

Messiah Lutheran Church

2025 Eastern Avenue

Wesleyville, PA 16510

814-899-6386 www.messiah-erie.org

Thank you for worshiping with us today. We hope your experience is spiritually rewarding!

Welcome Visitors!

We are truly blessed that you are worshiping with us today! We have a special gift for you in the Narthex. Please pick one up before you leave.

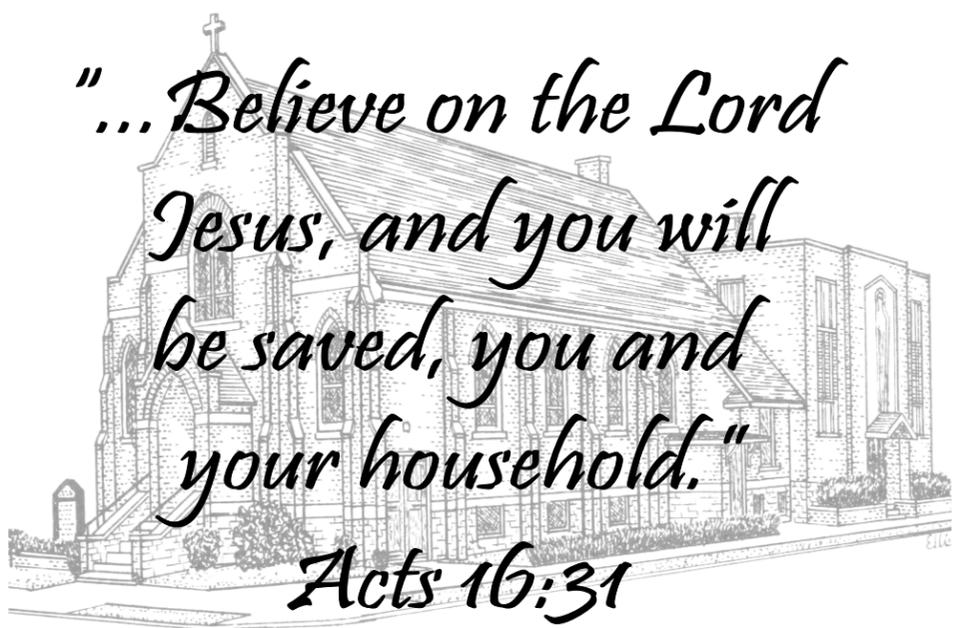
You will find everything you need for worship in this Aid. Ushers are available near the entrance to assist you with any other need.

Please take a few moments to read the Announcements found on the inside cover of this Worship Aid.

Large Print Worship Aids are available from the ushers.

*Today we celebrate
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 8, 2022
11:00am Service of
Holy Communion*

*"... Believe on the Lord
Jesus, and you will
be saved, you and
your household."
Acts 16:31*



Our Staff

Rev. Jeffrey Piccirilli, Pastor (C)431-5879 Email: pastorjeff@messiah-erie.org

Cindy Anderson, Parish Administrator Email: secretary@messiah-erie.org

Bonnie Stearns, Church Sexton

Announcements

Second Mile Giving is that stewardship we offer in addition to our regular giving. For **May Vacation Bible School** 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.

Bible Study: **Wednesday’s, through May 25 at 6:00pm** in Fellowship Hall. Contact Pr. Jeff with any questions.

Baby-Bottle Tree: will be in the Narthex **through May 15**. Baby bottle tags listing baby items for premature babies to age 2 will be on the tree. There are some tags with dollar amounts; these will help off-set the cost of items already purchased. Please place tag on the item and return it by **May 22**. Gifts will go to the Foster Care program. Contact Joyce Hauser with questions.

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed: At least two volunteers from Messiah are needed on **Monday, May 9** and **Monday, May 16 at 10:00am**, to help unload food items and set up for distribution (May 16). Please contact the church office if you are willing and able.

Pentecost Geraniums: Please consider sponsoring one or more 4 1/2 inch pots from Stan’s Garden Center for **\$3.50** each, to decorate the Sanctuary for Pentecost Sunday. Orders are needed by **May 22**.

Children’s Book Drive: Please consider donating a new or gently used children’s book or two for the Mercy Center for Women’ book nook. This drive is being organized by Gabi Piccirilli as part of her diploma requirements. A collection box will be in the Narthex beginning **Sunday, May 15, through Sunday, May 22**. Your generosity is much appreciated!

Work Day: **May 21 at 9:00am to Noon** to do outside work (spread mulch, weeding, trimming bushes, painting), and to do inside work (clean up the kitchen, closets, and sewing room). Signup in the Narthex or contact Art Anderson at 814-881-1680.

May Friendship Day Celebration: Church Women United invites us to join them on **Saturday, May 14 at 11:00am** at Table of Grace Church, 2113 Sassafras Street for prayer and fellowship.

We welcome Michelle Flaherty as our musician today.

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. The Altar rail will not be used;
2. Ushers will dismiss people for Holy Communion starting in the back on the piano side of the church, one pew at a time;
3. Communicant should receive the consecrated host from Pr. Jeff 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;
4. If the communicant prefers the consecrated grape juice, they shall receive that from Pr. Jeff;
5. Communion cups will be placed in the cup trays in every other or third hole to allow for individuals to touch only the cup they are taking;
6. 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	May 15
Asst. Min.	Brian Rogala, Jr.	Brian Rogala, Jr.
Lector	Kathy Kiehl	Jean Parker
Acolyte	Nevaeh Peters	Cheyenne Paananen
Usher	Steve Porada	Brian Rogala
Sound System	Tim Smock	Tim Smock
Video	Savanna Conner	Brad Bresee
Counters	Candy Sprouse, Karen Pistner	Mary Rush, Candy Sprouse
Altar Guild	Karen Pistner, Linda Jones	

Welcome/Announcements/Temple Talk/ Blessing of Mothers

Call to Worship

P We come to worship and praise our God.

G Praise be to our God who offers us love!

P We celebrate the many ways in which God cares for our lives.

G We raise our voices in joyful celebration!

P Even though difficulties happen in our lives, still God is with us.

G We are surrounded with God's love and bounty.

P Shout the good news!

G Christ is risen, Alleluia! Praise be to God!

Praise Song

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Refrain: Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see you. I want to see you. (2x)

1. To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love, as we sing holy, holy, holy. (R)

Bridge: Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy,
holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

Words & Music Paul Baloche © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Used by permission. CCLI License #253409

Prayer of the Day

P Let us Pray: God of freedom,

G Paul and Silas worshiped you, even when they were flogged and imprisoned. Transform our hearts so that we may also rejoice in you at all times and in all situations. Amen.

Lesson

Acts 16:16-34

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are

Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.” The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

A The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Message

Reflection Time

Song of the Day

Way Maker

1. You are here, moving in our midst; I worship you, I worship you.
You are here, working in this place; I worship you, I worship you.

Refrain: (You are) Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper,
light in the darkness, my God, that is who you are. *(Repeat)*

2. You are here, touching ev’ry heart; I worship you, I worship you
You are here healing ev’ry heart I worship you I worship you. *(R)*
3. You are here, turning lives around; I worship you, I worship you.
You are here, mending ev’ry heart; I worship you,
yeah, I worship you, Lord. *(R, Tag)*

Tag: That is who you are. That is who you are.

That is who you are. That is who you are. *(Repeat)*

Bridge: Even when I don't see it, you're working.

Even when I don't feel it, you're working.

You never stop, you never stop working.

You never stop, you never stop working. *(Repeat, R, Tag)*

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Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

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

Instrumental music while the Altar is being prepared

Song of Offering

Sanctuary

Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you. *(3X)*

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Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

A Let us pray. *(brief pause)* Merciful Creator,

C **you satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us ever thankful for all that you provide. Help us to be faithful stewards of your blessings through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Call to Reconciliation

P We hurt people with our words and deeds, we turn away from the God who seeks to feed us with goodness and mercy. Let us come to our God, who longs to anoint us with forgiveness. God our shepherd,

C **you must wonder how long we will continue to live the way we do. We snatch hope out of the grasp of those who need it most. Our acts of kindness are offered only to those we think are deserving of our generosity. We gather around to watch endless reality shows, while those whose real lives are filled with struggle and loss are ignored. Yet you refuse to keep forgiveness a mystery, but offer it to us without any hesitation. You gather us in the green pastures of mercy, so we might find hope; you offer us a drink of the living waters so we might become still**

enough to listen to your heart; you send the Spirit to take us by the hand to lead us on the path of justice; follow us all the days as we seek to be faithful in our calling to serve Jesus. Amen.

P Christ is alive and death has lost its power. Know that your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father † and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G 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

P Let us pray with confidence as Jesus taught us:

G **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 The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

Distribution of Communion [sit]

Communion Music Instrumental

Post Communion Prayer

A Let us pray. *(brief pause)* Generous God, we give you thanks for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G Amen.

Prayers of the People

- A** Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation...
God in your mercy,
G **hear our prayer.**
- P** O God, in your mercy respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- G** **Amen.**

Blessing

- P** May God, the author of life, † Christ, the living cornerstone and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, bless us now and forever.
- G** **Amen.**

Closing Songs

Graves Into Gardens

1. I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough.
Then you came along and put me back together.
And every desire is now satisfied here in your love.

Refrain: Oh there's nothing better than you.
There's nothing better than you.
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than you.

2. I'm not afraid to show you my weakness.
My failures and flaws, Lord you've seen them all;
and you still call me friend.
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.
There's not a place your mercy and grace won't find me again. (R)

Bridge: You turn mourning to dancing. You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory. You're the only one who can. (2x)
You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways. You're the only one who can. (2x)

Tag: You're the only one who can.

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Dismissal

- A** Alleluia! Christ is risen. Go in peace and tell what God has done.
- G** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



An earthquake frees Paul after a midnight worship jail service, and in response the jailer prepares to kill himself. **Acts 16:25–28**

*The Worship Aids are given to the Glory of God and in Celebration of my daughter-in-law, Judy's birthday by Karen Pistner
in Memory of my father, Clifford Parker by Jean Parker
One Vase of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in Celebration of my grandson, Karson Slivinski's birthday by Jean Parker
The Vigil Candle is given to the Glory of God and in Celebration of Messiah Lutheran Church by the Mikotowicz family*

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



After a good jailin' & beatin' Paul & Silas liked to kick back with a little JAIL HOUSE ROCK.
Acts 16:25

Weekly Budgetary Outlook

	<u>Regular Giving</u>	<u>Other Bdgtd. Inc.</u>	<u>Total Bdgtd. Income</u>	<u>Actual Expense</u>	<u>Weekly Avg. Bdgtd. Exp.</u>
May 1, 2022	\$2,182.00	\$7.00	\$2,189.00		\$4,095.54
YTD (17 week)	\$57,316.00	\$9,718.04	\$67,034.04	\$62,645.02	\$73,719.72

Our Net Gain through 17 weeks is \$4,389.02.

Thank you for your generous contributions!

“Gratitude makes everyday sacred. Expressing our gratitude is a gift to the giver. Gratitude for small things makes every day a gift.”

Sue Bender, author
of Plain and Simple
and Everyday Sacred

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. 5/8	<i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion
	9:45AM	Property Team
Mon.	1:00PM	Care Group #4
	6:30PM	Meditation Group
	8:30PM	NA Group
Tues.	4:00PM	Stewardship/Finance
Wed.	6:00PM	Bible Study –FH
Thu.	10:00AM	Grateful Prayer Group
Fri.	7:30PM	AA
Sun. 5/15	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion