

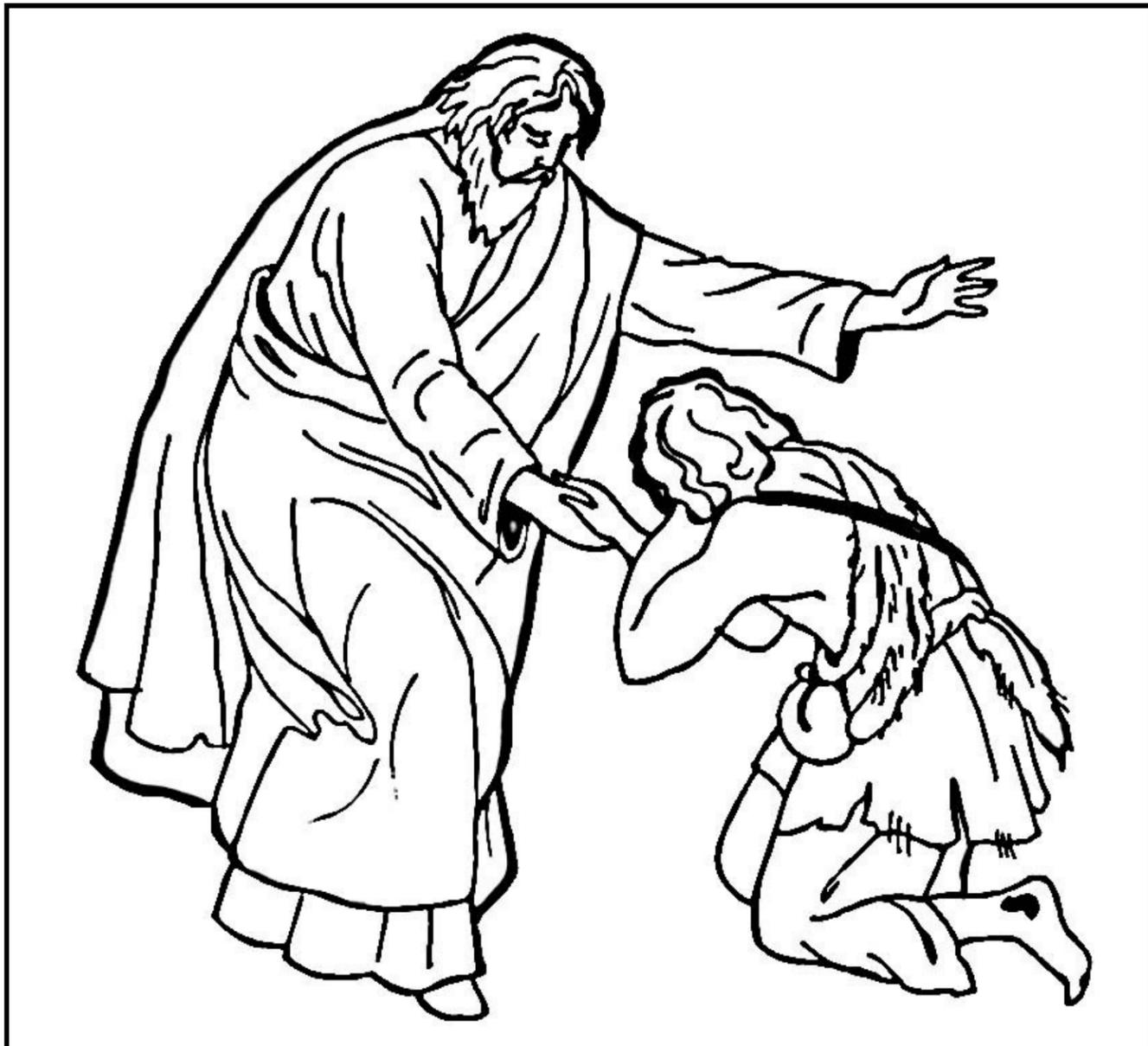
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4th Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

THE GATHERING

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP



We welcome you to The Gathering this morning

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

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

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

To help you feel more comfortable please know that all baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament and have already received Holy Communion in your home church, are welcome to come to the altar and receive Holy Communion.

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.

Assisting at Worship:

	Today	March 15
Asst. Min.	Blaine Waters	Brian Rogala, Jr.
Lector	Pam Bresee	Jean Parker
Acolyte	Bella Alaniz	Kayla Bresee
Usher	Arnold Conner	Brian Rogala
Sound System	Tim Smock	JJ Conner
Video	Tim Smock	JJ Conner
Counters	Candy Sprouse, Mary Rush	Tim Smock, Karen Pistner
Altar Guild	Robin Curtis, Jean Parker, Karen Pistner	

Opening Song

Here I Am Lord

1. “I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night. I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?”

Refrain: Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord,
if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.”

2. “I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?” (R)
3. “I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? ” (R)

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Opening Prayer

Song

Reckless Love

1. Before I spoke a word, you were singing over me.
You have been so, so good to me. Before I took a breath,
you breathed your life in me. You have been so, so kind to me.

Refrain: O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.
O, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found,
leaves the ninety-nine. I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it,
still you give yourself away. O, the overwhelming,
never-ending, reckless love of God. Yeah.

2. When I was your foe, still your love fought for me.
You have been so, so good to me. When I felt no worth,
you paid it all for me. You have been so, so kind to me. (R)

Bridge: There's no shadow you won't light up, mountain you won't
climb up, coming after me. There's no wall you won't kick
down, lie you won't tear down, coming after me. (Repeat, R)

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson**Luke 15:1-3,11-32**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread

enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’

A The Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Song

The Father's House

1. Sometimes on this journey I get lost in my mistakes.
What looks to me like weakness is a canvas for your strength.
My story isn't over; my story's just begun.
Failure won't define me, 'cause that's what my Father does.
Failure won't define me, 'cause that's what my Father does.

Refrain: Oo, lay your burdens, down, oo, here in the Father's house.
Check your shame at the door,
'cause it ain't welcome anymore.
Oo, you're in the Father's house.

- 2 Arrival's not the endgame; the journey's where you are.
You never wanted perfect; you just wanted my heart.
And the story isn't over if the story isn't good.
Failure's never final when the Father's in the room.
Failure's never final when the Father's in the room. *(R, Bridge)*

Bridge: Prodigals come home, the helpless find hope;
love is on the move when the Father's in the room.
Prison doors fling wide, the dead come to life;
love is on the move when the Father's in the room.
Miracles take place, the cynical find faith;
love is breaking through when the Father's in the room.
Jericho walls are quaking, strongholds now are shaking;
love is breaking through when the Father's in the room.
Love is breaking through when the Father's in the room. *(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.

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

1. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me,
and nothing will I fear as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end. *(R)*

Words Psalm 119:105, refrain; Michael W. Smith, stanzas. Music Amy Grant © 1984 Meadowgreen Music.
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Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

A Let us pray. *(brief pause)* O God, maker of heaven and earth,
C **your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and
sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through
these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of
your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask
this in Jesus' name. 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.**

Distribution Song

Revelation Song

1. Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain; holy, holy is he.
Sing a new song to him who sits on heaven's mercy seat.

Refrain: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.
With all creation I sing, praise to the King of kings.
You are my ev'rything, and I will adore you.

2. Clothed in rainbows of living color,
flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;
blessing and honor, strength and glory, and power be
to you, the only wise King. *(R)*
3. Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder,
at the mention of your name;
Jesus your name is power, breath and living water,
such a marv'lous mystery, yeah. *(R 2x)*

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Post Communion Prayer

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

C **God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Blessing

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

C **Amen.**

Song

This is Amazing Grace

1. Who breaks the power of sin and darkness,
whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The king of glory the king above all kings.
2. Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
and leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The king of glory the king above all kings.

Refrain: This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,
that you would take my place, that you would bear my cross.
You laid down your life that I would be set free.
Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.

3. Who brings our chaos back into order,
who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The king of glory the king of glory.
4. Who rules the nations with truth and justice,
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The king of glory the king above all kings. *(R, Bridge)*

Bridge: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy, worthy, worthy! *(R)*

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Dismissal

- A** Go in peace. Believe the good news.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

Second Mile Giving is that stewardship we offer in addition to our regular giving. For **March, Youth Ministry** 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.

It's All Greek to Me Bible Study: Pastor Tom is leading a weekly Bible study on **Tuesdays at 1:00 pm & Wednesdays** follow Vespers in Fellowship Hall.

Lenten Soup Supper & Vespers: **Wednesday, March 11, 18, & 25, at 5:30 pm for supper, 6:00 pm Vespers** in Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the Narthex to bring a soup, dessert or see Cindy for more options!

OWLs: **Tuesday, March 10 at 12:00 noon.** Bring a dish to share. Nancy Dusckas will be here to talk about funeral arrangements.

Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

March 9 at 10:00am to unload senior boxes.

March 16 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.

March 17 at 10:00-11:00am & 5:00-6:00pm for regular food distribution.

The Vigil Candle is given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for my many blessings by Robin Curti

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRELIMINARY 3-YEAR VISION
APPROVED - 2025 to 2027**

WORSHIP

Start?

Technology

Add Screens in sanctuary	(DONE)
Update website	(ongoing)
Obtain Hearing Assisted Devices	(DONE)

Music Ministry

Build out the Band	(2025)
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CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Bubble Church	(ongoing)
School Day Off Camp	(Fall 2025)
Milestone Ministry	(Fall 2025)

PROPERTY

Fix Front Electronic Sign	(DONE)
Repair/Purchase Boiler	(DONE)
Plumbing Upgrades/Restrooms	(2027)
Buy New Freezer	(DONE)

IN-REACH

Recruit and Train More Volunteer	(2025)
Train in-home communion ministry	(2025)

EDUCATION

Bible Study (Adult and Children) - have more options	(2025-2027)
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OUTREACH

Maintain Community Garden	(ongoing)
Continue Back to School Bash	(2025-2027)
Continue participation in Community National Night Out	(2025-2027)

FELLOWSHIP

Explore more group events	(ongoing)
Continue to grow OWLs ministry (spiritually and fellowship)	(ongoing)
Lutheran Walkers	(2025)

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**

Sun. 3/8	<i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion
	9:45AM	Servant Outreach
Mon.	6:30PM	Guided Meditation
	All Week	Community Blood Bank Drive
Tues.	10:00AM	Sewing Circle
	1:00PM	Bible Study
	11:30AM	OWLs
Wed.	5:30PM	Soup Supper
	6:00PM	Vespers
	6:30PM	Bible Study
Thu.	10:00AM	Grateful Prayer Group-CC
	7:30PM	NA Group
Fri.	7:30PM	AA
Sun. 3/15	<i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion

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