

# The Messenger

*March 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

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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

**Wednesday in Lent, March 1st, 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

**Sunday, March 5: Lent 2**

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

**Wednesday in Lent, March 8th, 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

**Sunday, March 12: Lent 3 (Daylight Saving Time Begins!)**

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

**Wednesday in Lent, March 15th, 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

**Sunday, March 19: Lent 4**

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

**Wednesday in Lent, March 22nd, 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

**Sunday, March 26: Lent 5**

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

**Wednesday in Lent, March 29th, 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

**Holy Week**

Palm Sunday, April 2, 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Good Friday, April 7, 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday, April 9, 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM



## Pr. Tim's News

### THE LENT EXPERIENCE – “THE WAY OF THE CROSS”

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

This year we will explore the “**WAY OF THE CROSS**,” which is comparable to the “Stations of the Cross.” Each Wednesday, a station will be added in the worship space and left there for people to observe and pray throughout Lent.

Week #1, March 1<sup>st</sup> – PRAYED – Jesus prayed before the cross.

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

Week #3, March 15<sup>th</sup> – STRIPPED – Jesus was stripped for the cross.

Week #4, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – ACCEPTED – Jesus accepted and carried the cross.

Week #5, March 29<sup>th</sup> – DIED – Jesus died on the cross.

### CLERGY RENEWAL PROGRAM

Our team is ramping up its efforts to submit the 2023 Clergy Renewal Application by March 15<sup>th</sup>. In recent newsletters, I have attempted to share with you our vision of what this program will look like if our grant is approved.

So, what will Messiah pastoral leadership look like in my absence during this renewal time? First, Messiah has an amazing staff! I'm not sure if people recognize just how fortunate our congregation is! I have full confidence in our staff to continue our mission in my temporary absence. Likewise, the Board of Directors is completely committed to the well-being of Messiah Lutheran Church, and they will be prepared to step up as needed to support the staff during this time.

Secondly, our prayerful hope remains that we will still call an Associate Pastor before this time! The Call Team continues to be in contact with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod office. Our congregational profile is up and viewable for any interested candidates nation-wide.

So, we trust the Holy Spirit will work in its own way to bring our need to fruition.

In the event we have not called a second pastor, we will work with the retired pastors and active preachers within Messiah to make certain that all pastoral needs are met. I should note that even if we call an associate pastor, we will still seek additional assistance from our retired pastors and active preachers. The Clergy Renewal Grant includes financial assistance to cover costs associated with pastoral assistance for the congregation.

Speaking of which, this allows for a good segue to communications. While I am on the Clergy Renewal time, I will not be available. My email will have automatic replies and my phone and text will be set to receive contacts from my family only. All pastoral events and emergencies – visitations, funerals, weddings, baptisms, etc. – will be conducted by our pastoral team. Contact information will be made available to the congregation in a variety of ways as we approach the renewal time. Our office will assist our community to navigate this as well.

Finally, it's important to emphasize that the Clergy Renewal Grant is an opportunity for congregational growth. Certainly, the goal is that the pastor and the congregation will be strengthened and renewed together for future congregational ministry through the planned activities.

But also, we hope that this will provide additional opportunities for growth in leadership and participation. Who will step up? Who will respond to the needs of our community? We joke that when the cat's away the mice will play. However, moments like the clergy renewal present occasions for leadership as well as unity.

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

## **NEW MEMBERS AT MESSIAH**

**Look for info about the Messiah Introduction Classes on page 11.**

In Christ's love,

Pr. Tim Graham



## The Forty Days

The Lenten journey is here. Forty days to grow as disciples of Christ. Forty days to grow closer to God. Forty days to grow in love. Join us as we grow together in our journey.

**Wednesdays in Lent.** Each Wednesday through the end of this month Messiah will offer mid-week Lenten encounters at noon and 7:00 p.m. Each will begin with a service of lessons, hymns, and a meditation, followed by a time of light refreshments and guided discussion. Each week we will add a “station of meditation” in the sanctuary to help guide us in our journey. If you can’t make it to the midweek event, don’t forget to look for the new station each Sunday!

**Holy Week Services.** Holy Week is the first full week in April this year, so put these dates and times on your calendar:

Palm Sunday, April 2. Services at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 6. Service of Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7. Services at noon and 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 9. Services at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

**Did you know?** Of course you know that Lent is a period of forty days preceding Easter, but have you counted the days from Ash Wednesday through the Saturday before Easter and wondered why there are more than forty? The Christian tradition considers each Sunday of the year to be a “mini Easter,” so the Sundays *in* Lent are not counted as part *of* Lent. Subtract them from the total and you have forty days. Now you know!

*Soli Deo gloria*—All glory be to God!

For Messiah’s Worship and Music Ministry,

*Stan Engle*

# GROWTH & LEARNING

## Sunday School in March

In February the Journey learned about Jesus Calling the Disciples and Stilling the Storm. In March we will start our series on The Lord's Prayer and Lent.

## EDGE

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

## CIA

Confirmation Class meets on Sunday, March 5, after the 10:30 AM service until 3:00 PM.

## PULSE

PULSE meets Sundays, March 5, 12, 19, and 26.

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.

We have some exciting stuff in the works. To follow up with our discussions on other religions we have been invited to the Jewish Temple on a Friday night (date to be determined) to partake in prayers and discussion on the Jewish faith. We are also working on a Sunday evening joining some Muslim friends in their traditions. As soon as we have these dates we will let you know so you can plan accordingly. The kids will not want to miss these opportunities!

## EDGE & CIA Lock-in

The EDGE (5th & 6th grades) and CIA (7th & 8th grades) will be having their spring lock-in on Friday, March 17, from 10:00 PM through Saturday, March 18, at 7:00 AM. You can drop your students off at the Youth House. Students need to bring a pillow, blanket/sleeping bag, snack to share, \$5, and any movies they may want to watch. Watch emails for more up to date information as we get closer to the 17th.

## **GROWTH & LEARNING (*cont*)**

### **Chili Cook-off Results!!**

Thanks to all who made chili and helped with the Chili Cook-off. We made about \$400 for our Student Ministries! This money will help offset the cost of Confirmation Camp this summer and an upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering trip in 2024! We had a tie for the People's Choice Champ (votes tallies) between Kasey Kissner and Amy Gilbert. Our Bean Pot Champ (chili that raised the most money) went to Craig Musolf! And we had many winners in Bingo and a good time was had by all!

### **Food Truck and Easter Egg Hunt Friday, March 24**

We will have a Messiah Child Care Food Truck Fundraiser and Easter Egg Hunt for Messiah friends and family on Friday, March 24, 5:00-7:00 PM. This will be an open house format. Please register your children ahead of time for the Easter Egg Hunt. The registration link will be on Messiah's Facebook page, the ChildCare Facebook page, and their respective websites. Join us for food, fun, and a visit from the Easter Bunny! If you have questions please contact Heidi at [heidi@messiahlc.com](mailto:heidi@messiahlc.com).

### **Soccer Gear Fundraiser**

*from Kasey Kissner and Beck Mahoney:* From March 1 through March 30 there will be a fundraiser to collect gently used or new soccer gear for our local Leo junior soccer organization. We are doing this as a Passion Project, on what we are passionate about, for our English class. Please put any donations in the bin in the foyer with the sign on it that states 'Soccer Gear Here.' We are accepting new or used soccer gear of the following: soccer balls, ankle guards, shin guards, jerseys, goalie gloves, etc. Thank you very much!

### **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 Confirma-



tion Camp and one mission trip. Currently we alternate summers between going to Confirmation Camp and a mission trip. This summer is Confirmation Camp!

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 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. Please let Heidi know ASAP if your student is planning on attending. ([heidi@messiahlc.com](mailto: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! Registration will open March 24.

## Lutheran Outdoor Ministries – Lake Luther, Lutheran Hills, and Camp Lutherwald

If you are looking for a fun and faith-filled summer camp for your kids check out Lutheran Outdoor Ministries at [www.lomik.org](http://www.lomik.org), or contact Heidi ([heidijokissner@gmail.com](mailto:heidijokissner@gmail.com)) for a camp brochure. LOMIK is also hiring for summer camp counselors, 18 or older!

# GROWTH & LEARNING *(cont)*

## Messiah Youth Ministry at a glance

Watch emails and Messenger for student ministry information. If you know a student who 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 so we can get you on the mailing list! [heidi@messiahlc.com](mailto:heidi@messiahlc.com)

### PULSE

Sunday, March 5 – Youth House, 6:00-8:00 PM  
Sunday, March 12 – Youth House, 6:00-8:00 PM  
Sunday, March 19– Youth House, 6:00-8:00 PM  
Sunday, March 26– Youth House, 6:00-8:00 PM  
Sunday, April 2 – No Youth House (Spring Break)  
Sunday, April 9 – Happy Easter!! No Youth House

### CIA

Sunday, March 5 – Confirmation Class, after 10:30 AM service until 3:00 PM,  
Youth House  
Sunday, March 12 – EDGE/CIA Youth House 12:00-2:00 PM  
Friday, March 17, 10:00 PM – Saturday, March 18, 7:00 AM – EDGE/CIA Spring Lock-In  
Sunday, March 19 – No Youth House  
Sunday, March 26 – EDGE/CIA Youth House 12:00-2:00 PM  
Sunday, April 2 – No Youth House (Spring Break)  
Sunday, April 9 – Happy Easter!! No Youth House

### EDGE

Sunday, March 5 – Bible Study 10:30 AM, Satre Hall – Gideon  
No Youth House  
Sunday, March 12 – Bible Study 10:30 AM in Satre Hall – Deborah  
EDGE/CIA Youth House 12:00-2:00 PM  
Friday, March 17, 10:00 PM – Saturday, March 18, 7:00 AM – EDGE/CIA Spring Lock-In

Sunday, March 19 – Bible Study 10:30 AM, Library – Israel Asks for A King  
No Youth House  
Sunday, March 26 – Bible Study 10:30 AM, Library  
EDGE/CIA Youth House 12:00-2:00 PM  
Sunday, April 2 – Bible Study 10:30 AM, Library  
No Youth House (Spring Break)  
Sunday, April 9 – Happy Easter!! No Bible Study or Youth House

## **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 of 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 AM, Church Office

Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 AM, Library

The Installation date is set for Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:karla@messiahlc.com).

We look forward to you joining our community of faith as we help people grow a faith in Jesus Christ that works in real life. May God’s Spirit guide us as we look to share the love of Christ with our community and the world.

## **GROWTH & LEARNING (cont)**

### **Messiah Adult Bible Studies**

Our Bible studies are taking a break, from 2/22/23 to 4/16/23, during the Lenten season so participants can join the Lent Experience. They will resume their normal schedules after Easter. Of course, we encourage you to consider The Lent Experience explained in “Pr. Tim’s Updates” on page 4.

**Tuesday Quest, at 9:00 AM:** Resumes April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Wednesday at 10:00 AM:** Resumes April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday at 10:00 AM:** Resumes April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday Good News Study Group at 6:30 PM:** Resumes April 20<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:pastortim.messiah@gmail.com).

## Woman to Woman

March 2023

*I am thankful, loving Father,*

1. for helping us to use the wisdom you give us for the good of all. 10¢
2. for this new day to celebrate your presence in our lives. 50¢
3. for Pastor Tim and the Board of Directors who lead our church, and I pray for them. 10¢
4. for your constant presence in my life. 25¢
5. for our hope to be ambassadors of Christ in ministering to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. 25¢
6. for your grace to us, and help us extend grace to others. 10¢
7. that you can provide us with a sense of assurance in times of trouble. 20¢
8. for this Lenten season to renew our faithfulness and devotion to Jesus Christ, our Savior. 10¢
9. for the food I eat that nourishes my body to do your will. 10¢
10. for this new day. Help me to do YOUR will. 15¢
11. for the opportunity to give care and encouragement to those who suffer. 5¢
12. for the home that I have to clean and I pray for those who have none. 10¢
13. for your devotion to me. You never give up! 25¢
14. for providing hope in my despair, as only you can do. 20¢
15. for this beautiful world that we live in. Do I take time to enjoy it? 10¢
16. for Pastor Tim and all church servants, and their ministry to Messiah Lutheran Church. We thank them. 25¢
17. for St. Patrick, all saints, and our missionaries throughout the world who help spread your word. 20¢
18. for your everlasting love. Help me to trust in you. 10¢
19. for the undeserved grace you bestow on us all. 25¢
20. for the beds we have to make this day. I pray for those who have none. 5¢
21. for the city workers who pick up trash, clear away debris, and clean streets. We thank them for their service. 10¢
22. for loving us so much that you gave your only Son to save us. 5¢
23. for awakening our souls to the dawn of your forgiveness. 10¢
24. that I have you with me at all times. 10¢
25. for expectant mothers. May God grant them strength and love in their time of waiting. 5¢
26. for healing your children of every ailment and restoring us to you. 10¢
27. for making us one through Christ in communion with you. 20¢
28. for making your law of love my heart's desire. 50¢
29. for helping me to be a beacon of light to others. 10¢
30. for helping me acknowledge my sin to you and rejoice in your forgiveness. 25¢
31. for helping me to keep you at the center of my life. 15¢

Please bring or send offering to church last Sunday of month, March 26.

Thank you for your continued support of our prayer ministry.

## CARE & NURTURE

### Parish Health Ministry

This month's article is about something that has as many questions, or maybe more questions, than there are answers for. If we are lucky enough to still have our parents, we may be dealing with aging issues or dementia. Helping our parents to deal with their lifestyle and happiness is not always an easy task.

Dementia may come out of the blue or have a gradual onset, or may not be noticed by us if we are constantly around our older family members. It may be more noticed by family or friends who have not seen the individual for a period of time. Some folks are really good at masking the issues they are dealing with. Sometimes sensory issues are as simple as not wearing their hearing aids and not hearing life go on around them.

Alzheimer's disease is a degenerative brain disease and the most common form of dementia. Dementia is not a specific disease but rather an overall term describing a group of symptoms. There are 55 million people in the United States living with dementia. It is estimated that by 2050 (not as far away as it seems) there will be 153 million people living with dementia worldwide. That is triple from 2019.

There is no cure for dementia or Alzheimer's. There are medications that may slow the process.

We have gleaned some advice from a variety of sources that may help you deal with this challenging situation. None of these work in every situation and all people are different. This is by no means a complete guide but our hope is to support you with this information.

- ♥ Love them! The ability to recognize and respond to love never really goes away.
- ♥ Don't challenge their beliefs. No point in correcting them – you can be the person who came to help them out.
- ♥ Talk about the old days – their childhood and parents.
- ♥ Play music that they will recognize – music is processed by the brain in a different way. Sometimes they can sing when they can no longer speak.
- ♥ Be open to small miracles – you will see them!

- ♥ Do anything to stimulate their brain – read to them and dance with them. Take animals and children to visit – such a sense of love that will make them happy.
- ♥ Try to stay calm as they will pick up on your anxiety.
- ♥ Sometimes you don't have to do anything, just be there watching TV. More frequent and shorter visits are better than fewer and longer ones.
- ♥ Don't rush them – they are not on the same clock as we are.
- ♥ Don't argue and offer no more than two choices and do not ask questions. This can be overwhelming and cause agitation.
- ♥ PATIENCE! Don't sweat the small stuff. (And guess what? It's all small stuff!!!!)
- ♥ Bring Joy! And NEVER forget that caretakers need relief whenever possible as they have the hardest job!

Your Parish Health Nurses

## BOOK OF LIFE

### **Baptism**

Olivia Joy Roby, February 19

### **Death**

Todd Ort, February 13

## OUTREACH & IN TOUCH

### Food Bank Outreach

Thank you for your continued support of Maplewood Mennonite and Faith & Light Food Pantries. Items needed for March are canned vegetables, canned beans, egg noodles, shampoo, body soap, tooth brushes, and deodorant.

### “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 AM service in Satre Hall. 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**

### **Dirily 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

## 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.

## Online Giving and 2023 Pledges

Online Giving is AVAILABLE at [www.messiahlc.com](http://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 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.



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**

*Connecting faith & finances for good.®*

**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://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

## Church Staff Email Addresses

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Director of Music Stan Engle: [stan@messiahlc.com](mailto:stan@messiahlc.com)

Director, Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Heidi Kissner: [heidi@messiahlc.com](mailto:heidi@messiahlc.com)

Director, Outreach Ministry Dave Beard: [dave@messiahlc.com](mailto:dave@messiahlc.com)

Director, ChildCare & Preschool Portia Howard: [portia@messiahlc.com](mailto:portia@messiahlc.com)

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Office Administrator Karla Myers: [karla@messiahlc.com](mailto:karla@messiahlc.com)

# Lent

I Z V R P R A Y E R K B E B V W M  
H C P B F R I E N D S H I P O H S  
S B X R I S P I R I T Z H Z F O E  
T N U F D M N Z G O D S Z A Q Z Y  
H K O U S E W O R S H I P F K G F  
F C H F O R G I V E N E S S R G L  
A H E L G C Z M D I X H G L R K X  
S U A V C Y D G L U K E O E V T J  
T R L M C G Q N E P C J D Y T R E  
I C I Q B H G I N A B E K D Q O S  
N H N G F G A T T I E R Z H U V U  
G J G Q Y R R O B B L U L O K B S  
A X J V V O W M M F I S R P M Q G  
F C U N A W H N K T E A G E C C P  
G M H Y T T O Y A E V L V E T F T  
J R H Y Y H L P Z B E E N T A M N  
T U E J I Q Y I F A O M O G B S C

Church

Friendship

Holy

Lent

Spirit

Believe

God

Hope

Luke

Worship

Fasting

Growth

Jerusalem

Mercy

Forgiveness

Healing

Jesus

Prayer

# 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

