

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025 Eastern Avenue
Wesleyville, PA 16510

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Dated Material

Volume 24, Issue 4

*Check Out our Web-site:
www.messiah-erie.org*



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Newsletter Deadline

All items for the monthly Newsletter must be submitted in writing no later than **April 15** and are subject to editing. No exceptions.

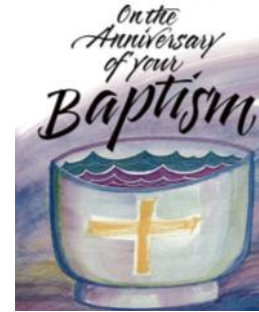
Messiah Lutheran Church is on...



April Celebrations



- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 6 Steve Porada | 23 Winifred Gardner |
| 7 Madalyn Shatzer | 24 Brennan Frick |
| 17 Emmanuel Alaniz | 25 Shirley Case |
| Kira Brown | 26 Bryson Brown |
| 18 Cindy Anderson | 28 Linda Jones |
| 20 Mary Rush | |



"Through baptism you have been received into the household of God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit."

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Pam Van Horn | 20 Cohen Kent |
| 3 Thomas Ecke | Kaden Brainard |
| 10 Madison Bartlett | 22 Elijah Carner |
| 11 Sandy Hough | 24 Doug Wolf |
| 14 John Needham | Chloe Mills |
| Jace Brainard | 25 Karen Pistner |
| 18 Joshua Bartlett | 26 Eva Edwards |
| 19 Steve Porada | 28 Timothy Wolf |



April

Prayer
Power

- Day 1: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- Day 2: Philippians 4:6-7
- Day 3: Matthew 6:9-13
- Day 4: James 5:16
- Day 5: Ephesians 6:18
- Day 6: Jeremiah 29:12
- Day 7: Matthew 18:20
- Day 8: Luke 11:1
- Day 9: Mark 11:24
- Day 10: Psalm 17:1
- Day 11: 1 John 5:14-15
- Day 12: 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Day 13: Romans 12:12
- Day 14: Colossians 4:2
- Day 15: Psalm 145:18
- Day 16: 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- Day 17: John 15:7
- Day 18: Proverbs 15:29
- Day 19: Acts 2:42
- Day 20: Psalm 102:17
- Day 21: James 1:5
- Day 22: Matthew 21:22
- Day 23: Luke 18:1
- Day 24: Psalm 32:6
- Day 25: Hebrews 4:16
- Day 26: Daniel 9:18
- Day 27: Mark 1:35
- Day 28: Acts 1:4
- Day 29: Psalm 141:2
- Day 30: 1 Kings 8:28

Prayer is the nearest approach to God and the highest enjoyment of Him that we are capable of in this life." – William Law



"Bless them so that all may see in their lives together within the community of your people a vision of your kingdom on earth."

From the Nuptial Blessing in the Marriage ceremony

4 Sandy & Fred Lee

If we missed your Birth, Baptism, or Marriage Anniversary we apologize. Please contact the church office to provide us with that information.

Messiah Messenger

Published by *Messiah Lutheran Church*



Our Mission:

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

Our Vision:

To build and strengthen the body of Christ

Worship

Worship Ministry Committee

No meeting this month. Next meeting
Wednesday, May 1 at 11:00AM in the Study Lounge.

To be part of this vital ministry at Messiah, contact the
Church Office - 814-899-6386

Online Worship

We are live streaming our Worship Services on
our web site (messiah-erie.org).
The videos of the services will be uploaded to
our YouTube channel on the following
Tuesday.

Assisting Ministers and Lectors

The blank schedule for **May** will be in
the **Narthex** through **April 21**
Please schedule yourself.

***If you do not indicate your availability, it will
be presumed that you ARE available.***

Videographers needed



Would you like to help with videotaping
the worship services on Sunday?

We need volunteers
for both the 8:30 & 11:00 services.

Contact the Church Office!



Worship Team

**We are in
need of more
Assisting Ministers
and Lectors for both
Worship Services!**

Training will be provided.
Contact the Church Office if interested!

Confirmation Class

**Pr. Tom will be holding a Confirmation Class on
TBD at 5:00pm in the Conference Room.**



***The Altar Guild is a very
important "behind the scenes"
ministry!***

The people in this ministry make sure that our worship
space is properly prepared for Sunday Worship and
other special services.

To be part of this welcoming ministry please contact:
Linda Voigt at 899-8618

From the desk of Pr. Tom

HE IS RISEN, INDEED!

HAPPY EASTER!

This month marks the end of the holy season of Lent and the beginning of the most important season of all, Easter! As great as this season is to me and how important and critical Easter is to us Christians, I suspect a lot of us in Christendom understand Easter incorrectly.

I have had my fair share of street corner evangelists yell to me to inquire if I am saved. More often than not, I ignore them and continue on my merry way. I have seen numerous placards held up by well-intentioned Christians standing on random sidewalks, near sports arenas, clinics, convention halls, and billboards spelling out doom for those who are not saved.

I have always had issues with these individuals and the message they proclaim. I find the message to be incorrect and completely antithetical to Christ's ministry.

Standing on street corners and holding placards does not accomplish the most important act of being a Christian - the act of being in relationships. One-time encounters to inquire if someone is saved or is a believer in Christ is not how Jesus engaged with his followers and random people. He engaged with everyone in

actual relationships, even those with whom He disagreed.

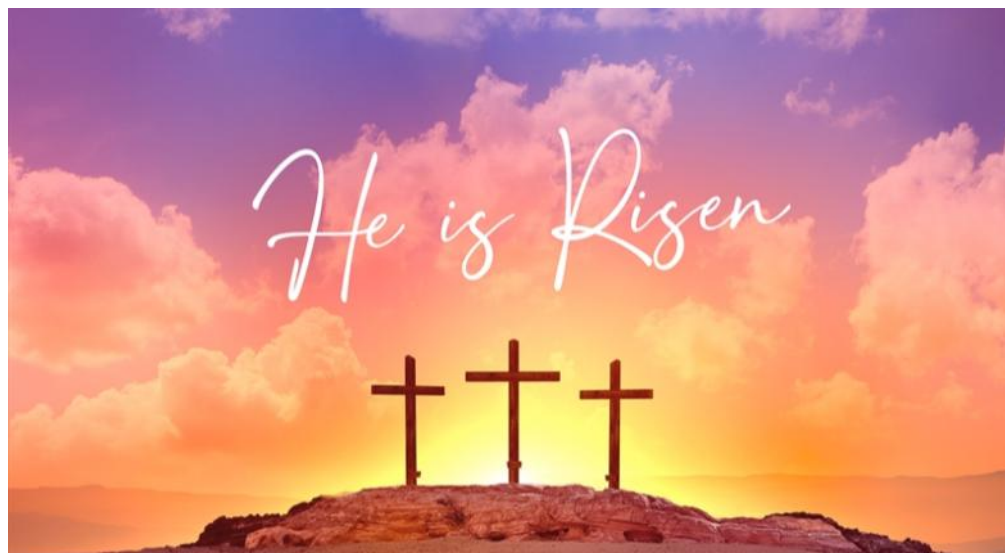
What frustrates me is how often I see people use the concept of Jesus' gift of salvation as a hammer, a cudgel, an ax to scare or beat down people into Christian submission. As far as I understand, the Salvation which Christ made available to us through His Death and Resurrection is a gift to free us from condemnation. It is a gift that frees us to be in deeper relationship with Christ and to do the work that God in Christ started.

When we read the Gospels, the Laws of Moses, the various books of the Bible, from Old Testament to New, we discover that we are to spend our lives serving and loving God through the service of others. We are to help one another in their walks with Christ. We are not to condemn one another, as Paul reminds us. (Ephesians 4:32) Easter is a reminder that we are free to live faithfully regardless of our human fallibility.

The great gift of Christ's Death and Resurrection is we are free from our propensity to error and sin so that we may live a faithful life filled with the Spirit, service, and worship. Thanks be to God.

He is Risen, Indeed!

Pastor Tom



Combined Service Attendance Streaming services from web site

Date	8:30	11:00	On Line	Total
Feb. 25	16	27	9	52
Mar. 3	21	39	6	66
Mar. 10	13	28	16	57
Mar. 17	22	47	7	76
Mar. 24	22	46	11	79

* indicates no live stream for one or both services

Church Life

Contact Cindy Anderson at 881-2161 to be part of the Church Life Ministry Committee.

We would love to have some fresh faces helping with our fellowship events!

All Church Life events are for our members and friends to come together in Fellowship. Please come and enjoy each other's company!



To our family of friends at Messiah
Thank you so much for your visits, calls, cards of sympathy, and prayers in our sorrow on my mother's passing.
You are truly the best!
Steve & Linda Porada

Hallelujah! Christ is Risen Indeed!

Celebrate with thanksgiving!

Look around us. Miracles are everywhere. Human life didn't just happen from random primordial soup. It was designed, with so many complimentary parts that even our best scientists can't decipher them all. How do the birds know when to return? How does fruit grow? Why do we love? It's not an accident. We are creation.

God loves His creation. He gave His only Son to die for our sins so that we may live. Just as He created us, so He saves us. What a caring Father we have. By His grace, His creation is given the means to survive and to rejoice. We are so fortunate! Take time to give thanks.

We have been given the gift of speech. Don't waste it with rudeness, anger, prejudice, and criticism. Save your voice for praise, kind words, and prayers of thanksgiving.

We have been given the gift of free will, not so we can intimidate or crush others on our "way up," but to choose the right way to deal with ourselves and the world around us. We are stewards. God is the Master.

The richest among us are given plenty so that they can help the poorest. Food banks, libraries, helping start-up businesses, and supporting ministries are just a few of the gifts to be shared. The poorest among us can be grace-filled and contribute the knowledge of the Word with smiles and admiration for Christ our Lord.

When you see the miracle of the solar eclipse, realize that it is not a coincidence, but a design of our Lord to bring wonder into our lives. Who else could create such perfect alignment? Why this miracle in the sky? To show us His power and majesty for all to see, and, somewhere deep inside with every "WOW," we experience being His.

How can anyone deny our Lord when He shows Himself day after day?

Jesus was born, Jesus was crucified, Jesus lives. He will come again.

Have mercy, Lord. Help us to recognize your gifts and your grace with praise and thanksgiving.

Blessings from my family to yours.

Your servant in Christ,
Marilyn DiLuzio Rizzo

Stewardship/Finance

The goal of our Stewardship/Finance Ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances that God has entrusted to them.

Year - to - Date Financial Picture

(Through March 26)

	<u>March</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Env. Giving	\$8,020.00	\$27,1193.00	\$32,500.02
Other Reg. Giv.	\$632.00	\$570.84	\$1,353.50
Misc. Income	\$3,286.91	\$4,005.99	\$6,513.52
Total Income	\$11,938.91	\$32,478.49	\$40,726.06
Expenses:	<u>\$2,531.51*</u>	<u>\$26,101.40</u>	\$54,083.30
Net	\$9,407.40	\$6,377.09	\$-13,357.24

*Doesn't include salaries

The Stewardship/Finance Ministry Committee will next meet on
Tuesday, April 9, at 4:30pm
in the Finance Room.

Contact the office if you would like to share your talents as part of this important work of the congregation.

**Thank you for your continued
Financial Support.
Your generosity is most appreciated!**



Counter Ministry

Are you good with figures?
Do you like to handle money?
Maybe the Counter Ministry is for you!

Time commitment is about 30 minutes
after worship.
Training will be provided! Contact the
Church Office if interested.

DID YOU KNOW...

that your offerings to Messiah Lutheran Church can be made electronically while you're on vacation or if you prefer the convenience of scheduling a monthly/weekly automatic withdrawal from your account?

It's easy to set up the following option:

Electronic transfer from your bank account

For more information, call the Church Office, 899-6386.

Make your Contribution from our Website!
Now Live!! Check it out!

Donate



Located on the home page
Members and website visitors will be able to contribute to the ministry happening at and through Messiah from our website. You can choose one time or recurring transactions. You can also choose to cover the small fee!
You can pay for the sponsorship of Altar Flowers, Worship Aids, and Vigil Candles too. You will still need to sign up for them on the flower chart!

Attention Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Members...

Thrivent Members can designate Messiah Lutheran Church as a recipient of the charitable giving that Thrivent offers through Choice Dollars. Visit their website, **www.thrivent.com**, or call your Thrivent representative for more information.

To those who have designated Messiah as a recipient of Thrivent Choice Dollars, ***we gratefully thank you!***

For more information about Thrivent Financial for Lutherans contact Vince Kremer, Financial Associate, at 814-878-5727 or visit Thrivent.com



Wesleyville Food Pantry

Please consider a financial gift for the Food Pantry.

Checks should be made payable to Messiah Lutheran Church, marking "Food Pantry" in the memo line.

Food Pantry Distribution:

Tuesday, April 2 5-6:00pm - Country Fair Items Only

Tuesday, April 16 10-11:30am and at 5-6:00pm

Thank you for your generosity!

Pennies for Poverty

An ongoing project of the NWPA Women of the ELCA

Consider dropping your spare change, or even bills, into the container in the narthex for this project.

Each year a charity is selected to receive the money collected by the participating churches.



2ND MILE GIVING APPEAL

2nd Mile Giving is that support we offer above and beyond our regular giving.

Our 2nd Mile Giving recipient for **April** is:

Lutheran Disaster Response

You may contribute through your regular envelope, marking how much to designate to 2nd Mile on the "other" line on your envelope, or by sending a separate donation.

Through **February 20 \$258.00** has been donated for **PASTOR DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Thank you for your generosity!

Want to know more about our 2nd Mile Giving organization?

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

About Our Members

Please keep the church office informed of any changes in your contact information. It is important for us to keep our database up-to-date. Thank you for your cooperation.

Address Change

Lois Hollenbeck's new phone number is 814-898-5949. She would love to have visitors!!

Property

Property Committee

Do you have an interest in helping to keep our church property in top condition?

Join the Property Committee!

Next meeting is April 14 at 9:45am.

To get information about any project for the church or to inform us of something that needs to be repaired, please contact Art Anderson at 881-1680

April Sponsors

	8:30 Bulletin	11:00 Bulletin	Flower (1)	Flower (2)	Candle
4/7		Sprouse			
4/14			Deb Rogala		
4/21			ML Bartlett		
4/28					

Please consider sponsoring the Bulletins during the year.
Every sponsorship helps to defray the cost to the congregation. Thank you!



2024 Sponsorships

The completed form, and payment, are due prior to date of sponsorship

Altar Flowers: \$30/1 vase
 \$55/2 vases (for same day)*


Bulletins: \$7/service/week*
 *(except Easter & Christmas)

Vigil Candle: \$3/service/week

DOORBELL

We now have a doorbell located on the frame leading to the office door. It will ring on the main floor and enable us to keep the door locked yet alerted to visitors during meetings.

We are saddened by the passing away of...



Family of Members of Messiah:
Marie Porada, Mother of Steve Porada; March 14



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www.bates-collision.com

CYFM/FIA

Children, Youth & Family Ministry/
Faith In Action Committee

CYFM/Faith in Action Committee

Next meeting is Thursday, April 11
at 12:00PM
Finance Room

Guided Meditation on Mondays is now a
“traveling” group. Please call Bonnie
Stearns at 814-460-0556 to find out how
you can participate in this prayer
ministry!

Every Monday (except the 3rd)- 6:30PM



BOUND TOGETHER (BOOK REVIEW CLUB)

March 6 at 1:00pm
in the Study Lounge

April-The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot by
Marianne Cronin - Jean Parker

May-Night Road by Kristin Hannah - Karen

COME AND JOIN US!

Compliments of

DUSCKAS
Funeral Home, Inc.

Main Branch
2607 Buffalo Rd.
899-7656
Nancy E. Dusckas, FD
Supervisor
www.dusckasfuneralhome.com

The Grateful Prayer Group

THURSDAYS AT 10:00AM

CURRENTLY MEETING BY CONFERENCE CALL
CONTACT JEAN PARKER AT 814-528-5817
OR LINDA FRYER AT 814-899-6899.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



In order to make a Prayer Chain request, please



PRAYER CHAIN
MINISTRY

email or call the Church Office

BIBLE STUDY

It's All Greek to Me Monday Night Bible Study

Starts back up April 15! Join us for a new study
Pastor Tom is leading a weekly Bible study on Monday
nights at **6:30PM** in Study Lounge. This Bible study will
be a time to explore the Bible, our Christian faith and
our Lutheran heritage. This conversational style of study
will seek to make the bible and our faith relevant to our
lives and useful in our everyday living.



INTRODUCING CAMP MESSIAH

July 8-12, 2024

God's World

This summer, Pastor Tom is beginning a whole new ministry called Camp Messiah. This Camp is a student-run, adult-mentored Christian day camp ministry where campers learn Bible stories and connect with staff. The student leaders are formed with support from adults within the congregation.

Pastor Tom will be the overall director of this day camp with high schoolers from around our neighborhood as staff to the elementary - aged campers.

Pastor Tom has led many of these summer experiences in his previous calls in Texas. Pastor expects Camp Messiah to bring about wonderful benefits for the children campers, youth leaders, and the congregation. These benefits include:

Campers grow through a day camp experience in which they immerse themselves in a different Bible story several times throughout each day.

Staff gain confidence in their leadership as they learn life skills such as time management, flexibility, and responsibility.

We build strong neighborhood ministries and nurture youth who are excited about their faith, bonded with each other, and eager to step into leadership.

Camp Messiah is a gift to parents who are looking for an affordable, safe place for their children to spend time during the summer.

This year's theme is God's World. We will learn about five countries from five continents and learn how God works in all those countries and peoples.

The camp day will be from 8:30AM to 3:00PM. During the camp day, the campers will have age-appropriate bible study, games, music, arts and crafts and healthy lunches and snacks. On Tuesday and Thursday of the camp week, there will be Drench Days when they can play with water outside. This week promises to be a time of great fun, joyful play, edifying singing, meaningful new friends, and great learning about God's World.

The dates for Camp Messiah are July 8-12.

We are looking for high school youth to be staff members; in April we will have the registration forms available for sign up. If you have children younger than sixth grade, consider having them be campers in this new and exciting ministry.

Please call the church office or Pastor Tom with any questions.





Servant Outreach

Servant Outreach/Parish Health Ministry Committee will meet April 7 at 9:45am.

Sewing Circle



Do you like to sew? Need something to do? The quilters are meeting again in the sewing room and are sewing up a storm! Currently they meet on Tuesdays from 10:00am-12:00pm. The day of the week can change, so please call Joyce Hauser to confirm. Project Linus blankets continue to be made in people's individual homes. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please call Joyce Hauser at 814-825-3919. Thank you!



Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunities

April 2 at 5:00-6:00pm for Country Fair distribution.
April 8 at 10:00am to unload senior boxes.
April 15 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.
April 16 at 10:00-11:00am & 5:00-6:00pm for regular food distribution.

Thank you for your willingness to help!



Bethany Outreach

The collection box for donations has been removed from the Narthex, but you can still drop off men's and children's clothing!

Special Need: Men's and Women's underwear.
Clothing can be dropped off at the office or in the library. Talk to Karen Pistner if you have any questions.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Messiah Prayer Shawl group is working from home.

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please call Shirley Damon at 814-899-8805 with any questions or concerns. We can provide patterns, yarn, and instruction if needed.

Thank you!

Prayer Shawls are available at the Church office for anyone who would like one.

Great for baptisms, baby shower/birth, weddings, illness, hospitalization, men, women, or children who need to feel God's love wrapped around them

BLANKETS FOR BABIES

Through the Soldiers and Sailors Home we were asked if we could sew, knit, or crochet baby blankets 18x22 that will be part of a kit given to families in the National Guard.

If you want to be part of this project, contact Shirley Damon at 814-899-8805 with any questions or concerns.

This is an ongoing program our ministry would like to support.



Baby Bottle Tree

Beginning April 28

To help support Foster Care Children in the Erie area, we will be collecting baby items, ages preemies to 18 months. Some bottles will have a monetary donation, made out to the church, to reimburse purchases made through NAIER, which is a warehouse website with greatly discounted prices for non-profit organizations.

Thank you in advance for your support!

*For monetary donation please note for Foster Care.

Wesleyville Community Garden

April 4, 2024, in the Conference Room.

We will be having work days on **April 13 & 20!**

We will need help moving block and dirt!

If you can work a shovel,

we would love you're help!!

Many hands will make light work.

Eagle Scout Project

Elijah Carner is using the Wesleyville Community Garden as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

Please consider donating to this worthy cause!

There will be a special offering during the month of April. Envelopes will be in the Narthex.

He would like to raise enough money to build and fully stock a tool shed.

Every dollar helps him achieve his goal!

Gathering for Seniors

May 14 at 11:30am.

We invite all seniors to a potluck lunch at Messiah in the fellowship hall

As part of the fellowship, we want to explore with you the idea of starting up a monthly senior fellowship gathering.

Please plan on attending the luncheon with your favorite dish and bring some ideas and thoughts on Althea new ministry.

Green Corner NWPA Synod Green Team



MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

With its iconic orange and black markings, the monarch butterfly is one of the most recognizable species in North America. They are remarkable because they migrate each year, flying from as far as Canada and across the U.S. to congregate and spend their winters in the mountains of central Mexico and coastal California. Over the past two decades, monarch numbers in North America have declined dramatically. As a result, research is being conducted to identify threats to the monarchs and take steps to conserve them throughout their range.

Due to droughts in areas such as Texas and illegal logging and subsistence farming in the Mexican Mountains, these areas are no longer providing the natural nectar sources desperately needed by the monarchs.

What can we do, in our area, to help the monarch population survive and flourish?

* Plant milkweed! It is the only plant that monarchs lay their eggs on and the only food the caterpillar will eat. Butterfly gardeners call this a host plant. As vacant lots and fields are lost, the amount of milkweed has decreased. [Milkweed for Monarchs \(nwf.org\)](http://Milkweed for Monarchs (nwf.org))

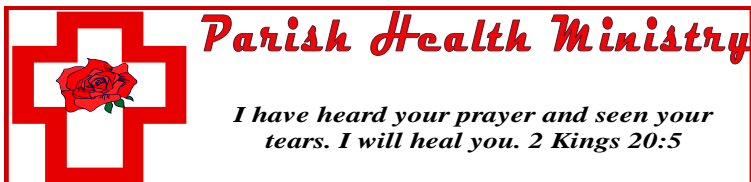
* Plant nectar plants! Adult monarchs feed on a wide variety of nectar bearing flowers and will visit many kinds in their search for food. When selecting flowers for your yard and gardens, consider planting flowers such as coneflowers, goldenrod, asters, butterfly weed. Your nursery can recommend butterfly-friendly plants. Fall blooming flowers are also important, as monarchs migrating to overwintering grounds require lots of nectar to build fat reserves to support their long-distance flight and sustain them throughout the winter.

* If you are able, plant milkweed and nectar bearing flowers in fields, vacant lots and highway strips.

*Reduce/eliminate use of pesticides in your garden.

Follow "Northwestern PA Synod Green Team - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" on Facebook

April 2024



Parish Health Ministry

I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will heal you. 2 Kings 20:5

Dance Exercise Class

Every Tuesday at 6:15pm

in Fellowship Hall.

For church members and friends.

Facilitated by Briana Alaniz, Cindy Anderson, and Bonnie Stearns.



Church Council

Church Leadership

Council:

Briana Alaniz-(1) Secretary
Cyndi Allen- (1)
Art Anderson-(1) President
Robin Curtis (2) Vice-
President
Laurie Hecht- (1)
Steve Porada- (1)
Tim Smock -(1)
Blaine Waters (2)

Conference I Rep:

Blaine Waters

Food Pantry Board Rep:

Pr. Tom Glasoe

Committee Chairpersons:

Church Life: Cindy Anderson

CYFM: Candy Sprouse

Mutual Ministry:

Jean Parker

Property: Art Anderson

Servant Outreach:

Jean Parker

Joe Burwell

Stewardship/Finance:

Brad Bresee

Worship:

Linda Voigt

Unofficial Highlights

- ✦ Reviewed the Minutes of the February meeting;
- ✦ Reviewed the Financial Reports and Ministry Committee Reports;
- ✦
- ✦ Next Meeting: Thursday, April 18, 2024

Contact Information

Messiah Lutheran Church

Contact Information

Church Office: (814) 899-6386
secretary@messiah-erie.org
Cindy Anderson: (814) 881-2161
Pastor Thomas Glasoe: (814) 460-8529
pastor@messiah-erie.org

www.messiah-erie.org

Church Office Hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10:00am-5:00pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	10:00am-5:00pm
Friday	10:00am-5:00pm



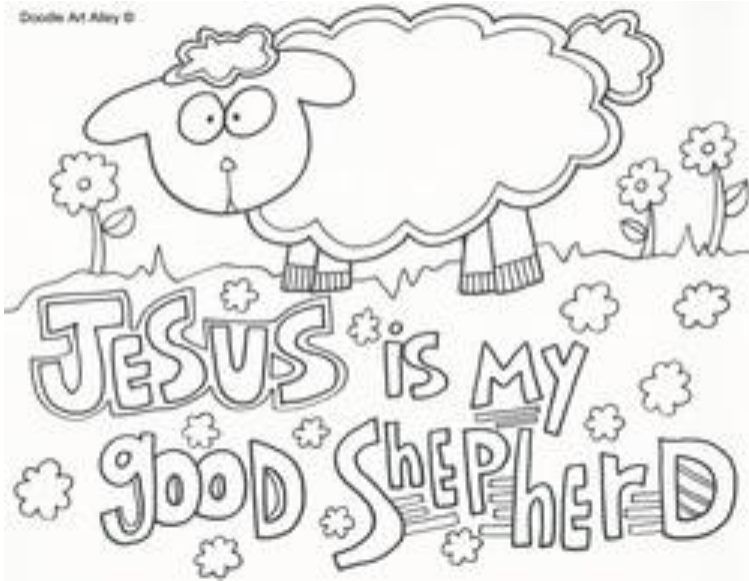
*Find out what is
going on in the
ELCA:*

Church-wide - www.elca.org

NWPA Synod - www.northwesternpasynodelca.org

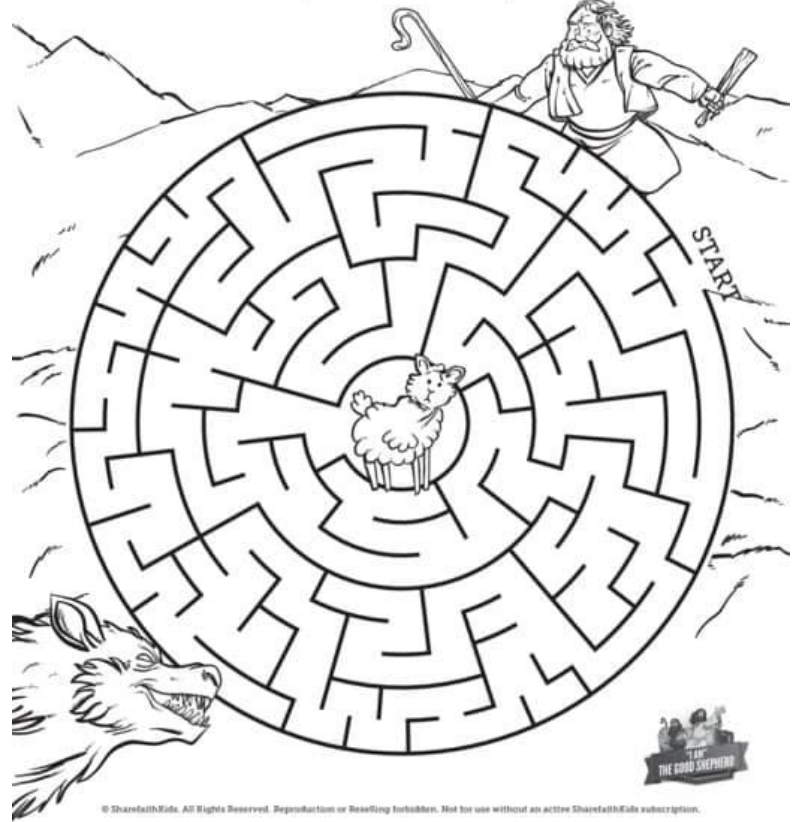


Doodle Art Alley ©



"I AM" THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Protect the sheep before the enemy reaches them.

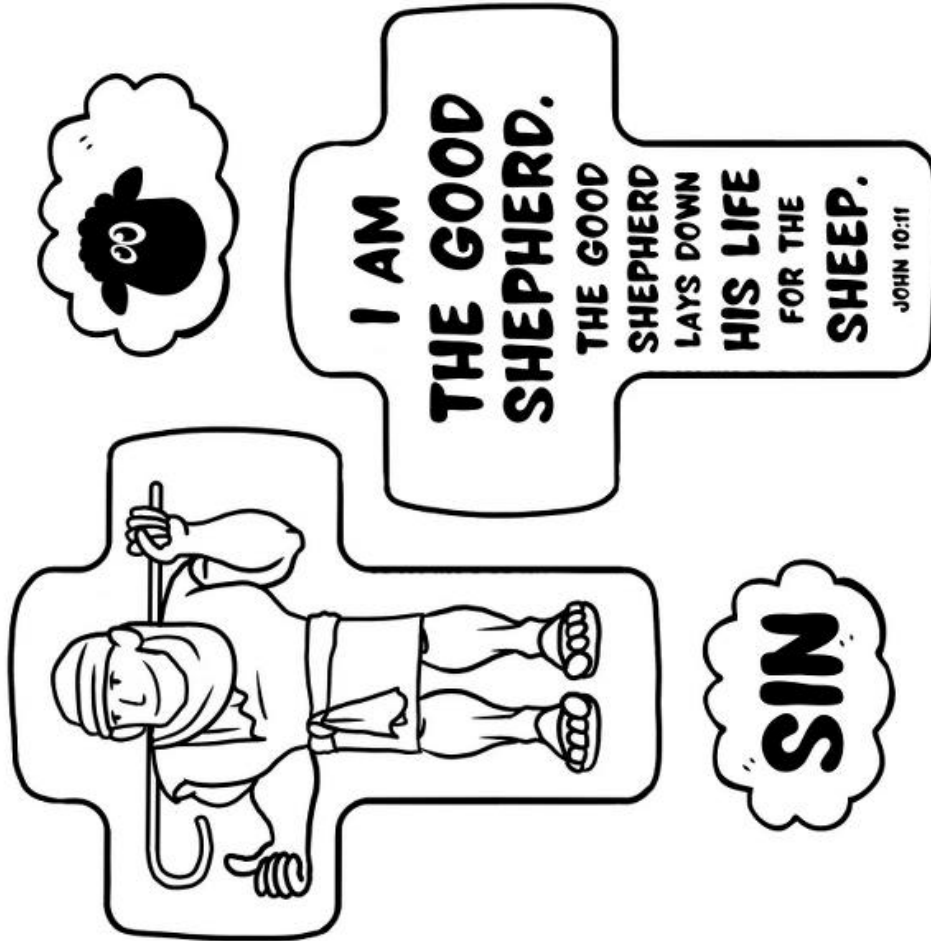


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GOOD SHEPHERD POPSICLE PUPPETS



Instructions: Color the pieces, then cut them out and glue/tape the sheep and sin cloud back to back with a craft stick between them as a handle. Do the same for the shepherd and cross. Use these pieces to tell someone else how Jesus is the Good Shepherd who saves us from the lostness of our sin.



The Good Shepherd | Good Shepherd Popsicle Puppets © 2021 Kids Enjoying Jesus