



Calendar of Events

Sunday, October 25 **Reformation Sunday**

8:15 am Sunday School
9:30 am Worship/Communion
11:00 am Reformation Luncheon

Monday, October 26
8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
5:30 pm Sit Happens

Tuesday, October 27
8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
7:00 pm Property Committee



Wednesday, October 28

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

Thursday, October 29

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 30

8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool

Saturday, October 31 **Reformation Day**

12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers



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“Prayer is the breath of the soul... It is important to find moments throughout the day to open the heart to God, even with the short and simple prayers of the Christian people.”

Pope Francis

So far, we’ve looked at *The Lord’s Prayer*. It is fitting to begin here, because, as I have said, it is the prayer that Jesus tells his Apostles and Disciples to pray. If you are to learn and use one, single, prayer, let it be *The Lord’s Prayer*. And, if I were teaching the Catechism, I’d spend time on each of the petitions in *The Lord’s Prayer*, unpacking and spending time on each one. But this is not “*catechism class*” so I will save that for another day. Fortunately, there is no shortage of Prayers that have passed through Christianity, some you may know and others you probably don’t. While *The Lord’s Prayer* holds the central place in the Christian life, we should not only stop there.

Among those who understand themselves as “*Orthodox*”—a strain of Christianity that traces itself in an unbroken line all the way back to the very first Christians—there is a powerful devotion to *The Jesus Prayer*. The words of the prayer are simple and among the *Orthodox* Christians there is the practice of saying this prayer in one, or two, breaths:

*“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,
Have mercy upon me, a sinner.”*

That’s it. A simple prayer to grace our lips and focus the mind. Perhaps the first phrase can be recited with the “*breath in*” and the second on the exhale... to repeat with the next breath.

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God...have mercy upon me, a sinner.”

Our Lord tells those who listen a parable:

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

So it is proper that, in our prayer, we should acknowledge not only who Jesus *IS* but also who we *are*. Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of the Living God (as Saint Peter acknowledges in his confession). We, on the other hand, are a sinner...as we too confess on Sunday morning. As Luther reminds us, we “*deserve*” nothing but God’s wrath and judgment. We are sinners, we depend upon the mercy of Jesus Christ.

Sometimes the *Orthodox* will use a chain of beads—perhaps 10, sometimes 12—to help count and to meter the Prayer. It’s not that these beads count up to a maximum or requirement, but to help count so that we cannot “*lose our track*” in the prayer. Like a runner who seeks to extend their range, the person must know *how far they have come* in order to push themselves just “*a little further*.” This is all too often foreign to us, especially in the West,

where we seek to do “*as little as is needed.*” The *Orthodox* are not “Western,” they come from the “*near East*” and Eastern Europe. The values are different; rather than “*counting down*” from a number, the emphasis is placed on “*counting up*”—to try and exceed yesterday’s count, to venture just “*a little bit further,*” to explore the Spiritual lessons that can only be learned by taking “*that next step.*”

The Jesus Prayer is simple to learn and simple to pray. It is neither long nor complicated. It should not replace ***The Lord’s Prayer***, but it can well accompany it. Breath in: “*Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God...*” Breath out: “*Have mercy upon me, a sinner.*” Say it slowly, deliberately. Focus upon the words. In...and out. Repeat it again and again until it becomes second nature, the new “soundtrack” of your life.

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS

Sunday, October 25, 2026

SERVICE ASSISTANTS	9:30 AM	Sunday, October 18 Attendance: <i>In Church: 94</i> <i>Online: 8</i> Offering: \$1,937.00
Ushers	Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Paul Ulrich, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner	
Lay Assistant	Susan Bryan	
Communion Assistant	Rhonda Koch	
Acolyte/Crucifer	Doriann Morris	<i>Articles for the</i> Messenger/Bulletin <i>are due in the office by</i> <i>Monday at noon!</i>
Torchbearers	Dylan Sherman, Weston Sherman	
Altar Guild	Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower	
Greeters	Pam Eveleth	
Flower Delivery	Jody Fullmer	
Cantor	Janet Stroble	

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dwain Butt with love from his family.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, October 25: *Jeremiah 31:31-34; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36*
Monday, October 26: *Psalms 98; Daniel 3:1-18; Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20*
Tuesday, October 27: *Psalms 98; Daniel 3:19-30; Revelation 18:21-24*
Wednesday, October 28: *Psalms 98; Daniel 6:1-28; Matthew 17:22-27*
Thursday, October 29: *Psalms 1; Numbers 5:5-10; Titus 1:5-16*
Friday, October 30: *Psalms 1; Deuteronomy 9:25-10:5; Titus 2:7-8, 11-15*
Saturday, October 31: *Psalms 1; Proverbs 24:23-34; John 5:39-47*



Dear Messiah Family,

Thank you so much for the cards and for thinking of me. I am looking forward to getting back to church.

Love, Gail O'Brien

The Library Corner



Children - **Amazing Tales and Strange Stories from the Bible** - The Bible is full of amazing and wonderful stories - from a boy fighting a giant to a man swallowed by a big fish! All the stories have this in common, they teach us about God. This book includes many stories from the Bible and the story of Jesus is the most wonderful of all! Illustrated with imaginative pictures by Toni Goffe, this book will make reading Bibles stories exciting and sometimes surprising! Book on Children's shelf.

Adult themed - **ONE HOPE** - This book is a rich ecumenical resource designed to help Catholic and Lutheran communities with the Reformation. By gathering together to reflect on and discuss its contents, Christians will foster the church's unity on a grassroots level and grow in their awareness of the ways that unity already exists. The essays in this book are the product of an intense collaborative process by six gifted scholars and pastoral leaders, three Lutheran and three Catholic. Book is in the Reformation/Lutheran section.



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 nominees 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.*



Mountie Backpack Program's collection for October: 18 oz. jars of peanut butter, Chef Boyardee Ravioli or Spaghetti's. Place items in the bin in the elevator alcove marked "Mountie Backpack". Any questions please contact Dianne Larson 570-220-3702.

Please take note: The bins in the elevator alcove have been reassigned. When bringing in items to donate for Mountie Backpacks, Shepherd of the Streets, or special seasonal collections, ***please take note of the labels on the bins*** so that items are placed in the correct bins. We cannot collect hygiene items in the same bins with food items.



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!



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 join us!

Please wear red to commemorate the occasion.



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.

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.*



Christmas Basket Food Donations: We are beginning our food collection early this year to fill the baskets we give to families in need at Christmas time.

Donations of the following items are needed:

- Canned corn
- Canned green beans
- Canned yams
- Cranberry sauce
- Canned fruit (applesauce, peaches, pears, fruit cocktail)
- Pie crust mix
- Canned pumpkin
- Evaporated milk
- Canned gravy or gravy packets
- Stove Top stuffing
- Dessert mixes (cake, brownies, JELLO, pudding, etc.)
- Cash donations

Food donations may be placed in the bin in the narthex on Sunday mornings or in the specially marked bin in the elevator alcove during the week. **Monetary donations** are also needed for the purchase of perishable items. Please place your gifts in an envelope marked "Christmas Baskets" and place it in the offering plate during worship or mail to the church office. Checks are to be made out to Messiah Lutheran Church with "Christmas Baskets" written in the memo line. **All donations are due no later than Sunday, December 13.**

Thank you for opening your hearts to help those in need!



The 2027 offering envelopes are here and available for pick-up in the Narthex. Please be sure to take yours.

"Dear God, please watch over our children as they go out this Halloween. Keep them safe from traffic, guide their steps, and protect them from all harm, both seen and unseen. Fill their evening with laughter, kind neighbors, and sweet joy. In Jesus' name. Amen."

