



Calendar of Events

Sunday, September 13

8:15 am Sunday School
9:30 am Worship/Communion
10:30 am Church Picnic
5:45 pm SW Little League

Monday, September 14

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

Tuesday, September 15

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
7:00 pm WELCA Meeting

Wednesday, September 16

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
9:00 am Pack-A-Sack: Prequel
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
6:30 pm Bible Study

Thursday, September 17

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

Friday, September 18

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
Pack-A-Sack Set Up

Saturday, September 19

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
5:00 pm Pack-A-Sack



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“Father, if you are too busy to pray, then you are ‘too busy’...”

Saint Theresa of Calcutta

Towards the end of her life, “Mother Theresa” of Calcutta, the foundress of the *“Little Sisters of the Poor,”* was touring the various communities of nuns of the order around the world. By this time, she was a “celebrity,” known for her deep spirituality and charity, and people competed for the honor of escorting her to-and-from the airport. When she arrived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil—a city known for its slums and poverty (*“favelas”*)—a young Priest had the honor of meeting her at the airport and escorting her through the city. The Priest spent the better part of the next hour telling the nun how *much* he did and just how *busy* he was serving the poor. For her part, Mother Theresa listened to him patiently, but as they neared the convent, she interrupted him with a question: *“Father, all these things are very good, but when do you pray???”* The Priest was taken aback by the question, and stammered, *“Well, you see, I am so busy taking care of people I don’t have time to pray.”* The Saintry nun pondered him for a moment and responded, as the car pulled up to the convent, *“Father, if you are ‘too busy’ to pray, then you are ‘too busy.’”* And with those words, she got out of the car and into the convent.

The Saints have an uncanny ability to cut-to-the-heart of a matter. The Priest thought he was going to impress Theresa with all the *“good things”* he was doing. Quite like the rich young man who asked Jesus what he must do to inherit Eternal Life; he says he has kept the Commandments from his youth. Our Lord looks at him, and loves him, and says, *“You lack one thing; go and sell all your possessions and give it to the poor. Then, come and follow me.”* (Matthew 19, Luke 12) Both the young man and the Priest thought they were *“making an impression”* with their long list of *“good deeds”*—and so they did, but not the impression they intended. Instead putting themselves in a favorable light, their long lists revealed something else entirely: what they lacked.

“How is your ‘life of prayer’?” It might be a while since your Pastor asked you this question. Maybe it’s the first time your Pastor has broached this question with you. We Lutherans tend to be quiet about this subject. Prayer is *“private,”* it’s *“personal.”* Didn’t Jesus himself say *“Do not pray on the street corners...”* and *“Go into your closet and pray to your Father in secret...”*? We’re not *“Baptists”* or *“Pentecostals”* speaking in funny words. We’re *“Lutherans”*: we have a *time* and a *place* and a *way* of prayer. The trouble is that, often, we don’t really know what *“Luther”* said or thought or even taught on Prayer; we’ve managed to confuse *“the way we’ve always done it here...”* with what *“Lutherans do.”*

When we are sick in our body, we go to the *“Doctor”* to learn what’s happening unseen with us. The Doctor may order blood work and *“X-rays”* to learn what’s happening *“inside”* our body, things we may not be aware of. They are trained to see exactly what is—and is not—working as intended. Your Pastor is likewise trained to help you spiritually. Your *“spiritual health”* is at least as important as your physical health; Jesus himself says *“Do not fear the one who can kill your body but not your soul. Rather fear him who can kill both your body and*

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Sunday, September 13, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee
Lay Asst: Georgette Copp; **Comm. Asst.:** Fred Harbaugh; **Acolyte:** Doriann Morris
Altar Guild: Susan Bryan, April Gardner; **Greeters/Presenters:** April and Mike Gardner; **Flower Delivery:** Charles Luppert

Sunday, August 30: Attendance: *In Church: 97; Online: 8; Offering: \$2,089.00*

Sunday, September 6: Attendance: *In Church: 85; Offering: \$6,449*

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sam Hessert's 85th birthday on September 13th, by his wife Carol and family.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the birth of Luke James Gardner on August 31st. With love from his family and his grandparents on this grandparent's day.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of my father Sam Hessert, with love Pam.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, September 13: *Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35*

Monday, September 14: *Psalm 133; Genesis 48:8-22; Hebrews 11:23-29*

Tuesday, September 15: *Psalm 133; Genesis 49:29-50:14; Romans 14:13-15:2*

Wednesday, September 16: *Psalm 33; Genesis 50:22-26; Mark 11:20-25*

Thursday, September 17: *Psalm 145:1-8; Nahum 1:1, 14-2:2; 2 Corinthians 13:1-42*

Friday, September 18: *Psalm 145:1-8; Nahum 2:3-13; Corinthians 13:5-10*

Saturday, September 19: *Psalm 145:1-8; Zephaniah 2:13-15; Matthew 19:23-30*

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



Join us for the Church picnic this Sunday immediately following worship in Shaheen Hall. Barbeque, hotdogs and beverages will be provided. Please bring your favorite picnic side dish with you. *Everyone is welcomed.*



Preschool Mums Fundraiser! Don't forget to get your mum tickets. They are \$10 each and available Sunday morning in the Narthex or in the 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!**



MLP Gift Card Bingo is Saturday, October 24 at 11:30 am.

Presale tickets are \$20 and at the door \$25. 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. 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; or 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.



Sunday, 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!*

We are **Handpicked by God** and isn't that a comforting thought? If you

haven't already done so, please add your name to one of the pumpkins on the

wall of the alleyway entrance. The black markers are in the basket

attached to the bulletin board on the chapel side of the entry. It would be

nice if we could fill it all up! Thanks, LLFF Committee



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

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent out Sunday, September 20th. Please let the office know if you are not available to take communion. If anyone is homebound, can't get to church and would like to receive Communion please notify the church office.



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soul and cast it into hell..." (Matthew 10, Luke 12) Do not be appalled that I ask you, "**How is your 'Life of Prayer'?**" but rather take some time and ponder it for your own health.

Throughout the autumn, I'm going to take time in these articles to reflect on Prayer and what it means for us as "*Lutherans*." Luther, like Mother Theresa, once said: "*I am far too busy NOT to pray!*" Luther himself was deeply devoted to Prayer and meditation, so it's ironic that so often we who bear his name and legacy are often not devoted to either. Part of this is the culture that surrounds us—we are ever "*so busy*." Part of this is that we just were never taught. I'm going to invite you to pause with me this fall and learn and discover just how important Prayer is...and in doing so, maybe be revitalized in your own discipline and practice of Prayer as well.

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS



Messiah's Women of the ELCA will meet in Shaheen Hall on **Tuesday, September 15**, at 7:00 p.m. Emily Bausinger will demonstrate "*Craft-making*". Georgette Copp will lead Devotions. Brenda Cromley and Ruth Doran are Hostesses. The Business Meeting will include election of Officers for 2026-27 and planning the "Coffee Hour" on September 27th.



NOTE: "Trivia Night" is scheduled for **Saturday, October 3**, at 6:00 pm. to benefit Messiah's Backpack Program. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Bring food to share. Registration is \$8.00 per person; \$15.00 per couple. George Jansson is our Quiz-master. Please come and support these events.



The Mountie Backpack Program, centered here at Messiah, is getting ready for the new school year. These food bags close the gap in meals for children over the weekends and longer holidays. Volunteers are needed to help pack the food bags on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 pm in Shaheen Hall. *All are welcome*. Two volunteers are needed to deliver the food bags on Fridays to South Williamsport School, please contact Dianne Larson, 570-220-3702 to schedule a Friday. Success of this program depends on your help to relieve children's hunger in our area.





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. Every role plays a very important part. 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 this Sunday for one or both events or call the office 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! 😊



Did you know ... that Messiah accepts clothing donations year-round for Daniel's Closet? Daniel's Closet is a ministry of Redeemer Lutheran Church on Washington Boulevard to provide free clothing to anyone who has a need.

Clothing and accessories (belts, shoes, ties, gloves, purses, bags, etc.) may be placed in the large blue bin inside the alley entrance at Messiah on Sunday mornings or whenever the church is open for other functions.

Please bag all clothing in kitchen size trash bags or smaller so that our volunteers can handle them ... clothing is heavy! ***All are welcome to “shop” the closet, too! Please take only what you can use personally or share with a friend. The next closet will be open Saturday, September 26, 8:30-11 a.m. All are welcome!***

