

Calendar of Events



Sunday, October 11

8:15 am Sunday School
9:30 am Worship/Communion

Monday, October 12

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



*Columbus
Day*

Tuesday, October 13

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
6:30 pm Preschool Committee
7:00 pm WELCA Meeting

Wednesday, October 14

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

Thursday, October 15

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

Friday, October 16

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool

Saturday, October 17

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers



Tickets for the Preschool "Gift Card Bingo" on Saturday, October 24th, at

11:30am are 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.



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“A master told his student ‘Every object can teach us something.’ The student, wishing to prove his master wrong, looked for the most mundane object in the room, and seizing a telephone, demanded the master tell him what it could possibly teach him. The master delightedly answered back, ‘Ah, my student, you have stumbled on the most sublime truth, for the telephone teaches us what is said ‘here’ is heard ‘there!’”

A Zen Buddhist proverb

In his *Small Catechism*, Martin Luther lays out the three, chief matters every Christian should know: **The Ten Commandments**, **The Apostles’ Creed**, and **The Lord’s Prayer**. These things aren’t “optional,” it’s not really a matter whether it would “*be nice if*” you know them. No, Luther argues that you **NEED** to know them, that your Christian Faith is incomplete if you don’t know them. In this case, the object of our interest is **The Lord’s Prayer**, the “*Queen of Prayers*” as Luther called it. In these words, Jesus himself teaches his disciples **how to pray**, the words themselves have importance. Luther goes onto “explain” what each petition means, what we are “*asking for*” in each petition. I hope not to “redo” Luther’s work, but rather to stop and dwell on what **The Lord’s Prayer** does and teaches us.

One of the first things we learn from the Lord’s Prayer is that “*our needs*” are not as important as we think they are. Notice, the first mention of “*us*” or “*our*” doesn’t occur until the middle of the Prayer. God’s Name, God’s Kingdom, God’s will...these are more important than anything “*we*” think we need. Why is this, why doesn’t Jesus teach us to just start rattling off all the things that bother us, or that we “*want*,” or whatever? Most of the impromptu, “*spontaneous*” prayers I hear people pray have a long litany (though they usually begin with “*just*”) of wants and needs, usually in the front of the prayer. But Jesus teaches us to pray, not for ourselves, but for God’s Name, kingdom, and will. Praying like this reorders our priorities, teaches us patience, and reminds us that God is more important than all else (think, here of **The First Commandment**).

But beyond this, if we follow the Prayer carefully, we find that where God’s Name is holy, where God’s Kingdom is, and where God’s will is done, our “*Daily Bread*” is not in question, nor sins are failed to be forgiven, temptation is overcome, and evil is driven off. It is precisely **because** we do not keep God’s Name as holy, because God’s Kingdom is (vainly) fought against and we seek to do “our will” and not God’s will on earth that hunger, sorrow, temptation, and evil is done. God does not desire these things and neither should God’s people—if we sought God and God alone, then we would have less sorrow and evil in the world.

So it is that God is primary in The Lord’s Prayer and we ask first to know, love, and keep God’s Name holy—not only in words but more so in our deeds. We pray to know and serve, not our earthly and personal kingdoms, but God’s Kingdom. And we pray that God’s holy and good will would be done, HERE on earth as it is done in Heaven above. Notice, this commits us to doing something; these are not “*neutral*” words, by praying them we are declaring our intention to a “*side*”—God’s “*side*.” We believe that **saying** these words **means something**, that “*What is said ‘here’ is indeed ‘heard there.’*”

In short, praying *The Lord's Prayer* is a powerful act. These are not “empty words,” they shape us and declare us to be set against the unholy trinity of *the world, our flesh, and the devil*. This echoes the promises made in Holy Baptism, to reject “*the empty promises of the devil, the world, and everything that would draw us away from God.*” In these words, we openly declare ourselves instead to be servants of God who defy the devil and all his methods. Instead, we recognize God’s good and holy will for us, and without this all else is empty and vain.

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS



Sunday, October 11, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS	9:30 AM	Sunday, October 4 Attendance: <i>In Church: 84</i> <i>Online: 7</i> Offering: \$7,611.25
Ushers	Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Paul Ulrich, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner	
Lay Assistant	Carola Storrs	<i>Articles for the Messenger/Bulletin are due in the office by Monday at noon!</i>
Communion Assistant	Susan Bryan	
Acolyte	Weston Sherman	
Altar Guild	Rita Strickler, Lauren Russell	
Greeters	Carol Waltz, Barb Waltz	
Flower Delivery	Susan Bryan	
Cantor	Bob Schweppenheiser	

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of family birthdays this month with love by the Jansson family.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, October 11: *Isaiah 25:1-9; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14*
Monday, October 12: *Psalm 34; Exodus 19:7-20; Jude 17-25*
Tuesday, October 13: *Psalm 34; Amos 9:5-15; Philippians 3:13-4:1*
Wednesday, October 14: *Psalm 34; Song of Songs 7:10-8:4*
Thursday, October 15: *Psalm 96:1-13; Judges 17:1-6; 3 John 9-12*
Friday, October 16: *Psalm 96:1-13; Deuteronomy 17:14-20; 1 Peter 5:1-5*
Saturday, October 17: *Psalm 96:1-13; Isaiah 14:3-11; Matthew 14:1-12*



The Library Corner



Youth - **Young Heroes of the Bible** - What makes a young person a hero? Is it standing up to a gigantic bully? Is it offering a thirsty stranger a drink of water? Or is it learning humility from older brothers? In these 5 stories from the Bible, we'll examine how the greatest Biblical characters performed deeds of heroism even at young ages.

Amazing Grace - 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions - Ever wonder who wrote some of our best loved hymns and why? Well, here's a great book sharing short insights about each hymn. This book is in the music section of our library.





Messiah's Women of the ELCA will meet in Shaheen Hall on **Tuesday, October 13**, at 7:00 p.m. The program will be a continuation of our "Women in History" project. Lauren Russell will present **Sacajawea**, the Indian girl who guided the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Marilyn Winter will tell us about **Clara Barton**, the Founder of the American Red Cross. Georgette Copp will lead Devotions; Barb Houseknecht and Susan Nadeau are Hostesses. Everyone is welcome!



"Trivia Night" on October 3rd was enjoyed by four tables of participants and \$200 was raised for Messiah's Backpack Program. Thanks to all!

WELCA members will be packing cookie tins and other goodies on November 17. We need names and addresses of Messiah's college students and military personnel. Please give this information to the Church Office as soon as possible. Closer to the time we'll also solicit cookies and other packable foods from the congregation and hope you will contribute generously. Thanks!



MISSION TO SEAFARERS



Did you realize that **90% of everything we wear, use, and consume**, come to us by merchant ships, operated by 1.5 million seafarers? On ships for 9 to 10 months at a time, the seafarers face many hardships: storms, piracy, abandonment, and loss of contact with their families. Often the only contact they have beyond the ship, the Chaplains provide emotional and spiritual support. Join in the Chaplains' mission of showing Christ's love.

Remember Matthew 25: 35, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Help fill gift satchels that the Chaplains deliver to the seafarers, in the weeks before Christmas. Each satchel should contain the following:

- 1 sweatshirt, unhooded or hooded (the preferred) - size M, L**
- 3 pair of socks, thermal or white gym**
- 1 casual pullover T shirt - size M, L**
- 1 heavy knit winter cap**
- 1 can of nuts or large bar of chocolate**
- Christmas card**

NO ADDITIONS AND NO SUBSTITUTIONS

Items need to be at the church by **October 25th**. *Thank you.*



White Gifts Project Soon to Begin ... Each year, Messiah has put up an angel tree to provide gifts for children in the South Williamsport Area School District and in our congregation whose families are experiencing a need and can use a helping hand. Families of our congregation who are experiencing such a need and can benefit are encouraged to call the church office. *Forms will be provided for gift suggestions, which will need to be returned to us no later than October 30* so that we have time to prepare the tags for the tree.

