



Calendar of Events

Sunday, August 23

9:30 am Worship/Communion
10:30 am Preschool Coffee Hour

Monday, August 24

Pastor Kliner out of Office

Tuesday, August 25

Pastor Kliner out of Office

Wednesday, August 26

Pastor Kliner out of Office

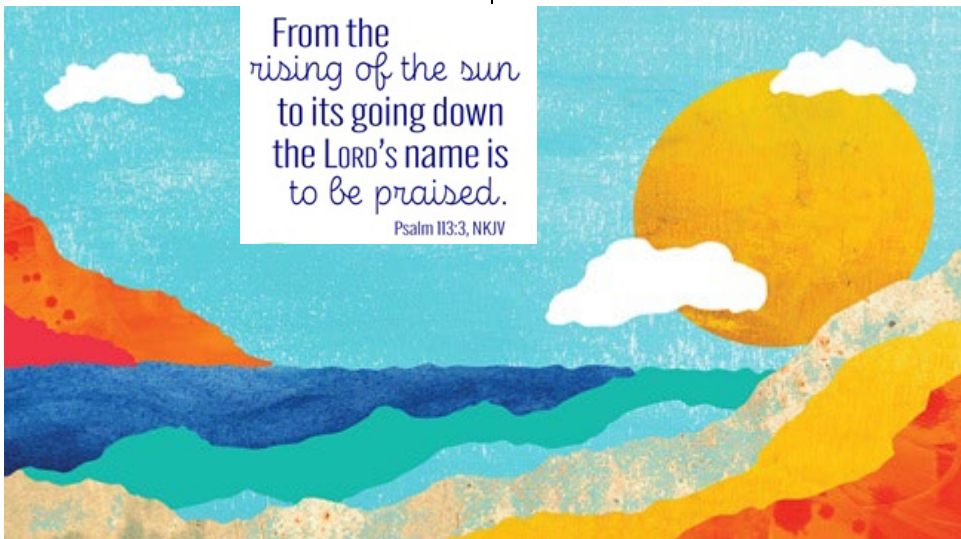
Thursday, August 27

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

Friday, August 28

Saturday, August 29

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers



MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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August 19, 2026

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The Eighth Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We are fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputation. But instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.

(Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

It may surprise you, but the Commandment that is most routinely violated in our typical, everyday life, is probably the ***Eighth Commandment***. You may object, saying “*I’m not a liar...*” but this Commandment has less to do with ***Lying***, per se, that “***telling the truth***.” As Luther says, we indeed are not to “*tell lies about our neighbors...*” but then he goes on to also include hurtful gossip, language that betrays our neighbor’s confidence, and speech that “*destroys their reputation*,” all of which we engage in frequently in our daily habits. From those old TV “talk-shows” that titillate us with scandals, to the internet channels that “*spill the tea*” to our political campaigns that are predicated on defending “*my side*” while demonizing “*the other guy*,” the ***Eighth Commandment*** is routinely broken and ignored...even by “Lutherans” who should, in theory, “*know better*.” Our contemporary culture is practically built on breaking this Commandment.

My homiletics (preaching) professor in seminary taught us that we were to “***speak the Truth in love***.” To speak the unvarnished “truth”—that is to say, “the truth without love”—is destructive. Who can bear to hear “*the truth, the honest truth, and nothing but the truth*”? From the proverbial “*spinach stuck in our teeth from lunch*”—those little, embarrassing things that we’re not aware of—to the outright disdain that someone has for us that perhaps we deserve; “*the truth without love*” would destroy us. On the other hand, “*love without truth*” is a lie; it is not “love” at all. So our jobs, as preachers and listeners was to listen and “***speak the Truth in love***” for the benefit of each other. It was a potent lesson for me, as evidenced that I still meditate upon it almost 30 years later.

Jesus looks up from the cross and cries out “***Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do!***” Think on that for a moment: Jesus, The Truth, in the midst of his anguish, ***speaks the Truth in love***. He could have rightfully looked upon those who crucify him and truly spoken words of wrath, vengeance, and damnation. Instead, even in his dying woes, he ***speaks the Truth in love***. He embodies this Commandment, he fulfills it in his dying, he shows us literally what this Commandment means. He is not “lying” (God forbid!); instead he, as Luther would say, “*comes to their defense, speaks well of them, and interprets everything they do in the best possible light*.” It’s not just a “*feel-good*” attitude, either. “*He was the Word that spake it, He took the bread and brake it. And what that Word doth make it, I do receive and take it...*” wrote the Priest and Poet John Donne about the Eucharist. “*And what that Word doth make it...*” Jesus’ words are not empty but MAKE something; just as “*In the beginning*” God (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) calls Creation itself into being ***through speaking a Word***.

Sunday, August 23, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Charles Luppert, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon, Larry and Donna Britton; **Lay Asst:** Carol Waltz; **Comm. Asst.:** Georgette Copp; **Acolyte:** Weston Sherman
Altar Guild: Pam Eveleth, Yvonne Kaiser; **Greeters/Presenters:** Jody Fullmer, Carl Gee
Flower Delivery: Paul Weaver

Sunday, August 16: Attendance: *In Church: 103; Online: 10; Offering: \$4,548.00*

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Gary and Connie Hess on their 54th wedding anniversary, September 2nd, with love from their family.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of McClellan and Esther Denius by their family.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, August 23: *Isaiah 51:1-6; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20*

Monday, August 24: *Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32; 1 Samuel 7:3-13; Romans 2:1-11*

Tuesday, August 25: *Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32; Deuteronomy 32:18-20, 28-39; Romans 11:33-36*

Wednesday, August 26: *Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32; Isaiah 28:14-22; Matthew 26:6-13*

Thursday, August 27: *Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 14:13-18; Ephesians 5:1-6*

Friday, August 28: *Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 15:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12*

Saturday, August 29: *Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 15:10-14; Matthew 8:14-17*



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



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! **ATTENTION!** **ATTENTION!** **ATTENTION!**

There will be no “Noon Day” prayers, Monday, August 24 – Wednesday, August 26.

Pam will be on vacation starting on Monday, August 31 – Monday, September 7. Please have anything that you need put in the *Messenger* and *Bulletin* for the week of August 30th to the office by *Tuesday, August 24th*.

The office will be open the week I am on vacation, Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 12:00 pm.
Thank you, Pam



The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Children/Youth - **The Real Story of the Flood** - One vessel large enough for a pair of every kind of animal in creation. One faithful man and his family. One global catastrophe, and one God capable of creating, destroying, and ultimately, saving our world and everything in it. In this book, scholar and author Paul L. Maier explains the Great Flood in a unique way. No myth or romanticized version, here is the true story of mankind's second chance and our loving God's promise to preserve us for all time. This book is in the children's section of the library.

Adult - **The Gift to Listen - The Courage to Hear** - This book interweaves listening techniques with spiritual principles that emphasize the importance of listening and provide a framework for more effective listening. Using real-life anecdotes drawn from her experience as a minister, counselor, and organization development consultant, Cari Jackson explores common causes of communication breakdowns and offers strategies for moving toward communication breakthroughs. This practical and inspiring book will deepen the rewards of human relationships in business, love and family life. The book is found in the topical issues section of our library.



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.



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.



Noam Chomsky, the noted linguist and philosopher likewise notes that our speech “*creates reality*.” For instance, violent words typically precede violent actions—we “*speak*” war into existence before war manifests itself. We “*speak*” words of judgement and condemnation, and we “*create*” that state for someone else. Our “*words*” do not merely “reflect” a reality, they “*create*” that reality: if you “*tell*” someone they are a failure, they end up fulfilling that reality...even if it is in their own mind.

One definition of “*Christian*” is to be a “disciple” of our Master, Jesus Christ. “*It is enough for the disciple to be like the Master,*” says our Lord. We then ought to heed our Lord’s own example and strive to “*speak the Truth in love*” with each other, no matter how difficult it seems. And when we do, we find, much to our delight, that we have been striving to fulfill ***The Eighth Commandment*** all along.

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS



Lutheran World Relief School Kits ~ Goodness Gracious, Awesome God!!!

It is so heartwarming – and humbling! - to see how the Messiah family has come together to share your gifts with children around the globe.

*Thank
you!*

Many, many children who would not have been able to attend school otherwise will now have the opportunity to receive an education, *thanks to you*. While we cannot yet tell you the official count until all is said and done, we can tell you that there are more than enough supplies to fill every backpack that has been sewn and we are busy sewing more. ***Thank you all so very, very much for your heartfelt response to support this ministry. God’s grace abounds! And he has shown it through all of you. ~ Sally and Kathy***



Save the Date! Saturday, September 19, 5:00 p.m. – Pack-A-Sack Event

This is when we finally see all the work we have done come to fruition. Members of the congregation, those who attended Bible School, and friends are invited to join us for a pizza supper and to pack the bags assembly-line style.

All ages may take part, but we ask that children under grade 3 be accompanied/supervised by an adult. ***Stay tuned for more information to come!***



AN OPEN INVITATION TO EVERYONE WHO LIKES TO SING! Choir rehearsals will be held on Thursday afternoons at 2 PM starting on September 3rd. Please join us as we lift our voices to sing God’s praise. We plan to sing at worship services starting on September 6. We have a short rehearsal on Sunday mornings at 8:45. Please consider singing with us.



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

Bldv. 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!***



Church is Fun

Word Search

L B L M C U D C O U R A G E G R A C E R
H E A L I N G V K F W T P E A C E I C B
J E S U S F N K P C H U R C H M X L F O
X O P F Q L U H O L Y N F A I T H I O N
W R C O M P A S S I O N Z D H A A K D E
I Q F A X T W J P I H S D N E I R F M O
S K U A E G N I T G O D S L B E L I E F
D J O Y I T M A B N Y L Q F G U Z K F E
O V M S R T V A I E Z Z G N I V I G N W
M B O W P L H R K P S R E C N E I T A P
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G N T V A E U I Z L D B L E S S I N G S
A W R J K U D C T Y N J W V U F Q U Q T
M K T L O V E I N S S E N E V I G R O F
G U I D A N C E E T H P S T S I R H C X
M U Y K W O S Y U N N N B S Q L V H P O
L Y Y C R E M S K J C H O P E Q F U F I
O N E V A E H D A J G E J M X U L K S Q
T R U T H J B E F D D K B U V M N D V F

Word list:

BELIEF
BLESSINGS
CHRIST
CHURCH
COMPASSION
COURAGE
ETERNAL
FAITH
FAITHFULNESS
FORGIVENESS

FRIENDSHIP
GMING
GOD
GRACE
GUIDANCE
HEALING
HEAVEN
HOLY
HOPE
JESUS

JOY
LOVE
MERCY
OBEDIENCE
PATIENCE
PEACE
SALVATION
SPIRIT
TRUTH
WISDOM

