

Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

29

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

GATHERING**PRELUDE***Stand***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray...

Dear Father in Heaven—to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we might perfectly love you and worthily magnify your Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the Truth is not in us. But we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let confess all our sins to God, so that we may heart his forgiveness and know his mercy...

*Kneel**Silence is kept for meditation...*

P: Almighty God, merciful Father:

C: I have sinned against you in thought, in word, and in deed;

By what I have done and what I have left undone.

I have not loved you with my whole heart, mind, and strength.

I have not loved my neighbor as myself.

For the sake of your beloved Son, who suffered upon the cross for me, have mercy upon me and forgive me all my sin!

P: Almighty God, our Father in Heaven, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sin. As a Called and Ordained minister of the Church of Jesus Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING HYMN

Awake, My Soul, and with the SunLBW 269



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy
2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and
3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -
4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all
5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and
hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from
perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of
I de - sign or do or say, that all my pow'rs, with
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
thought and will; and with thy - self my spir - it fill.
all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: MORNING HYMN, François H. Barthélémon, 1741–1808

APOSTOLIC GREETING

-  The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
-  And also with you.

KYRIE

[illegible]

HYMN OF PRAISE

[illegible]

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

☐: Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑: Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

☐: A Reading from Ezekiel:

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me.

⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die,"
and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways,
the wicked shall die in their iniquity,
but their blood I will require at your hand.

⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways
and they do not turn from their ways,
the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel:
Thus you have said:

"Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us,
and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?"

¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD,
I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked
but that the wicked turn from their ways and live;
turn back, turn back from your evil ways,
for why will you die, O house of Israel?

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40*Sung by the choir and congregation.*

I de - sire the path of your com - mand - ments.

Sung responsively between the choir and congregation.

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your law;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

³⁵Make me go in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from watching | what is worthless;
give me life | in your ways.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which you make to | those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach | which I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for | your commandments;
in your righteousness pre- | serve my life. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

[A]: A Reading from Romans:

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another,
for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery;
you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,"
and any other commandment, are summed up in this word,
"Love your neighbor as yourself."

¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is,
how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep.

For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;
¹² the night is far gone; the day is near.

Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;

¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

CANTOR: In Christ God was reconciling the world | to himself, entrusting the message of reconcilia- | tion to us.

C: Repeat the Alleluias.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples:

¹⁵ “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.

¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church,

let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector.

18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

19 Again, truly I tell you,
if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask,
it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among
them.”

[P]: The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON.....Pastor Kliner

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY
Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive.....LBW 307



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.
Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

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APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: Let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people according to their need...

After each petition:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P: All these things, most merciful God, we commend into your hands,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen!

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you

Sit

MEAL

OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

OFFERING

Christians All, Come Sing His Praises Pepper Choplin

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

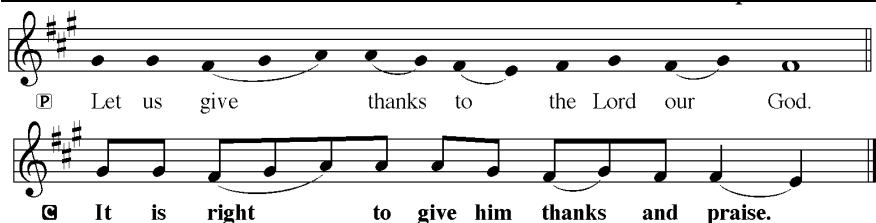
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

- A:** Let us pray... Merciful Father,
C: We offer you with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions—signs of your gracious Love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself to us, + Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

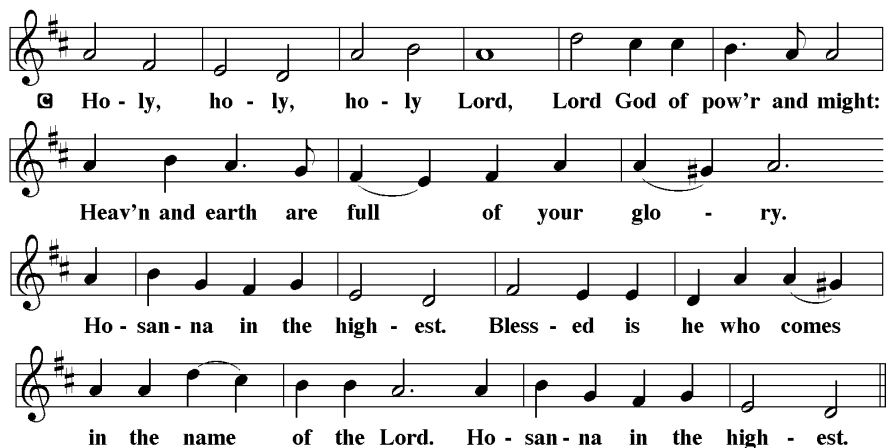
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary, that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious Resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your Name and join their unending hymn...



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Heavenly Father: endless is your mercy, and eternal is your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the Prophets, you renewed your promise; and at this, the end of the ages, you sent your only begotten Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your Kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life upon the Cross.

Send your Holy Spirit upon these the gifts of your Church, that they may

be for us the very Body + and Blood + of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us who receive our Lord's Body and Blood live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your Saints in Light.

C Amen! Come Holy Spirit!

P: For, in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:
TAKE AND EAT.
THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN UP FOR YOU.
DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

After supper He took the cup. Again, he gave thanks and praise to you and gave it them to drink saying:

DRINK OF THIS, ALL OF YOU:
THIS CUP IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT.
IT WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE
FORGIVENESS OF SIN.
DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

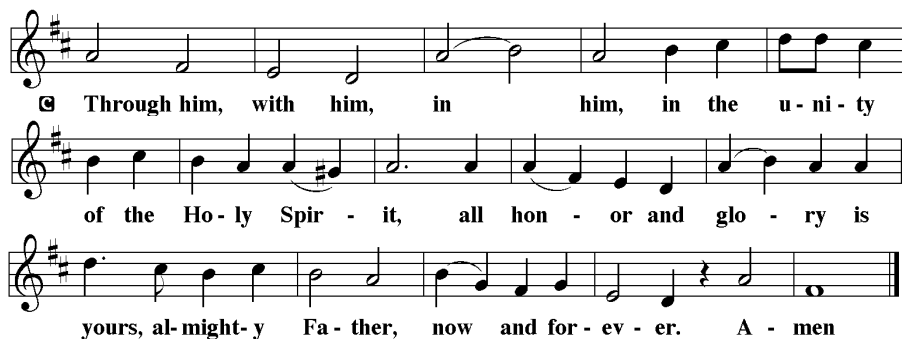
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again in his glory!

C Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

P: And so, Father Most Holy, calling to mind the death your Son endured for our salvation, his glorious Resurrection and his ascension into heaven, we pray: Look with favor on your Church, and see him whose death has reconciled us to yourself. Grant that we who are nourished by our Lord's body and blood, may be filled with his Holy Spirit, and become one body, one spirit in Christ Jesus, and believing the witnesses of his Resurrection, be sustained in the Faith and Hope of our Lord's coming in power and glory to share with us the great and promised Feast.

C Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

P: Join now our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the prayers of the Faithful throughout the ages—the Patriarchs and Prophets, the Holy Apostles and Martyrs, and all your Saints in Light who lived and died in Faith. Strengthen in faith and love your pilgrim Church here on earth—together with our Bishops, Pastors, Deacons and the entire people your son has won for you through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Welcome into your Kingdom all our departed brothers and sisters, and all who have left this world in your friendship. Unite all these prayers with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest, Jesus Christ, until he comes as Victorious Lord of all...

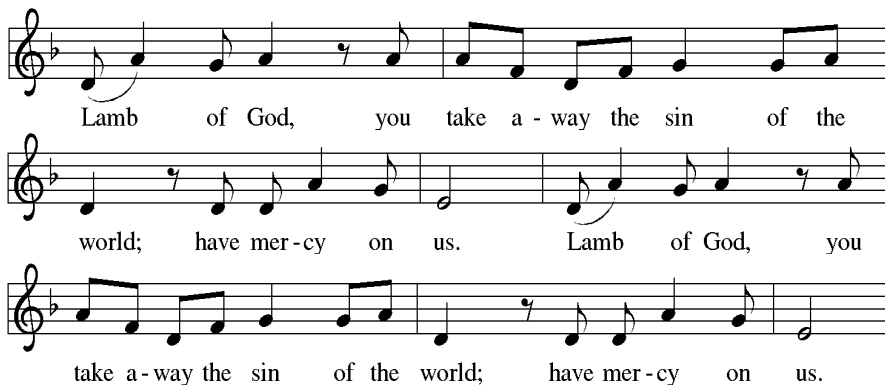


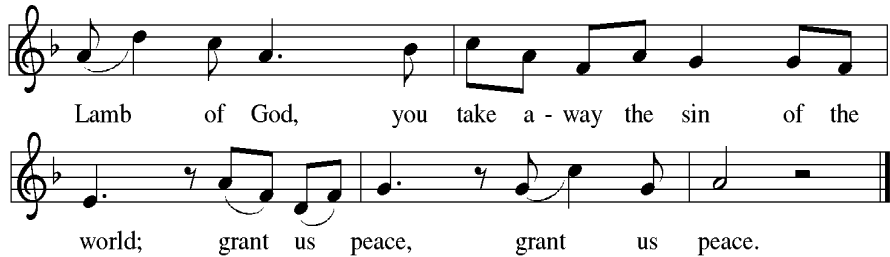
LORD'S PRAYER

[P]: Let us pray with confidence in the words that our Lord Jesus Christ has given us...

[C]: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen





Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Pastor lifts the Bread and Chalice and says:
[P]: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
[C]: Thanks be to God!
[P]: The Holy Things for the Holy people:
[C]: One is Holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God!

Sit
COMMUNION

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
The communicant may say: Amen

COMMUNION HYMN
Where Charity and Love PrevailLBW 126



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: TWENTY–FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842
Text © 1960 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All Rights Reserved.

Stand

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray

Let us pray... Father in Heaven, you provide the true Bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his Body and Blood, may abide in him, and he in us, so that we might abound in Faith, Hope, and Love; to the glory of your name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you and gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. And may almighty God—the Father, † The Son, and The Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Earth and All Stars! st. 1, 3, 5, 6 LBW 558



1	Earth and	all	stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
2	Hail, wind,	and	rain!	Loud	blow - ing	snow - storm!
3	Trum - pet	and	pipes!	Loud	clash - ing	cym - bals!
4	En - gines	and	steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!



Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!



Oh, vic - to - ry!	Loud	shout - ing	ar - my!
Flow - ers and trees!	Loud	rus - tling	dry leaves!
Harp, lute, and lyre!	Loud	hum - ming	cel - los!
Lime-stone and beams!	Loud	build - ing	work - ers!

Musical notation for the first line of the hymn, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a melody line with lyrics underneath.

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Musical notation for the second line of the hymn, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a melody line with lyrics underneath.

Refrain
He has done mar - vel - ous things.

Musical notation for the third line of the hymn, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a melody line with lyrics underneath.

I too will praise him with a new song!

5 Classrooms and labs!
Loud boiling test tubes!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band!
Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

6 Knowledge and truth!
Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son!
Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

A: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE
GATHERED
IN MY NAME,
THERE AM I AMONG THEM."
MATTHEW 18:20, ESV

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee

Lay Assistant: Susan Bryan; **Comm. Assist.:** Fred Harbaugh

Acolyte: Malory Klemick; **Altar Guild:** Rita Strickler, Lauren Russell

Greeters/Presenters: Rita and Dave Strickler; **Flower Delivery:** Susan Bryan

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Mary Ellen Rosenbaum's birthday on September 4th, with love from her husband and family.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Roland Weaver on the anniversary of his 88th birthday, September 8th, with love from his wife, Jean and family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Messiah Church! It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. We hope to see you again.

Join us this morning after worship in the Narthex for the Sunday School kick-off and coffee hour.

Lutheran World Relief School Kits Pack-a-Sack Events: So many school supplies came in over the summer that we will be packing school kits in two sessions this year. There will be jobs available for every skill and ability level, both active and sit-down. ***We need you!***

Wednesday, September 16, 9:00 a.m. – a more “low-key” session to get a head start on packing the kits in advance of the main event. Join us for a time of fellowship and service!

Saturday, September 19, 5:00 p.m. – Join us for a pizza supper followed by our service project to pack the school kits. Open to all – children under grade 3 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult family member.

Question? See Kathy Wither/Sally Congdon. Please sign up in the narthex to help us prepare.

Preschool Mums Fundraiser! It's time to order your fall mums. The **\$10 tickets** for the mums are available the next couple of Sunday's after worship in the Narthex or church office. You will be able to take your tickets to the Potting Bench any time in September at 324 Matthews Blvd. in South 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!***

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Gerald Kliner, STS, Senior Pastor
JARED GIST, ORGANIST
324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702
(570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

Community Is Complicated

Navigating life with other humans is not always easy. We who call ourselves the church likely know this all too well. Perhaps you've witnessed church council meetings gone awry, frustrating conversations about the budget, or intense disagreements over worship styles. Maybe your faith community has had to navigate conflicting visions for mission and outreach, welcome and hospitality, or diversity and justice. Maybe the generational or political divides in your community feel like rifts too big to cross. As the church, we are called to wrestle with difficult questions about faith and life, but at times, even with the best of intentions, we leave one another feeling hurt, overlooked, or misunderstood.

Jesus knew a thing or two about life in community. He knew what it was like to be betrayed by the ones he loved. He shared meals with people of different backgrounds, people whose identities at times put them at odds with one another. Even his disciples never quite seemed to be on the same page! Yet Jesus knew that despite the complexity of these situations, faith is best practiced in community. Accompanying one another, sharing one another's burdens, encouraging one another, forgiving one another, and holding each other accountable are vital to the Christian life.

Therefore, managing conflict is not something to be taken lightly. Disagreements are not to be just swept under the rug, ignored until the next issue emerges. We are instead called to embrace truth-telling, courage, accountability, and compassion in our dealings with one another. The work of conflict resolution is not easy or glamorous. In fact, it can be awkward and downright painful. But it is holy work. And by God's grace, it can be an invitation to build a community that more truly reflects God's love poured out for the whole world.

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