



Special Points of Interest

SeaWolves game-Friday, July 10, 6:30 pm

OWLs-Tuesday, July 14, 10:30 am

Sundae Sunday-Sunday, July 19 12:00 noon

Spiritual Walk-Sunday, July 19 4:00 pm

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SeaWolves Game

Friday, July 10
6:30 game time.
\$40.00 per person

We have a box on the Party Deck reserved.

All you can eat, fountain drinks plus two draft beers per adult. Signup in the Narthex.

Money due by **July 5.**

OWLs

Tuesday, July 14
10:30 am

Tom Ridge Environmental Center to see exhibits then Sara's for lunch. Movie available if interested; \$5.00 per movie. National Parks, 10:15 or 1:00, 75 minutes or Animal Kingdom, 11:45 or 2:30, 42 minutes

Blood Drive
July 6-11

Sundae Sunday

July 19, 12:00 noon

Build your own ice cream sundae after late service in Fellowship Hall!

Spiritual Walk

Sunday, July 19
4:00 pm

Come walk with us at the Wintergreen Gorge.

Messiah Lutheran Church
Launches a New Website

We are excited to announce the launch of Messiah Lutheran Church's newly

redesigned website: www.messiah-erie.org.

Our hope for this new website is simple: that it becomes more than just a place for information. We hope it becomes a doorway into the life, heart, and mission of Messiah.

In a world where many people feel exhausted, disconnected, anxious, or spiritually uncertain, we want our website to reflect who we are striving to be as a congregation: a thoughtful, compassionate Christian community where curiosity is welcomed, grace is central, and relationships matter deeply.

The new website has been redesigned to help both longtime members and first-time visitors easily explore the life of the church. Visitors can:

- watch worship services
- learn about ministries and outreach opportunities
- explore upcoming events
- access newsletters and resources
- find information for first-time guests

Connect more easily with the church throughout the week. In the coming months, the website will continue to grow with additional features including:

- pastoral reflections and videos
- sermon clips and teaching resources

- downloadable spiritual resources
- guides for prayer and Bible reading
- new visitor information
- expanded online ministry content

One of our goals is to create an online presence that reflects the spirit of Messiah itself — a church rooted in ancient Christian faith while speaking honestly and compassionately to modern life.

We know that for many people, a church website is often their first experience of a congregation. Before someone ever walks through the doors, they often visit online first. Our hope is that when people encounter Messiah online, they immediately sense warmth, sincerity, thoughtfulness, and welcome.

This new website is not simply about technology or appearance. It is about hospitality. It is one more way we seek to share the love, grace, and hope of Christ with our community.

We invite you to explore the new website, share it with friends and family, and continue helping us tell the story of what God is doing through Messiah Lutheran Church.

Visit us online at: www.messiah-erie.org

Contact Information

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www.messiah-erie.org

Follow Messiah Lutheran
Church on Facebook

Live Stream Sunday YouTube-
Messiah Lutheran Church Erie

Church Office Hours**Monday**

Closed

Tuesday

10:00am-5:00pm

Wednesday

Closed

Thursday

10:00am-5:00pm

Friday

10:00am-5:00pm

From the Desk of Pr. Tom**Don't Take a Spiritual Vacation This Summer**

Summer has finally arrived. The days are longer, vacations are planned, family visits fill our calendars, and many of us look forward to a slower pace of life. There is nothing wrong with rest. In fact, rest is a gift from God. While we may take a vacation from work, school, or daily routines, we should never take a vacation from our relationship with God.

One of the great temptations of summer is to assume that our spiritual lives can be put on pause until September. Yet God does not disappear when the weather turns warm. God's presence surrounds us in every season—in the beauty of the lake, in the shade of the forest, in the laughter of family gatherings, and in the quiet moments of reflection that summer often provides.

Here at Messiah, the church remains very much alive throughout the summer months. Worship continues every Sunday as we gather around God's Word and Sacraments. While many are traveling, your church is still praying, serving, planning, and

preparing. Your pastor continues writing sermons, preparing worship, visiting members, and creating opportunities for spiritual growth and connection.

In fact, we have several exciting opportunities coming in the months ahead:

- **A spiritual walk through Wintergreen Gorge** later this month, where we will experience God's presence in the beauty of creation.
- **A Sound Bath Experience at Shade's Beach** on the first weekend of August, offering a peaceful opportunity for reflection and renewal.
- **A Labyrinth Experience** in September, inviting us to slow down and deepen our prayer lives.
- **A joint Lutheran worship service** with congregations from across Erie County at Presque Isle.
- Our annual **Messiah Church Picnic**, where fellowship, laughter, and community will strengthen the relationships that make our congregation such a special place.

These events are not simply activities to fill a calendar. They are opportunities to encounter God in new ways and to grow closer to one another.

This summer, don't leave God off your itinerary. Bring your faith with you wherever you go. Pray while you walk the beach. Read Scripture on your porch. Attend worship always, if you are able. Join us for our special experiences. Allow the beauty and wonder of summer to draw you deeper into God's presence.

If anything, summer is not a season to seek God less—it is a season to seek Him all the more.

I look forward to worshipping, walking, praying, and growing together with you throughout these summer months.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Thomas Glasoe

P.S. Don't forget to pray for the Twins. They need a lot of prayers!

Invitation Culture: Who Are You Bringing?

Churches do not grow primarily because of marketing strategies, polished graphics, or sophisticated programming. Churches grow because people invite other people into meaningful relationships and into the life of Christ.

Long before Christianity had buildings, budgets, or committees, it spread through ordinary human connection. One person encountered Jesus and then brought another. In the Gospel of John, Andrew meets Jesus and immediately goes to find his brother Simon Peter. His words are simple:

“We have found the Messiah.”
Then he brought him to Jesus.

That sentence may be one of the most consequential acts of invitation in human history. Andrew did not preach a sermon. He did not answer every theological question. He simply invited someone he loved to come and see. This remains the heart of evangelism.

Too often Christians imagine invitation as a high-pressure sales pitch or an uncomfortable debate, but biblical invitation is relational before it is rhetorical. It is rooted in care, trust, friendship, and hospitality. Most people come to church because someone they trust invited them. The modern world is increasingly lonely. Many

people are spiritually curious but emotionally cautious. They are not waiting for polished arguments nearly as much as they are waiting for genuine human connection.

An invitation communicates something deeply important:

“You matter to me.” “There is a place for you.” “You do not have to walk alone.”

Fear is often the greatest obstacle. People worry:

- “What if they say no?”
- “What if it becomes awkward?”
- “What if they think I’m pushy?”

“What if they have questions I cannot answer?”

Invitation is not about having perfect answers; it is about extending open doors.

The early disciples did not fully understand Jesus when they invited others to follow him. They simply shared what they had experienced. Churches should help normalize simple, natural invitation language—not rehearsed scripts, not manipulation, just ordinary hospitality. Simple invitations sound like:

- “Would you like to come with me Sunday?”

- “Our church is doing a community meal this week.”
- “I think you’d really enjoy this discussion series.”
- “My church has helped me a lot recently.”
- “You don’t have to believe everything to come visit.”

The goal is not recruitment. The goal is welcome. A healthy church culture constantly communicates: Bring your friends; Bring your questions; Bring your doubts; Bring your children; Bring your burdens; Bring your whole self.

Invitation culture begins with leadership. When pastors and church leaders speak naturally about inviting others, the congregation begins to view invitation as normal rather than intimidating.

It also begins with joy. People rarely invite others into communities that seem exhausted, bitter, or lifeless, but they naturally invite others into places where they experience grace, meaning, laughter, healing, and belonging. The deepest form of invitation is not institutional growth. It is participating in the hospitable heart of God. Christ himself constantly invited: “Come and see,” “Follow me,” “Come to me, all who are weary.” The church simply continues that invitation.

Pilgrimage: The Journey That Changes Us

Each summer, millions of Muslims from around the world travel to Mecca to undertake the sacred pilgrimage known as **Hajj**. It is one of the Five Pillars of Islam—a journey every able-bodied Muslim is expected to make at least once in their lifetime. At first glance, this may seem distant from Christian practice. Yet beneath the surface, it touches something deeply familiar: the idea that faith is not merely believed—it is *walked*.

Faith as Movement

In Scripture, the people of God are almost always on the move.

- Abraham leaves his homeland without knowing where he is going.
- Israel journeys through the wilderness toward the Promised Land.

The disciples follow Jesus not just in thought, but on dusty roads from village to village.

Christian faith has never been static. It is a path, a following, a continual reorientation toward God.

The Muslim practice of Hajj makes this visible in a powerful way. Pilgrims leave behind their routines, their status, and even their normal clothing. They enter a state of simplicity and equality, joining a vast multitude all focused on one purpose: to seek God.

Leaving to Be Changed

Every true pilgrimage involves leaving something behind. For those who undertake Hajj, that may include comfort, control, and familiarity. For Christians, the call is no different—though it may not involve a physical journey to a distant place.

We are asked to leave behind:

- Old patterns of thinking
- Attachments that shape our identity apart from God

The illusion that we are in control. Pilgrimage, in its deepest sense, is not about the destination. It is about transformation along the way.

The Journey We Are Already On

While most Christians are not required to make a physical pilgrimage, the language of journey is central to our faith.

We speak of:

- “Walking with Christ”
- “Following Jesus”
- “The narrow way”

These are not metaphors by accident. They reflect a truth: the Christian life unfolds over time, through movement, through change. In this sense, every believer is already on pilgrimage.

A Countercultural Witness

In a world that prizes stability, efficiency, and control, pilgrimage

introduces disruption. It slows us down. It removes us from habitual or familiar patterns. It places us in a posture of dependence. The pilgrims who gather for Hajj embody this visibly. They step into a shared journey that transcends nationality, wealth, and status. For Christians, the invitation is quieter but no less radical: to see life itself as a journey toward God.

An Invitation

As we move through the summer months, a season often marked by travel and movement, Rogation prayers for the land, and rhythms of rest, this theme of pilgrimage offers a way to frame our lives.

Not every journey requires a plane ticket. Not every pilgrimage has a map. The question is not whether you are traveling. The question is whether you are being changed. Where is God leading you right now? What might you need to leave behind to follow more fully? Faith is not a place you arrive. It is a road you walk—day by day, step by step, toward God.

When a Nation Sings: Lessons from Britain's "Last Night of the Proms"

In July every year, the British Broadcasting Corporation sponsors an eight-week concert series centered in London at Royal Albert Hall. Every night an orchestra plays world class music ranging from major symphonies from Beethoven to Mahler, choral pieces, and contemporary compositions. Even some film scores and popular crossover music is played.

Numerous orchestras from around the British Isles and internationally renowned ensembles take turn playing during those eight weeks.

Then comes one of the most striking cultural moments in Great Britain each year—the **Last Night of the Proms**, held at the Royal Albert Hall. Broadcast nationally, the concert culminates in a shared, almost liturgical act: thousands of voices joining together—inside the hall, in Hyde Park, and across the country—in a unified sing of **Rule, Britannia!** and other familiar pieces. For a brief moment, a divided society becomes a singing one.

The Power of Shared Voice

What makes this moment compelling is not merely the music—it is the *participation*. The audience is not passive. They sing. And in singing, something changes.

When people sing together:

- breathing aligns
- rhythm synchronizes
- attention shifts from self to shared experience

It produces not only emotional uplift but a tangible sense of

connection. The barriers that usually separate people—politics, class, opinion—are, if only briefly, set aside. It is a rare thing in modern life: a public moment of unity that is not forced, argued, or negotiated—but simply *felt*.

A Cultural Liturgy

There is something deeply liturgical about the Last Night of the Proms.

- A gathered assembly
- A familiar sequence of music
- A shared set of words known by heart

A communal act of participation. It mirrors, in a secular key, what worship has always understood: that people are formed not only by ideas, but by *practices*—especially those done together. Singing is one of the oldest and most powerful of those practices.

A Quiet Contrast

In the United States, national unity is often expressed through spectacle—fireworks, parades, large events centered on viewing rather than participating.

There are exceptions but fewer moments where the entire nation is invited into a *shared voice*. The British example suggests something different: unity not as agreement but as *synchrony*. Not everyone thinks the same—but for a moment, they sing the same.

The Church Already Knows This

What is striking is that the Church has long understood what modern culture often forgets.

Week after week, congregations gather to:

- sing hymns
- speak words together
- join voices in prayer and praise.

This is not incidental. It is formative.

When a congregation sings, it becomes, however imperfectly, a unified body. Individuals are drawn into something larger than themselves. It is one of the few remaining places in society where people regularly engage in shared, embodied participation.

An Invitation

The longing you describe—the desire for a moment when a nation stops and sings—is not trivial. It points to something deeply human: the need for connection, for shared expression, for unity that is experienced rather than argued. While a nation may or may not provide that, the Church already holds it.

Each time we gather and lift our voices, we participate in something that transcends division—not because differences disappear, but because they are gathered into a common act. In a fragmented world, that is no small thing! The question, then, is not only why such moments are rare in public life—but whether we recognize their significance when they are already in our midst.

Committee Meetings

- Altar Guild
- Bible Study Every Tues.
Oct.-April 1:00 pm
Wed.
6:30 pm
- Bound Together 1st Wed.
Sept.-May 1:00 pm
- CYFM 1st Thurs.
12:00 noon
- Church Life
- Grateful Prayer Every Thurs.
10:00 am CC
- Guided Meditation Every Mon.
6:30 pm
- Property 2nd Sun.
9:45 am
- Sewing Circle Every Tues.
10:00 am
- Servant Outreach 1st Sun.
9:45 am
- Stewardship / Finance 3rd Thurs.
5:30 pm
- Worship 1st Wed.
11:00 am

Church Council Leadership

- Art Anderson—President
- Robin Curtis—Vice-President
- Cyndi Allen
- Laurie Hecht
- Steve Porada
- Nate Sprouse
- Linda Voigt
- Blaine Waters—Secretary



BOUND TOGETHER

Messiah Lutheran Church Book Club

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month during the school year.

School Year – September 2026-2027

**First Wednesdays of each month at 1PM in Study Lounge
September to May**

Everyone is welcomed at all Bound Together gathering

Month	Title	Author	Presenter
September	The Rent Collector	Camron Wright	Karen P
October	The Nine	Gwen Strauss	Jean P
November	This Impossible Brightness	Jessica Bryant Klagmann	Linda F
December	As Long as the Lemon Tree Grows	Zoulfa Katouh, Rasha Zamamiri	Sandy H
January	Theo of Golden	Allen Levi	Bonnie M
February	The Alchemist	Paulo Coelho	Cyndi A
March	The River is Waiting	Wally Lamb	Mary R
April	The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau	Kristin Harmel	Candy S
May	The Midnight Library	Matt Haig	Madalyn S

Please go to the church’s website for ordering information for these books.

www.messiah-erie.org/books

For more information, please contact the church office.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH 3-YEAR VISION

Approved- 2025 to 2027

WORSHIP

Music Ministry

Build out the Band (2026)

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

School Day Off Camp (2026)
Milestone Ministry (2026)

PROPERTY

Plumbing Upgrades/Restrooms (2027)

IN-REACH

Recruit and Train More Volunteers (2026)
Training for in-home communion ministry (2026)

OUTREACH

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

FELLOWSHIP

Explore more group events (On-Going)
OWLs ministry (spiritually and fellowship) (On-Going)
Lutheran Walkers (2026)



Find out what is going on in the ELCA:

Church-wide - www.elca.org

NWPA Synod - www.northwesternpasynod.org
www.elca.org

Ongoing Ministries

- Altar Guild open to training new members
- Bethany Outreach - collected men's and boys' clothing. Special need for underwear.
- 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.
- CYFM - Children, Youth, Family Ministries - Bible Studies, youth activities, milestones
- Church Life - plans fellowship activities. Open to new members to help
- Counter Ministry - open to training new members
- Guided Meditation - prayer ministry group
- Prayer Chain - email or call the office for prayer requests
- Prayer Shawl - available for all occasions; baptisms, baby shower/ birth, weddings, illness, hospitalization, men, women, or children who need to feel God's love wrapped around them. Contact the office to pick one up.
- Property - takes care of the building and landscaping
- Servant Outreach - Outreach activities locally and globally
- Sewing Circle - sews blankets for various organizations including Lutheran World Relief, National Guard, Linus Project
- Stewardship/Finance - takes care of our financial well being
- Sound Booth Technician needed for both services - training available
- Worship Assistant/Lector blank availability schedule posted through the 15th of the month
- Worship Committee - plans worship services

2ND MILE GIVING APPEAL

Recipient for **July** is:

Lutheran World Relief Kits

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 **June 23 \$137.00** has been donated for **BETHANY OUTREACH CENTER**

Thank you for your generosity!

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

Lutheran World Relief School Kits are sent to third world countries specifically designed to help youth coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. These kits keep education going during a crisis or just in a time of need. LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations

Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunities

July 7 at 5:00-6:00pm for Country Fair distribution.

July 13 at 10:00am to unload senior boxes.

July 20 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.

July 21 at 10:00-11:00am & 5:00-6:00pm for regular food distribution.

Blood Drive at Erie Community Blood Bank:

July 6-11

M,TH,F: 8-5 W,T: 10-6 Sat: 9:30am-12:00; sign up at Fourhearts.org; Call the Blood Bank at 814-456-4206; Walk-ins are welcome; DONORS MUST: Be at least 17 years old or 16 with parental consent, Weigh at least 110 pounds, No tattoo or piercing in past 3 months, be in general good health and eat before donating; Photo ID is REQUIRED.

Erie Lutheran Conference Beach Service

Sunday, August 9th at 10:00 am

Bring a lawn chair and join fellow Erie Lutherans for the annual beach service at the Cookhouse Pavilion in Presque Isle State Park. We will gather for worship, fellowship, and food. If able, please bring a dish to share that does not require heating or refrigeration, such as breakfast rolls, fruit, or coffeecake. Lamb of God will provide juice boxes, and Mount Calvary will provide coffee and table settings. We are grateful for the opportunity to worship together in God's creation and enjoy fellowship in Christ. We hope to see you there!

Our Mission:
Glorifying God through our worship, our witness, our service, and our support

Our Vision:
To build and strengthen the body of Christ

Unofficial Council Highlights

- No Business Meeting this month.
- Next meeting will be July 16 at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room.

Altar Flowers

\$30.00 for one, \$55.00 for two

July 5

1. Linda Voigt
2. Linda Voigt

July 12

- 1.
- 2.

July 19

- 1.
- 2.

July 26

- 1.
- 2.

Bulletins

\$7.00 each

July 5

- 8:30:
 11:00: Candy Sprouse

July 12

- 8:30:
 11:00: Mary Rush

July 19

- 8:30:
 11:00: Mary Rush

July 26

- 8:30:
 11:00: Candy Sprouse

Vigil Candles

\$3.00 a week

July 5

Linda Voigt

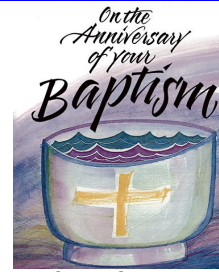
July 12

July 19

July 26

SUMMER SERMON SERIES Readings

Date	Text	Text Title	Series Theme
July 5	Matt 11:16-19, 25-30	The Yoke of Discipleship	The Paradox: Easy Yoke, Heavy Life
July 12	Matt 13:1-9	Parable of Sower & the Seeds	Why Some Fall Away
July 19	Matt 13:24-30, 36-43	The Parable of the Weeds	Why Evil Still Exists
July 26	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	The Parables of the Reign of Heaven	Why It's Worth Everything



“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.”

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Karen Pistner | Marilyn Rizzo |
| 5 Rachel Van Dyne | 17 Isabella Alaniz |
| 8 Rachel Porada | 18 Lauren Proper |
| 10 Sallie Barnes | Gail Wolf |
| 11 Pamela Baker | 22 Sean Bartlett |
| 13 John (Jack) Baker | 25 Mark Van Horn |

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Carol Lemmon | Brian Rogala, Jr. |
| 6 Jackson Glasoe | 29 John (Jack) Baker |
| 28 Pamela Baker | |



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

- | |
|------------------------|
| 8 Bill & Bonnie Magee |
| 12 Jack & Pamela Baker |

If we missed your Birth, Baptism, or Marriage Anniversary we apologize.

Please contact the church office to provide us with that information.

Memorial

Mary Lyons-Mother of Julie Boam

Julie, Mike, and Chris Boam

Synod Assembly 2026

The most interesting part of assembly was the S.A.L.M. Go Tell it on the Mountain Initiative and Lutheran Seminary online Faith & Lead Curriculum. This authorizes Lay/Worship leaders 60 hours of instruction and lay distribution of Holy Communion!

The Team Program, Lutherlyn, R.I.C., Prayer Vest, Climate Change, Bethesda, were all discussed. Budget Proposal: increase giving by 20% by 2030. There is a Congregational Outreach Grant that could benefit furthering our Community Garden! The hot topic was discussing the “Christian Nationalism Movement.” It’s important to be aware of all of these items. Please read and learn more!

It was great to see such a strong presence of females at the Spiritual Worship.

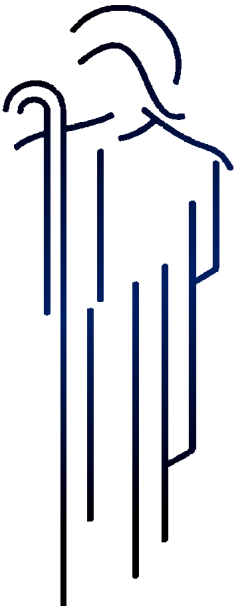
Sincerely,
Cyndi Allen

July

Your Purpose

- Day 1: Jeremiah 29:11
- Day 2: Proverbs 3:5-6
- Day 3: Romans 12:2
- Day 4: Ephesians 2:10
- Day 5: Psalm 37:4
- Day 6: Matthew 6:33
- Day 7: Proverbs 16:3
- Day 8: Psalm 139:16
- Day 9: John 15:16
- Day 10: 1 Peter 2:9
- Day 11: Philippians 4:13
- Day 12: Colossians 3:23-24
- Day 13: Isaiah 41:10
- Day 14: 2 Timothy 1:9
- Day 15: Proverbs 19:21
- Day 16: Ephesians 1:11
- Day 17: Psalm 33:11
- Day 18: Philippians 2:13
- Day 19: James 1:5
- Day 20: Proverbs 20:24
- Day 21: Psalm 32:8
- Day 22: Galatians 1:15-16
- Day 23: Isaiah 30:21
- Day 24: Acts 13:36
- Day 25: Psalm 57:2
- Day 26: Micah 6:8
- Day 27: 1 Corinthians 10:31
- Day 28: Matthew 28:19-20
- Day 29: Romans 8:28
- Day 30: Isaiah 43:7
- Day 31: Luke 22:42





MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 Eastern Avenue
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MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
MESSENGER



Check out Messiah Lutheran Church on

