

17th Sunday after Pentecost

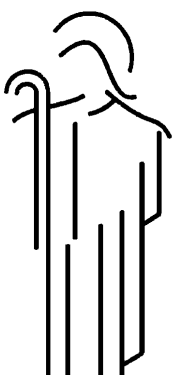
September 20, 2026

We welcome you to The Gathering Service



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025 Eastern Ave, Erie, PA 16510 814-899-6386 messiah-erie.org



Our Staff

Cindy Anderson, *Parish Administrator Email: secretary@messiah-erie.org*

Bonnie Stearns, *Director of Utilities*

Michelle Flaherty, *The Gathering Music Minister: mlcmusic@messiah-erie.org*

Pastor Tom Glasoe, *Email: pastor@messiah-erie.org Cell: 814-460-8529*

We welcome Rev. Karen Kostur as our presider today

Our Mission:

Glorifying God through our worship, our witness, our service, and our support

Our Vision:

To build and strengthen the body of Christ

Holy Communion

We invite all baptized Christians to join us at the Lords Supper.
Wait for the Usher to guide you.

To receive the sacrament:

1. Communicant should receive the consecrated host from the Pastor and then proceed to the Assisting Minister who will be standing near the sanctuary pillar on whichever side of the church is being communed to receive a prefilled communion cup;
2. If the communicant prefers the consecrated grape juice, they shall receive that from the Pastor.
3. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and the pastor will bring Holy Communion to you.

Bathrooms are located in two places. The downstairs restrooms can be reached by going through the double doors at the back of the sanctuary, then down the stairs to your left. Additional restrooms can be reached through the door next to the altar; proceed through the library, go around the corner, and use the second door on your left.

Worship Leaders Today

Assisting Minister	Brad Bresee
Lector/Reader	Pam Bresee
Acolyte	Manny Alaniz
Usher	Arnold Conner
Audio/Video	JJ Conner
Counters	Tim Smock, Art Anderson
Altar Guild	Robin Curtis, Jean Parker, Karen Pistner

Worship Leaders September 27

Assisting Minister	Brian Rogala, Jr.
Lector/Reader	Brian Rogala, Jr.
Acolyte	Josh Bartlett
Usher	Art Anderson
Audio/Video	Rich Alaniz
Counters	Candy Sprouse, Mary Rush
Altar Guild	Robin Curtis, Jean Parker, Karen Pistner
Altar Guild October	Ann Kent, Linda Jones, Linda Voigt

Opening Song

House Of The Lord

1. We worship the God who was. We worship the God who is.
We worship the God who evermore will be.
He opened the prison doors. He parted the raging sea.
My God, he holds the victory, yeah.

Refrain: There's joy in the house of the Lord.
There's joy in the house of the Lord today.
And we won't be quiet. We shout out your praise.
There's joy in the house of the Lord.
Our God is surely in this place. And we won't be quiet.
We shout out your praise.

2. We sing to the God who heals. We sing to the God who saves.
We sing to the God who always makes a way.
'Cause he hung up on that cross. Then he rose up from that grave.
My God's still rolling stones away. (R)

Bridge: ('Cause) We were the beggars. Now we're royalty.
We were the prisoners. Now we're running free.
We are forgiven, accepted, redeemed by his grace.
Let the house of the Lord sing praise. (x2, *Refrain*)

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Opening Prayer

Song

Here I Am to Worship

1. Light of the world you stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
hope of a life spent with you.

Refrain: So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that you're my God.
And you're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.

2. King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came to the earth you created,
all for love's sake became poor. (*R, Bridge*)

Bridge: And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross. (2x, *R*)

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Lesson

Jonah 3:10, 4:1-11

When God saw what the people of Ninevah did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in

which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

A The Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Song

The Lion and The Lamb

1. He’s coming on the clouds, kings and kingdoms will bow down.
And every chain will break as broken hearts declare his praise.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Refrain: Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah.
He’s roaring with power, and fighting our battles.
And every knee will bow before him. Our God is the lamb,
the lamb that was slain. For the sins of the world,
his blood breaks the chains.
And every knee will bow before the lion and the lamb.
Every knee will bow before him.

2. So open up the gates, make way before the king of kings.
The God who comes to save is here to set the captives free.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty? (R)

Bridge: Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord (Almighty)? (2x’s, R)

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Prayers of the People

Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.
P Let us offer to one another a sign of Christ’s peace.

Song of Offering

We Believe

Stand

Refrain: We believe in God the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and he’s given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion.
We believe that he conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection,
and he’s coming back again. We believe

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Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

A Let us pray. *(brief pause)* God of creation,

C you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Great Meal

P Lift up your hearts and give thanks to the Lord our God.

C We gladly lift up our hearts and give God our praise and thanksgiving.

Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

A Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Distribution Song

Breathe

This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe:
your holy presence living in me.

This is my daily bread, this is my daily bread:
your very word spoken to me.

Refrain: And I, I'm desperate for you. And I, I'm lost without you.
(Repeat, Ending)

Ending: This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe.

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Post Communion Prayer

A Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray .

C Amen

Blessing

P The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

P The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C Amen.

P The God of grace + bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Song

My Jesus

1. Are you past the point of weary? Is your burden weighing heavy?
Is it all too much to carry? Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus.
Do you feel that empty feeling 'cause shame's done all its stealing,
and you're desperate for some healing?
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus.

Refrain: He makes a way where there ain't no way.

Rises up from an empty grave.

Ain't no sinner that he can't save.

Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus.

His love is strong and his grace is free,
and the good news is I know that he
can do for you what he's done for me.

Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus.

And let my Jesus change your life.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah, amen, amen.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah, amen, amen, amen

2. Who can wipe away the tears
from broken dreams and wasted years,
and tell the past to disappear? Oh,
and let me tell you 'bout my Jesus,
And all the wrong turns that you would
go and undo if you could.
Who can work it all for your good?
Let me tell you about my Jesus. (R)
3. Who would take my cross to Calvary?
Pay the price for all my guilty
Who would care that much about me?
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus, oh (R x2)

Ending: Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.
Let my Jesus change your life.

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Dismissal

- A** Go in peace, serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

The Bulletins are given to the Glory of God and in Celebration of my granddaughter Ella's 18th birthday on Sept. 23rd by Karen Pistner

One Vase of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in Memory of my dad, Larry Shannon, for his birthday by Robin Curtis

One Vase of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in Celebration of Pr. Tom's installation at Messiah by your Messiah Church Family

The Vigil Candle is given to the Glory of God and in Celebration of Pr. Tom's installation at Messiah by your Messiah Church Family

Announcements

Second Mile Giving is that stewardship we offer in addition to our regular giving. For **September Bethesda Trinity Center** is our Second Mile Giving beneficiary. Contributions may be made throughout the month by using the yellow envelopes found in the pews. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Wesleyville Food Pantry: Please consider a financial gift. Checks should be made payable to Messiah Lutheran Church marking “Food Pantry” in the memo line.

Stained Glass Windows Special Congregation Meetings: September 20, 2026 at 12:00 noon. The Council invites you to an all-important meeting of the congregation to discuss and vote on the next step of restoring our beautiful stained-glass windows. Please come and hear the council’s proposal about the windows.

Bible Study: .Tuesday afternoons 1:30 pm in the Study Lounge and Wednesday night 6:00 pm in the Study Lounge.

Pulpit Swap: Sunday, September 20 both services Rev. Karen Kostur from Immanuel Lutheran Church will be here to preach for both services.

Crop Walk: Sunday, September 27, 1:00 pm, Presque Isle Sign up on form in narthex, take an envelope and collect donations with checks payable to CWS/CROP. Don’t want to walk/can’t walk? Consider sponsoring someone who is by making a donation in the Narthex or online.

Lectio Divina: Sunday, September 27, 4:00 pm. Alternative worship service for all member and friends.

Pet Walk: Tuesday, September 29, 5:00 pm. *(Note change in time)* Meet in the parking lot for Pet Blessing, water provided, then a walk around the neighborhood.

Spiritual Walk: Sunday, October 4, 4:00 pm, Wintergreen Gorge.

Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

October 6 at 5:00-6:00pm for Country Fair distribution.

October 12 at 10:00am to unload senior boxes.

October 19at 10:00am to unload food delivery.

October 20 at 10:00-11:00am & 5:00-6:00pm for regular food distribution.

This Week at the Church

(See Newsletter for More Detail)

**Office Hours :Monday Closed, Tuesday 10:00am-5:00pm,
Wednesday Closed, Thursday 10:00am-5:00pm,
Friday 10:00am-5:00pm**

Sunday 9/20

17th Sunday after Pentecost

	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion
	Pulpit Exchange	Rev. Karen Kostur
	12:00PM	Special Congregational Meeting
Tuesday	10:00AM	Sewing Circle
	1:30PM	Bible Study
Wednesday	6:00PM	Bible Study
Thursday	10:00AM	Grateful Prayer Group-CC
	7:30PM	NA Group
Friday	7:30PM	AA

Sunday 9/27

18th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion
9:45AM	Lectionary Study
1:00PM	Crop Walk
4:00PM	Lecto Divina

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