



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

1st Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

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

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 16
Asst. Min.	Bella Alaniz	Brad Bresee
Lector	Jean Parker	Pam Bresee
Acolyte		Kayla Bresee
Usher	Arnold Conner	Brian Rogala
Sound System	TBD	Tim Smock
Video	Brian Rogala, Jr.	JJ Conner
Counters	Art Anderson, Mary Rush	Karen Pistner, Tim Smock
Altar Guild	Ann Kent, Linda Voigt	

We welcome a New Members!

Marie Harman, Frank and Sydney Amicucci will be received as new members of Messiah today at this Worship Service.

Opening Song

House of the Lord

1. We worship the God who was. We worship the God who is.
We worship the God who evermore will be.
He opened the prison doors. He parted the raging sea.
My God, he holds the victory, yeah.

Refrain: There's joy in the house of the Lord.
There's joy in the house of the Lord today.
And we won't be quiet. We shout out your praise.
There's joy in the house of the Lord.
Our God is surely in this place. And we won't be quiet.
We shout out your praise.

2. We sing to the God who heals. We sing to the God who saves.
We sing to the God who always makes a way.
'Cause he hung up on that cross. Then he rose up from that grave.
My God's still rolling stones away. *(R)*

Bridge: ('Cause) We were the beggars. Now we're royalty.
We were the prisoners. Now we're running free.
We are forgiven, accepted, redeemed by his grace.
Let the house of the Lord sing praise. *(x2, Refrain)*

Opening Prayer

Song

God of Wonders

1. Lord of all creation, of water, earth, and sky;
The heavens are your tabernacle. Glory to the Lord on high!

Refrain1: God of wonders beyond our galaxy, you are holy, holy.
The universe declares your majesty, you are holy, holy.
Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of heaven and earth.

2. Early in the morning, I will celebrate the light.
When I stumble in the darkness I will call Your name by night. *(R)*

Bridge: Hosanna, (to the Lord of heaven and earth).
Hosanna (to the Lord of heaven and earth).
Hosanna (to the Lord of heaven and earth). You are holy.

Refrain2: God of wonders beyond our galaxy, you are holy, holy.
Precious Lord, reveal your heart to me.
Father, hold me, hold me.
The universe declares your majesty,
you are holy, holy, holy, holy.

Refrain3: God of wonders beyond our galaxy, you are holy, holy.
Precious Lord reveal your heart to me,
father hold me, hold me.

Ending: Hosanna, (to the Lord of heaven and earth).
Hosanna, (to the Lord of heaven and earth).
Hosanna, (to the Lord of heaven and earth).
Hosanna, (to the Lord of heaven and earth).

Lesson

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall

set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

A The Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

A The Gospel of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Song

The Lion and the Lamb

1. He’s coming on the clouds, kings and kingdoms will bow down.
And every chain will break as broken hearts declare his praise.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Refrain: Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah.

He's roaring with power, and fighting our battles.

And every knee will bow before him. Our God is the lamb,
the lamb that was slain. For the sins of the world,
his blood breaks the chains.

And every knee will bow before the lion and the lamb.

Every knee will bow before him.

2. So open up the gates, make way before the king of kings.

The God who comes to save is here to set the captives free.

For who can stop the Lord Almighty? (*R*)

Bridge: Who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Who can stop the Lord (Almighty)? (*2x's, R*)

Reception of New Members

A Marie Harman, Frank and Sydney Amicucci have come to us and
desire to transfer their memberships into our community of faith.

Profession of Faith

P Marie, Frank and Sydney do you turn to Christ as your Lord and
Savior?

R **In faith I turn to Christ.**

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in
God the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and
earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he
descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; he
ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the
Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P We welcome you as members of Messiah Lutheran Church, to join with us in worshiping God, hearing his Word and sharing his supper, proclaiming the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serving all people, and striving for justice and peace in all the earth.

Prayers of the People

Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

G **And also with you.**

P Let us offer to one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Song of Offering

Breathe

This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe:
your holy presence living in me.

This is my daily bread, this is my daily bread:
your very word spoken to me.

Refrain: And I, I'm desperate for you. And I, I'm lost without you.

Ending: This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe.

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

A Let us pray. *(brief pause)* Gracious Provider,

G **you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Thanksgiving for the Great Meal

P Lift up your hearts and give thanks to the Lord our God.

G **We gladly lift up our hearts and give God our praise and thanksgiving.**

Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

☩ 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 Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Distribution Song Great Are You Lord

You give life. You are love. You bring light to the darkness.

You give hope. You restore ev'ry heart that is broken.

And great are you, Lord.

Refrain: It's your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise,
we pour out our praise. It's your breath in our lungs,
so we pour out our praise to you only. (V, R)

Bridge: And all the earth will shout your praise.
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,
great are you, Lord! (x3, Rx2)

Post-Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

A Let us pray. (*brief pause*) Generous Host,

☩ you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

P God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

☩ Amen.

Song

All the People Said Amen

1. You are not alone if you are lonely.
When you feel afraid, you're not the only.
We are all the same, in need of mercy, to be forgiven and be free.
It's all you got to lean on, but thank God it's all you need.

Refrain: And all the people said, "Amen." Whoa.
And all the people said, "Amen."
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends.
And all the people said, "Amen."

2. If you're rich or poor, well, it don't matter.
Weak or strong, you know love is what we're after.
We're all broken, but we're all in this together.
God knows we stumble and fall,
and he so loved the world, he sent his son to save us all. (R)

Bridge: Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart.
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart.
Blessed are the people hungry for another start,
for theirs is the kingdom the kingdom of God. (R X2, E)

Ending: And all the people said, "Amen."

Dismissal

- A** Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
- Thanks be to God.**

*The Palms are given to the Glory of God and in Memory of Bud Bresee by
the Bresee Family*

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.

New Member Reception: today after the Gathering Worship Service in Fellowship Hall.

Blood Drive at Erie Community Blood Bank: **March 10-15** 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.

Lenten Soup Supper & Vespers: **Wednesday, March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9, at 5:30 pm for supper, 6:00 pm Vespers** in Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the Narthex to bring a soup or see Cindy for more options!

OWLs: Lunch at Fiddle Inn. **Tuesday, March 11 at 11:30am.** RSVP to Candy Sprouse at 814-440-0214 by **Today.**

Purim Party: **Saturday, March 22, 5:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Join us for a fun night of spaghetti & meatball dinner and a play on Esther. Free will offering to offset costs. Signup in the Narthex.

Easter Flowers: order forms are on the counter in the Narthex. Help us beautify our church for Easter by sponsoring a spring, potted flower. for \$8.00 per plant. All orders are due by **Sunday, March 30!**

It's All Greek to Me Bible Study: Pastor Tom is leading a weekly Bible study on **Wednesdays at 6:30PM** Fellowship Hall.

Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

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

March 17 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.

March 18 at 10:00-11:00am & 5:00-6:00pm for regular food distribution.

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

WORSHIP

Start?

Technology

- Add Screens in sanctuary (2025)
- Update website (2025)
- Obtain Hearing Assisted Devices (2025)

Music Ministry

- Build out the Band (2025)

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

- Bubble Church (2025-2026)
- School Day Off Camp (2025)
- Milestone Ministry (Sept. 2025)

PROPERTY

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

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 (2025-2027)
- 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. 3/9	<i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion
	12:00Noon	Reception for new members
All Week		Community Blood Bank Blood Drive
Mon.	6:30PM	Guided Meditation
Tues.	10:00PM	Sewing Circle
Wed.	11:00AM	Worship Committee
	5:30PM	Lenten Soup Supper
	6:00PM	Vesper Service
	6:30PM	It's All Greek to Me Bible Study-SL
Thu.	10:00AM	Grateful Prayer Group-CC
	7:30PM	NA Group
Fri.	7:30PM	AA
Sun. 3/16	<i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion