



Calendar of Events

Sunday, September 27

8:15 am Sunday School
9:30 am Worship/Communion
10:30 am WELCA Coffee Hour
10:30 am Choir Rehearsal

Monday, September 28

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
7:00 pm Finance Committee

Tuesday, September 29

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

Wednesday, September 30

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

Thursday, October 1

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
1:00 pm Mountie Backpack
7:30 pm NA

Friday, October 2

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
11:00 am Memorial Service

Saturday, October 3

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
6:00 pm Trivia Night



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Lutheran World Relief School Kits ~ Thankful, Blessed, and Humbled



Saturday night was our Pack-a-Sack for the Lutheran World Relief School Kits, the culmination of all of our efforts over the past 8 months. The total number of backpacks filled this year was ... ***one thousand and thirty!***

Someone asked us, “What is the secret to getting enough donations to make this many school kits?” The “secret” is really no secret at all. The “secret” is ... the Holy Spirit. The “secret” is a congregation with a heart for others who, when they hear the call, answer with gusto.

The response this year was overwhelmingly generous. People gave exponentially more, both in terms of donations and volunteering. Even after we said we had enough, and even far after the collection ended, people were still bringing in supplies and asking what they could do to help. So many supplies came in that we ended up scrounging for fabric scraps to sew more backpacks at the last minute.

One thousand and thirty! It would be easy to get caught up in the numbers ... How many school kits did we fill? How much money did we raise? How many people showed up? But what is more important is that hearts are on fire! We are modeling discipleship, building bonds, and sharing our blessings to bless others. And we are doing it with passion! It was so heartwarming to see the sheer joy on each and every face as you brought in your donations and as we rolled up our sleeves to work together.

The other important element of this ministry is how it has evolved to reach far more people than you can imagine. The obvious ways are, of course, the children who will receive the kits, as well as the relationships we are building with the community by involving the children during and after Bible School and inviting friends and family. Saturday night we added yet another layer of involvement by inviting teenagers from Bishop Neumann to help out with the Pack-a-Sack.

But there are also little tendrils forming that reach others in less obvious places. This year, we invited the older preschool class to come downstairs for an in-house field trip where they learned about the school kits and were given a chance to fill a backpack themselves. We were also blessed to reach those locally who had a completely unrelated need by donating much of our fabric scraps to *Creations of Courage*, a small group of talented women who sew all sorts of denim bags to be sold at the *YWCA Boutique* to raise money for Wise Options for Women, offering the women they serve, along with their children, a new lease on life and a pathway to hope.

We are so thankful to God for so richly blessing us as the Messiah family and for enabling us to be a blessing to others. ***Most of all, we are grateful for the gift of you!*** The outpouring of love and support has not waned even as this year’s project draws to a close. Thank you all so very, very much!

~ *With humbled hearts, Sal and Kath*

Sunday, September 27, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS	9:30 AM	Sunday, September 20 Attendance: <i>In Church: 89</i> <i>Online: 6</i> Offering: \$2,394.00
Ushers	Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee	
Lay Assistant	Janet Stroble	<i>Articles for the</i> Messenger/Bulletin <i>are due in the office by</i> <i>Monday at noon!</i>
Communion Assistant	Mandy Feinberg	
Acolyte	Alivia Klemick	
Altar Guild	Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser	
Greeters	Yvonne Kaiser, Rhonda Koch	
Flower Delivery	Jody Fullmer	
Cantor	Virginia Amme	

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Bernard and Juanita Collins, by their daughters Sandy Ream, Jeanne Mosier and their families.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jeanie Laurell, on her second heavenly birthday, October 1st, with love from her family.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, September 27: *Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32*

Monday, September 28: *Psalm 28; Judges 14:1-20; Philippians 1:3-14*

Tuesday, September 29: *Psalm 28; Judges 16:1-22; Philippians 1:15-21*

Wednesday, September 30: *Psalm 28; Judges 16:23-31; Matthew 9:2-8*

Thursday, October 1: *Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 2:14-22; Colossians 2:16-23*

Friday, October 2: *Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 2:23-37; Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a*

Saturday, October 3: *Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 6:1-10; John 7:40-52*



Tickets for the Preschool "Gift Card Bingo" on Saturday, October 24th, at 11:30am are now available before and after worship on Sundays in the Narthex, in the church office or by contacting Mary Schultz at 570-772-8021. We are still taking donations of gift cards, themed baskets and baked goods for the event. The deadline is October 16th for the gift cards and themed baskets.

Baked goods are due Friday, October 23rd by noon in the church office or bring to Independent Fire Company on the day of the event.



Messiah's Women of the ELCA - "Trivia Night" is 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 this event.



The Library Corner



CHURCH LIBRARY

Children - **Where Do Angels Sleep?** - This bedtime book answers important questions about angels and what they do. A wonderful explanation about our heavenly guardians, **Where Do Angel Sleep?** will delight and reassure children ages 4 and up. Book is in the Children's section of our library.

Youth - **Thrive! Devotions for Students** - Being a Christian teen in today's world isn't easy. Sometimes it seems like you are just barely surviving, let alone thriving. Between the covers of this book you are going to find stories of students just like you. By faith, rooted in the Word of God, they learned to flourish even when things got tough. In these brief devotions you'll hear again the promises of God, how much He cares for you, and how He wants you to thrive. Book is in the Youth-Themed section of the library.



Mountie
Backpack Program

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 Thursdays, at 1:00 pm in Shaheen Hall. *All are welcome.* Two volunteers are needed to deliver the food bags to South Williamsport School. Please contact Dianne Larson, 570-220-3702

for more information. Success of this program depends on your help to relieve children's hunger in our area.



SAINTS IN SONG

Our next Saints in Song Sunday will be on October 11. If you like to sing and could add your voice to praise God, please plan to join us for a short rehearsal after church on Sunday, October 4 and/or before worship at 8:45 on October 11 in the music room. The anthem is "This Is my Father's World". It is easy to sing and will have piano and bell accompaniment. We'd love to have you sing with us.



Harvest Home and Blanket Sunday is Sunday, October 4, 2026. Worshippers will be invited to bring forward their gifts of canned goods, boxes of pasta, or monetary offerings for the hungry during the singing of the Offertory.

Donations of fresh produce (pumpkins, potatoes, apples, squash, etc.), cornstalks and gourds to use in decorating are very much needed. All perishable items may be dropped off at the church office any time Thursday-Friday, October 2-3, or you may bring the day of the set-up on Saturday, October 3. ***Where does the food go?*** All perishable gifts of food received will be shared with the United Churches Food Pantry. ***Monetary gifts in lieu of in-kind gifts may be placed in plain envelopes marked "Harvest Home."*** ***Checks should be made payable to "Messiah Lutheran Church"*** and be sure to include your envelope number if you would like your offering recorded.

Decorating for Harvest Home will take place on **Saturday, October 3 at 10:00 am.**



Blanket Sunday: Donated blankets and quilts will be distributed by Lutheran World Relief. Please place clean blankets or quilts in the **gray bin** located in the elevator entrance ***no later than October 4.***

Monetary gifts may be placed in an envelope on which you mark "Blankets." ***Checks should be made payable to "Messiah Lutheran Church."*** These monetary gifts also will be received during the singing of the Offertory Hymn. **ONE NOTE**, LWR does not want fleece blankets, BECAUSE people wash them in streams, and the lint pollutes the streams. Thank you for your help

"The main privilege of 'being a Christian' is the invitation to pray. An atheist is perfectly able to feed the hungry, shelter the poor, and clothe the naked. But prayer takes faith; it takes the conviction that God hears and answers prayer, that God is...for the lack of another word, good."

Anonymous

There's an old cartoon that used to make the rounds in Church magazines. It shows a Pastor (wearing a collar), kneeling in his office on a "prie dieu" obviously in prayer. In the background the secretary is sticking her head through a door and remarking "Oh, good! I didn't want to interrupt anything important!"

Anytime the subject of Prayer comes up, someone will inevitably ask, "*Why should I pray? I'd rather be doing 'something important.'*" This begs the question: "*Why do we pray?*" Prayer is, **conversing with God**, but that doesn't really answer the question "*Why?*" After all, the great majority of the time, we pray and the world seems to move on without notice. Wouldn't that time spent in prayer be "*better spent*" doing something? The simple and direct answer is "*Prayer IS 'doing something,' it IS the first act, the primary response of who we ARE as Christians.*" The act of Prayer presupposes our belief that God is active in the world, that God **cares**, that God is **GOOD**. Why else would we pray? If we didn't believe that there is such a being as "God," or that God is able or willing to be involved with his creation, or that God is not trustworthy, then Prayer makes absolutely no sense at all...and, in the words of the Apostle Paul, that our faith would be in vain and we, of all people, are most to be pitied.

This is why, when Christians deny the efficacy of Prayer or mock those who pray, really they are denying their own Faith. Think about it for a moment: the core of our belief is that God the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, came into our world, bore our sins upon the cross, suffered and died for those sins, and bodily rose from the dead. If that doesn't "prove" that we believe in a "God who cares for his creation and is willing and able to do something about it" then what does it mean? We Pray BECAUSE we are convinced that God can and will heal his broken creation! Our prayer is rooted and flows from this belief that is at the heart of the Christian. Perhaps the real question would be, "*Why DON'T we pray?*"

The *American Express Card* used to have the slogan "*Membership has privileges.*" Being a Christian does not guarantee you wealth, fame, or exclusive privilege to elite clubs. Quite the opposite, really—over the ages, Christians have been despised, persecuted, and associate with the poor. What "*Being a Christian*" does grant you, though, is the privilege **To Pray**. It takes a firm faith to pray for yourself, your neighbors, and your world. As a Christian, you get to do something that those without Faith cannot do: Pray.

Not that we should fail to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, visit the sick, or stand with the poor. Quite the opposite. When we pray, we find ourselves drawn to doing exactly those things. But those actions become the fruits of prayer, not the antithesis of it. We pray **FIRST**, then we act. We pray because we are convinced that God is...for the lack of a better word...good.

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS





FALL NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Messiah's Nominating Committee has been working diligently through the summer months to find interested members to serve on Council. This committee's responsibility is to provide the name{s} of any member who would be interested in serving on Messiah's Congregation Council for a three-year term beginning January 2027.

As we look toward our fall elections, we invite you to pray and seek the Lord about serving His church. We have several important positions open:

- * Congregation Council – members to serve a three-year term
- * Audit Committee – three members to serve a three-year term
- * Nominating Committee - three members to serve a one-year term

If you feel called to serve or would like to nominate someone, please contact Sue Christ, Chuck Luppert, or Rita Strickler, or reach out to the church office.

WE NEED YOU!

Have you considered joining a church committee? It is a wonderful way to support our church mission and share your gifts. Committees meet monthly to discuss ideas, make decisions, and work together in their area of ministry. Interested???

To join a committee, please contact the chairperson listed below.



- * Fellowship Committee – Alice Morrison & Georgette Copp
- * Life Long Faith Formation (Christian Ed/Youth) – Kathryn Pratt
- * Property Committee – Dave Bausinger
- * Mission Outreach Committee – Ron Yeagle
- * Finance Committee – Joanie Jackson
- * Worship and Music – Jody Fullmer
- * Preschool Committee – Mary Schultz
- * WELCA Committee – Ruth Doran

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!

Sunday, September 20 after worship John Stout and Mike Larson received their Quilts of Valor. Thank you for your service!

