up.



The office building is getting a new roof on or around Thursday, August 20.

If you need to come to the office for any reason, please park in the church parking lot.

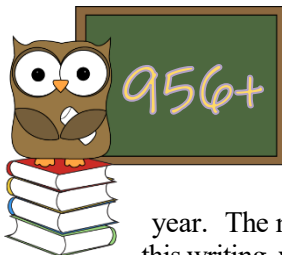
The office will be closed on Friday, August 21.



This Sunday, August 16, after worship in the Little Chapel of the Good Shepherd there will be a Quilt of Valor presentation. Please join this honored presentation of all our Military Service Members.



Preschool Mums Fundraiser! It's time to order your fall mums. This is our **Seventh** year working with the Potting Bench for our Mums Fundraiser and the mums have been beautiful! The **\$10 tickets** for the mums will be available the first few Sundays in September after worship in the Narthex or church office, but are available now by contacting Linda Miller at 570-326-5405. You will be able to take your tickets to the Potting Bench any time in September at 324 Matthews Blvd. in S. Williamsport and choose your very own 9-inch potted mum(s). Deadline for picking up mums will be September 30. **THANK YOU for your support!**



Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Lutheran World Relief School Kits ministry. The response has been so generous that we can fill more backpacks than we have sewn, so we will sew some more! *If you have already purchased items or have a longing in your heart to do so, please bring them in by Sunday, August 16.* We will sew as many more

backpacks as we have material for and any surplus items can be used next year. The next few weeks will be spent organizing and double-checking the count. As of this writing, we expect we can fill at least 956 backpacks, and likely more than that. Save the date for the Pack-a-Sack and stay tuned for a final count once we actually fill the packs! **God is good ... all the time!**



Blessed be the Tie

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.

Save the date: Pack-a-Sack ~ Saturday, September 19, 5:00 p.m.



The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal.

What does this mean? We are fear and love God so that we neither take our neighbor's money or property nor use shoddy merchandise or crooked deals to obtain it for ourselves, but instead help them to improve and protect their property and income.

(Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

After he kills his brother, Abel, Cain asks God the fateful question: “*Am I my brother's keeper?*” In a similar vein, a religious lawyer asks Jesus, “*Who is my neighbor?*” Both questions are a feeble attempt to dodge responsibility; in the case of Cain, he knows *exactly* where his brother's body lies, in the case of the lawyer he's (in the words of the Gospel) attempting to “*justify himself.*” The inexorable answer God's Law provides is that (a) ***we ARE “our brother's keeper”*** and (b) ***our neighbors are all around us and not defined by race, religion, or family.*** Notice, for example, how Luther begins his explanation of these Commandments: ***We are to fear and love GOD***—when we break the Commandments we are demonstrating explicitly, not only our disdain for others, but for God himself. When we seek to “*carve out*” an exemption for our behaviors, when we attempt to put a limit on the scope of the Commandments, when we attempt to deflect our blame or “*Justify Ourselves*” we are neither fearing nor loving the Lord our God.

In theory, the ***Seventh Commandment*** is one of the “*easier*” Commandments to obey. It seems pretty straightforward—“*Don't take anything that isn't yours.*” It's a lesson most of us learned in pre-school or kindergarten: “*Sit down, keep your hands to yourself, and don't touch stuff that doesn't belong to you.*” Easy, right? The trouble is that the fallen human heart wants precisely that which it does not have. In the list of “*Deadly Sins*”—***hubris, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, and sloth***—we can see just how fickle the human heart is. (We'll spend much more time on this when we hit ***The Ninth*** and ***The Tenth Commandments.***) We WANT that which we do not have...which leads us to **STEALING.**

Overt theft—the taking of someone else's “stuff” by force or coercion is easy to identify and, on the whole, easy to avoid. “*Most of us*” can exercise enough control over our behaviors so that we don't go around and “*just take stuff that doesn't belong to us.*” Often, when we run into someone who can't exercise that control, we find something deeper at work: an addiction whose cravings are irresistible, a psychology that exercises “*power*” by “*taking*,” a mental illness that compromises a person's ability to “*control their impulses.*” When someone repeatedly robs and steals, we ought to have a sense of pity (not “*excuse*” but pity) for such a person has some sort of a deep wound that prevents them from being “***fully and truly human***” and prevents them from being trusted and living in society.

But notice, Luther doesn't spend much time on this obvious fact. It's not because there were no bandits or robbers in Luther's time—in fact the world was a more dangerous place back then—but because we're GOOD at deflecting the blame. We find “*legal*” ways of “*taking other people's stuff.*” We are devilishly clever at writing and exploiting laws that take other people's money and property and neatly putting it into our own pockets, legally and cleanly. We do this all the time and even pat ourselves on the back when it works. As P.T. Barnum once said, “*There's a sucker born every minute...*” and, as a secular proverb says, “*A fool and his money are*



soon parted..." which we take to slander the victim even as we congratulate ourselves on our success.

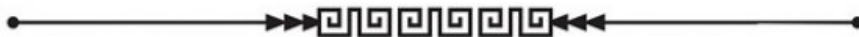
But Luther doesn't stop there... "*Am I my brother's keeper?*" asks Cain. Luther's explanation goes further than "*Don't take your neighbor's stuff...*" but continues: "*We are to fear and love God so that...we help them [our neighbor] to IMPROVE and PROTECT their property and income.*" "*Am I my brother's keeper?*"—YES, God's Law answers. We are to help and protect and improve our neighbor's "*property*" and "*income.*" The ***Seventh Commandment*** does not allow us to "*protect mine*" while turning a blind eye to what happens to my neighbor.

But "*Who is my neighbor?*" we ask. Jesus answers with a story about a good Jewish man who goes down from Jerusalem to Jericho and falls in among bandits, is robbed, and left for dead on the side of the road. A Priest, a Levite...good Jewish folks...come by, but quickly cross over and go on their way. But a Samaritan happens by, stops, tends the man and takes him to an inn... "*Who was the neighbor to the man who fell in among robbers?*" Jesus asks. The one who showed mercy is the answer. "*Who is my neighbor?*" Whosoever needs your mercy.

And our Lord replied: "Go and do likewise."

Pax Christi;

Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS



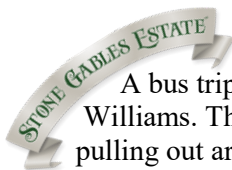
The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Summer Family Movie - **Quigley Village - Scary Sounds in the Campground DVD** - Mr. Quigley takes the guys camping and they have a wonderful time eating and telling stories until bedtime when Bubba hears strange noises. The noises get louder and Bubba's imagination runs wild until he confronts his fear and discovers the culprit. This is #11 in the Quiggley's Village DVD series in the Family Movies

section of our library.

Adult - **The Wit of Martin Luther** - An interesting and entertaining entry into Luther's thought. This little book brings out the sublime religious meaning at stake in the theological thwacks and thuds of the Reformer's life. Found in the Reformation, Lutheran Church history section.



A bus trip to Stone Gables Estate* in Elizabethtown, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, November 18, 2026. The bus will be pulling out around 10:30 AM from Beiter's parking lot. The trip will include bus fare, a meal catered by "Food for Thought Catering", a ride on the Santa Express train, and the National Christmas center followed by the Christmas light drive-thru.

All are included in the price of \$151.00 per adult, children are \$107.00. If interested, please contact Cheryl at (570) 327-1627, reservations are due by October 5, 2026.

* Stone Gables Estate is a biblical faith-based ministry/business.

Their mission is to donate 100% of net profits to aid abandoned children worldwide.

