

The Messenger

January 2023



MESSIAH
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Vision: To forever change lives through the Gospel of Jesus by becoming an equipping, empowering, and mobilizing church in our community that displays the love of Christ and connects with people of all walks of life through worship, communion, service, fellowship, and compassion, led by the Holy Spirit and focused on the Great Commission (Mt 28.18-20).

Messiah Lutheran Church

7211 Stellhorn Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46815

www.messiahlc.com (260) 485-8716

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Our Mission

To help people grow a faith in Jesus Christ that works in real life.

Our Vision

To forever change lives through the Gospel of Jesus by becoming an equipping, empowering, and mobilizing church in our community that displays the love of Christ and connects with people of all walks of life through worship, communion, service, fellowship, and compassion, led by the Holy Spirit and focused on the Great Commission (Mt 28.18-20).

Our Values for Ministry

- To lift high in prayer the name of Jesus Christ in all we say and do;
- to enable all persons to experience a worshipful relationship with Jesus Christ;
- to nurture and empower all persons to be disciples through a small group centered ministry that includes learning, service, fellowship, and spiritual growth;
- to help every Christian discover her/his spiritual gifts for ministry;
- to assist in the care of a hurting world.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, Jan. 1: Christmas 1

One Service at 10:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

Sunday, Jan. 8: The Baptism of Our Lord

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Sunday, Jan. 15: Epiphany 2

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Sunday, Jan. 22: Epiphany 3

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Sunday, Jan. 29: Epiphany 4

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Upcoming Events

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22

Distribution of Ashes 6 AM-11 AM

12:00 PM – Worship in-person w/Communion

7:00 PM – Worship in-person & Live Stream w/Communion



Pr. Tim's News

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE...

Dear Family and Friends of Messiah Lutheran Church,

Where do Meme and I begin to thank you for such an overwhelmingly loving and generous recognition of my ordination anniversary!

We were simply stunned by the recognition! We had no idea. We're still wondering HOW in the world Messiah was able to pull this off without us knowing... not a hint! I often joke about "not knowing" what's going on, but clearly there's some truth there!

Meme says:

Messiah Family, although PT and I were so thrilled about the renovation remodel, somehow, we were blindsided by such a beautiful act of generosity from our congregation. The gift was so unexpected. We truly and sincerely appreciate your heartfelt love for both of us. Love, Meme

Allow me to echo that sentiment by adding we feel like we can't thank you enough for such an extravagant display of love and generosity. We also want to express our sincere appreciation for all those involved in orchestrating this gift and recognition for us. I have personally been blessed to be surrounded by such amazing and devoted staff and leadership, which in many ways is the best gift of all.

While it's still difficult to believe I have part of the Messiah ministry for the entire fifteen years of my ministry, Meme and I look forward to where God leads us together in the life of faith, ministry, and community.

Thank you again, with love and gratitude,

PT and Meme

CLERGY RENEWAL PROGRAM (SABBATICAL)

During December, I met with a team of volunteers including Cindy Riebersal (Board Chairperson), Steve Van Wyngarden (Board Member), Dr. Amy Gilbert, and Kathleen Ormiston, to discuss applying for the Lilly Endowment Indiana Clergy Renewal Program.

According to the application, the renewal program is described as follows:

The Lilly Endowment Indiana Clergy Renewal Program at Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) seeks to strengthen Christian congregations by providing opportunities for pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Renewal periods are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, and discovering what will make the pastor's heart sing.

Furthermore...

The Lilly Endowment Indiana Clergy Renewal Program at Christian Theological Seminary will provide grants of up to \$50,000 each directly to congregations for the support of a renewal program for their pastor. The costs associated with family members who accompany a pastor may be included in the amount requested for the pastor. Up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used to help the congregation fulfill pastoral duties during the pastor's absence and/or support activities that enable the congregation to also be renewed in its ministry.

You can find more information about the grant and the application process at the following link: <https://www.cts.edu/cpe/clergy-renewal/>

Our team will be working to apply for this grant for 2024. To be clear, this application requires a comprehensive effort from the entire team. The application is due March 15, 2023, and decisions will be rendered by August 31, 2023. Stay tuned for more updates. Please keep our team in prayer during this process.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

This past year, Messiah's Board of Directors participated in a strategic planning process led by Jennie Wolf Smith, Partner and Consultant with GSB Consulting Firm. Also, both Cory Dold, Executive Administrator, and Portia Howard, Childcare Director, joined our conversations.

The question that sparked our need to have this conversation was: "Where is God leading Messiah or what is God calling Messiah to do, especially in a post-Covid world?" And in particular, for the congregation of Messiah, how does the leadership guide Messiah's community of faith into the future?

We were invited to think deeply about Messiah’s identity, both from inside and outside of Messiah Lutheran Church. We also identified our strengths and weaknesses, and where we most commonly connect with our community around us. This led us to dwell on our mission – to help people grow a faith in Jesus Christ that works in real life – what it means for Messiah to live this faithfully.

In a watershed moment, we decided that we needed less of “doing for people” and more of “being with people.” To be clear, we did not say stop doing for people but rather our emphasis needed to shift to being more with people. From there, we have begun to develop steps for a path forward. This is still a work in progress and we will return to our conversations in January.

May God’s Spirit guide us as we look to share the love of Christ with our community and the world.

In Christ’s love,

Pr. Tim Graham



Happy New Year!

It's a new year of life, with all its joys and sorrows. This year may not be better than last year, but we hope and pray that it will be. It's another chance for us to share God's love with the world that God loves. And we have the promise that Immanuel ("God with Us") is here not only as the babe of Bethlehem but also as a constant, loving, living presence in our daily lives.

Thanks be to God for this wonderful gift!

News Flash! Here is a special opportunity for you music lovers in the congregation. The Sanctuary Choir could use a few more voices, and if you have the desire or the ability to sing with us, we hope you will join us. We rehearse Thursday evenings at 6:30. If you are interested or have further questions, please call or text me at (260) 249-8022. Hope to hear from you soon!

Here are a few details of special days this month. We hope that you will come with eager hearts to hear the good news.

Sunday, January 1, 10:00 AM. First Sunday of Christmas (also New Year's Day). We will have only one service this day. Owen Counterman will lead our worship to welcome in the new year. Start the year out right by praising our God!

Sunday, January 8. Baptism of Our Lord. On this day we remember not only the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, but we also recall our own baptisms, especially those we experienced here at Messiah during the past year. We extend a special welcome to these individuals and families.

Soli Deo gloria—All glory be to God!

For Messiah's Worship and Music Ministry,

Stan Engle

GROWTH & LEARNING

Sunday School in January

In December the Journey learned about Advent and Christmas. We also participated in and enjoyed the Children's Christmas program as well as a Santa visit!! In January we will talk about John the Baptist and begin our unit on Calling the Disciples.

EDGE

EDGE Bible Study will resume again on Sunday, January 8, at 10:30 AM in the Library.

We will be meeting at the Youth House with the CIA students for a light lunch and games Sundays, January 8, 15, 22, and 29.

PULSE

PULSE resumes Sunday, January 8, 6-8 PM with a light dinner, games, and discussion. Besides good food, fun, games, relationships, and building our faith foundation, our goal for our PULSE students is to help prepare them for life after high school.

As our worlds get bigger it's not only important to have a strong faith to face life's challenges but also important for us to understand and respect other's different views on faith. And it's important to provide a safe environment to ask questions as well as learn how to have respectful discussions with others. For the next couple months, we will be looking at a different religion each month.

To start this off in January we will be looking at what it means to be a Lutheran and all the different types of Lutheranism. We'll introduce a religion one Sunday and the following Sunday invite a visiting speaker for more discussion.

Confirmation Camp 2023

Confirmation classes officially begin for students in the fall of 7th grade. As part of the confirmation process Messiah would like **all students to attend one summer of Confirmation Camp and one mission trip**. Currently we alternate summers between going to Confirmation Camp and a mission trip. This summer is our summer to go to Confirmation Camp!

Confirmation Camp is offered for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, current school year (2022-2023). Confirmation Camp is held at Camp Lutherwald, located 2 miles west of Howe, IN, on South Twin Lake.

This is a week that combines 2 hours of study with PT and other youth leaders in confirmation class each morning, followed by a full day of great camp activities: hiking, arts and crafts, games, music, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, and campfire programs.

We are planning on attending Confirmation Camp at Camp Lutherwald June 11-16 with any **youth currently in grades 6-8**. Cost is \$400 for the week and Messiah pays \$200. That leaves your student's total cost for the week at \$200. We need to grab these reservations as the spots go quickly at Camp Lutherwald. Please let Heidi know ASAP if your student is planning on attending (heidijokissner@gmail.com).

VBS 2023 Save the Date!!

Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this VBS. Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over." **Save the date for VBS this summer for the week of June 5!**

WinterJAM 2023 Thursday, February 2

Youth grades 7th and up- meet us at the Coliseum on Thursday, February 2, for WinterJAM! No tickets required, just a \$15 donation at the door. Doors open at 6 PM. Watch emails for more detailed plans as we get closer! Please let Heidi know if your student is coming.

Messiah Youth Ministry at a glance

Watch emails and Messenger for student ministry information. If you know a student that would like to participate in EDGE, CIA or PULSE please let Heidi know. Weekly correspondence throughout the year is done through emails also. If you are not receiving EDGE, CIA, or PULSE emails and would like to, please email Heidi, heidijokissner@gmail.com, so we can get you on the mailing list!

PULSE

Sunday, January 8 – Youth House, 6-8 PM, \$2

Sunday, January 15 – Youth House, 6-8 PM, \$2

Sunday, January 22 – Youth House, 6-8 PM, \$2

GROWTH & LEARNING *(cont)*

Pulse, continued

Sunday, January 29 – Youth House, 6-8 PM, \$2

Thursday, February 2 – WinterJAM, 6 PM

CIA

Sunday, January 8 – Youth House, 12-2 PM, \$2 (Hang out with EDGE)

Sunday, January 15 – Youth House, 12-2 PM, \$2 (Hang out with EDGE)

Sunday, January 22 – Youth House, 12-2 PM, \$2 (Hang out with EDGE)

Sunday, January 29 – Youth House, 12-2 PM, \$2 (Hang out with EDGE)

Thursday, February 2 – WinterJAM, 6 PM

EDGE

Sunday, January 8 – Youth House, 12-2 PM, \$2 (Hang out with CIA)

Sunday, January 15 – Youth House, 12-2 PM, \$2 (Hang out with CIA)

Sunday, January 22 – Youth House, 12-2 PM, \$2 (Hang out with CIA)

Sunday, January 29 – Youth House, 12-2 PM, \$2 (Hang out with CIA)

Thursday, February 2 – WinterJAM, 6 PM

Messiah Adult Bible Studies

Here are the upcoming schedule for Messiah's various Bible studies:

Tuesday Quest, at 9 AM: This group studies the weekly lectionary (the Bible passages designated for each Sunday) for the upcoming Sunday worship and resumes on Tuesday, January 10th.

Wednesday at 10 AM: This group studies various biblical texts and topics weekly and resumes on Wednesday, January 11th.

Thursday at 10 AM: This group studies a variety of texts in the Bible or related books concerning faith, and resumes on Thursday, January 19th.

Thursday Good News Study Group at 6:30 PM: This group takes in-depth look at biblical texts and resumes on Thursday, January 5th.

NO EXPERIENCE OR PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY! If you have an interest in deepening your faith and understanding, please prayerfully consider joining us. Please send an email to pastortim.messiah@gmail.com.

CARE & NURTURE

Parish Health Ministry

It's a new year, 2023! All the advertisements promise a new you "if only" you buy this product, or join this gym, take this supplement, or travel to this place. The new you will be soon to follow. Other advertisements indicate we should clean up last years "dirt" with this detergent or all purpose cleaner. We can start the new year with a clean slate, so to speak. As attractive as these ads are, there is no magic wand to change our world. We can only take it a day at a time. Will we mess up — Yes. We will blow our diet, forget to move the clothes from the washer to the dryer and have to rewash everything, forget to make a call to keep in better contact with friends or family, forget to stop for gas, not exercise for a few days – or other new year's resolutions. What we forget is that we are given a new chance every day to start anew. So you blew your diet for the last week, start today to eat better, exercise, keep in contact, etc. That little baby whose birth we celebrated a few days ago promised a restart each day. We will slip from time to time, but we are given the opportunity each day to improve and move forward. Call a friend and give them a boost of encouragement. You might find you are feeling boosted as much if not more following your call.

Parish Health Nurses

Woman to Woman

January 2023

I am thankful, loving Father,

1. for this new year of 2023 and our hope and faith in you always. 25¢
2. that I know you and I pray for those who don't. 10¢
3. for strengthening me with gratitude to serve you and be a blessing to others. 5¢
4. for our children—the face of the future. 10¢
5. for hopefulness in Christ's love in this new year ahead. 20¢
6. for God's warmth and light in the presence of Jesus. 10¢
7. for your gift of forgiveness. Is there someone in my life I need to forgive? Help me, Lord. 10¢
8. for the laundry I have to do and I pray for those who have no clothes. 5¢
9. for the gift of contentment. Help me, Lord. I have so much. 15¢
10. for Pastor Tim and all Messiah staff. I pray they seek your way always. 25¢
11. for all those who serve in our military at home and away. Be with them, Lord. 25¢
12. for giving us the gift of sight and we pray for those who cannot see. 10¢
13. for your strength and peace as we weather the challenges and setbacks of our ever-changing lives. 5¢
14. Help me to remember, Lord, that worry gets me nowhere, only frustrated. So I will give all my worry to you. 10¢
15. Help me to open my mind to you so that you can fill it with faith. 20¢
16. for civil rights leader Martin Luther King, and all leaders who stand up against injustice in all forms. \$1.00
17. for loving and keeping me no matter what! 5¢
18. for revealing the Messiah to me to increase my faith in you. 10¢
19. for prayer and I pray that you teach me to use it. 15¢
20. for trust in your strength and grace. 10¢
21. for our first responders and snowplow workers who help us in time of need. We thank them for their service. 10¢
22. for the Bible through which I can hear and see your presence. 10¢
23. for your great faithfulness to me. 20¢
24. that you grant me grace sufficient for the day. 10¢
25. for being there for those who are hurting physically, mentally, or emotionally. Let them know your presence. 25¢
26. for missionaries throughout the world. Help them to spread the love of Jesus. 10¢
27. for the gift of the cross—reminding me of the price you paid for me. 15¢
28. for all the lives that touch mine. 10¢
29. for the warmth of your ever-present love during these cold winter days. 20¢
30. for the beauty of the crunching snow. It reminds me of your presence in all things.
31. that since I know you, I am never alone. 10¢

Please send or bring offering to church last Sunday of month—January 29.

OUTREACH & IN TOUCH

Food Bank Outreach

Thank you for your continued support of Maplewood Mennonite Church and Faith & Light Food Pantries. Items needed for January are canned fruit, canned soup, crackers, tuna, pasta, mac & cheese, and feminine products.

Study Connection Volunteers Needed

Croninger Elementary School is in need help students on Monday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 pm. Please contact Dave Beard (daveb@messiahlc.com) if you are able to help.

Christmas Adopt-A-Family

Thank you for your contributions for helping those in need this Christmas season. We sponsored two families from Lutheran Social Services and two from Messiah Lutheran Church. **Thank you to Joyce Black and the other elves for taking care of this ministry this year!**

Cold Kids

Crisp weather has returned and hats, gloves, and scarves are needed for our area elementary school kids. Also needed are lengths of fleece fabric (1/3 yard or more). Please place any donations in the Cold Kids bin Satre Hall. Thank you for helping to keep our kids warm this winter. For any questions, please contact Charnell at bcwmarker@aol.com.

OPERATIONS

Choice Dollars Details

Do you have Choice Dollars to share? The Thrivent Choice program lets eligible members recommend where some of Thrivent Financials' charitable outreach funds go by directing Choice Dollars. Visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice to direct yours today!

Thrivent Action Teams

Thrivent Financial Group allows benefit members to lead two Action Teams per calendar year, and associate members are eligible to lead one per calendar year. Thrivent provides promotional resources and \$250 worth of seed money to jump-start fundraisers, educational events, or service projects. If you have an Action Team available and are interested in helping out, Messiah is constantly seeking these resources to support the many ministries we offer. If you are willing to share an Action Team, please call the church office.

If you are not familiar with the Thrivent Action Team program, it is a fantastic benefit that can help offset the cost of many special ministry projects at Messiah. Thrivent Financial Group's generosity programs make it easy to give of yourself and live generously! This is FREE money that can be used to directly support the ministries of our congregation. These funds do not come from your personal Thrivent accounts; this is money designated by Thrivent to be used as seed money to jump-start fundraisers, educational events, or service projects of your choosing. Please consider directing your Action Teams to support Messiah. If you have any questions about Action Teams, please contact your Thrivent representative or the church office. We are more than willing to work with you throughout the application and reporting process.

Have you considered planned giving?

If you would like to make a lasting impact on the ministries here at Messiah Lutheran Church, and the future generations of disciples, a gift made in your estate plan could be the perfect option for you. This type of charitable gift arrangement allows you to make a gift now or after your lifetime while providing financial benefits for yourself and your loved ones.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

Online Giving and 2023 Pledges

Online Giving is AVAILABLE at www.messiahlc.com! This link allows you to indicate your annual pledge, and then either set up a onetime payment or recurring payments: annually, quarterly, monthly, or weekly.

If you have not yet made a pledge for 2023 and would like to, we encourage you to pick up an intent card in Satre Hall or the office, or contact us and we can help you through the process. A pledge is a commitment of financial support for the year, which runs from January through December. Typically, pledges are paid in increments—weekly, monthly or quarterly. You can give to the church without pledging, of course. Some people put money in the offering plate at worship each week or once a month. Others give in a lump sum at the beginning or end of the year. We encourage annual pledging because making and keeping promises is an important spiritual discipline that fosters faithfulness and mutual responsibility. Pledges also help the congregation to plan more wisely.

Church Staff Email Addresses

Pastor Tim Graham: pastortim@messiahlc.com

Executive Administrator Cory Dold: cory@messiahlc.com

Director of Music Stan Engle: stan@messiahlc.com

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Heidi Kissner: heidi@messiahlc.com

Director, Outreach Ministry Dave Beard: daveb@messiahlc.com

Director, ChildCare & Preschool Portia Howard: portia@messiahlc.com

Facilities Director Denise Gibbons: denise@messiahlc.com

Technical Director Josh Gumbert: josh@messiahlc.com

Office Administrator Karla Myers: karla@messiahlc.com

Newsletter Editor: editor@messiahlc.com

OPERATIONS *(cont)*

Inclement Weather Policy

As the winter season approaches, we want to remind everyone of Messiah's inclement Weather Policy. Obviously, we want to stress the importance of safety to all who participate at Messiah. In the event of inclement weather, or the anticipation of inclement weather, here are the following schedules:

Sundays: One service, at 10:00 AM only; no Sunday school. This will be decided no later than 6:00 AM.

Please check local TV station listings. It will show: "Messiah Lutheran – Fort Wayne: 10:00 AM Schedule"

Check the website: www.messiahlc.com

Check the Messiah Facebook page.

Weekday Daytime Activities: Any cancellations will be decided no later than 6:00 AM.

Please check local TV station listings for cancellations.

Check the website: www.messiahlc.com

Check the Messiah Facebook page.

Weekday Evening Activities: Any cancellations will be decided no later than 3:00 PM.

You can call the Church Office.

Please check local TV station listings for cancellations.

Check the website: www.messiahlc.com

Check the Messiah Facebook page.

Messiah Lutheran Church Vision Statement

Our Vision: To forever change lives through the Gospel of Jesus by becoming an equipping, empowering, and mobilizing church in our community that displays the love of Christ and connects with people of all walks of life through worship, communion, service, fellowship, and compassion, led by the Holy Spirit and focused on the Great Commission (Mt 28.18-20).

Our vision includes a 3-5-year focus on...

MEAM – Messiah Emerging Adult Ministry (ages 20-30)

We desire to broaden our scope of ministry to meet the practical spiritual needs of single, young adults.

Messiah Lutheran Church will commit resources to expand hospitality and engagement to emerging adults.

In the next year, we will develop a social media ministry to engage young adults in meaningful issues of faith and life. We will also create a physical space on our premises that will foster hospitable and authentic conversations.

Families with Young Children

Messiah Lutheran Church desires to partner in worship and ministry with families with young children. Through our preschool and childcare ministry (Preschool/Childcare), we can meet the needs of this group, which comprises a large portion of the community surrounding the church. It is of utmost importance to connect with these families because youth are the lifeblood and future of our church.

We will build and strengthen our relationships to families with young children through the Preschool/Childcare ministry.

In the next five years, we dream of growing church membership within the Preschool/Childcare program from 10% to 60%. Furthermore, we desire to increase attendance and inclusion of the congregation at Preschool/Childcare events and Preschool/Childcare families at congregational events.

Forever Young

Messiah Lutheran Church is called by God to reach Empty Nesters, both those nearing retirement and those already retired, with the Good News of abundant life through Jesus Christ. The skills and experiences of these adults are a rich resource for our community.

We will offer them new opportunities for worship, for fellowship among themselves and within our congregation, seminars and personal services to maintain and improve their quality of life, and avenues for them to be of service to the community.

In each of the next 5 years, we will offer 4-6 meaningful outreach activities for personal growth, fellowship, and service.



Messiah Lutheran Church
7211 Stellhorn Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46815-5551

Place mailing label here

Ministers

The People of Messiah

Senior Pastor

Timothy Graham, M. Div.

Pastor Emeritus

Carl H. Satre, D.D.

Sunday Services

9:00 AM

In person and online

10:30 AM

In person and online