



Calendar of Events

Sunday, August 30

9:30 am Worship/Communion

Monday, August 31

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

6:30 pm Fellowship Committee

Tuesday, September 1

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 2

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

Thursday, September 3

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm NA

Friday, September 4

Saturday, September 5

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

OFFICE HOURS
for
MONDAY - FRIDAY
9:00AM - 12:00PM



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The Ninth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We are fear and love God so that we do not try to trick our neighbor's out of their inheritance or property or try to get it for ourselves by claiming to have a legal right to it and the like, but instead we are to be of help and service to them in keeping what is theirs.

(Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

In 1997, the nation was shocked and captivated by the story of Andrew Cunanan, who had claimed to be part of the Versace family in Miami, Florida. Cunanan, a young man from California, wasn't in any way part of the Versace family...famous for their fashion and wealth...and when the delusion came apart, he killed five people, including fashion designer Gianni Versace, and eventually himself in a vain attempt to hold onto a desperate desire to "be someone."

Typically, American "Protestants" (as in "Non-Catholics" as opposed to those with a doctrinal dispute with Rome) will number their table of the **Ten Commandments** a little differently than the "traditional, Catholic" numbering system: breaking out the prohibition of "*not fashioning a graven image*" (which we would include in our understanding of the **First Commandment**) into its own (2nd) Commandment and then collapsing the two "*coveting*" Commandments (**9 and 10**) into a single prohibition. And, at first glance, we can sympathize with this; why *DO* we have two, distinct Commandments on "*coveting*"? But if we stop and look at the issue a little more closely, I think we find that "coveting" is really, really dangerous. Covetousness is at the core of so many other sins—theft, murder, adultery, lying—that we do we do well to really take it seriously.

Which begs the question: "*What, exactly, is 'covetousness'?*" Is there a difference between "Covetousness" and "envy" and "jealousy"? Covetousness may be understood as an envy so profound that we literally despise what we **HAVE** so that we become ready to break other Commandments to get what we **DO NOT HAVE**. Covetousness may start out as a simple envy, but it progresses to the point where the other Commandments become obstacles that we are ready to break in order to get whatever it is we "want." Envy may be constrained. Jealousy may be stopped. But when we covet, we consent to do "*whatever it takes*" to get what we desire. It is a strong acid that eats away at and corrodes everything that stands in its way. Covetousness is deadly.

One of the distinctions between **The Ninth** and **The Tenth Commandments** is that the Commandment "**You shall not covet your neighbor's house...**" need not be understood as just referring to the inanimate property around our neighbor's homes. Andrew Cunanan didn't just want to swindle some money from the Versace estate; he wanted **TO BE** "a Versace." He, quite literally, coveted his "*neighbor's house*."

This is more common than you might think. Teenagers routinely try to be "*someone...anyone...else*." It's part of growing up; as we try to figure out "*who we are*" we'll try out different looks, different identities. We're also told, often in not subtle terms, that we should never be satisfied with our place in life—we should strive for "*something better*": the next promotion, the "*platinum card*," the bigger and more expensive car, the bigger house in "*the right neighborhood*." We're told that we should hate the people "*who have it all*" and should "*want to be*

them.” Look at the advertising culture we live and breathe in. “*Greed*”—coveting—in the words of *Gordon Gecko* (in the movie “Wall Street”), “*for lack of a better word, is ‘good.’*”

The Ninth Commandment reveals this attitude as toxic and unholy. We are not to covet our neighbor’s house and position in life. Instead, we are to cherish what God has given us. God has placed us in this time, place, and station in life for a reason and gives us what we need for life. Why do we then dismiss this and seek “*something better?*” People will literally kill themselves and others to obtain a status that they think is owed them, is being denied them. This is what covetousness drives us towards.

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS



Sunday, August 30, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Charles Luppert, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon, Larry and Donna Britton; **Lay Asst:** Dave Bausinger; **Comm. Asst.:** Rhonda Koch
Acolyte: Dylan Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Vicki Bair, Doris Butt
Greeters/Presenters: Fred and Meg Harbaugh; **Flower Delivery:** Jody Fullmer

Sunday, August 23: Attendance: *In Church: 92; Online: 8; Offering: \$2,798.63*

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Lawrence and Alice Gee’s wedding anniversary, with love by Debbie and Carl.

BIBLE READING

Sunday, August 30: *Jeremiah 15:15-21; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28*

Monday, August 31: *Psalm 17; 2 Samuel 11:2-26; Revelation 3:1-6*

Tuesday, September 1: *Psalm 17; 2 Samuel 11:27b-12:15; Revelation 3:7-13*

Wednesday, September 2: *Psalm 17; Jeremiah 17:5-18; Matthew 12:22-32*

Thursday, September 3: *Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 24:1-14; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21*

Friday, September 4: *Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 24:15-27; Romans 10:15b-21*

Saturday, September 5: *Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 33:1-6; Matthew 23:29-36*



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

ATTENTION!

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Pam will be on vacation Monday, August 31 – Monday, September 7. The office will be open that week, Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 12:00 pm. Thank you, Pam

The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Youth - **Horsefeathers** – Fourteen-year-old Sarah "Scoop" Coop know horses better than she knows herself--especially Orphan, a mixed breed mare from her grandfather's stable. Scoop is kind of an orphan herself. She never knew her birth parents. She was raised by adoptive parents who died in a tragic accident.

Now she and her brother live with Aunt Dotty. Grandfather Coop lives nearby and runs a horse stable, but Aunt Dotty is the one who helps Scoop understand life and learn about God. When Gran-dad becomes unexpectedly ill, the stable becomes imperiled. Will Scoop lose Orphan? Will the business fold? How can Scoop keep the things she loves best? God offers some surprising answers. Book on Youth Fiction shelf.

Adult themed - **Daily Life in the Time of Jesus** - This is a great book for reference and/or to read about the daily time during the life of Jesus. This book shares the political context as well as religious beliefs, habits and customs as well as the various people of the time period. If you want to delve into the reasons and rational for the time period, this is a great book. Book is in the Teacher Helps section of our Library.



GREAT NEWS Starting September 13th our Sunday

School Program will be back in full swing! Everyone is to

meet in the Little Chapel of the Good Shepherd at 8:15 am with Pastor Jerry and then we'll move to our classroom(s) at 8:30 - 9:15. We'll be singing (and dancing if you like), having a Bible story, doing an activity and having a snack. *We hope you'll join us!*



Join Pastor Jerry, every Wednesday beginning September 9th at 6:30 pm, for bible study. *All are welcome.*



Preschool Mums Fundraiser! It's time to order your fall mums. This is the **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 after worship in the Narthex or church office. For more information, contact 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!**



Sunday, September 6th is our Sunday School Kick-Off with a coffee hour immediately following Worship in the Narthex.

Sunday, September 27 – WELCA will hold a coffee hour immediately following worship in Shaheen Hall. *Please join us.*



Gift Card Bingo



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

INDEPENDENT FIREHALL

500 Clark Street | S. Williamsport, Pa 17702

DOORS OPEN AT 11:30 AM | GAMES START AT 12:30 PM

PRE-SALE \$20 | \$25 AT THE DOOR

GAMES | PRIZES | FOOD

For more information, Contact Mary Schultz at 570-772-8021

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN AND GAMES TO BENEFIT

MESSIAH LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL



Tickets will be available, before and after each service in the Narthex on these dates:

Sunday, September 20th and 27th or anytime in the church office.

To make this event a success we are asking the congregation for your support.

Other ways you can help:

- Donate a gift card of your choice for our Gift Card Bingo
- Make a themed basket to donate for our Chinese Auction
- Make baked goods to sell during the event

Deadline for gift cards and themed baskets is **October 16th.**

Baked good items are due **Friday, October 23rd by NOON** in the church office.

PLEASE DROP OFF ALL DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE





Join us for the Church picnic Sunday, September 13 immediately following worship in Shaheen Hall. Barbeque, hotdogs and beverages will be provided. Please bring your favorite picnic side dish with you. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex starting this Sunday.
Everyone is welcomed.



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.



Lutheran World Relief School Kits ~ Pack-a-Sack Event!

Saturday, September 19, 5:00 p.m.

God's Work. Our Hands. The Spirit called ... and wow! Did you answer! We have collected enough supplies to fill every backpack that was sewn, and then we had to sew some more!

Now the real fun begins ... ***and we need you!***

Please join us for a Pizza Supper followed by a work session to fill the backpacks with the supplies. *With so many bags to fill, much help is needed!* Please sign up in the narthex so that we know how many stations to set up and how much pizza to order.



There are jobs for every ability. Questions? Call or text Kathy at 570-651-2802.

We cannot say it enough ... thank you all so very, very much for answering the call! ☺

New This Year ~ "Pack-a-Sack: The Prequel!"

Wednesday, September 16, 9:00 a.m.

With so many bags to fill, we cannot easily fill them in one night so we are adding a second session to pack some of the school kits in advance of the grande finale. This will be held on a weekday morning and will be a little more "low-key" than the evening event. Join us for a fun morning of adult fellowship while we roll up our sleeves to get a head-start on making the kits.

Like the Saturday night event, there are jobs for every ability! We hope to see you there!



Good Luck to everyone starting back to school! The first step towards achieving a good education is going to school. We wish you an amazing school year.

"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9