



# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

1st Sunday in Advent

November 30, 2025

## THE GATHERING

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP



**We welcome you to The Gathering this morning**

### Our Staff

**Cindy Anderson**, *Parish Administrator* Email: [secretary@messiah-erie.org](mailto:secretary@messiah-erie.org)

**Bonnie Stearns**, *Director of Utilities*

**Michelle Flaherty**, *The Gathering Music Minister*: [mlcmusic@messiah-erie.org](mailto:mlcmusic@messiah-erie.org)

**Pastor Tom Glasoe**, Email: [pastor@messiah-erie.org](mailto: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**

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	December 7
Asst. Min.	—	Carol Ann Wolf
Lector	Pam Bresee	Pam Bresee
Acolyte	Josh Bartlett	Josh Bartlett
Usher	Arnold Conner	Arnold Conner
Sound System	TBD	Rich Alaniz
Video	Brian Rogala, Sr.	Rich Alaniz
Counters	Art Anderson, Karen Pistner	Mary Rush, Karen Pistner
Altar Guild	Linda Voigt, Ann Kent	
Altar Guild December	Sandy Hough, Candy Sprouse, Mary Rush, Bonnie Magee	

*We welcome Butch Karnes as our presider today*

## ***Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone***

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.
2. Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.

*Refrain:* My chains are gone. I've been set free,  
my God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood his mercy reigns,  
unending love amazing grace.

3. The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures. (Rx2)
4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.  
But God who called me here below, will be forever mine.  
Will be forever mine, you are forever mine.

*Words John Newton, Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio. Music Christ Tomlin © 2006 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing). Used by permission. CCLI License #253409*

## ***Opening Prayer***

# Raise A Hallelujah

1. I raise a hallelujah in the presence of my enemies.  
I raise a hallelujah louder than the unbelief.  
I raise a hallelujah; my weapon is a melody.  
I raise a hallelujah; heaven comes to fight for me.

*Refrain:* I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm.  
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar.  
Up from the ashes hope will arise.  
Death is defeated; the king is alive.

2. I raise a hallelujah with everything inside of me.  
I raise a hallelujah; I will watch the darkness flee.  
I raise a hallelujah in the middle of the mystery.  
I raise a hallelujah; fear, you lost your hold on me. (R)

*Bridge 1:* (L) Sing a little louder. (C) Sing a little louder.  
(L) Sing a little louder. (C) Sing a little louder.  
(L) Sing a little louder. (C) Sing a little louder.  
(L) Sing a little louder. (C) Sing a little louder.

*Bridge 2:* (L) Sing a little louder, (C) in the presence of my enemies.  
(L) Sing a little louder, (C) louder than the unbelief.  
(L) Sing a little louder, (C) my weapon is a melody.  
(L) Sing a little louder, (C) Heaven comes to fight for me.  
(Repeat B2, R)

*Ending:* I raise a hallelujah. I raise a hallelujah.

Words & Music by Jake Stevens | Jonathan David Helser | Melissa Helser | Molly Skaggs © 2018 Bethel Music Publishing  
Used by permission CCLI License #253409

### ***Lighting of the Advent Wreath***

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
C **those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.**

P We join with sisters and brothers around the world, lighting candles to mark our steps in this Advent journey.

C **Today, we light the candle of Hope.**

P Even though the world seems dark and cold, we know that the light of Christ is coming. The face of our Lord will shine, and we shall be saved!

C **Testifying against all suffering and darkness, we kindle this light. Together, we proclaim to the world that, in Christ, we have hope.**

### ***Lighting Song                      O Come, O Come Emmanuel***

1. Oh, come, oh come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
That morns in lonely exile here. Until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain:* Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel. Shall come to you, O Israel.

### ***Lesson*** ***Isaiah 2:1-5***

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the

nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Lesson***

***Matthew 24:36-44***

Jesus said to the disciples,

“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

**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)

Words by Brandon Lake | Chris Brown | Steven Furtick | Tiffany Hudson © 2019 Brandon Lake Music. Music by Elevation Worship Publishing  
\Maverick City Publishing Worldwide \Bethel Music Publishing Used by Permission. CCLI License #253409

## *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*

# Messiah

1. Long awaited precious promise, Son of God and Son of Man.

Heaven's glory in a manger will come to us in Bethlehem, oh.

*Refrain:* Messiah, Messiah, a baby born to save us all.

Messiah, Messiah, on our knees we fall.

*Music & Words by Francesca Battistelli, Jeff Pardo, Molly Reed © 2018 Da Bears Da Bears Da Bears Music; Meaux Jeux Music; Curb Songs; Francesca Music; Mike Curb Music Used by Permission. CCLI License #253409*

## ***Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self***

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

**C you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.**

**Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

## ***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.**

### ***Blessing***

**P** May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

**C** Amen.

### ***Song***

### ***My Lighthouse***

1. In my wrestling, and in my doubts,  
in my failures, you won't walk out.  
Your great love will lead me through;  
you are the peace in my troubled sea, whoa oh,  
you are the peace in my troubled sea.
2. In the silence, you won't let go.  
In the questions, your truth will hold.  
Your great love will lead me through;  
you are the peace in my troubled sea, whoa oh,  
you are the peace in my troubled sea.

**Refrain:** My lighthouse, my lighthouse, shining in the darkness,  
I will follow you! Oh, my lighthouse, my lighthouse,  
I will trust the promise: you will carry me safe to shore,  
safe to shore, safe to shore, safe to shore.

3. I won't fear what tomorrow brings.  
With each morning, I'll rise and sing.  
My God's love will lead me through;  
you are the peace in my troubled sea, whoa oh,  
you are the peace in my troubled sea.

**Bridge:** Fire before us, you're the brightest.  
You will lead us through the storms. (hey)(3X) (Rx2)

***Dismissal***

**A** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*The Bulletins are given to the Glory of God and in Memory of my brothers,  
Jack and Bob by Jean Parker*

*One Vase of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in Celebration of our  
wedding anniversary by Gene & Linda Jones*

*The Vigil Candle is given to the Glory of God and in Celebration of the Advent  
Season by Robin Curtis*





## *Announcements*

**S**econd Mile Giving is that stewardship we offer in addition to our regular giving. For **December** the **Mercy Center for Women** 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!

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

**I**t’s All Greek to Me Bible Study: Pastor Tom is leading a weekly Bible study on **Wednesdays at 6:30 pm** starting in the Study Lounge.

**A**ngel Tree: will be in the Narthex through **December 7**. Please take a tag or two from the tree located in the Narthex to benefit the Mercy Center for Women. The unwrapped items, along with the tag, **MUST** be returned to the Church by **December 7**. They asked for “Back to Basic” items due to changing in Federal Funding.

**A**dvent Devotional Pamphlets: are in the Narthex. Feel free to take one to use.

**P**rayers Cards: are in the Narthex on the counter.

**O**WLs: Wesley Keenagers is hosting Gary Foster chalk drawing and invited us to join them on **Thursday, December 4, 10:00 am**. Bring a dessert to share. Cost is \$7.00 due at the event for lunch. RSVP to Karen Pistner by November 30.

**W**esleyville Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

December 2 at 5:00-6:00pm for Country Fair distribution.

December 8 at 10:00am to unload senior boxes.

December 15 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.

December 16 at 10:00-11:00am & 5:00-6:00pm for regular food distribution.

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

WORSHIP	Start?
<u>Technology</u>	
Add Screens in sanctuary	(DONE)
Update website	(ongoing)
Obtain Hearing Assisted Devices	(DONE)
<u>Music Ministry</u>	
Build out the Band	(2025)
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)
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**

<b>Sun. 11/30</b>	<b><i>1st Sunday in Advent</i></b>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion
<b>Mon.</b>	6:30PM	Guided Meditation
<b>Tues.</b>	10:00PM	Sewing Circle
<b>Wed.</b>	11:00AM	Worship Committee
	1:00PM	Bound Together
<b>Thu.</b>	10:00AM	Grateful Prayer Group-CC
	7:30PM	NA Group
<b>Fri.</b>	7:30PM	AA
<b>Sun. 12/7</b>	<b><i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i></b>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion
	9:45AM	Servant Outreach

*Portions of this bulletin are reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright © 2006. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #8102-L. Other portions are from Sundays and Seasons, copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. Some music reprinted from With One Voice, © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by Permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-711684. Used by permission CCLI License #253409*