

Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 1
All Saints Day
8:15 am Sunday School
9:30 am Worship/Communion
2:00 pm Stewart Birthday Party

Monday, November 2
8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
5:30 pm Sit Happens
6:30 pm Fellowship Committee
7:00 pm Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 3
6:00 am – 8:00 pm Election Day
8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers

Wednesday, November 4
8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
6:30 pm Bible Study

Thursday, November 5
8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
1:00 pm Mountie Backpack
2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm Handbell Choir
7:30 pm NA

Friday, November 6
8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool

Saturday, November 7
11:00 am American Guild of Organists
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers



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

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"Besides, we grant that the angels in heaven pray for us. This is attested to by the Prophet Zechariah, where the angel says, 'O Lord of hosts, how long will you not have mercy on Jerusalem?' We also grant that the Saints in heaven pray for the Church in general, as they prayed for the Church universal while they were here on earth."

The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article XXI

This time of year—both in regards to "*Reformation Day*" and "*The Feast of All Saints,*"—people inquire about "*how Lutherans*" understand the role of the Saints when it comes to prayer and the continued life of the Church. Most protestants regard "Saints" as something foreign, something "*Catholics do*" and yet it was not so for Martin Luther and the first generation of Lutherans. Luther himself commends the Saints as models of holiness, whose lives show us that, while it is difficult, faithfulness is possible. But moreover, Luther (and Philipp Melanchthon) go a step further…the Saints continue to pray for the Church in heaven, for they are not "*dead*" but truly ALIVE. Luther's point goes like this: The Saints prayed for the Church during their earthly lives and so they continue to pray for the Church in Eternal Life. We see this witnessed in several places in the Bible, not the least being Revelation 4-5.

The knowledge that the dead in Christ continue to pray for us should bring us consolation and encouragement. It's not an infrequent sight to see loved ones spending time at the Cemetery, "*talking*" with their cherished family and friends. The faith that they who are separated us for a time by the grave are crying out to the Lord on our behalf should make us bold to cry out to God—to Pray—for others as well. It's part of our Saintly vocation to pray for others just as we would like others to pray for us. It should also remind us that our "*life in Christ*"—here in this world and hereafter in eternity—is not about "*me*" and "*us*" but being conformed as witnesses of Christ, our great Intercessor and Mediator, who lived and died so that others might be made right with God.

This is a form of Prayer that we name "*Intercessory Prayer.*" We are often better "*praying for ourselves*"—the classic version of this is the "*Oh my God, I forgot I had an exam today, help me Jesus!*" prayers we utter in desperation. To *Intercede*, though means to set ourselves "*between*" two other parties. The most vivid Christian image of intercession is our Lord Jesus Christ, who, upon his cross, "*places himself between God and people.*" Do we not say, "*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world!*" in the Communion liturgy? When we practice *Intercessory Prayer*, we literally place ourselves *between* someone else and their issue. It's no longer "*their*" problem, it becomes "*my*" problem, "*our*" shared problem.

Sometimes, we approach this selfishly—we pray for "*us and our own*" …our friends, our family, and those whom we want to see "*win.*" But our Lord commands us to love *"our enemies*" and the Apostle Paul exhorts the Romans to pray for even those who are oppressing them. It is truly difficult to pray for your enemies; we'd rather hate and despise those we call "*enemies*" than to pray for them. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in his little book *Life Together*, goes so far as to tell his seminarians to "give thanks" to God for their brother precisely when they are the most offensive, rather than to "*pray for*" that person to magically change to suit them. The

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point here is that to "*pray for*" your enemies, to pray for someone who has sinned against you, means that you must truly set yourself "aside" just as Jesus sets himself aside, for the sake of someone else.

I once watched someone attempt to "teach" a group of children about heaven. "*Heaven*," she said, "*is a place where you can do whatever you want, all day long*." This is simply not a biblical view of Eternal Life with Jesus. Rather, whenever we see the Angels, whenever we glimpse the Beatific Vision of heaven, we see worship and prayer. Joyful, easy Prayer, for we will be united with our Lord Jesus Christ, fearing death nor sorrow any longer! We taste that life, that joy, when we pray.

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS

Sunday, November 1

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ; **Lay Assistant:** Dave Bausinger; **Comm. Assist.:** Sherri Holtzman; **Acolyte/Crucifer:** Doriann Morris; **Torchbearers:** Malory Klemick, Alivia Klemick; **Bannerbearer:** Dylan Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser**; Greeters/Presenters:** Jody Fullmer, Carl Gee**; Cantor:** Mike Yoder
Flower Delivery: Susan Bryan

Sunday, October 25 - Attendance: *In Church:* **91;** *Online***: 7; Offering: $2,389.35**

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Cletus Gephart, born July, 30, 1935 and died November 4, 2024, with love from Ed and Merlene Young.
The Basket of Flowers is given to the glory of God and in honor of Brenda and Marlin Cromley's wedding anniversary on November 5th.
The Basket of Flowers is given to the glory of God and in honor of David and Emily Bausinger's 48th wedding anniversary.
The Carnations are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sandra H. Nolan, Jane Keyte Landon, Howard Elmer Wilt, Jr., Donald Hammond, and Martha Louise Kropp.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, November 1: *Revelation 7:9-17; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12*
Monday, November 2: *Psalm 5; Jeremiah 5:18-31; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20*
Tuesday, November 3: *Psalm 5; Lamentations 2:13-17; Acts 13:1-12*
Wednesday, November 4: *Psalm 5; Proverbs 16:21-23; Matthew 15:1-9*
Thursday, November 5: *Psalm 70; Amos 1:1-2:5; Revelation 8:6-9:12*
Friday, November 6: *Psalm 70; Amos 3:1-12; Revelation 9:13-21*
Saturday, November 7: *Psalm 70; Amos 4:6-13; Matthew 24:1-14*



Articles for the* Messenger/Bulletin *are due in the office by Monday at noon!



Thank you to my Messiah family during my recent hospital stay and continuing recovery. Thanks for all the cards, phone calls and especially for the many prayers. God bless you all.

Ron Yeagle



The family of Martha Kropp wishes to thank the Messiah Family for all your thoughts, prayers and support during this difficult time. Martha loved her God and her church and your support is a tribute to her belief. God bless.



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.



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!



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



The Festival of All Saints Day will be observed this Sunday, November 1, 2026 at 9:30 am. This annual feast day is a celebration of the entire Christian community, living and dead. It recognizes that those who have gone before us in the faith have blazed a trail for us and reminds us that they, too, are in the care of Christ. All Saints Sunday is the celebration of what our ancestors have meant to us, how their lives have enriched ours, and how our communion with one another in the body of Christ reaches even beyond the grave.

Join us this Sunday as we remember those who can never be separated from us, because they have been forever united to Christ. Since it is our custom to especially remember those who have died since last All Saints Sunday, the following persons will be remembered in our prayers by name:

Sandra H. Nolan
Howard Elmer Wilt, Jr
Donald Hammond
Jane Keyte Landon
Martha Louise Kropp



Blessed to Be a Blessing





And … it's a wrap! 1,030 school kits were taken to the Ingathering in Lewisburg last Tuesday night – along with 15 cartons of various types of kits and quilts from our sister church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church. From there they will travel to a warehouse in Mechanicsburg after which they will be trucked with quilts and kits from other Ingathering's to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Minnesota to be prepared for distribution around the globe.

Thank you to all who played a part in any way in the LWR School Kits Project this









White Gifts Tags preparation for the Angel Tree will begin in a few days.

Tag Requests: We often receive requests from individuals who wish to take all of the tags for one child, or sometimes for two or more children in the same family. If you would like to "adopt" a child by taking all of his/her tags, ***please contact one of our coordinators no later than Wednesday, November 11.*** This will make it easier for us to set the tags aside before they are put on the tree. To reserve tags ahead of time, **contact Kathy Wither (570) 651-2802 or Jeanette Green (570) 916-7500** ***talk or text.***

Gift Requests: Families in our congregation who are experiencing a need and can benefit from a little help are encouraged to call the church office ***no later than October 30*** to obtain the gift requests forms and return the completed forms as soon as possible so that we have time to prepare the tags in order for the Angel Tree to be set up by November 15.



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!

Kids in Mission

Our annual Advent Kid's Event will be held on Saturday, December 5th, from 9 AM to Noon. If you are available to help, it would be greatly appreciated. We will do a story, service project, cookie baking, craft and games. The kids really enjoy coming to these events and, as always, your help is essential in making them a success. Without your support, we would not be able to do it! ☺ Please contact me at 570-244-6964. Thank you in advance! Kathryn

