

The Messenger

March 2024



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

Table of Contents

Mission	Page
Growth & Learning	9
Woman to Woman	15
Prayer List	16
Outreach & In Touch	17
Operations	19
Vision Statement	21

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, March 3: Lent 3

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

PIZZA W/PASTORS after 10:30 service

Wednesday, March 6: Soup Supper and Discussion, 6:00 PM

Sunday, March 10: Lent 4

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Wednesday, March 13: Soup Supper and Discussion, 6:00 PM

Sunday, March 17: Lent 5

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Wednesday, March 20: Soup Supper and Discussion, 6:00 PM

Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion

Maundy Thursday, March 28: 7:00 PM

Good Friday, March 29: 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 31: Easter

9:00 AM – Traditional w/Communion

10:30 AM – Contemporary w/Communion



Pr. Tim's News

MEMBERSHIP VS. DISCIPLESHIP – What about the Pastor?

I know at least one person read my article last month because that person responded to me in an email. Yay! I have more thoughts, however, as we consider what it means to belong to a church.

Last time, I mentioned the comparison between membership and discipleship. Membership in and of itself isn't "bad." What differentiates the two concepts, however, is that discipleship focuses on a way of life. Belonging and being a member to a church community is simply a starting point for a life lived for Jesus...it's not obligatory or defined by obligation; nor is it a commitment to a church or pastor. It's a commitment to Jesus to live out our faith in community.

Speaking of pastor, how does this membership vs. discipleship comparison impact the pastoral leadership role?

Have you ever been at a gathering of any type where a prayer might be said? It could be a meal at church or at someone's home, a wedding, or even a public event. When it's time for a prayer, WHO usually says the prayer? The pastor. Why? For whatever reason, people defer to the pastor for prayer as if the pastor's prayer is better. Now, there is nothing wrong with asking a pastor to pray, but do you really believe that the pastor's prayer is MORE effective?

The following is adapted from "Power Surge," pgs. 36-40:

In the discipleship model, the pastor as a spiritual leader emerges as a more dynamic role than the idea of pastor as a caregiver, teacher, and preacher. To be clear, it doesn't negate those aspects, but the pastor as a "spiritual leader" understands the role as grounded in and emerging from his or her own spiritual center! This role draws more on wisdom and love than on knowledge (again not dismissing knowledge).

As a result, there is a shift from "knowing leads to doing" TO "being leads to knowing, which leads to leading." Leadership is always an "inside-out" affair. A spiritual leader's capacity to lead is directly related to his or her inner integrity and character and spiritual life. In other words, the leader who proclaims the word of God, who would effectively bring a word of God into each and every context of contem-

porary life, must first live deeply in and from the word. That is discipleship and authentic spirituality.

A pastor, who we'll call Pastor Tom, told the story of being on a cruise to the Holy Land with a group from his church. There happened to be on the cruise ship another pastor who possessed a type of celebrity status or popularity. This popular pastor happened to join their table for dinner one night. He was delightful until at the end of the dinner, when he learned over to a member from Pr. Tom's church and asked him, "Is that pastor over there (referring to Pr. Tom) a good pastor?"

Of course, Pr. Tom noted that it bothered him that the member paused before his answer, but finally answered, "Yes."

Then the popular pastor asked another question, "Why is he a good pastor?"

The member responded, "Well, he makes good sermons."

Then, Pr. Tom said the popular pastor looked right at him and asked the member, "Yes, but does he make good disciples?"

Pr. Tom said, "In that moment, there was a pause, a flash of embarrassment, and a little dagger went into my soul. He didn't say it but he could have said that the purpose of the church is not to make good sermons or good music or good youth programs or good sanctuaries, but the purpose of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, does he make disciples?"

Whoomp there it is! That's what the pastor's role is all about: Making Disciples.

Paul writes in Ephesians 4.11-12:

¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...

The pastor's role is to encourage you to walk in the steps of Jesus and to help you be better disciples of Jesus Christ to build up the body of Christ.

But it truly begins with the pastor's own spiritual life as a disciple of Jesus. Because that's what I am. I am a disciple just as you are. I am human just as you are. I am a sinner just as you are. I am forgiven and loved by God just as you are.

I tell my stories (and so does Pr. Brian), and make myself vulnerable, not to earn your accolades, or your sympathies, or even your respect. I share because first and foremost I am

a disciple of Jesus following the path of Jesus with you. And then my work, my efforts, and my ministry are to EMPOWER YOU to become the best disciple of Jesus the Spirit will help you to be!

So, I am not at Messiah to “gain” members, or to “bring” members back, or put “butts in the pews.” I am there to help people follow Jesus, to equip them for service to God, to remind them they are loved and forgiven over and over again, and to help people grow a faith in Jesus Christ that works in real life!

So, what do you think? What is the Pastor’s role to you? Does it matter? What questions does this discussion raise for you?

More importantly, what can our community of faith learn and how can we grow from this conversation to improve the work of our mission to help people grow a faith in Jesus Christ that works in real life? I look forward to hearing responses.

May God’s Spirit continue to guide Messiah Lutheran Church as we look to help people grow a faith in Jesus Christ that works in real life, in our community and around the world.

In Christ’s love,

Pr. Tim Graham



Traffic has been on my mind. I don't know why. I live in Fort Wayne, IN. There is no traffic. My commute to work each morning is five minutes. Regardless, this little poem/maybe song came quickly to my brain, and I wrote it down. Maybe it was a PTTD (Post-Traumatic Traffic Disorder) response from my years living in Charlotte, Minneapolis, and the DC area. Or, maybe it is more about my desire/need to slow down, reflect, and abide during these 40 days of Lent.

A PSALM FOR TRAFFIC JAMS

Stuck in the mire of urban sprawl,
Amid the hum of engines' drawl.
Steel boxes all in endless rows,
A tapestry of brake lights glow.

Like cattle herds in concrete fields
Braying as we try to yield
The symphony of horns, our song,
A chorus of frustrated qualms.

But, in this traffic sea, we find,
A rhythm, rhyme, collective bind.
Strangers joined in common plight,
We share the struggle, day and night.

In gridlock waves, we rise and fall,
Seeking solace from it all
For in this wilderness, I pray,
In grace, O God, please clear the way.

Traffic is a trial true,
A test of all my fortitude.
But like a Psalm, you are my guide,
Teaching me to rest and abide.

What do you sense God is inviting you into this Lenten season?

–Pastor Brian



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Marching to the Cross

Holy Week and Easter come early this year. (You may recall that Ash Wednesday fell on Valentine’s Day.) Unlike Christmas, which always falls on the same date, Easter is a moveable feast, meaning that it changes dates from year to year. This is logical, since Easter is always on a Sunday, because Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week. But how do we determine which Sunday is the one for Easter? The formula is simple: the first Sunday after the first full moon after spring begins.

But no matter which Sunday Easter may be, the story that the church experiences during the Great Three Days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter) is at the very heart of our faith and life. Please join us as we take this journey together.

Palm Sunday, March 24. At both services we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem to great acclaim, only to encounter arrest, judgment, and execution within the next few days.

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7:00 p.m. On this night we recall how Jesus shared the Last Supper with the disciples. We partake of Holy Communion in obedience to his command to “Do this in remembrance of me.”

Good Friday, March 29, noon and 7:00 p.m. On this somber occasion we gather to read and proclaim the story of Jesus’ suffering and death, remembering that it was for us that he died.

Easter Sunday, March 31. Come and celebrate the good news that Jesus is alive! Joyful proclamation, rousing Easter songs, and Holy Communion mark this high point of the church year.

Soli Deo gloria!—Glory to God alone!

Stan Engle

P.S. Something to think about. . . I read a recent article describing the many benefits that music provides. One sentence in particular stood out. It reads: “RESEARCH SHOWS SINGING IN A CHOIR EASES LONELINESS AND IMPROVES SELF-ESTEEM.” Another good reason to join the choir! I hope you will consider doing so.

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. Journey meets Sunday mornings during the 10:30 worship service in Childcare Rooms 6, 7, and 8 in the West Childcare hallway.

In February the Journey learned about the Good Samaritan and the Beatitudes, and we started our lesson on Lazarus. In March we will finish learning about Lazarus and study Lent and Easter.

EDGE

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

EDGE/CIA will be Sundays, March 10 and 17.

There will not be EDGE Bible Study or any Youth events on Easter Sunday, March 31.

CIA

Confirmation Retreat will be on Friday, March 22, 7:00 PM at the Youth House. Pick up is Saturday morning at 11:30 AM.

EDGE/CIA will be Sundays, March 10 and 17.

There will not be EDGE Bible Study or any Youth events on Easter Sunday, March 31.

PULSE

PULSE meets Sundays, March 3, 10, 17, and 24.

Wing Challenge March 3.

NO PULSE on Easter Sunday, March 31.

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 students' travels costs of their trips this summer. And congratulations to our winners: 1st place Craig Musolf/2nd place Pastor Brian for People's Choice (ticket votes); 1st place Kate Conrad/2nd place Shelly Musolf as Bean Pot winners (most money collected).

GROWTH & LEARNING *(cont)*

Messiah Reads

Messiah Reads is a group of volunteers from Messiah that comes in to read to the children Tuesdays each week. Messiah Reads volunteers will choose one (or more!) Tuesday to visit Messiah Childcare at 10:00 AM. On this visit the volunteer will read two or three picture books to preschool age children (ages 3 through 5) in the Narthex and at 10:15 AM will read to the 2-year-olds. Volunteers can bring their own books or pick from the Childcare's library. Be prepared for questions and stories from the children as well as a lot of love and hugs! Messiah Reads is designed to not only encourage and introduce more Messiah folks to the children, but also to encourage reading and the love of Jesus. Interested in reading or know someone who would be interested? Contact heidi@messiahlc.com.

Noisy Offering Sunday, March 10

Noisy Offering will be on Sunday, March 10, at both services. Monies from Noisy Offering will be going towards helping offset students' travel costs for the CIA Mission Trip to Kenosha and to the high school trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering.

Donuts on Sunday, March 17

As part of our fundraising efforts for the CIA Mission Trip to Kenosha and to the high school trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering, we will be having Donut Sunday on February 18. Meet us in the Narthex to grab some coffee and some breakfast, before or after service. And stay and visit with us! Thanks to a Thrivent Action Team, 100% of all donations will go towards offsetting students' travel costs.

Easter Egg Hunt Friday, March 22

We will have a Messiah Child Care and Journey Easter Egg Hunt for Messiah friends and family on Friday, March 22, 5:30-7:00 PM. There will also be a hot dog fundraiser, 5:30-6:30 in the gym. Hot dogs, chips, and cookies are \$1 each. All proceeds will go towards the childcare to help purchase supplies. Easter Egg Hunt will be from 6:00-7:00 PM. Check-in

is in the gym. 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, the ChildCare Facebook, as well as the respective websites. Join us for food, fun, and a visit from the Easter Bunny! If you have questions, contact Heidi at heidi@messiahlc.com.

CIA Retreat Friday, March 22

We will be having our CIA Confirmation Overnight Retreat on Friday, March 22 – Saturday, March 23. We'll meet at the Youth House at 7:30 PM for dinner, conversation, and Confirmation class "stuff" for a few hours. Then we'll play some games, eat some junk food, and have some fun. We'll stay at the Youth House overnight together. Saturday morning we'll have breakfast and Confirmation class. You can pick up your kids Saturday morning at 11:30 AM. If you could please let me know if your student is coming, it would be appreciated.

Hint Hint.... The Easter Egg Hunt is before this beginning at 5:30 PM. It would be so great and convenient if everyone wanted to help with the Easter Egg Hunt!

Student Ministries Spring Rummage Sale

Save the date for the Student Ministries Spring Rummage Sale – Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Saturday will be the 50% off sale and fill a bag for \$5. Drop off begins Sunday, April 14, in Satre Hall. No electronics, mattresses, TV's, or VHS tapes. Tell your friends and neighbors to clean out their closets and bring stuff in...then come back to buy more good "stuff!" Questions or the desire to help – contact Heidi.

VBS 2024 Save the Date!!

Jesus gives us the most amazing reason to party. That's why we believe the Gospel of Jesus is the best news ever. Celebrate the good news of Jesus joining us in this summer's VBS Start the Party! We'll learn about friendship, belonging, forgiveness, abundant life, and purpose through worship, games, crafts, dancing, and lots and lots of fun! **Save the date for VBS this summer for the week of June 3, 6:00-8:00 PM! Registration opens Friday, March 22.** We're currently collecting boxes, cd's, dvd's, blank cd's, and refrigerator boxes for VBS. You can drop items off in Heidi's office.

GROWTH & LEARNING (*cont*)

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

Lake Luther, Lutheran Hills, and 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, or contact Heidi (heidijokissner@gmail.com) for a camp brochure. LOMIK is also hiring for summer camp counselors, 18 or older!

Messiah Youth Ministry at a glance

Watch emails and the 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.

Youth Events in March

PULSE

PULSE is our youth group for those currently in grades 9-12.

Sunday, March 3 – Youth House, 4:00-6:00 PM Wing Challenge

Sunday, March 10 – Youth House, 4:00-6:00 PM

Sunday, March 17 – Youth House, 4:00-6:00 PM

Sunday, March 24 – Youth House, 4:00-6:00 PM

Sunday, March 31 – Happy Easter!! NO PULSE

Sunday, April 7 – NO YOUTH HOUSE (Spring Break)

CIA

CIA is our youth group for those currently in grades 7 and 8. 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.

Sunday, March 3 – NO YOUTH HOUSE

Sunday, March 10 – EDGE/CIA Youth House 12:00-2:00 PM

Sunday, March 17 – EDGE/CIA Youth House 12:00-2:00 PM

Friday, March 22 – Easter Egg Hunt & Hot Dog Fundraiser, 5:30-7:00 PM

Friday, March 22, 7:30 PM–Saturday, March 23, 11:30 AM – CIA Retreat, Youth House

Sunday, March 24 – NO YOUTH HOUSE

Sunday, March 31 – Happy Easter!! No Youth House

Sunday April 7 – NO YOUTH HOUSE (Spring Break)

EDGE

EDGE is our youth group for those students currently in grades 5 and 6. 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 has their own Bible study on Sundays during the second service in room #8 (west hallway of childcare.)

Sunday, March 3 – Bible Study 10:30 Library – Lent (Palm Sunday)

NO YOUTH HOUSE

Sunday, March 10 – Bible Study 10:30 Library – Lent (The Last Supper)

EDGE/CIA Youth House 12:00-2:00 PM

Sunday, March 17 – Bible Study 10:30 Library – Lent (Easter)

EDGE/CIA Youth House 12:00-2:00 PM

Friday, March 22 – Easter Egg Hunt & Hot Dog Fundraiser, 5:30-7:00 PM

Sunday, March 24 – Bible Study 10:30 Library – Lent (Holy Week Scavenger Hunt)

NO YOUTH HOUSE

Sunday, March 31 – Happy Easter!! NO BIBLE STUDY OR YOUTH HOUSE

Sunday April 7 – Bible Study 10:30 Library – Doubting Thomas

NO YOUTH HOUSE (Spring Break)

GROWTH & LEARNING *(cont)*

First Communion Instruction — an Invitation

*** On **Sunday, April 28**, Messiah will formally recognize all New Communicants at the service of their families' choice.

It is common practice within the ELCA, and other traditions, to offer the Sacrament of Holy Communion to younger children according to individual church and family preferences. At Messiah, we invite any families with young children who feel it's time for their children to receive communion. Every family is different, as is each child. But all are welcome as each family decides what's best for their family.

Also, if your child is receiving communion already but has NOT attended an instruction class, it is highly recommended that they attend at this time.

We will offer instructional classes prior to April 28 for those interested in having their child/children receive communion. Stay tuned for more information.

Adult Bible Studies

As we approach the Lenten season, there will be several changes to our regular schedule. Here are the upcoming schedule for Messiah's various Bible studies:

Tuesday Quest, 9:00 AM: This group will continue meeting throughout the Lenten season and will follow the Lenten discussion from our Soup Supper Wednesdays. We will not meet on April 2. We will resume our regular studies on April 9.

Wednesday, 10:00 AM: This group will resume on April 10.

Thursday, 10:00 AM: This group will resume on April 11.

Thursday Good News Study Group, 6:30 PM: Pastor Dave Williamson will be leading an Adult Study titled "FORGIVENESS: GOD'S AND OURS." We will meet on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 PM beginning on April 11. We will look at Bible passages as well as miraculous examples of forgiveness in history. PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US!!

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.

Woman to Woman

March 2024

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, Pastor Brian, Cory Dold, 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 giving us your Son to light our paths and guide our journeys to you. 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 homeless 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. for Hosanna in the highest heaven. All glory, laud, and honor to Christ! 50¢
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 the Last Supper and Christ's instruction to remember him through the bread and wine. 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 this glorious Easter Day to celebrate Our Lord and say "Halleluia, He has risen!" \$1.00

Please bring or send offering to church last Sunday of month, March 31

Thank you for your continued support of our prayer ministry.

CARE & NURTURE

Prayer List

Please submit names to karla@messiahlc.com or call the church office at (260) 485-8716. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month. If you would like to join the prayer chain, please let Karla know by email or calling the office.

Baptism: Sophia Kay Sherrod, February 25

New Members: David and Alexis Sherrod and daughter Sophia, February 25

For members and friends of the congregation:

Julie Braun	Grace Reed	Sharon Clark
Anita Miller	Trudy Neal	Phyllis Mort
Anita Ebert	Jan Modesitt	Jen Cox
Chris Waldron	Stephanie Welbaum	Reggie & Diana Shull
Braylon Hansen	Aunt Liz and Uncle Henry	Jessica Till
Jaclynn Studebaker	Marcus Black	

For the men and women of our Armed Services:

- Braxtyn Weidler (*great-nephew of Eric & Joyce Black*)
- Preston Kerlegrand (*grandson of Garry & Jean Pook*)
- Daniel Herschberger (*grandson of Sharon Clark*)
- 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*)
- Bailey Marker (*niece of Bill & Charnell Marker*)
- Ike Studebaker (*husband of Jackie Studebaker*)



OUTREACH & IN TOUCH

Lutheran Senior Care Ministry Centennial Gala

Thursday, April 18, 2024

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The Orchid, 11508 Lincoln Highway East, New Haven, 46774

Individual Tickets: \$75/person

I (PT) serve on the board of this vital community ministry, which is made up of ELCA and LCMS congregations. A few of our ELCA pastors serve as chaplains for this weekly worship ministry including Pr. Paul Offhaus, Pr. Amy Beitelschees-Albers, Pr. Marty Hampton, and Pr. Will Smith. I supply occasionally when needed.

I would love your support for this event. The Gala information is above. If you can't attend, any donations may be made to LSCM through Messiah giving. Of course, prayers would be welcomed for this ministry too.

Lutheran Senior Care Ministry (LSCM), celebrating its 100-year milestone, continues its commitment to providing Word and Worship ministry to individuals in nursing homes, assisted living centers, and adult day services in the greater Fort Wayne area. Currently served by 18 Lutheran chaplains—comprising active or retired pastors and deaconesses—over 30 facilities benefit from their dedicated ministry to residents and facility employees.

OUTREACH & IN TOUCH *(cont)*

Food Bank News

Thank you for your continued support of Maplewood Mennonite, Purdue Fort Wayne, and Faith & Light Food Pantries. Items especially needed this month are pancake mix, syrup, cereal, canned meats, boxed dinners, pasta sauce, and dry beans. The Pantries are always in need of canned vegetables, canned fruits, canned meats, peanut butter, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, toothpaste, bar soap, feminine hygiene products, adult incontinence supplies, and diapers.

Sheets Needed

Kathy Johnsonbaugh and the St. James Lutheran Church Stitchers have put out a plea:

We are in desperate need of used sheets to make into pads for cancer patients. We use plain, printed, flannel—any fabric and any sheet size (no pillowcases). I will wash them so you don't have to. This is a good opportunity to clean out your closets. Place the sheets in the collection bin marked "Outreach." You are very much appreciated!

OPERATIONS

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!

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.

OPERATIONS (cont)



**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, 2024, to direct any remaining 2023 Choice Dollars. Help support Messiah! Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

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 Ministries Heidi Kissner heidi@messiahlc.com

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

Facilities Director Denise Gibbons denise@messiahlc.com

Office Administrator Karla Myers karla@messiahlc.com

Church Board Email Addresses

Steve Berlin steveber@hotmail.com

Beth Crilly bac1011@msn.com

Shelly Musolf srmusolf@gmail.com

Cindy Riebersal cariebersal@gmail.com

Mary Satre mesatre@comcast.net

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.

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



Set your clocks!
Daylight Saving Time begins
March 10, 2024