

Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 8
8:15 am Sunday School
9:30 am Worship/Communion
10:45 am Coffee Hour – Shaheen Hall

Monday, November 9
8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
5:30 pm Sit Happens
6:30 pm LLFF Committee

Tuesday, November 10
8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
1:30 pm Missional Outreach
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
6:30 pm Preschool Committee
6:30 pm Worship and Music Committee

Wednesday, November 11
Veterans Day
8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
6:30 pm Bible Study

Thursday, November 12
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, November 13
8:30 am – 2:30 pm Preschool

Saturday, November 14
12:00 pm Noon Day Prayers
12:00 pm Spaghetti Dinner Benefit



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"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Wherefore, let thy voice rise like a fountain for me night and day."

The Death of (King) Arthur, Alfred Lord Tennyson

Last week, we spoke of ***Intercessory Prayer***, the practice of praying "*for someone else.*" Too often, we pray selfishly, "*for ourselves*," and, while it is indeed good to pray for the things we *want* and need, Prayer is, in and of itself, a practice that requires us to *step outside* of ourselves. For example, in ***The Lord's Prayer***, Jesus teaches us to pray for God's Name to be holy in and among us, for God's Kingdom to come in and through us, and God's Will to be done here on earth, even as it is done in heaven. In a modern phrase, we are "*decentered*," God becomes the *center* of the prayer. Likewise, in ***Intercessory Prayer***, we must *decenter* ourselves in order to pray ***for*** someone else's needs.

On December 26, 2004, a powerful earthquake generated a tsunami that devastated much of Indonesia and coastlines as far away as India. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed and millions more left injured and homeless. Lutherans across the United States sprang into action, making relief quilts. The problem? The affected people didn't NEED quilts and it would take too long for the quilts to get shipped. The relief effort needed tarpaulins, generators, and dried foods…none of which traditional "quilting circles" could easily make or provide. More than one angry conversation resulted when relief agencies refused the boxes of quilts well-meaning Lutherans had made. The problem wasn't ***intention***—the "quilting circles" are to be commended for their willingness to care—but the failure to ***listen*** to what was really needed and could really be used. In a wet, tropical setting, a quilt becomes more of a liability than an asset.

The point is this: when we pray *"for someone else*," we need to care enough for that person that we ask ***them*** what "*they need*," not "*what **we** think 'they need.'*" This can be especially difficult if we are at odds with the person we are being asked to pray for. How are we supposed to ***pray for*** someone we vehemently disagree with? One common answer is that we may pray for God "*to change*" the person, but that is just more selfishness. The challenge our Lord lays before us it to ***Love*** our enemies, which means we must *set aside* our desires for the sake of the person we're praying for.

In the classical world, this was known as the cardinal virtue of ***Charity***. Charity is not merely doing some "*good deed*" out of our largesse, but rather a sacrificial act of Love. "*God so loved the world,***"** we hear in the Gospel according to Saint John, "*that he gave his only begotten Son so that all who believed in him might not perish but have everlasting life."* This is the essence of ***Charity***—that we might love one another so deeply that there is literally nothing we won't hold back for the sake of someone else.

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In order to pray well, we must ever seek greater Charity; not just for "*us and our own*" but for those whom we couldn't imagine *"praying for."* For if we lack Charity, we will never really be able to pray well, *ourselves* will always get in the way. May the Holy Spirit increase in you the gift and the fruit of Charity, and may that Charity deepen your prayer!

Pax Christi;
Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS

Sunday, November 8

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ; **Lay Assistant:** Georgette Copp; **Comm. Assist.:** Candy Watkins; **Acolyte/Crucifer:** Weston Sherman
Altar Guild: Vicki Bair, Doris Butt**; Greeters/Presenters:** Doris Butt, Kim Brofee
Cantor: Carol Waltz; **Flower Delivery:** Charles Luppert

Sunday, November 1 - Attendance: *In Church:* **109;** *Online***: 5; Offering: $16,169.00**

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, David C. Reigel and Gladys Reigel Batey, by their daughters, Evelyn, Merry and Penny.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, November 8: *Amos 5:18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13*
Monday, November 9: *Psalm 63; Amos 8:7-14; 1 Corinthians 14:20-25*
Tuesday, November 10: *Psalm 63; Joel 1:1-14; 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13*
Wednesday, November 11: *Psalm 63; Joel 3:9-21; Matthew 24:29-35*
Thursday, November 12: *Psalm 90:1-12; Ezekiel 6:1-14; Revelation 16:1-7*
Friday, November 13: *Psalm 90:1-12; Ezekiel 7:1-12; Revelation 16:8-21*
Saturday, November 14: *Psalm 90:1-12; Ezekiel 7:10-27; Matthew 12:43-45*



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



Thank you to Susie Bryan for bringing me flowers and to all the members of Messiah that come to visit me.
Betty Fenstermacher

The Library Corner

Children - **Uri and the Busy Day** - Uri wants to spend the day with her friends, but all that fun gets to be too much! Can she find a way to calm down and start over? In our children's section of the library.

Youth - **3rd Edition - The Christian Babysitter's Handbook** - Whether you've been babysitting for a while or if you just started, this book will give you a lot of pointers, ideas and suggestions for games, stories, activities and handy forms to help you get all the information to do the best job possible. In our Youth Themed section.

Messiah's Women of the ELCA will meet in Shaheen Hall on **Tuesday, November 17,** at 7:00 p.m. to pack cookie tins for Messiah's Home-bound members, College students and Staff (more than thirty people) and we are turning to the congregation for help. **We need donations of cookies, snacks, and cookie tins.** Please bring your donations to the Church Kitchen by November 17 and please be generous. Thanks! On the 17th our Devotions will be led by Georgette Copp. Georgette and Bonnie Sheasley are Hostesses. Everyone is welcome!



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

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

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Please join us in Shaheen Hall this Sunday immediately following worship for a Veterans Day coffee hour.

Mountie Backpack Program's collection for November: 18 oz. jars of peanut butter, fruit or pudding cups Tomato or Chicken Noodle soup. Place items in the bin in the elevator alcove marked "Mountie Backpack". If you have any questions please contact Dianne Larson 570-220-3702.

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.

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent out Sunday, November 15th. Please let the office know if you are not available to take communion. If anyone is homebound, can't get to church and would like to receive communion please notify the church office at 570-326-9171.



White Gifts Tags are now being prepared for the Angel Tree. Watch for more information in next week's Messenger as we prepare the Angel Tree for display in the narthex beginning November 15.

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 that child's 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, please **contact Kathy Wither (570) 651-2802 or Jeanette Green (570) 916-7500** ***talk or text.***





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 Messiah Lutheran Preschool Bingo Committee sends out a huge <u>THANK YOU</u> to all who contributed in making the bingo a huge success. Your generosity, time and talents went beyond our expectations. We also send out a huge thank you to the community who donated to and attended this event. This kind of invaluable support only comes from church family and community. A net profit of **$6,389.25** is a remarkable accomplishment, and will go directly to support the preschool's needs.



Volunteers are needed….



What is a Volunteer?

The classic definition of a volunteer is **a person who gives their time and service freely for a purpose.** Volunteering is typically driven by a desire to help others

As most of you are aware, the volunteers in the church are what keeps the church running. Every person who volunteers has a purpose and is appreciated for their service day in and day out. You should have received your ***"Time and Talent"*** survey with your annual report packet. Please prayerfully consider filling out the survey and choose the work in the ministry that fits you best.

We are especially in need of: ***committee members, altar guild, ushers, and flower delivery.***

<u>Volunteering Fun Facts</u>

The verb **"VOLUNTEER"** first originated in **1755.**

Volunteerism in the United States dates back to the Revolutionary War when civilians contributed to the war effort.

The American Red Cross, one of the most influential humanitarian organizations in the world, was founded by **Clara Barton in 1881.**

About **63 million** adults volunteer **annually.**