

The Messenger

February 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, Feb. 5: Epiphany 5

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Sunday, Feb. 12: Epiphany 6

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Sunday, Feb. 19: Transfiguration Sunday

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

CHILI COOKOFF – 12:00 PM in the Gym

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Sunday, Feb. 26: Lent 1

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Upcoming Events

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22

Distribution of Ashes 6:00-11:45 AM

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

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



Pr. Tim's News

THE LENT EXPERIENCE – “THE WAY OF THE CROSS”

Lenten Devotionals – Several people from our community of faith at Messiah volunteered to help write daily devotional for the journey of Lent. What a gift to Messiah...to hear personal reflections on scriptures as we journey “ON THE WAY TO THE CROSS.” Copies will be available on Sunday, February 19.

Ash Wednesday – Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023. We will offer the imposition of ashes in the church entryway from 6:00 AM until 11:45 AM. We will have two services, 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM, that will also include the imposition of ashes and holy communion.

Wednesdays in Lent – Then on the following Wednesdays in Lent, the Lent Experience will return. The purpose of the Lent Experience is to invite our community of faith into deeper reflection concerning Jesus’ journey to the cross. We have explored the ancient disciplines of Lent like fasting, almsgiving, prayer, and forgiveness. And in doing so, people have experienced growth personally and communally.

This year, we are inviting people to deeply reflect on the actual “**WAY OF THE CROSS**” for Jesus. “The Way of the Cross” is similar to the “Stations of the Cross.” Each Wednesday, a station of the cross will be added in the sanctuary and left there for people to observe and pray throughout the Lenten journey.

Week #1, March 1st – PRAYED – Jesus prayed before the cross.

Week #2, March 8th – CONDEMNED – Jesus is condemned to the cross.

Week #3, March 15th – ACCEPTED – Jesus accepted and carried the cross.

Week #4, March 22nd – STRIPPED – Jesus was stripped for the cross.

Week #5, March 29th – DIED – Jesus died on the cross.

The Wednesdays in Lent will begin with worship in the Sanctuary at 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM, followed by light a dessert and a discussion after each worship service. Materials will be provided to assist in this 5-week faith journey.

Wednesday Hosts – We will need some people, individuals or couples, to host each Wednesday gathering, at 12 PM and 7 PM, but not both on the same day. Just one, either 12 PM or 7 PM. The requirements are very simple: 1) Make coffee in the new

coffee bar area and make water bottles available. 2) Purchase a dessert (cookies, cake, streusel, pie, etc.) and serve. 3) Clean up coffee and desserts. Easy Peasy! If you can host on one of the Wednesdays in Lent, please contact PT.

NEW MEMBERS AT MESSIAH

We highly anticipate welcoming new members into Messiah’s worshipping community of faith. At Messiah, we believe “joining” a worship community is a vital component of what it means to follow Jesus (Hebrews 10.24-25) and to live out our personal journey faith in a communal fashion as we love and serve the community around us together.

The Messiah Introduction Class will provide you the information of what that means exactly. You need only attend ONE class. And then we will have one Sunday where we install individuals and families together as new members at Messiah.

Here’s are the Messiah Introduction opportunities. They will last about 45 minutes:

Sunday, March 12th, 11:45 AM, Office Conference Room

Sunday, March 19th, 11:45 AM, Office Conference Room or Library

The Installation date is set for Sunday, March 26th, at the service of new members’ choice, 9:00 AM or 10:30 AM.

Please RSVP for Messiah Intro to Karla at 260-485-8716 or karla@messiahlc.com.

We look forward to you joining our community of faith in helping people grow a faith in Jesus Christ that works in real life.

CLERGY RENEWAL PROGRAM

Our team has been hard at work developing the application for the Clergy Renewal Grant. It requires heavy lifting and planning on the front end. It’s critical that this project finds traction in the congregation, and that it mirrors some of the pastor’s activities.

The theme we are suggesting is Rest, Rejuvenate, and Re-engage. We agree that this is something everyone needs or can benefit from if this grant is approved.

continued on next page

Pastor Tim's News, continued

Rest is exactly what it says. For the pastor, this will be an important time to disconnect from the congregation. Authentic resting truly means solace from our work and world demands.

Rejuvenate is a time to participate in events or travel that energize and uplift the soul. Oftentimes, we rejuvenate when we catch up with family and relatives, there's an excitement that boils over at these opportunities.

Re-engage is that time of preparation to return to the congregation.

In addition, our group is proposing the creation of opportunities for the congregation to experience this journey with Pr. Tim in concrete ways. First, the "Compass," a journal-like booklet that would provide a personal journey for those who wish to read, reflect, and think through the above stages in a daily manner. Secondly, an online format would be available for those who would like to engage or chat online, watch related videos or seminars, and keep a journal electronically. Thirdly, in-person activities would be scheduled weekly for those who want to talk and reflect with others, listen to speakers, and journey along with others during this renewal time. And finally, a monthly congregational element of gathering would be incorporated as well.

Next month I will share more about how communications might take place, how leadership will unfold, and other ways this will help Messiah grow as a congregation.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Amy Gilbert at agilbert2000@gmail.com, or Steve Van Wyngarden at SteveVanW@comcast.net.

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



Changing Seasons

The weather is strange this year. Due to climate change, we go from spring-like warmth to winter cold, from thunderstorms to drifting snow. We don't know what the next day will bring, and it's hard to tell what season we are experiencing.

The church year seems to follow suit. We celebrated Advent and Christmas just a few weeks ago, and now we are in the ordinary season after Epiphany. Pretty soon we will observe the beginning of Lent. As Bob Dylan wrote, "The times they are a-changing."

And as the seasons roll around, we hope that you will roll out of bed to worship with us as we transition from one season to another this month. Here are some of the special days we will experience.

Sunday, February 19, 9:00 and 10:30 A.M. The Transfiguration of Our Lord. The gospels tell us that Jesus went up on a mountain with three disciples, and in their sight he was transfigured into an image of blazing light. How should we respond to this? Pastor Tim will help us to see these events in a new light.

Wednesday, February 22, noon and 7:00 P.M. Ash Wednesday. The Ash Wednesday service marks the beginning of Lent and is a time of repentance, a time of remembering that we are dust and to dust we shall return. But it is also a time when we recall that God is compassionate and eager to forgive. Even (or perhaps especially) in our moments of failure and guilt, grace abounds to lead us on in our pilgrim journey. Please join us as we walk together in God's amazing love.

Soli Deo gloria—All glory be to God!

For Messiah's Worship and Music Ministry,

Stan Engle

GROWTH & LEARNING

Sunday School in February

In January the Journey learned about John the Baptist and began our unit on Calling the Disciples. In February we will finish our lessons on Calling the Disciples, talk about Jesus Stilling the Storm, and start our series on The Lord's Prayer.

EDGE

EDGE Bible Study will meet on Sundays at 10:30 AM in the Library.

CIA

Confirmation Class on Sunday, February 5, after the 10:30 service to 3 PM.

PULSE

PULSE meets Sundays Feb. 5 and 19.

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 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.

In February we will be talking about the Jewish faith.

WinterJAM 2023 Thursday, February 2

Youth grades 7th and up- meet us at the Coliseum on Thursday, February 2, for Winter-JAM! 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.

EDGE & CIA - Ice Skating at Headwaters on Sunday, February 12

We will be taking a break from the Youth House activities on Sunday, February 12. We'll meet at the Youth House for a quick bite and leave at noon for Headwaters Ice Skating rink! Please pick your students up from Headwaters at 3 PM. Cost is \$5 and covers ice time and skate rental. Students are responsible for their own concessions there.

Save the date for the Chili Cook-off on Sunday, February 19!!

Messiah's Chili Cook-off is back on Sunday, February 19! Beginning at noon we will be opening tasting of different entrant's chilis, made by many of Messiah's friends and family, who shall remain unknown until the time of the results! While we are tasting chili and enjoying fellowship, we will also be playing a little bingo...for prizes! All funds raised will help offset families' costs for upcoming mission trips and camps. In order for this to be a success we need chilis! If you have a good recipe and are willing to make a crockpot full of your world famous chili, it would be appreciated. Please let Heidi know if you are planning on entering a chili! heidi@messiahlc.com.

CIA & PULSE Toboggan Retreat Feb. 25-26

CIA and PULSE youth groups will be going to the Lutherwald Toboggan Retreat on Saturday, February 25-26. We'll leave Messiah and head up to Camp Lutherwald on Saturday, February 25 at 11 AM. Their staff will have some activities in the afternoon for us then we'll head to Pokagon State Park for the rest of the afternoon. We'll return to Lutherwald for dinner and more activities. Sunday morning we'll have devotions and breakfast then head home. We should get back to church around 10:30/11:00 AM. There will be no Youth House for EDGE, CIA, or PULSE that Sunday (the adults will need to recoup! LOL!) **I need to reserve our spots by Feb. 15 so please RSVP by February 14.**

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!

GROWTH & LEARNING (cont)

Confirmation Camp is offered for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, current school year (2022-2023). We attend Confirmation Camp 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 camp-fire programs.

We are planning on attending Confirmation Camp at Camp Lutherwald June 11-16 with any **youth currently in grades 6-8th**. 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.** (heidi@messiahlc.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!**

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 at heidi@messiahlc.com. 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, so we can get you on the mailing list!

PULSE

Thursday, February 2 – WinterJAM, 6 PM
Sunday, February 5 – Youth House, 6-8 PM
Sunday, February 12 – NO PULSE (Superbowl Sunday)
Sunday, February 19 – Youth House, 6-8 PM
 Chili Cook-off, noon-2 PM in Satre Hall (gym)
Saturday, Feb. 25 – Sunday, Feb. 26 – Lutherwald Toboggan Retreat
Sunday, Feb. 26 – No Youth House
Sunday, Mar. 6 – Youth House, 6-8 PM

CIA

Thursday, February 2 – WinterJAM, 6 PM
Sunday, February 5 – Confirmation Class, after 10:30 service to 3 PM, Youth House
Sunday, February 12 – Ice Skating with EDGE, 12-3 PM
Sunday, February 19 – Chili Cook-off, noon -2 PM, inSatre Hall (gym)
Saturday, February 25 – Sunday, Feb. 26 – Lutherwald Toboggan Retreat
Sunday, February 26 – No Youth House
Sunday, March 6 – Confirmation Class, after 10:30 service to 3 PM

EDGE

Sunday, February 5 – Bible Study 10:30 Library Gideon
 No Youth House
Sunday, February 12 – Bible Study 10:30 Library – Deborah
 Ice Skating 12-3 PM
Sunday, February 19 – Bible Study 10:30 Library - Israel Asks for A King
 Chili Cook-off, Satre Hall (gym) 12-2 PM
Sunday, February 26 – Bible Study 10:30 Library – Samuel Anoints Saul as King
 No Youth House
Sunday, March 6 – Bible Study 10:30 Library – David and Goliath
 No Youth House

GROWTH & LEARNING *(cont)*

Messiah Adult Bible Studies

Here are the upcoming schedule for Messiah's various Bible studies. They will all be on hiatus during the Lenten season and resume after Easter, from 2/22/23 to 4/16/23. Of course, we encourage you to consider The Lent Experience explained in "Pr. Tim's Updates" on page 4.

Tuesday Quest, at 9 AM: This group is currently doing a book study on "Growing Older and Wiser" (Larsen & Larsen).

Wednesday at 10 AM: This group is currently digging deeper into Pr. Tim's preaching series about Promises, as we review Pr. Tim's sermon notes and delve deeper into each weekly topic.

Thursday at 10 AM: This group is also currently doing a book study on "Growing Older and Wiser" (Larsen & Larsen).

Thursday Good News Study Group at 6:30 PM: This group continues its in-depth look at the Gospel of John. Contact the church office so we can get you more information if you're interested.

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.

BOOK OF LIFE

Baptisms, January 8

Dominic Ray Santiago

James Lee Yates

Autumn Mari Yates

Deaths

Bonnie George, January 26

Clifford George, January 29

Messiah Preschool & ChildCare

Hello February! We love this month for many reasons! We are learning about winter weather, animals that hibernate, presidents, and acts of kindness! We also continue with Chapel and our Religious Curriculum to back it. Some of our classrooms will be throwing some Valentine's Day Parties as well. Speaking of throwing, there will be some special kicking going on. The Soccer Shots Program has begun, and we are looking forward to hosting them as they teach some of our older children the fundamentals of soccer and have some fun! We will begin to have some opportunities for volunteering next month for Hawaiian Day! We need some individuals to help interact and have fun with the childcare children at different areas that are centered around Hawaii! If you are interested, please email us at messiahpreschool.childcare@gmail.com

Teacher Feature

Our teacher feature this month is Mrs. Gracie! Mrs. Gracie has been with Messiah Preschool and Childcare for 12 years. She does a bit of everything around our childcare! She makes breakfast, distributes snacks and lunch, fills in for teachers, and also reads Froggy books like no other! Her favorite food is steak tacos, she loves the color purple, and in her free time she likes to spend time with her grandkids. Be sure to tell Mrs. Gracie hello if you see her around the building!

Upcoming Dates

February 27th: Dr. Seuss Week begins

March 9th: Hawaiian Day at 10:00 a.m.

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” – *Psalm 133:1*

CARE & NURTURE

Parish Health Ministry

We are well on our way into 2023, and it is hard to believe it is February already. While some of our best laid plans and resolutions may have gone the way of our Christmas trees, every day is a chance to start anew. Remember, God washes away all our sins of yesterday and we get to start fresh. A great way to start is by embracing Joy!

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit. God's joy is supernatural and can remain deep and abiding even when we are in the midst of hardship. It is not the absence of pain or difficult circumstances but learning to let God's spirit fill us with his joy, regardless of our circumstances.

Joy is a choice we can make, an attitude we can adopt, being grateful enough for our triumphs, especially the small ones. It is being content and working for things that matter and letting go of those that don't.

Live intentionally this year and make NO resolutions. Life is too short for superficial and unrealistic goals that make us feel like a failure when life happens and the resolution does not.

There are many ways to find joy or add joy to our lives – celebrate the small and ordinary things in our daily life. Set aside comparison and self-criticism. It has been said that comparison is the thief of joy.

Stay grateful – reflecting on our daily blessings and finding gratitude in them can change our lives – and laugh at least once a day. Laughter helps to promote good health, lowers our Blood Pressure, boosts our immune systems, improves our brain function, protects our health and reduces our stress – even if you need to get a joke book from the library if you are having difficulty finding something to laugh at.

Some of us face substantial family or financial problems and some days can feel very grim. But each day and in every situation, we have a choice. We can focus on the negative OR we can try to squeeze as much joy as possible from every moment.

Let Joy be your mantra for 2023!

Your Messiah Parish Nurses

Woman to Woman

January 2023

I am thankful, loving Father,

1. that you are always with me. 5¢
2. for showing me the way to live. 25¢
3. for your constant presence through all the changes of life. 10¢
4. for your guidance and courage in times of despair. 10¢
5. for the blessings you have bestowed on us today. 5¢
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 giving us Jesus to teach us how to live in union with you. 20¢
12. for providing care and love to my family and friends. 25¢
13. for your strength and peace as we weather the challenges and setbacks of our ever-changing lives. 5¢
14. for this special day to celebrate the love of family, friends, and Jesus Christ. 25¢
15. Help me to open my mind to you so that you can fill it with faith. 20¢
16. that I have so much to give. Help me to remember that I have more than most people. 10¢
17. for giving me the faith to trust your purpose for my life. 25¢
18. for the trust we have in you to carry out your will. 20¢
19. Stir me Lord, to do your will. 25¢
20. for your peace which passes all understanding. 10¢
21. for our troops, at home and abroad. Give them strength and courage. 5¢
22. for this Ash Wednesday as we look to Jesus Christ and the "way of the Cross." 25¢
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. 5¢
26. for counting us always precious in your sight. 25¢
27. for the gift of the cross — reminding me of the price you paid for me. 15¢
28. for your help in adopting your values as our own. 10¢

Please bring or send offering to church last Sunday of month – February 26

OUTREACH & IN TOUCH

Food Bank Outreach

Thank you for your continued support of Maplewood Mennonite Church and Faith & Light Food Pantries. Items needed for February are pancake mix, syrup, cereal, canned meats, boxed dinners, pasta sauce, and dry beans.

Cold Kids

Cold 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 in Satre Hall. Thank you for helping to keep our kids warm this winter. For any questions, please contact Charnell at bcwmarker@aol.com.

“A Baby’s Closet” Baby Shower Sunday, March 12

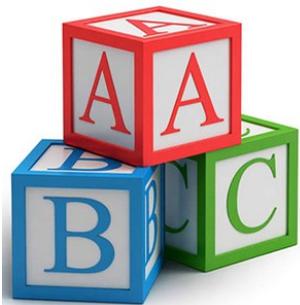
PALS (Prayerful and Loving Sisters) invites everyone to a Baby Shower for ‘A Baby’s Closet,’ a Ministry of Associated Churches. ABC provides essential baby items to low-income families and those experiencing hardships. Participants receive coupons for learning about nutrition and parenting, keeping prenatal and well child appointments, childbirth classes, and keeping their children’s immunizations up to date. Coupons are redeemed for clothing, a crib, car seat, and baby supplies.

New items such as socks, diapers, onesies, crib sheets, and car seats, as well as monetary donations, are ALWAYS needed. Currently there is a dire need for large-size diapers (sizes 4,5,6), baby girl’s clothing (0-3 mo.), and blankets.

PALS will be collecting items from February 12th to March 12th. A donation celebration (Baby Shower) is planned for March 12 after the 10:30 service in the Library. Cake, ice cream, and beverages will be served. All are Welcome!

Come to see what our congregation and community has donated!

A complete list of items needed is on the next page and is also available on the “A Baby’s Closet” collection bin located inside the main entrance of Messiah.



A Baby's Closet (ABC) Needs

Dirly Needed New Items

Large-size Diapers (Sizes 4,5,6)

Baby Girl's Clothing (0-3 mo.)

Baby Blankets

Much Needed New Items

Clothing (Sizes Newborn to 4T)

Diapers (All Sizes)

Diaper Ointment

Lotion

Bottles

Socks

Teething Rings

Car Seats (convertible)

Monetary Donations (Check made to Messiah Lutheran Church)

Baby Blankets

Baby Wipes

Crib Sheets

Shampoo

Spoons

Rattles

Toys

Baby Gates

Miscellaneous New Items

Bath Wash

Creams

Oil

Bottles

Bottle Brushes

Sippy Cups

Pacifiers

Baby Gates

Highchairs

Please place donations in the "A Baby's Closet" Collection Bin (inside main entrance of Messiah)

Donations are being collected for the Baby Shower until March 12, 2023.

OPERATIONS

2023 Offering Envelopes

The 2023 Offering Envelopes have arrived! If you elected to continue receiving offering envelopes, yours are available in the Narthex. Please stop by to pick yours up!

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 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.



Connecting faith & finances for good.® **CHOICE DOLLARS®**

REMINDER: MARCH 31 IS THE DEADLINE TO DIRECT YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support the many ministries here at Messiah. Don't let Choice Dollars expire!

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2023, to direct any remaining 2022 Choice Dollars. Help support Messiah! Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

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.

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.

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: dave@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

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