



Calendar of Events

Sunday, September 6

9:30 am Worship/Communion
10:30 am Sunday School Kick-off
Coffee Hour

Monday, September 7



OFFICE CLOSED

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

Tuesday, September 8

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
6:30 pm Preschool Committee

Wednesday, September 9

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
6:30 pm Bible Study

Thursday, September 10

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm NA

Friday, September 11

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool

Saturday, September 12

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers



MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

Published each week by Messiah Lutheran Church, 324 South Howard Street, South Williamsport, PA. Publication Office, 324 South Howard Street. Entered as a periodical October 15, 1940, at the Post Office at Williamsport, PA under the Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Messiah Lutheran Church,
324 South Howard Street, South Williamsport, PA 17702.



MESSIAH MESSENGER

Published weekly by

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.messiahsouth.org Phone: 570-326-9171

e-mail address: messiahoffice@comcast.net

September 2, 2026

VOL. 83 – NO. 34

The Tenth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse, their man servant or maid servant, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean? We are fear and love God so that we do not entice, force, or steal away from our neighbors their spouses, workers, or livestock, but instead urge them to stay and remain loyal to our neighbor.

(Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

King David, it seemed, had pretty much everything. In his youth, he had slain the warrior, Goliath. He had become the favorite of King Saul and was the best friend of the King's son, Jonathan. He had charmed and won over many people with his wits and humor and his Psalms remain favorites among many to this day. He had survived at least three attempts to depose him and had come out on the other side stronger than before. He had united the Israelite people and forged them into an impressive Kingdom. The only thing that had eluded him was his desire to build God "a house." But none of this seemed...enough. And one day, as King David wandered listlessly on the roof of his palace, he spied a young woman bathing on an adjoining building. A young woman, he learned, named Bathsheba who was married to a captain in David's army. You probably know, at least in broad scope, what happens next...adultery (possibly rape), lies, scheming, and murder. It's perhaps the most famous story of adultery, but really the story begins with King David coveting someone else's wife.

The story really isn't about sex. The story is about a restless King, who has been given great things, but despises all of it. Coveting takes what God has given us and burns it all to bitter ash; instead of seeing God's blessings and instead declares it to be dreck. We cannot be thankful for "what God has given us" but instead we curse God for the one thing God has not. When the Prophet Nathan confronts the King on his wickedness, Nathan goes so far as to say as much; God has given David wives and concubines, but David can only see Uriah's wife. As our Lord will ponder: "For what will it profit them to gain the entire world but forfeit their lives?" King David, who had been so richly blessed, is quite willing to throw it all away for the one thing that God had given to another.

Covetousness has a simple, but not easy, antidote: gratitude. Gratitude, Saint Paul tells us, is a "Fruit of the Spirit" but we can tend that fruit and encourage it. Gratitude works opposite covetousness—gratitude directs our gaze and our attention to what **God HAS given us** and away from what we do not have. This is no simple "word game"—"is the glass half-empty or half-full? When we take stock of what God has given us we actually find that the "cup is overflowing." We need not wait "for God to give us what we need," when we take stock of what we have, we find that God has ALREADY given us **more** than we either deserve or need. Luther talks about this in talking about **Daily Bread** in **The Lord's Prayer**—"What is meant by 'Daily Bread'? Everything that our bodies need such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

And, with the other Commandments, we should never attempt to take away someone else's ***Daily Bread***, but instead help them have their ***Daily Bread*** and protect it. This is the real tragedy of King David's story; as the King, he was most responsible for making sure that all his people had their ***Daily Bread***—especially the men fighting his battles for him—but instead he deprives Uriah the Hittite of his ***Daily Bread*** so that David might be “satisfied.” More than a “moral failure,” David's coveting Bathsheba makes him fail as “King.”

The next time you covet something, perhaps ponder the tragedy of mighty King David who betrays his sacred oath as King. He who slayed the warrior Goliath becomes the prey of his own desires. He who wrote many Psalms fails to see God's blessings but instead snatches the Daily Bread out of one of his most faithful soldier's hands. Learn from King David: only tragedy follows from Covetousness. There is nothing safe nor harmless about coveting. Flee from it!

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS



Sunday, September 6, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee
Lay Asst: Susan Bryan; **Comm. Asst.:** Fred Harbaugh; **Acolyte:** Malory Klemick
Altar Guild: Rita Strickler, Lauren Russell; **Greeters/Presenters:** Dave and Rita Strickler
Flower Delivery: Susan Bryan

Sunday, August 30: Attendance and Offering will be recorded in the September 9th issue of the Messenger

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.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, September 6: *Ezekiel 33:7-11; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20*
Monday, September 7: *Psalm 119:65-72; Leviticus 4:27-31, 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:11-17*
Tuesday, September 8: *Psalm 119:65-72; Deuteronomy 17:2-13; Romans 13:1-7*
Wednesday, September 9: *Psalm 119:65-72; Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28; Matthew 21:18-22*
Thursday, September 10: *Psalm 103:1-13; Genesis 37:12-36; 1 John 3:11-16*
Friday, September 11: *Psalm 103:1-13; Genesis 41:53-42:17; Acts 7:9-16*
Saturday, September 12: *Psalm 103:1-13; Genesis 45:1-20; Matthew 6:7-15*

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



The Library Corner – Highlighted Books



Where is our library? As you go in the alley door, instead of going downstairs, go one floor up and the door to our library is at the top of that one flight of stairs. (there is also an elevator that stops on that floor as well). Name of the room where the library sits is Jenson Lounge.

Using our library is easy. 1) select a book or video 2) take the card out of the sleeve on the last page of the book or on the back of the video 3) write your name on the card and place it in the small plastic box on the table in the library 4) pick up a card with the due date in the lid of the small plastic box and place it in the sleeve of the book/video 5) enjoy the book/video 6) return the book/video by the due date, placing it in the large plastic box on the table. **DO NOT PUT IT BACK ON THE SHELVES.** 7) choose another book/video and begin the process all over again.



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 – x2!

God's Work. Our Hands. We collected so many school supplies over the summer that we are going to need to pack the kits in two sessions. There will be jobs for every age and ability, both active jobs and sit-down jobs. Whatever your skill level, ***we need you!***

Pack-a-Sack: The Prequel ~ Wednesday, September 16, 9:00 a.m.

This will be a slightly more “low-key” adults-only event to pack some of the school kits in advance. We will take a break halfway through and hope to be finished before noon.

Pack-a-Sack: The Main Event ~ Saturday, September 19, 5:00 p.m.

Please join us for a Pizza Supper followed by a work session to fill the backpacks with the supplies. This event is for everyone! We do ask that any children younger than grade 3 be accompanied and supervised by an adult family member.



With so many bags to fill, much help is needed! Please sign up in the narthex for one or both events so that we know how many stations to set up and how much pizza to order.

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

We look forward to seeing you there! 😊



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





The Mountie Backpack Program is ready for the new school year. Volunteers are needed to help pack the bags beginning **mid to late September, Thursday's at 1:00 p.m. in Shaheen Hall.** *Many hands lighten the load!* Mark your calendars and help get this vital program off to a great start. Also, volunteers are needed to deliver the food bags to the South Williamsport Schools. If you are able and willing to help deliver the bags, please contact Diane Larson at 570-220-3702. The

Mountie Backpack Program continues to succeed because of your help as we all help ease the hunger than many children are experiencing.



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 this Sunday 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!***



Join us this Sunday, September 6th for 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.*



Mr. Stuart Hague, Certified Lay Pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be leading the Annual Hymn Sing at Old Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2633 Lime Bluff Road, Muncy, Pa, on Sunday, October 11, 2026, at 2:30 pm. The theme of the service this year is “God’s Grace,” and the music, hymns, and teachings will center around that topic. Joy Barto and Jeff Harvey will provide organ music on the church’s antique pump organ, and the Chancel Choir of St. Andrew Lutheran in Muncy will present “Grace Us, O Lord,” by Joseph M. Martin.

Recently, the church’s roof has received a new coat of paint. In addition, the church’s bell tower has been renovated and refurbished, and all the shutters have been repaired and repainted. Further projects include restoration of the windows, walls, and ceiling. A free-will offering will be taken to help offset the cost of these and other on-going expenses.

The church will be decorated for fall, and the weather should be ideal for touring the church and walking the historic cemetery. Light refreshments will be served on the church lawn after the service. Please note that the church does not have running water or electricity, and is not fully handicap accessible. For more information, or to follow Old Immanuel more closely, “Like” “Old Immanuel Lutheran Church” on Facebook!!!