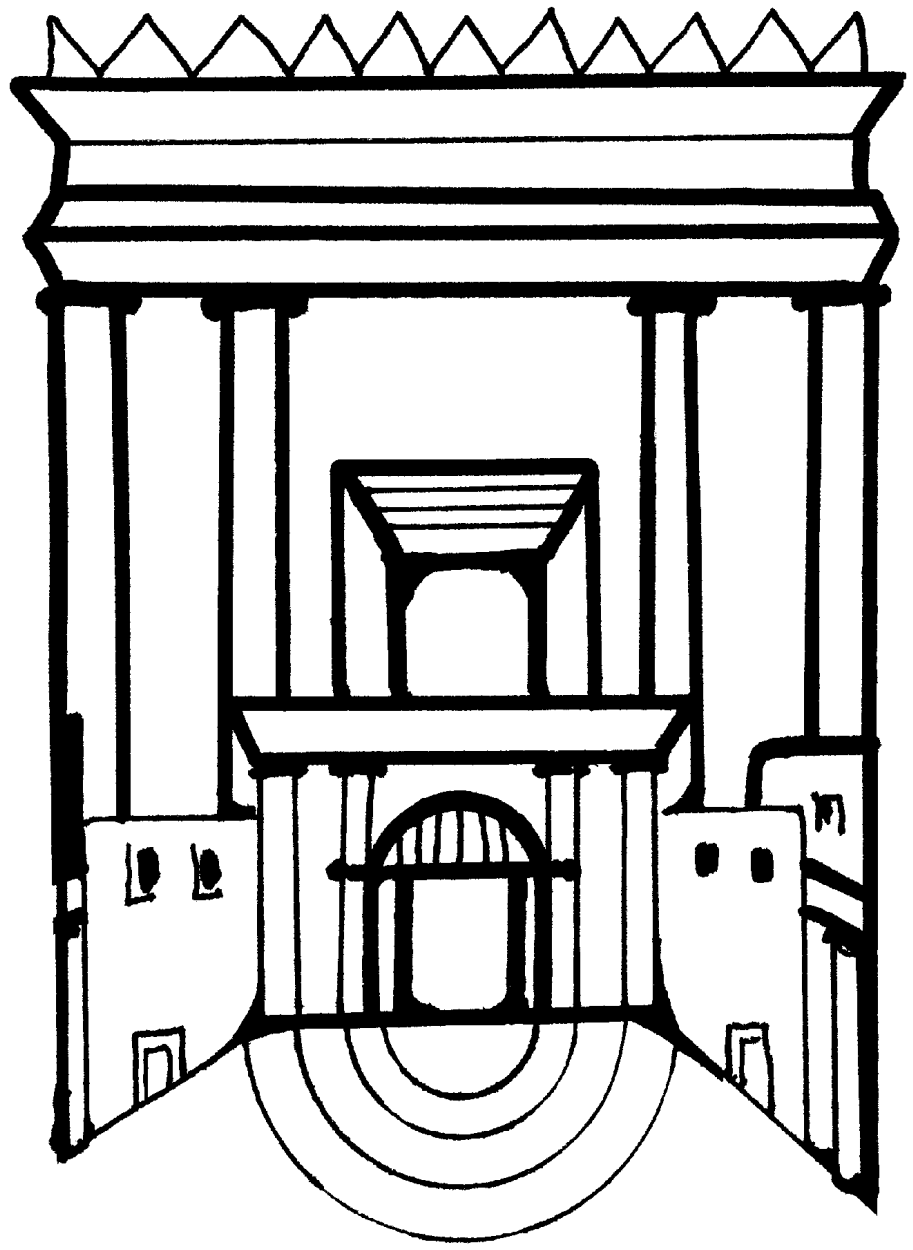
18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026

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*

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	Brian Rogala, Jr.
Lector/Reader	Brian Rogala, Jr.
Acolyte	Josh Bartlett
Usher	Art Anderson
Audio/Video	Brad Bresee
Counters	Candy Sprouse, Mary Rush
Altar Guild	Robin Curtis, Jean Parker, Karen Pistner

Worship Leaders October 4

Assisting Minister	Blaine Waters
Lector/Reader	Blaine Waters
Acolyte	Bella Alaniz
Usher	Arnold Conner
Audio/Video	Rich Alaniz
Counters	Art Anderson, Tim Smock
Altar Guild October	Ann Kent, Linda Jones, Linda Voigt

Opening Song ***Come, Now Is The Time to Worship***

Refrain: Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

1. One day ev'ry tongue will confess you are God.
   One day ev'ry knee will bow.
   Still, the greatest treasure remains for those
   who gladly choose you now. *(R)*

2. Willingly we choose to surrender our lives.
   Willingly our knees will bow.
   With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
   we gladly choose you now. *(R then Ending)*

Ending: Come. Come. Come, just as you are, come. Come.

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Opening Prayer

Song ***Good, Good Father***

1. I've heard a thousand stories of what they think you're like,
   but I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night.
   You tell me that you're pleased, and that I'm never alone.

Refrain: You're a good, good Father; it's who you are,
it's who you are, it's who you are. And I'm loved by you;
it's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am.

2. I've seen many searching for answers far and wide,
   but I know we're all searching for answers only you provide.
   Because you know just what we need before we say a word. *(R,B)*

Bridge: You are perfect in all of your ways,
you are perfect in all of your ways,
you are perfect in all of your ways to us.*(2x)*

3. Love so undeniable, I can hardly speak.
peace so unexplainable, I can hardly think,
as you call me deeper still, as you call me deeper still,
as you call me deeper still into love, love, love.*(Rx2)*

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Lesson ***Hebrews 10:21-25***

and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

A The Word of the Lord. ***C*** **Thanks be to God.**

Lesson ***Acts 2:42-47***

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

A The Word of the Lord. ***C*** **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson ***John 13:34-35***

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

A The Gospel of the Lord. ***C*** **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Song ***Graves Into Gardens***

1. I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.
   Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough.
   Then you came along and put me back together.
   And every desire is now satisfied here in your love.

Refrain: Oh there's nothing better than you.
There's nothing better than you.
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than you.

2. I'm not afraid to show you my weakness.
   My failures and flaws, Lord you've seen them all;
   and you still call me friend.
   'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.
   There's not a place your mercy and grace won't find me again. *(R)*

Bridge: You turn mourning to dancing. You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory. You're the only one who can. *(2x)*
You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways. You're the only one who can.*(2x)*
You're the only one who can. *(R)*

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Blessing of Quilts and School Kits

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 ***Lord I Need You***

1. Lord, I come, I confess. Bowing here, I find my rest.
   And without you, I fall apart. You're the one that guides my heart.

Refrain: Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.
Ev'ry hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness:
oh, God, how I need you.

2. Where sin runs deep, your grace is more.
   Where grace is found, is where you are.
   And where you are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me.
   And where you are, Lord, I am free.
   Holiness is Christ in me. *(R then Bridge)*

Bridge: So, teach my song to rise to you,
when temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on you.
Jesus, you're my hope and stay.
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on you.
Jesus you're my hope and stay.

Ending: Lord, I need you, oh, I need you. Ev'ry hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness:
oh, God, how I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness:
oh, God, how I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness:
oh, God, how I need you.

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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 ***Your Grace is Enough***

1. Great is your faithfulness, O God;
   you wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.
   You lead us by still waters into mercy
   And nothing can keep us apart.

Pre-Refrain: So, remember your people, remember your children,
remember your promise O God.

Refrain: Your grace is enough, your grace is enough
your grace is enough, for me.

2. Great is your love and justice, God of Jacob;
   you use the weak to lead the strong.
   You lead us in the song of your salvation,
   and all your people sing along. (*Pre-Refrain, Refrain, E)*

Ending: Your grace is enough; heaven reaches out to us.
Your grace is enough for me.
God I sing: your grace is enough; I'm covered in your love.
Your grace is enough for me, for me.

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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 brother, Jim Parker's, 83rd birthday by Jean Parker

One Vase of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in Celebration of Ronald & Shirley Damon's wedding anniversary by Shirley Damon

One Vase of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for Messiah Lutheran Church and Pastor Tom by Jeff & Shirley Damon

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.

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

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 of 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.

OWLs: Tuesday, October 13, 1:30 pm. 2 Grumpy Brothers will be here to perform a comedy show. Feel free to bring a friend! Come, relax and enjoy the show. We will not have lunch together for this meeting. Signup in the Narthex by October 4.

Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

October 6 at 5:00-6:00 pm for Country Fair distribution.
October 12 at 10:00 am to unload senior boxes.
October 19 at 10:00 am to unload food delivery.
October 20 at 10:00-11:00 am & 5:00-6:00 pm 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 9/27	***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
Monday	6:30PM	Guided Meditation
Tuesday	10:00AM	Sewing Circle
	1:30PM	Bible Study
	6:00PM	Pet Walk
Wednesday	6:00PM	Bible Study
Thursday	10:00AM	Grateful Prayer Group-CC
	7:30PM	NA Group
Friday	7:30PM	AA
Sunday 10/4	***19th Sunday after Pentecost***	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion
	9:45AM	Lectionary Study
	9:45AM	Servant Outreach
	4:00PM	Spiritual Walk

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