

The Messenger

November 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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Table of Contents

Mission	Page
Growth & Learning	9
ChildCare News	14
Woman to Woman	15
Care & Nurture	16
Outreach & In Touch	19
Operations	21
Vision Statement	25

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, November 5: All Saints Sunday

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Sunday, November 12: 24th Sunday after Pentecost/Noisy Offering

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Sunday, November 19: 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Breakfast 8:30-9:45 AM in Satre Hall/Gymnasium

10:00 AM – One Service

Annual Congregational Meeting immediately afterwards

*****Thanksgiving Day, November 23*****

Sunday, November 26: Christ the King Sunday

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Saturday, December 2: Christmas Lighting/Santa Visit

Christmas Display Lighting 5:30 PM

Santa, Songs, and Games immediately following

Christmas Eve Schedule (Sunday, December 24)

10:00 AM, 5:30 PM, 7:30 PM, 11:00 PM



Pr. Tim's News

NOW WHAT? (This is probably more for me than it is for you.)

I don't know about you, but for me, when I think about what is next, I always have to look back and see what's happened. It's kind of biblical! As God leads people forward into something new or unknown or calls people back to faith, God always reminds people of where they have been or what they have overcome, and how God has been present or at work in those situations.

I know there are new and unknown places ahead for Messiah Lutheran Church (and Christianity for that matter), but God has been ever present in the life of Messiah's ministry, and God has led and guided our congregation through the mountains and valleys of congregational life. So, before we look forward, let's take a look back.

In 2010, when I was called to Messiah full-time, there were three pastors on staff! In October 2014, when I became the interim senior pastor, I was the **ONLY** pastor on staff, and have been until we called Pr. Brian.

In 2014, we had a major financial crisis to the point of near bankruptcy. But we rallied our giving and refinanced our mortgage to Band-Aid some building concerns. By 2016, we were out of the red and had some savings.

In 2016, our Strategic Planning changed the trajectory of our ministry.

We added the Executive Administrator role (with a grant similar to the one we received for Pr. Brian; so, we have done this before).

We also added a full-time Children's and Youth Ministry Director.

We initiated the change towards full-time childcare.

We completed a \$70k renovation of the Youth House.

In 2018, we transformed our leadership model by amending our constitution to adhere to an accountability model, replacing the former "church council" with our current Board of Directors.

In 2020... COVID – what else do you say about that? And we conducted a Building Campaign and the congregation of Messiah Lutheran pledges \$1.1 million!!!

In 2022, the building renovation takes off and is completed at a final cost \$2.3 million!!! Paid for!!! No debt!!!

In 2023, Pr. Brian Spahr is called. Oh yeah, we have a current \$80k deficit.

And we can fill in the blanks with... a multitude of grants requested and received, numerous professional consultants (marketing, hospitality, youth, building, etc.), youth mission trips and national gatherings, a couple's mission trip, the receipt of significant gifts, block parties, school connections, and food pantry partnerships...

To be very clear, THIS IS AMAZING! It is nothing short of AMAZING! Anytime it looked like Messiah Lutheran Church was done, like we weren't going to make it, like obstacles could not be overcome, what has happened?

Has God been present? Has God raised up new leaders? Has God sent the Spirit to enliven our trust and ignite our generosity into faithfulness? Has God been faithful?

Messiah Lutheran Church, I have no doubt that we can respond with a resounding YES!!! Has it been perfect? No. Has it been easy? No. Has it been what we thought it would be? No. Has God been present and faithful? YES!!!

So, when I (we) say NOW WHAT, maybe that could be revised to say, "NOW WHAT, GOD?" Now where are you going to lead us, God? Now how are you going to enliven us, God? Now what are you going to do through us, God? Now how will you show us you are present, God?

Our mission says to help people grow a faith in Jesus Christ that works in real life! We can tout our mission, not because it's nifty or theological or biblical. But rather, we can tout it because it's PRACTICAL. God has helped Messiah Lutheran Church grow a faith in Jesus Christ that works in real life! In the real world! God has been faithful to Messiah! So, NOW WHAT, GOD?

THE NEXT MEETING

Our next congregational meeting is the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 19, 2023!

The day will begin with breakfast from 8:30-9:45 AM in the Satre Hall Gymnasium.

Pam Crum will serve as our host for the day as she prepares the breakfast meal.

Worship, ONE SERVICE, will begin at 10:00 AM.

The Annual Meeting will begin immediately after the worship service in the sanctuary worship space.

The 2023 Annual Congregational Reports are available in the Narthex/Lobby area.

The official meeting announcement, along with the 2024 proposed budget, will be mailed to you no later than November 9, 2023.

We sincerely hope you will consider joining us for this day.

continued on next page

WELCOME PR. BRIAN SPAHR

Pr. Brian has been called and already begun his ministry at Messiah Lutheran Church...
Thanks be to God!

We welcome his wife, Michelle (a proper Steelers fan!) and their wonderful teen children, Zachary and Marin! We are so delighted to welcome you all in this capacity at Messiah Lutheran Church!

As I mentioned, Pr. Brian has already begun working! To be clear, we don't anticipate any sudden changes or moves in our ministry. It's appropriate for Pr. Brian to find a groove here at Messiah, to meet as many folks as possible, and to listen how God is calling him to lead in more specific ways. In the meantime, he's jumping in where he can and focusing on developing relationships with our staff and the congregation.

So, we will continue to celebrate the calling of Pr. Brian to 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



Meet Pr. Brian

I put down my keys and badge, closed the door, and walked to my car.

I felt the weight of my shift with every step. It ended with what became an all too familiar heartache. Another life lost to senseless violence. It was a fitting end to my (almost) four years as a hospital chaplain. In that time, I saw horrors I will never unsee. It was a beautiful and terrible, life-giving and life-taking, healing and hurtful journey. And I wouldn't trade

it for anything. Being a chaplain has forever shaped how I want to live, love, and serve people... ALL people. So often, I stepped into intimate spaces of grief and loss, not knowing what to say or do, only to discover that the divine was already present and caring for people in their deepest needs. My job was simply to draw attention to God's healing, holy, light-bringing presence.

Now, I get to begin anew as I step into the role of Associate Pastor here at Messiah.

I don't fully know what everything is going to look like moving forward. I've got lots of energy and ideas, but ultimately the point of all the work ahead is the same as it was in chaplaincy. God is already at work. The Spirit is already moving and stirring in, around, and through us. My job (and our job together) is to listen well and pay attention to what God is up to and participate with God in God's redemptive work in our community.

I'm excited to be on this path with you all. It will take me some time to get to know names and faces, but you have already helped me feel so welcome. Thank you!

If you want to reach out to me, my email is pastorbrian@messiahlc.com, or just call the church office. I love to grab coffee and have conversations, so let's connect and get to know one another.

It's an honor to be one of your pastors. I look forward to a lot of life and ministry together.

Peace Be with You,

Pastor Brian Spahr



A Month to Give Thanks

Allow me to share one of my favorite hymn stories with you. This one is about Martin Rinkart, a pastor in Eilenberg, Germany during the Thirty Years War. Since Eilenberg was a walled city, people from miles around came there, seeking refuge from the war. Overcrowding resulted in famine and pestilence. When other clergymen left or died, Rinkart alone was left to minister to the city, sometimes preaching burial services for forty or fifty persons in one day. His wife also was taken by the pestilence, and he himself fell ill, but survived. It was during this time that he wrote a hymn expressing his thoughts. That hymn was “Now Thank We All Our God.” If he could give thanks in such circumstances, we, too, would do well to give thanks for God’s mercies in this month of thanksgiving.

Please join us each Sunday at either the 9:00 or 10:30 a.m. service. Here are special days we will observe this month.

All Saints Sunday, November 5. On this day we remember loved ones who have died, especially those who passed away this past year. We recall with thanksgiving their lives of faith and love that have nourished us on our journey.

Congregational meeting, November 19. We will have just one service, starting at 10:00 a.m., preceded by a breakfast at 8:30. The service will combine traditional hymns and handbells with contemporary Christian music, and the annual meeting will begin promptly after worship. See details elsewhere in this edition of The Messenger.

Christ the King Sunday, November 26. This Sunday brings the church year to a close, as we remember that the Crucified One is the one who is coming to bring peace and justice to the world for whom he died. Let us gather to sing his praises!

Soli Deo gloria—All glory be to God!

For Messiah’s Worship and Music Ministry,

Stan Engle

GROWTH & LEARNING

Journey At Messiah (JAM)

The Journey is Messiah’s children’s ministry and JAM Time is our Sunday School for ages 3 through 6th grade. We meet Sunday mornings during the 10:30 worship service in the Childcare rooms 6 and 7 in the West Childcare hallway.

We use a rotation style of curriculum where we study one lesson over the span of 2-3 Sundays in various forms such as crafts, games, videos, and sometimes food! In November we will be talking about Moses and the 10 Commandments.

Journey will not meet on Sundays, November 19 (one service, Congregational Meeting) and November 26 (Thanksgiving weekend).

We will also begin working on our Christmas program on Sundays during Sunday School Journey time.

November 5 Donut Sunday

As part of our fundraising efforts for the ELCA Gathering in July 2024, we will be having Donut Sunday one Sunday a month through December. Meet us in the Narthex for coffee and breakfast before or after service—stay and visit with us! Thanks to a Thrivent Action Team, 100% of all donations will go towards offsetting student’s travel costs.

Noisy Offering

Our next Noisy Offering will be on Sunday, November 12, at both services. Monies from Noisy Offering will be going towards helping offset students’ travel costs for the 2024 CIA Mission Trip to Kenosha and to the ELCA Youth Gathering.

Mission Trip & ELCA Youth Gathering Deadlines

Deadline for CIA Kenosha Mission Trip and ELCA Youth Gathering has been extended to November 15. Please let Heidi know if your student will be attending either of these opportunities. If you’d like more information, please contact Heidi.

GROWTH & LEARNING *(cont)*

Children's Christmas Program

Mark your calendars! The Children's Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 17. Join us at the 10:30 service as we share our favorite story! Practices in November will be during the Journey Sunday School hour, 10:30-11:30. If your child is interested in participating at some level please let Heidi know, heidijokissner@gmail.com.

Christmas Nativity Lights Set Up

The Youth Group will be meeting the Men's Group at the Youth House on Saturday, December 2, 9:00 AM, to set up the Christmas Nativity display on the East lawn. There will be donuts and coffee at the Youth House, then we'll help get the lights set up and ready for the Lighting Celebration and Santa that night!

Christmas Lighting Celebration and Santa!

Join us on Saturday, December 2, for the official lighting of Messiah's exterior Christmas Nativity display! There'll be hot chocolate, cookies, music, and a visit from Santa!! Festivities begin 5:30 PM on the East lawn of the church in front of the lights for the official lighting! Santa visits will begin around 6:00 and last until 7:30. Registration with Santa is required. This is simply to make sure we have enough goodies for all the kids. This is a free event, but we will be collecting gloves and hats for our Bags of Grace ministry and FWCS. Please watch Facebook for updates. Registration for Santa closes at noon on December 2. Contact Heidi, heidi@messiahlc.com, with any questions.

Registration link & QR code: <https://forms.gle/A8gkR38Sj6APfexAA>



The Marvels!

All youth groups are invited to go with us to watch The Marvels on Sunday afternoon, November 19, time TBD. We'll meet in the lobby of Regal Theatres at Coldwater Crossing. RSVP is required by noon on Saturday, November 18. Watch emails for more information as we get closer!

Messiah Student Ministries

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.

PULSE

PULSE is our youth group for those entering grades 9-12, Fall 2023.

PULSE will be meeting at the Youth House from 4-6 PM on Sundays, November 5 and 12.

Sunday, November 19, we will be gathering with other youth of Messiah at Regal Theatres to see The Marvels movie. More info to come.

There will no PULSE Sunday, November 26, Thanksgiving weekend.

Sunday, November 12, will be Wing Challenge #3. Please RSVP to Heidi by Saturday, November 11.

CIA

CIA is our youth group for those middle school students entering grades 7 and 8, Fall 2023.

CIA stands for Confirmands in Action. We call it this because these are the years when the kids go through classes to prepare them for Confirmation in the Fall of their Freshman year.

Confirmation Class will be Sunday, November 5, 12-3 PM at the Youth House. We are talking about the Bible this year using videos from The Chosen series for discussion.

Sunday, November 12, we will have our EDGE/CIA hangout at the Youth House from 12-2 PM. We will have a light lunch, fun, and some discussion.

Sunday, November 19, we will be gathering with other youth of Messiah at Regal Theatres to see The Marvels. More info to come.

There will not be CIA on Sundays, November 19 (one service, Congregational Meeting), and November 26 (Thanksgiving weekend).

GROWTH & LEARNING (*cont*)

EDGE

EDGE is our youth group for those students entering grades 5 and 6, Fall 2023. Why EDGE? Because these students are riding on the edge of being kids and teenagers! EDGE is still part of our Journey (children's Sunday School program) and have their own Bible study on Sundays during the second service in room #4 (west hallway of childcare.)

In EDGE Bible Study this month we will be studying the lessons Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man and Jesus raises Jairus' Daughter

We will also be practicing for the Christmas program during EDGE Bible Study in November.

Sunday, November 12, we will have our EDGE/CIA hangout at the Youth House from 12-2 PM. We will have a light lunch, fun, and some discussion.

Sunday, November 19, we will be gathering with other youth of Messiah at Regal Theatres to see The Marvels. More info to come.

There will not be EDGE Bible Study or Youth House on Sundays, November 19 (one service, Congregational Meeting), and November 26 (Thanksgiving weekend).

Youth Events in November

PULSE

Sunday, November 5 – 4:00-6:00 PM, Youth House

Sunday, November 12 – 4:00-6:00 PM, Youth House (Wing Challenge #3)

Sunday, November 19 – The Marvels, Time TBD

Sunday, November 26 – NO PULSE

CIA

Sunday, November 5 – 12:00-3:00 PM, Confirmation Class, Youth House

Sunday, November 12 – 12:00-2:00 PM, EDGE/CIA Youth House

Sunday, November 19 – NO CIA YOUTH HOUSE

Sunday, November 19 – The Marvels, Time TBD

Sunday, November 26 – NO CIA YOUTH HOUSE

EDGE

Sunday, November 5 – 10:30 AM Bible Study
Sunday, November 5 – NO YOUTH HOUSE
Sunday, November 12 – 10:30 AM Bible Study
Sunday, November 12 – 12:00-2:00 PM, EDGE/CIA Youth House
Sunday, November 19 – NO EDGE BIBLE STUDY
Sunday, November 19 – NO EDGE/CIA YOUTH HOUSE
Sunday, November 19 – The Marvels, Time TBD
Sunday, November 26 – NO EDGE BIBLE STUDY
Sunday, November 26 – NO EDGE/CIA YOUTH HOUSE

Adult Bible Studies

Our Bible studies are in full gear. Below is what the schedule usually looks like. We hope you can find a group that will interest you as well as fit your schedule. If the schedule is an issue, please contact Pr. Tim to discuss any possible alternative interest opportunities.

Tuesday Quest, 9:00 AM: We are continuing our study of Pr. Brian Spahr’s book, “Don’t You Care That We Are Drowning (and Other Unexpected Prayers).” I have one extra book (cost \$11) and would love for new people to join us.

Wednesday, 10:00 AM: We are in the final chapters of Galatians. The Apostle Paul writes: “For freedom Christ has set us free...” (Galatians 5:1). We have yet to decide what we will consider next.

Thursday, 10:00 AM: After a couple of short studies with “Jesus Calling,” we will begin a new study on The Twelve Disciples. The book costs \$13. it’s also available on Kindle.

Thursday Good News Study Group, 6:30 PM: This group is still tackling (wrestling!) with the book of Revelation! It’s a lively conversation and all are invited to attend.

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.

Messiah Metro — Childcare News

Portia Howard, Director

November 2023

Turkey, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie... oh my! Hello November! We hope that your fall has been wonderful and we hope that you are finding things to be grateful for during this season. We are grateful to have such loving families in our corner, thank you!! The classrooms are trucking along with their learning! This month, we are learning about veterans, what "harvest" is and all types of things we can be thankful for! We are also learning about the color brown, the number 3, and squares. As the weather continues to change and get colder outside, we would like to still enjoy some gross motor time out in nature. Please be sure that your child is equipped with appropriate clothing to have fun outdoors while the weather permits! We will be closed for Thanksgiving, as well as the day after. Please stay safe and healthy!!

Teacher Feature

Our teacher feature this month is Miss Rebekah! Miss Rebekah has been with Messiah a little over a year. She started in the toddlers' room and now the 3 ½'s teacher. She loves spending time outdoors at the lake, as well travel. Her favorite food is her grandma's Mac and Cheese and her favorite color is light blue. One fun fact about Miss Rebekah is that you will never catch her wearing plain socks! If you see Miss Rebekah in the hallway, be sure to wave hello!

Upcoming Dates

P-T Conferences are TBD

November 23rd and 24th: Closed for Thanksgiving Break

A Fun Riddle for November!

Q: What smells the best every Thanksgiving dinner?

Your nose!

"O give thanks unto the LORD;
for he is good;
for his mercy endureth for ever."

-1 Chronicles 16:34

Woman to Woman

November 2023

I am thankful, loving Father,

1. for this new day to remember All Saints, past and present, as followers of Christ. 10¢
2. for the blessings you have bestowed on me; help me to be forever grateful. 10¢
3. for taking away the fears that make me hesitate to help others. 10¢
4. for our families that we cherish so much; be with them always. 5¢
5. for giving your life so that everyone may know your love. 20¢
6. that I have you to provide me hope in the depth of my despair. Help me to remember that you have everything under control. 20¢
7. for the promise of resurrection. 25¢
8. for the good that comes to me. Open my eyes so that I can see it all. 15¢
9. for your instructions and teachings. Give us courage to follow through Christ. 20¢
10. Help us to use our gifts with confidence to do your work in the world. 10¢
11. for Veteran's Day; a time to remember the sacrifices of our armed forces and their commitment to keep us safe around the world. 25¢
12. for guiding us to remember we are the church, the living body of Christ in the world. 10¢
13. for those who take care of our beautiful building. Bless them. 20¢
14. for helping us to entrust each day and each new tomorrow to you. 15¢
15. for Messiah Lutheran Church as we work together "to help people grow a faith in Jesus Christ that works in real life." 10¢
16. for my ears to hear your call to me to follow your will. 20¢
17. for all those people who need healing and comfort in their time of need. 5¢
18. for our trust in you that we may turn to you always. 10¢
19. for being constantly with me as I eat, work, play, and serve. 5¢
20. for the peace that you give me in times of stress. 20¢
21. for my eyes and I pray for those who can't see. 10¢
22. for helping us to serve others so your name may be praised. 25¢
23. for blessing us with many gifts from you, Lord, on this Thanksgiving Day. \$1.00
24. for hearing our prayers as we call out to you for love and strength. 25¢
25. for choosing to walk in the way of the Lord. 10¢
26. for your peace that you give us, and may we spread peace to others. 25¢
27. for your faithfulness to us that endures forever. 50¢
28. for comfort and consolation to those who mourn. 20¢
29. for our trust in your word and our openness to your salvation. 10¢
30. for quiet witnesses of Christ who enrich our church and community. 10¢

Please bring or send your offering to church on November 26

CARE & NURTURE

From the Parish Health Ministry

The holidays are once again approaching. As we look forward to good food and company we must address a couple things.

For many families, we look forward to our traditional favorite foods being served at the holidays. Food safety is the concern here. There are two types of bacteria that can cause food issues. There is the spoilage bacteria that a visual or sniff test tells us the food has gone bad. There is also a pathogenic bacteria that can cause you to be very sick even when the food did not taste or smell bad. Keeping food properly chilled will slow the growth of bacteria and proper food handling will reduce the risk of getting sick. Washing your hands before handling food and when switching between different foods; such as when handling raw meat and switching to vegetables. Keep raw foods separate from ready-to-eat foods. Wash your surfaces, cutting boards, and dishes with hot soapy water. Never place cooked foods on the same dish that contained raw meat without washing it first with hot soapy water.

Rinse fresh fruits and vegetables under running water. And remember to clean the tops of canned goods before opening.

Never thaw food at room temperature on the countertop. Defrost in the refrigerator, in cold water, or in the microwave. Food that you defrost in cold water or microwave should be cooked immediately.

Refrigerate or freeze meat, poultry, eggs, seafood, or any other perishables within 2 hours of cooking or purchasing. Refrigerate or freeze those leftovers to enjoy later.

The above is per guidelines from the FDA.

A walk after the meal helps you work off some of the calories of your favorite foods you ingested. The fresh air may also help counteract the sleepiness that can come with the high carbohydrate ingestion.

Most of all, enjoy each other (warts and all - we all have them). We never know what tomorrow will bring. Stay safe.

Parish Health Nurses

Prayer List

Ongoing Prayer Concerns for these members and their families:

Michelle Spahr	Sarah Tackett	Chris Waldron
Blankenhorn-Cook family	Lois Merica	Jena Rejak
Phyllis Mort	Kathy Johnsonbaugh	Chuck Ellis
Jerry Reff	Cathy Chester	Walt Strasser
Amy & Adam Odorizzi	Valerie Neuhouser	Joan Marshaus
Bobbi & John Pearce	Kathy Ruprecht	Ken Bertz
Julie Braun	Dave & Sue Myers	Stephanie Welbaum
Kandy Dold	Dody Crilly	

Friends and Relatives of Messiah: *(removed after 1 month unless otherwise notified)*

Martha Slick
Portia Howard
Carlos Lugo
Vivian Simmons
Tom Leigh-Manuell *(friend of the Reffs)*
Amy Laurence *(sister of Cathy Chester)*
Lori Reed *(daughter-in-law of Grace Reed)*
Steve Montez
Bryce Shull
Jim Martin *(friend of Sharon Clark)*
Tom Gust *(friend of Jerry Reff)*
Don Tinker *(brother of Denise Gibbons)*
Robert Buck *(friend of Karla Myers)*
Marcus Black *(son of Eric & Joyce Black)*
Max Matteson *(grandson of Gracie Matteson)*
David Shuler *(father of Jason Shuler)*
Hayden Rice *(grandson of Dave & Sue Myers, nephew of Karla Myers)*
Tracie Tinker *(niece of Matt & Denise Gibbons)*
Nancy Felheim *(friend of the Myers family)*
Dave Shuler *(father of Jason Shuler)*
Stan Stalcup *(friend of Chuck & Becky Ellis)*
Libby Antkowiak *(daughter of Chuck & Becky Ellis)*
Dan & Connie Dickey *(friends of Grace Reed)*

continued on next page

CARE & NURTURE *(cont)*

Prayer List continued

Jeannie Lyons (*friend of Richelle Rush*)
Donna Kneubuhler (*sister-in-law of Sharon Clark*)
Larry Mould (*brother of Dave Mould*)
Joe Reed & family (*son of Grace Reed*)
Phil and Norell (*family of Bill & Char Marker*)
Jennifer Perkins (*niece of Steve & Sharon Stamper*)
Karen Rahmel (*sister-in-law of Becky Ellis*)
Jeff Rahmel (*brother of Becky Ellis*)
Ann Marie Lento (*mother of Cara Kaiser*)
Gracie Matteson (*preschool assistant*)
Abigail Offhaus (*former Messiah member*)
Tim Smith (*friend of Craig & Patty Hooker*)
Rose Ellen Marquart (*Messiah friend, former Preschool director*)

For our homebound members and friends

Cathy Chester
David Drefke
Kevin Knepper
Beverly Lickey
Harriet Paul

For the men and women of our Armed Services

Preston Kerlegrand (*grandson of Garry & Jean Pook*)
Daniel Herschberger (*grandson of Sharon Clark*)
Gloria Jackson (*daughter of Robin Jackson*)
Luke Hunter (*grandson of Stan & Pam Engle, cousin of Katie*)
Juan Astorga (*nephew of Bill & Charnell Marker*)
Grace Marker (*niece of Bill & Charnell Marker*)
Cayla Ort (*daughter of Cara Ort*)
Dirk Herschberger (*grandson of Sharon Clark*)
Mark Chase (*son-in-law of Matt & Denise Gibbons*)
Thomas Wright (*cousin of Becki Harris*)

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 especially this month are canned vegetables, canned beans, egg noodles, shampoo, body soap, toothbrushes, and deodorant. The Pantries are always in need of canned vegetables, canned fruits, canned meats, peanut butter, cereal, pancake mix and syrup, toothpaste, bar soap, feminine products, adult incontinence supplies, and diapers.



*** 2023 Christmas Family Project ***



Dear Friends in Christ,
Happy November!!

We have so very much to be thankful for, do we not? If we take just a moment to enjoy some quiet in our busy lives, I believe our lists of reasons to be thankful will be quite lengthy.

We have contacted Lutheran Social Services to determine how we can help their families. Also, we have provided our "Wish List" forms to our Childcare and Preschool director and both Pastors.

Our Christmas Tree will be displayed in the Narthex beginning Sunday, November 19, decorated with our Gift Tags. Please choose as many as you feel led. The unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the bin in the vestibule (including the tag itself) by Tuesday, December 5. The gift cards can be turned in to the church office for safe-keeping.

If you don't like to shop, please don't feel left out. We will welcome donations to Messiah's Christmas Fund through your offerings or online giving.

Thank you in advance for loving our community through their difficult times with your generosity.

Blessings,

Joyce Black, Emily Blackman, and Elves

OUTREACH & IN TOUCH

Faith & Light Food Pantry — Thanksgiving Baskets

Traditionally during the month of October, we begin our preparations for our Thanksgiving food basket distribution. However, due to rising needs from the families we serve, and decreased supply at both Associated Churches and Community Harvest, we decided not to offer these this year. We feel meeting the basic week-to-week needs of our families far exceeds this extra effort. We are also aware of many other agencies in our area who offer these baskets, and wish to support their efforts rather than duplicate them.

As we shared, we strive to meet these basic needs for our families each month. We invite you to join us by collecting a bag of groceries, much like we would have done with the Thanksgiving meals. Many of those staple items we prefer to give families are in very short supply. As you shop this month, consider taking a list with you, and then bringing that bag to your local congregation. We would love to see an extra 200 bags by Thanksgiving, much like we did with the holiday baskets in years past! We are thankful we can shine a light of hope in this troubled time! Thank you!

Faith and Light Food Pantry Board

Holiday Shopping List

- 2 cans (or bags of dried) beans - pinto, black, kidney, refried, pork & beans
- 2 cans of vegetables – corn, green beans, peas
- 2 cans of meat – tuna, chicken, sardines
- 1 jar of peanut butter – crunchy or smooth, large or small jars
- 1 box of crackers – saltines
- 2 boxes of pasta – spaghetti, macaroni
- 1 jar or 2 cans of pasta sauce
- 6-12 packages of ramen – soy, beef, or chicken
- 4 cans of soup – any flavor
- 1 box of instant oatmeal or container of oatmeal
- 1-2 boxes of cereal – any variety
- 1-2 boxes of macaroni and cheese

OPERATIONS



SAVE THE DATE for the Annual Meeting of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, scheduled for Sunday, November 19, 2023. We will start with breakfast in Satre Hall, 8:30-9:45 AM, before our only service at 10:00 AM that day. We will move directly into the order of business immediately following our worship service.

Please plan to attend this very important meeting. Annual Reports are available at the Information Center and online. These reports will be part of a consent agenda (except for the treasurer's report and 2024 proposed budget) which means we will vote upon their approval as a group, unless someone requests to discuss a specific report, prior to the meeting, on or before Sunday, November 12. The agenda will include:

- Consent agenda (Minutes, Staff, Leadership, and Committee Reports)
- Year End Treasurer's Report
- Election for Board of Directors
- 2024 Budget Approval

ALL friends and members of Messiah are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Messiah Apparel Store

The Messiah Apparel Store is once again open! Get your Messiah gear in time for Christmas. Orders must be received by November 19 at 11:59 PM. Go to messiahlc.com/shop to place your order.

OPERATIONS (cont)



Customers shop. Amazon gives.

Support Messiah while You Shop Online!

Support Messiah while you shop at smile.amazon.com. Amazon will donate .05% of eligible purchases to Messiah. All you need to do is use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/35-1108277> (bookmark it so you can keep going back) and make your purchases as you normally would. Please save and share this link with your family and friends. It's a great way for you to support Messiah Evangelical Lutheran with the purchases you are already planning to make!

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.

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

Pastor Brian Spahr pastorbrian@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 srmusolf@gmail.com

Steve Van Wyngarden stevevanw@comcast.net

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.

Associate Pastor
Brian Spahr, M. Div.

Pastor Emeritus
Carl H. Satre, D.D.

*

Sunday Services

9:00 AM

10:30 AM

In person and online

