



Calendar of Events

Sunday, October 18 **Saint Luke, Evangelist**

8:15 am Sunday School
9:30 am Worship/Communion
10:30 am Service of Healing and the
Anointing of the Sick
6:30 pm SW Little League

Monday, October 19
8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
5:30 pm Sit Happens
6:30 pm Executive Committee

Tuesday, October 20
8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers



Wednesday, October 21

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

Thursday, October 22
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 23
8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool

Saturday, October 24
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
12:30 pm Gift Card Bingo

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“It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business in the morning and the last in the evening. Guard yourself against such false and deceitful thoughts that keep whispering, ‘Wait a while. In an hour or so I will pray. I must first finish this or that.’ Thinking such thoughts we get away from prayer into other things that will hold us and involve us till the prayer of the day comes to naught.”

Martin Luther

We’ve explored a bit of the “**why**” and “**how**” of Prayer; let us turn our attention for a moment to the question of “**When**.” The Apostle Paul instructs the Thessalonians to “*Pray without ceasing*” but as all the great mystic traditions have taught, this is an elusive goal. We must train ourselves to pray more frequently; like a runner who wants to run a marathon or some other great race, we can’t simply hope to “get off the couch” and expect to accomplish it without work. If you don’t believe me, then try it...but expect to be disappointed, perhaps even frustrated. Don’t forget that Paul also likened the Spiritual Journey to being a “runner,” who “*runs with patience, the race before him.*”

A classic proverb asks “*How do you eat an elephant?*” The answer? “*One bite at a time.*” If you wish to “*Pray more*” then you must first soberly and honestly answer the question: “*How often am I praying **NOW?***” If you are not praying at least once, daily, start there. Pick a time and set out your goal: “*I’m going to pray every day at...*” and do it. But what should that occasion be? Here, Martin Luther in his *Small Catechism* has advice:

“In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, you are to make the sign of the Holy Cross, and say: ‘I am under the care of Almighty God—the Father, (+) the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.’ Then say the Apostles’ Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. You may recite this little prayer as well: ‘I give thanks to you, my Heavenly Father, that you have protected me through the night from all danger and harm, and I ask that you would protect me this day also, from all sin and evil, so that all I do and say may serve you and please you. Let your holy angels have watch over me, that the wicked one may have no power over me. Amen.’”

Let these be your “*first words*,” as the Psalm says: “*O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise!*”

This is a starting point. In the next instalment, we will look at *Mealttime Prayers*, but having looked at the start of the day, let us for a moment turn our attention to the end of the day. Again, Luther provides this advice:

“In the evening, when you prepare to go to bed, before you get into bed, stop, make the sign of the Holy Cross, and say: ‘I am under the care of Almighty God—the Father, (+) the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.’ Then say The Apostles’ Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. You may say this prayer as well: ‘I give you thanks, my Heavenly Father, that you have graciously protected me this day, and I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and to protect me through the hours of the

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continued from cover

night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all that is mine. Set your Holy Angels to watch over me, that the wicked one may have no power over me. Amen.' Then close your eyes and go to sleep quickly."

So the "quick and easy" answer to "**When**" is start with the morning, when you wake, and the evening, before you go to bed. Many of us were taught to pray "*bedtime prayers*" when we are little, so perhaps this is actually building upon your old habits. But far too many of us don't pray **at all** in the course of the "normal day," so ANY regular practice would be an "increase."

Begin there. If you are already praying in the morning (or at night), then pick up the other one. Focus on it, do it intentionally. This is the equivalent of going out on a "*brisk walk*"—you are not ready to "*run*" just yet...but better to walk than just sit. When you open your eyes in the morning...PRAY. When you get ready to lie down...PRAY. In these first steps you begin to cultivate the skills that will lead you to running that marathon later down the path. But unless you begin somewhere, you will get nowhere.

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS

Sunday, October 18, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS	9:30 AM	Sunday, October 11 Attendance: <i>In Church: 74</i> <i>Online: 7</i> Offering: \$3,956.00 <i>Articles for the</i> Messenger/Bulletin <i>are due in the office by</i> <i>Monday at noon!</i>
Ushers	Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Paul Ulrich, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner	
Lay Assistant	Anita Bair	
Communion Assistant	Mary Schultz	
Acolyte/Crucifer	Weston Sherman	
Torchbearers	Malory Klemick, Alivia Klemick	
Bannerbearer	Dylan Sherman	
Altar Guild	Sue Bryan, April Gardner	
Greeters	Paul and Georgie Ulrich	
Flower Delivery	Paul Weaver	
Cantor	Virginia Amme	

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Gail O'Brien's 90th birthday with love from her family.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, October 18: *Isaiah 45:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22*

Monday, October 19: *Isaiah 43:8-13; Psalm 124; 2 Timothy 4:5-11; Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53*

Tuesday, October 20: *Psalm 98; Daniel 3:19-30; Revelation 18:21-24*

Wednesday, October 21: *Psalm 98; Daniel 6:1-28; Matthew 17:22-27*

Thursday, October 22: *Psalm 1; Numbers 5:5-10; Titus 1:5-16*

Friday, October 23: *Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 9:25-10:5; Titus 2:7-8, 11-15*

Saturday, October 24: *Psalm 1; Proverbs 24:23-34; John 5:39-47*



The Library Corner



Children/Youth - **Martin Luther-A Man who Changed the World** - More than anything, Martin Luther wanted peace with God. His search led him to the Bible, where he learned about salvation through faith. This discovery caused Luther to challenge the church to return to the roots of the Christian Faith. The church leaders liked things the way they were, however, and tried to stop Martin Luther. But he stood his ground and his tireless work led to the Reformation of the church and to far reaching changes in society. Here is a story of adventure, courage and most of all--faith. Here is the story of a man who changed the world. Book in Other Holidays shelf

Adult themed - **Here I Stand** - This is the story of Martin Luther's life. This is a great book to learn more about the man behind the Reformation. Who he was and the influence he had and still has in the church today. Book in the Reformation/Lutheran History shelf.



Official Notice is hereby given of the **Annual Congregation Meeting** to be held on **Sunday, November 15th**. This meeting will be held immediately after worship. Please plan on attending.

The nominees for Congregation Council 2027 are Mary Schultz, Cindy Bennett, Carl Gee and Kirstin Gist. **The nominee for the Nominations committee** are Sylvia McCarty, **The nominees for the Audit Committee** are Marlin Cromley, Lauren Russell and Kyle Nelson. *No nominations will be accepted from the floor of the annual meeting on November 15th. Thank you.*

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.*





On the Church's calendar, October 18 marks the Feast of Saint Luke, Holy Evangelist. Saint Luke begins his Gospel account, writing to "Theophilus"--literally "The Lover of God"--saying that "he was not there" but wants to set out "an orderly account" of the events of Jesus Christ's life. That account, he tells us,

continues in "The Acts of the Apostles," which forms the second part of his account. Of all the Gospels, the Gospel according to Saint Luke is most concerned with health and healing. Saint Luke links physical health with spiritual health, and so when we see our Lord healing someone in body, he also heals them in spirit. Likewise, according to Saint Luke's account, one cannot be well "physically" unless they are well spiritually. So, "Saint Luke's Day" has been, over the years a time for prayer and anointing of the sick.

Messiah Lutheran Church invites you to stay following worship on Sunday, October 18, for a "Service of Healing and the Anointing of the Sick" in the Nave. This is a short service that will provide the opportunity for those who desire it to receive the Anointing of the Sick with oil prepared for this purpose.

"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14)

Sunday, October 25 is Reformation Sunday



On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a German monk and University Professor, issued a challenge to debate any fellow professor regarding 95 points of concern about the teachings of mother church. As was the custom, this challenge was posted on the door of the University Church. This challenge was discovered by someone who was at the cutting edge of technology, a printer, and these 95 Theses for debate were circulated to the general public.

Under the leadership from Rome the church had developed into a huge power, a combination of religion and politics with the church holding the ace card, the keys to heaven. It was this power that Martin Luther faced when he nailed his 95 Theses to the door in Wittenberg in October of 1517. The Reformation was launched.

Over 500 years later on this October 31 we celebrate the story of the Reformation and the roots of the Lutheran tradition. We remember Martin Luther and the other men and women who boldly proclaimed the good news of God's grace. And we remember the gift that they gave us: not a denomination or even a congregation, but the insistence that God's amazing love is given to us freely. Every time we proclaim that God's love is more powerful than our sin and shortcomings, we honor them.

Immediately following worship, we will celebrate Reformation in Shaheen Hall. The menu will be pork, sauerkraut, hot dogs, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce and various desserts. Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex so that they will know how much to prepare. *Please join us!*

Please wear red to commemorate the occasion.





As many of you know, Messiah hosts the Mountie Backpack program. Several people have inquired on how they can help out this program. Since Messiah no longer has a food pantry the Mountie Backpack program has asked if we could help provide food for their bags. This month they are in need of 18 oz. jars of peanut butter, Chef Boyardee Ravioli or Spaghetti's. Place items in the bin in the elevator alcove marked "Mountie Backpack". Your help is appreciated. Any questions please contact Dianne Larson 570-220-3702.



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.



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!



A very special thank you to those saints who joined to sing and ring with the choir on Sunday, October 11. The anthem, "This Is my Father's World" with bell accompaniment, was a blessing added to our worship and to the congregation.

3rd Quarter – Profit /Loss Statement

Fund Name	2026 Budget 3rd Quarter	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Overage or Shortfall
General Fund	\$259,416.75	\$193,819.07	\$200,872.56	- \$7,053.49 shortfall
Rebuilding Fund	\$37,500.00	\$29,577.75	\$72,906.76	- \$43,329.01 shortfall
Children's Ministry	\$4,612.50	\$6,703.44	\$2,681.94	\$4,021.50

