

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025 Eastern Avenue

Wesleyville, PA 16510

Address Service Requested

Dated Material

Volume 24, Issue 1

*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 **January 15** and are subject to editing. No exceptions.

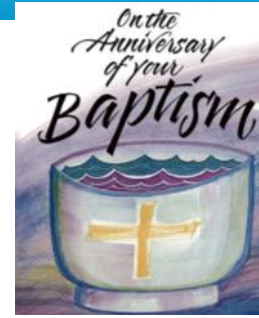
Messiah Lutheran Church is on...



January Celebrations



- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 3 | <i>Evan Rogala</i> | 19 | <i>Gerrie Elias</i> |
| 7 | <i>Tracy Gustafson</i> | 25 | <i>Ashley Rogala</i> |
| 14 | <i>Kaden Brainard</i> | | <i>Corey Brainard,</i> |
| 15 | <i>Carole Pommer</i> | | <i>Jr.</i> |
| | <i>Zachary Brown</i> | | <i>Kathy Kiehl</i> |
| 17 | <i>Eljah Carner</i> | 26 | <i>Gemma Brainard</i> |
| 18 | <i>Alexandera</i> | 30 | <i>Aimee Gustafson</i> |
| | <i>Anderson</i> | | |
| | <i>Debra Tarasovich</i> | | |



"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."

- 4 *Evan Rogala*
- 9 *Gabriella Piccirilli*
- 22 *Bonnie Stearns*
- 23 *Tracy Gustafson*
- 30 *Haylee Juratovic*

January

New Beginnings

- Day 1: Isaiah 43:19
- Day 2: Lamentations 3:22-23
- Day 3: 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Day 4: Revelation 21:5
- Day 5: Ezekiel 36:26
- Day 6: Philippians 3:13-14
- Day 7: Romans 6:4
- Day 8: Psalm 40:3
- Day 9: Jeremiah 31:31
- Day 10: Titus 3:5
- Day 11: Psalm 96:1
- Day 12: Ephesians 4:23-24
- Day 13: Colossians 3:10
- Day 14: Isaiah 65:17
- Day 15: 2 Peter 3:13
- Day 16: Isaiah 42:9
- Day 17: John 13:34
- Day 18: Psalm 98:1
- Day 19: Isaiah 48:6
- Day 20: Galatians 6:15
- Day 21: Isaiah 62:2
- Day 22: Matthew 9:16-17
- Day 23: Hebrews 12:24
- Day 24: Revelation 2:17
- Day 25: Mark 2:21-22
- Day 26: Revelation 3:12
- Day 27: Job 42:10
- Day 28: Psalm 147:3
- Day 29: 1 Samuel 10:6
- Day 30: 2 Samuel 12:20
- Day 31: Ruth 1:16-17



"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

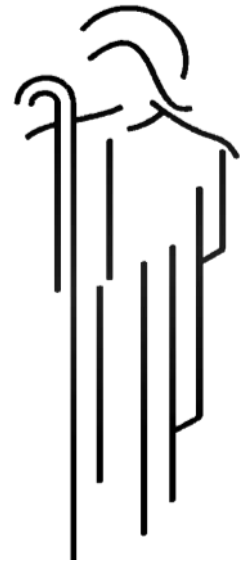


"New beginnings are often disguised as painful endings." – T.D. Jake

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

Wednesday, January 10, 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 **February** will be in the **Narthex** through **January 14**
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!



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

Welcome to our church family:

Debra Tarasovich

*From the desk of
Pr. Tom*

When I was growing up in the Twin Cities, Minnesota, during the last week of the year, one of the local television stations always had a year in review show. My dad and I watched it most years. For one hour each year, Channel 11 went through a litany of all the horrible events that occurred that year. By the end of the hour, I inevitably commented on how tragic the past year had been.

The juxtaposition of the depressing television show and the mood of the Christmas and New Year's seasons always fascinated me. While we sang, "Peace on earth and goodwill to men," and Auld Lang Sine for New Years, we remember what all has transpired in the previous twelve months. Most of these events are not good; floods and earthquakes; wars and famine; political infighting and government shutdowns; murders and rapes; thefts and robberies; divorces and personal tragedies with untimely deaths. The list goes on.

I have wondered often if we really believe in Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Men could ever exist. Yet, I remember Job in the Bible. His entirely life has been completely destroyed and yet he persists in his faith in God. Starting in Chapter 38, God speaks to Job from the whirlwind. This is not the only time God speaks from the whirlwind. God speaks to Elijah in 1 Kings 18.

The idea of God speaking from the whirlwind actually puts my mind at ease. It tells me that God, in the midst of chaos, is still in charge and that while everything seems disordered, God is there.

As we enter this new year, we look back on a year of two highly publicized wars, political infighting in our national capital and continued murders and violence on our streets, we might wonder how can Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Men can ever exist but we believe in a God that walks with us even in the chaos of life.

While the second half of this year has been some of the worst times in my life, I held on to the promise of Christ that He walks with us and is with us in the darkest of valleys and brightest of mountaintops. I enter this New Year with confidence that last year will not be repeated and that we will become even better human beings and disciples from the lessons of last year. However, we know, this New Year will bring us challenges and temptations that will test us and bring us through dark corners. But we remember that Christ is with us, and He continues to embraces us as one of His. May the New Years be joyous and fulfilling.

God bless you all.

I'm honored to be your pastor.

Pastor Tom

**Combined Service Attendance
Streaming services from web site**

Date	8:30	11:00	On Line	Total
Nov. 26	19	31	12	62
Dec. 3	25	38	0*	63
Dec. 10	18	34	20	72
Dec. 17	23	34	16	73

* indicates no live stream for one or both services

Confirmation Class

*Pr. Tom will be holding a Confirmation Class on
January 14 at 5:00pm in the Study Lounge.*

*This class is for students in 7-12th grades. Please
contact the office to reserve a spot for your youth!*

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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 December 21)

	<u>December</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Env. Giving	\$7,637.67	\$111,770.74	\$143,999.96
Other Reg. Giv.	\$862.00	\$8,302.90	\$9,024.85
Misc. Income	\$2,874.91	\$24,569.29	\$26,465.28
Total Income	\$11,374.58	\$144,642.93	\$179,490.09
Expenses:	<u>\$10,172.19</u>	<u>\$146,235.18</u>	<u>\$177,761.50</u>
Net	\$1,202.39	(-\$1,088.25)	\$16,199.35

The Stewardship/Finance Ministry Committee will next meet on
Tuesday, January 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, January 2 5-6:00pm - Country Fair Items Only
Tuesday, January 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 **January** is:

Inter-Church Ministries

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 **December 19** \$60.00 has been donated for the **Mercy Center**.

Thank you for your generosity!

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

The Mission of Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County is to be a network of Christian Churches committed to cooperation for the greater good of the religious community and people of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

The Vision of Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County is to: Witness to Christ through unity among Christian churches, Encourage interfaith cooperation, Share resources with those in need, and to Do nothing separately that can be done better together.

ICM runs the voucher system we used to help those in our community with grocery vouchers.

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 January 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

Sunday Snow Removal

We have secured the services of Art Anderson to take care of snow removal from the sidewalks, steps and wheelchair ramp on Sunday mornings during this winter.



Snow Shoveling

Volunteers NEEDED!

We will be needing volunteers to commit to clearing our sidewalks, steps and wheelchair ramp during the week throughout winter. We do have a snow blower for you to use in the garage!

Please contact the church office if you are willing to help!



January Sponsors

	8:30 Bulletin	11:00 Bulletin	Flower (1)	Flower (2)	Candle
1/7					
1/14	Bob Pommer	Mary Rush			Bob Pommer
1/21			Deb Rogala		
1/28					

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)*

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

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.

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!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Christmas Breakfast a great success!

Thank you to Brian Jacobs for the special Christmas Gift:
In Memory of Guy & Mary Elizabeth Jacobs and Craig Cunningham.
In Honor of Ethelynn Cunningham

Notes of Thanks

*To The Wonderful Messiah Lutheran Family
I just want to thank you from
the bottom of my heart it means
so much that you are able to help these
beautiful kids have an amazing day
wishing you all a very
Merry Christmas*

*Happy New Year
(God Bless you All)*

*The Kinsda's
"♡"*

Thank you for the Christmas cards and gifts.
Your thoughtfulness fills our hearts
with joy!
Cindy & Pr. Tom

CYFM/FIA

Children, Youth & Family Ministry/
Faith In Action Committee

CYFM/Faith in Action Committee

Next meeting is **Thursday, January 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)

**January 3 at 1:00pm
in the Study Lounge**

January-Tobacco Wives by Adele Meyers - Candy

February-Breakfast of Champions by Kurt Vonnegut - Cyndi

March-The Giver of Stars by Jo Jo Moyes - Anna Mae

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!

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

Pastor Tom is leading a weekly Bible study on Monday nights starting **January 8 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 usefulness in our everyday living.

Due to requests, we will start our new Bible Study exploring what it means to be Lutheran. Julie Andrews says its a good place to start, so we will talk about Lutheranism, American Lutheran movement and what being Lutheran means today. Come join us for the discussions and stay for the fattening donuts.



Servant Outreach

Servant Outreach/Parish Health Ministry Committee will meet December 3 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

January 2 at 5:00-6:00pm for Country Fair distribution.
January 8 at 10:00am to unload senior boxes.
January 15 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.
January 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

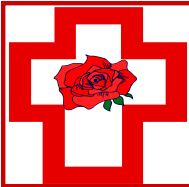
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Supervisor
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BLANKETS FOR BABIES

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.



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.



For the young
and
the young
at heart



Happy New Year!

And may God's blessings be with you in 2024.

Once again I will not be making New Year's resolutions. First of all, I won't remember them (blame it on a senior moment!) and secondly, I have issues with commitment to things I don't remember. I get all gung-ho thinking that THIS IS THE YEAR....except that lasts about two weeks. I would rather watch Hallmark movies and eat pizza.

So, since I have been asked about resolutions, here they are. These, I will remember.

Be kind.
Be helpful.
Be faithful.

That's it. Somebody else is having a worse time than you are. We don't know how another's mind works (or doesn't). Won't hurt to give them the benefit of being nice, or if

you can't manage that, at least polite. Be helpful when you are able. Always keep your faith up front. Other people notice your faith by how you live your life every day. It may just take a moment to say grace in a restaurant, but it may be the moment that will stir someone else into prayer.

The new year might be faced with dread, or maybe with excitement and wonder. It's up to you. One day at a time seems to be the best bet.

For instance, let us look at the stray cats that we choose not to have as pets....they all have names. They have food served several times a day (we are going to have to buy 50 pound bags pretty soon). They now have a shelter so they can get warm. I thought about toys, but these are NOT my cats! But a couple of them answer when Hubby meows at them. We buy them sardines as an occasional treat, but we don't have cats for pets...Be kind, be helpful, be faithful....If a stray cat can stir up emotions, just imagine what people can do!

Billy Graham's wife was asked if she ever considered divorce. "Never" she said, "but I have considered murder a few times!" Yeah, kids and spouses can be difficult sometimes. First be safe, then be kind, be helpful, and be faithful.

Most people (with the exception of a certain Wal-Mart cashier) have a soft side, and it only takes a little bit of caring to bring it out. Someday, I will make that cashier smile. It might take all year, but I will be kind, helpful, and faithful.

From my family to yours, have a safe and happy 2024. Spread the Good Word. Show the Word by how you live - be kind, be helpful, and be faithful.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and God bless you, my friends!

Your servant in Christ,
Marilyn DiLuzio Rizzo

Church Council

Church Leadership

Council:

Briana Alaniz-(1)
 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:

TBD

Unofficial Highlights

- + Reviewed the Minutes of the August meeting;
- + Reviewed the Financial Reports and Ministry Committee Reports;
- + Approved Bonnie Stearns to go to 25 hours;
- + Approved the request to allocate more funds for the Sewing Circle;
- + Approved allowing a evangelism group to use the facility on a trial basis, will revisit after 3 months;
- + Michelle Flaherty is officially hired as our late service music minister;
- + Next Meeting Thursday, January 18, 2023

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

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2024

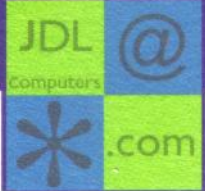
12:00noon for lunch, 12:30pm for meeting
 Fellowship Hall



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

Church-wide - www.elca.org

NWPA Synod - www.northwesternpasynodelca.org



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Jerry Law
 Computer Specialist

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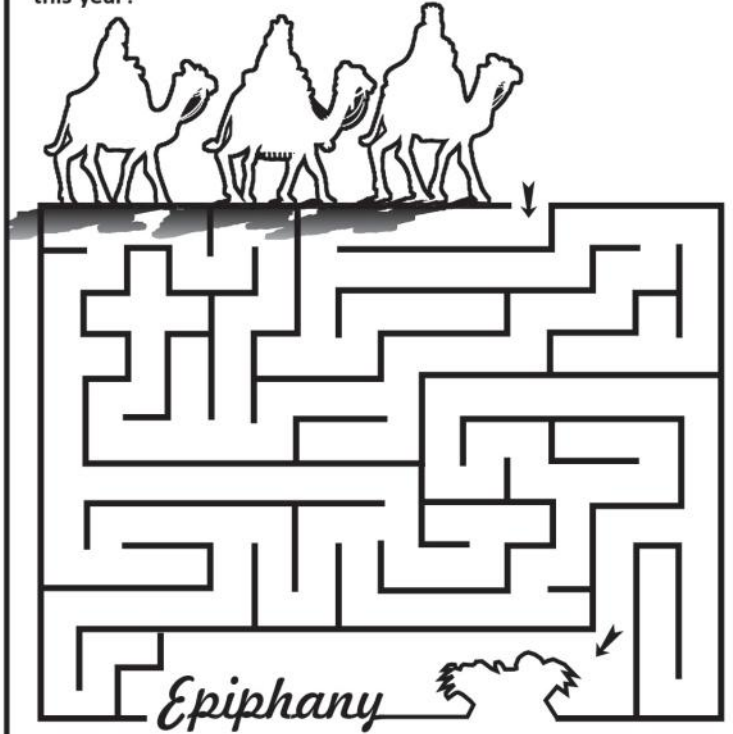
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Epiphany, Mt 2:1-12

Three wise men were searching for Jesus. They traveled from very far away to meet him. They followed a star and finally found him in Bethlehem. They adored him and gave him special gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **What gift would you like to give to Jesus this year?**



Epiphany Prayer

Lord Jesus, may your light shine our way, as once it guided the steps of the Magi:

That we may too be led into your presence, and worship you, the child of Mary. The Word of the Father, the King of nations, the Savior of mankind; to whom be glory for ever.

(Frank Colquhoun)

