

The Messenger

August 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, August 6: 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Backpack & Back-to-School Blessings

9:00 AM – Outdoor at Hickman Chapel w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Sunday, August 13: 11th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM – Outdoor at Hickman Chapel w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Sunday, August 20: 12th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM – Outdoor at Hickman Chapel w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Sunday, August 27: 13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM – Outdoor at Hickman Chapel w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Sunday, September 3: 14th Sunday after Pentecost & Labor Day

9:00 AM – INDOOR – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion



Pr. Tim's News

VOTING MEMBERS

Here's a topic that gets everyone excited...said NO pastor ever!!!

As we anticipate calling an Associate Pastor, we feel it's pertinent to clarify the requirements for voting members. Whenever a vote is scheduled for a pastor, each voting member must register and sign-in the day of the vote, verifying her/his status as a voting member. These requirements apply to every congregational vote including annual meetings, congregational budgets, and capital campaigns. And while every congregational vote requires this same necessity, voting to call pastors seems more significant because it doesn't happen very often.

Why does this matter? Messiah Lutheran Church is a legal entity, chartered by the State of Indiana, and the decisions we make as a body are legally binding.

Active Voting Members, as defined by Messiah Lutheran Church's Congregational Constitution (and the ELCA), are "confirmed persons who during the current or preceding calendar year (Jan. 2022 – Current), have communed in this congregation and have made a contribution of record to this congregation."

- * "Confirmed" means a member was confirmed at Messiah or received as a confirmed member at Messiah through affirmation of faith.
- * "Communed" means that person has received communion during a worship service at Messiah or directly from a pastor of record at Messiah from Jan 2022 to the current date.
- * "Made a contribution of record" means a person/household has made an offering of record — cash or check or online — **identifying the person/household as the donor**...from Jan 2022 to the current date.
- * Contributions of record should be donated by the Sunday prior to the vote so that the gifts may be properly recorded.

In the event the Board would nominate a potential candidate for the congregation to vote upon, an "Announcement Letter" will be sent two weeks prior to a vote date. The above information will be included as a reminder. If you have any questions regarding these matters, you may contact the church office.

If you or your family would like to join Messiah in an official capacity as Voting Members, New Members will be received on Sunday, August 27th, 2023. Please contact the church office at (260) 485-8716 for more info.

THE CALL TEAM UPDATE

Things change! Our Call Team received the name of a second potential candidate. As a result, the call team will meet to interview both candidates at scheduled dates in August. As I mentioned previously, if the Call Team feels strongly about one candidate, they will forward that candidate's name to Messiah's Board of Directors for further consideration while the other candidate will be removed from Messiah's pool of candidates. The Board will then schedule an interview with the proposed candidate. Again, if the Board confirms the candidate, the congregation will be invited to meet the candidate and offered the opportunity to vote for approval. It's a process, right? Holy Spirit, come!

STEWARDSHIP ENCOURAGEMENT

The summer months are filled with refreshment, traveling, and missing an occasional Sunday service! Thank you for remembering Messiah Lutheran Church with your offerings during the summer months! We offer secure, online giving through our website so that even when we're away, we can still maintain our financial commitment to God. Please contact the church office if you have any questions about or need assistance to navigate online giving.

In August, we will be collecting monetary donations for Mentoring Moms, a ministry that serves women in crisis. Messiah members Phyllis and Tom Agness are volunteers and supporters of this local ministry. Phyllis joins 30 or more women every Thursday for an evening meal, worship, and conversation (men not allowed on Thursdays). On Saturdays, volunteers pick up food and distribute to the participants. This is a real-life opportunity to serve those in dire circumstances. We would welcome your prayerful financial contributions. However, we invite all women to also prayerfully consider joining Phyllis in sharing these meal moments with the women in this ministry, or maybe a family moment in delivering meals.

Please, if you're able, make a contribution tagged for Mentoring Moms through Messiah. We would like to raise \$1000 for this critical ministry.

continued on following page

Pastor Tim's News, continued

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our worship schedule remains the same through August 27th, 2023.

9:00 AM, Tony Hickman Chapel (Outside), with Communion (bring your own lawn chair). Should weather cause a nuisance, we will move indoors.

10:30 AM, In-person & Livestream with Communion

So, continue bringing those lawn chairs for one more month! Looking forward to worshipping in the beautiful outdoor space God has given Messiah Lutheran Church.

May God's Spirit guide Messiah Lutheran Church as we look to share the love of Christ with our community and the world.

In Christ's love,

Pr. Tim Graham



Starting Up Again

August is here, and that means the start of another school year and new beginnings for some of Messiah’s ministries. Here are some highlights that may be of interest to you.

Outdoor worship at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays will continue throughout the month. We will resume indoor worship on Labor Day weekend.

Blessing of backpacks, students, and school personnel will take place at the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. services on Back to School Sunday, August 6. Students are encouraged to bring their backpacks with them to worship on that day.

Sanctuary Choir will resume rehearsals later this month. If you enjoy singing, you are welcome! Contact me (text or cell) at (260) 249-8022.

Soli Deo gloria—All glory be to God!

For Messiah’s Worship and Music Ministry,

Stan Engle

GROWTH & LEARNING

Messiah Youth Ministry

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, heidi@messiahlc.com. Weekly correspondence throughout the year is done through emails also.

EDGE is our youth group for those students entering grades 5 and 6 in Fall of 2023. EDGE is still part of Journey (children's Sunday School program) and will have their own Bible study on Sundays during the second service at 10:30. We also will meet at the Youth House various Sundays after the 10:30 service beginning in September.

CIA is our youth group for those middle school students entering grades 7 and 8 in Fall of 2023. After Labor Day, Confirmation classes will start. Watch emails for more information on Confirmation classes. We also will meet at the Youth House various Sundays after the 10:30 service.

PULSE is our youth group for those students entering grades 9-12 in Fall of 2023. We meet on Sundays at the Youth House, beginning after Labor Day.

College Care Ministry

The College Care Ministry is our ministry at Messiah for students going off to college. Adults and families at Messiah "adopt" a student and help maintain correspondence, encouragement, support, and relationships during the year.

If you have a student who will be entering or returning to college in the fall and you would like to have them involved, please forward their name and any contact information available to Dave Beard, dbeard2216@gmail.com or Heidi Kissner, heidi@messiahlc.com.

Young Adult & College Care Pool Party Open House

We are having a pool party/cookout/open house for all of our young adults who have graduated from high school on Wednesday, August 2, 2:00-8:00 PM at Dave and Jaci Beard's home, 8127 Tranquilla Place, 46815. Stop in and have a bite to eat, swim, and catch up! We will also have information and papers to sign up for College Care Ministry.

Journey (Sunday School)

Messiah's Journey program (Sunday School) will start back up Sunday, September 10. Journey is for kids ages 3 through 4th grade. We meet during the 10:30 worship hour.

Journey Teachers

Please watch your emails for Fall calendar dates, meeting information, and curriculum information. Journey (Sunday School) will begin on Sunday, September 10.

Confirmation Save the Date!

Mark your calendars as we will be celebrating our 2023 Confirmands on Sunday, September 24, at the 10:30 service.

Backpack Blessings

Join us at either service and bring your backpacks and school bags for the upcoming school year. We'll have backpack blessings on Sunday, August 6, at both the 9:00 and 10:30 services during the Kids' Talk. Help us get everyone started off for a great school year!

GROWTH & LEARNING (*cont*)

Youth Events in August

EDGE students (entering grades 5 and 6, 2023-2024 school year) will be meeting at the Youth House, along with the CIA students, on Sunday, August 27, from 12:00-2:00 PM, for a cookout and hangout! We'll provide chips, drinks, burgers, and dogs!

EDGE Bible study will be meeting on Sundays beginning September 10 during the 10:30 worship hour.

CIA students (entering grades 7 and 8, 2023-2024 school year) will be meeting at the Youth House along with the EDGE students, on Sunday, August 27, from 1200-2:00 PM, for a cookout and hangout! We'll provide chips, drinks, burgers, and dogs!

Confirmation Class schedule will be out soon!

PULSE students (entering grades 9-12, 2023-2024 school year) will be meet at Dave & Jaci Beard's house Friday, August 18, from 6:00-8:00 PM, for a pool party/cookout/hangout! We'll provide chips, drinks, burgers, and dogs. Any sides and desserts are appreciated.

Messiah Adult Bible Studies

Our Bible studies will resume in the first full week of August. We hope you can find a group that will interest you as well as fit your schedule. If schedule is an issue, please contact Pr. Tim to discuss any possible alternative interest opportunities.

Tuesday Quest, at 9 AM: RESUMES August 8th. We will return to our book study, “Wiser and Older,” chapter 7. I have some extra books if anyone is interested in joining us.

Wednesday at 10 AM: RESUMES August 9th. We jump into a new season with a 12-week study on the Freedom of a Christian, based on the Epistle of Galatians and Martin Luther’s writing. The Apostle Paul writes: “For freedom Christ has set us free...” (Galatians 5:1). Please read Galatians 1.1-2.10 in preparation for our study.

Thursday at 10 AM: RESUMES August 10th. We will return to our book study, “Wiser and Older,” chapter 7. I have some extra books if anyone is interested in joining us.

Thursday Good News Study Group at 6:30 PM: RESUMES August 10th. We will launch an 8-week study on the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew chapters 5-7. Does Jesus really mean what he says? Is he serious? Let’s explore it together. Read Matthew 5 in preparation to begin our discussion.

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

I am thankful, loving Father,

1. for building us up to serve you and our world through Jesus' name. 25¢
2. for never ceasing to call us to draw closer to you. 10¢
3. for patience and wisdom to love all your children. 5¢
4. for the rain that falls and nurtures our land. 10¢
5. for satisfying my deepest hunger. 20¢
6. for your presence and your blessings in our lives. 5¢
7. for being gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 10¢
8. for hearing prayers anywhere we utter them. 5¢
9. for your Son who taught what being a servant means. 20¢
10. for our children as they begin another school year. May we nurture them in their search for knowledge and help them turn to God for love and guidance. 25¢
11. for creating within each person her own unique gift to share. 5¢
12. for the stories of faithful people throughout the Bible. 10¢
13. for your constant presence and steadfastness in our lives. 25¢
14. for being part of the Body of Christ which plants seeds of faith. 15¢
15. for forgiveness and restoration. 20¢
16. for loving the unlovable. 5¢
17. for the salvation that you grant us believers. 15¢
18. for teaching us how to pray and for answering our prayers. 10¢
19. for granting us faith to turn to you in times of despair. 20¢
20. for calling us back to faith when we go astray. 10¢
21. for the hymns of praise written in the Psalms. 20¢
22. for calling me to be your Disciple. 10¢
23. for Pastor Tim and our church staff who help us in our faith journey of Christ. 25¢
24. for using me to build up your Church. 15¢
25. for inspiring me when I read your word. 10¢
26. for all those who are sick in mind or body and need your love and healing power. 25¢
27. for giving us our abundances in life; may we offer thanks always. 10¢
28. for providing strength and courage in times of trial. 5¢
29. for helping me to trust in you more fully each day. 15¢
30. for helping us find you in the goodness and graces of this life. 25¢
31. for showing me your holiness amidst the world's brokenness. 10¢

*Bring or send offering to church on last Sunday of month—August 27
Thank you to all for your contributions to Woman to Woman fund.*

CARE & NURTURE

Woman to Woman Prayer Calendar

Each month the Woman to Woman Prayer Calendar is published in the Messenger. Short prayers are suggested for each day of the month to help women of our church with a prayer schedule. After each prayer is a suggested amount for contributing to the Woman to Woman fund. At the end of the month money can be brought to church and placed in the Woman to Woman basket, or sent through the mail. This fund helps women who may be struggling to pay utility, medical, or household bills. This fund is an important way for women to help each other in time of need. We thank everyone who has continued to contribute to this mission and hope that the prayer calendar helps not only in a monetary way, but in a spiritual way as well. May God Bless all of you for your continued prayers and donations.

OUTREACH & IN TOUCH

Food Bank Outreach

Thank you for your continued support of Maplewood Mennonite, Purdue Fort Wayne, and Faith & Light Food Pantries. Items needed for August are peanut butter, jelly, toothpaste, rice, and oatmeal.

Bags of Grace

Our next Bags of Grace distribution will be in late September. We are collecting individual protein items (Vienna sausages, chicken or tuna, etc.), soap, toothpaste, gum, and cookies. In preparation for winter we are accepting gloves, blankets, and adult white tube or crew socks. We do not need hats at this time. Any food items need to be individually wrapped and not require refrigeration, cooking, or a can opener. A collection bin is located in Satre Hall. Please contact Jan Johnson at justplainjan47@gmail.com or call 260-479-0946 with any questions.

OUTREACH & IN TOUCH *(cont)*

School Supplies

School will be starting soon, and supplies are being collected. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated. Thank you for your generosity. Please contact Bill or Charnell Marker at bcwmarker@aol.com with any questions. Needed supplies are:

backpacks	#2 pencils	12" rulers
3 ring binders	erasers	scissors
wide ruled filler paper	crayons	hand sanitizer
wide ruled spiral notebooks	white school glue	disinfectant wipes
pencil boxes/pouches	glue sticks	tissues

Rummage Sale

Start rounding up your rummage for a fall sale to be held on Friday, September 15, and Saturday, September 16. Stay tuned for more details!

Bethlehem Christians

Authentic products from the Holy Land ideal for souvenirs, keepsakes, and special gifts will be available for purchase in the Narthex on Sunday, August 27.

OPERATIONS

Tech News

Dear Members of Messiah Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace be with you from your “friends in the back!” We are all delighted to share some wonderful news and developments from the tech department. It’s been a long 8 months since the dedication of the remodeled sanctuary and we have been extremely busy. From advanced technology to embracing the talents of our volunteers, exciting changes are underway.

First and foremost, I want to extend warm and heartfelt thanks for the untold hours that Emily and Richard have volunteered in helping to design, install, and implement the fantastic new hardware and software that we have been blessed with. It would have been impossible to do this alone. More than anything I want to thank them for their prayers and emotional support in all of this. I also want to thank Eric and welcome Eva and Cash, two dedicated young volunteers who have joined our production team. They are showing a natural talent for the audio, video, and broadcast production.

Over the past 8 months, we have installed new computers and monitors, state-of-the-art stage infrastructure, and video processing for live streaming, improved sound system components, dynamic presentation software, and improved lighting systems. These improvements will aid us in providing improved live and live stream worship services and events.

As the tech director, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to every member, supporter, and volunteer and staff member who has faithfully contributed to this transformative phase. It is your unwavering dedication and commitment to our church that allows us to embrace progress and continually seek ways to deepen our connection with God and one another. May God's grace and mercy guide us as we embark on this exciting chapter of our church's story.

Blessings and peace,

Josh Gumbert, Technical Director

OPERATIONS (cont)

Support Childcare and Preschool with Kroger Rewards

You can support Messiah Lutheran Childcare & Preschool while you shop at Kroger! Here's how to get started: Go to <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>. Click on Create an Account (If you already have a Kroger Plus card but are not an online customer) or click on Sign in (if you are an online customer already and want to designate Messiah Lutheran Childcare & Preschool as your charity of choice). Our organization number is VU077. Thank you for your support! Please pass this information along and encourage your family and friends to enroll as well!

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
Director, Children, Youth, & Family Ministries Heidi Kissner heidi@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

Church Board Email Addresses

Chair Cindy Riebersal cariebersal@gmail.com
Vice Chair Mary Satre mesatre@comcast.net
Treasurer Steve Berlin steveber@hotmail.com
Secretary Beth Crilly bac1011@msn.com
Shelly Musolf shelly.musolf@yahoo.com
Steve Van Wyngarden stevevanw@comcast.net

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 at the

Tony Hickman Outdoor Chapel

10:30 AM

In person and online