



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

MESSENGER

Volume 25, Issue 7

Christmas in July Sunday

July 20 at both services

Sing favorite Christmas Hymns during both worship services

Sundae Sunday

July 20, 12:00 noon

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

OWLs

July 8, 12:00 noon

Meet at Wintergreen Gorge Cemetery at the gazebo for a scavenger hunt.

1:00 pm lunch at Valerios on E. 38th Street

Reservations for lunch to Karen Pistner by July 6

Special Points of Interest

OWLs: July, 12:00 noon

Christmas in July worship-
July 20

Sundae Sunday - July 20, 12:00
noon

From the Desk of Pr. Tom

Mid-Summer Musings: Faith in Full Bloom

Dear friends of Messiah,

By the time you read this, the grills will be well broken-in, the kids will have memorized the jingle of the ice cream truck, and the garden tomatoes will finally be daring to ripen. It's mid-summer in Pennsylvania - hot, hopeful, and humming with life.

And in the midst of all that sunlight and cicada noise, I find myself reflecting on faith; not the kind we wrestle with in dark seasons, but the kind that blooms quietly in ordinary days.

Summer has a way of slowing things down. The school calendar empties, the evening sun lingers, and people (finally!) start smiling in the produce aisle again. But for

all its leisure, summer offers a sacred rhythm: rest, renewal, and presence. That rhythm, I think, reflects the very heart of God.

Scripture is full of people meeting God not in the temple or the courtroom, but in the open air: Moses at the burning bush, Elijah on the mountain, Jesus walking by the sea. It seems God does some of His best work in sandals and sunlight.

So let me ask you: when was the last time you paid attention to the "holy ordinary"?

Have you noticed the sermon in the hummingbird's wings? Or the parable in the way your neighbor brought over extra zucchini again, unasked? Have you thanked God for the lazy porch conversations or the unexpected peace of a nap in the shade?

Faith isn't always about big answers. Sometimes it's just about seeing clearly - about trusting that the same God who holds the vast arc of eternity also delights in your backyard BBQ and your quiet July prayers.

This summer, I encourage you to give yourself permission to be still. To play. To breathe deeply and listen for God in the rustle of the leaves or the splash of kids in the sprinkler. Faith grows not only in Sunday sermons but in Monday picnics and Tuesday sunsets.

May your summer be full of wonder. And may your faith, like your tomato plants, keep stretching toward the light.

Pastor Tom

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**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

SUMMER READING LIST

Summer unofficially starts on Memorial Day. That means that we might take vacations, spend more time with family, and perhaps, do a little more reading. Below is a list of books Pastor has suggested for reading this summer. These titles are available to borrow in the church's library.

Since there are twelve weeks of summer break, here are twelve suggested books for us to read and perhaps gain new insights into your faithful walk with Christ.

- How to Pray When You Think You Can't - Alborghetti
- The Rapture of Canaan - Sheri Reynolds
- Joshua - John Girzone
- A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23 - Keller
- To Be Where You Are - Jan Karon
- The Road Less Traveled - M. Scott Peck, MD
- Every Living Thing - James Herriot
- Healing and the Mind - Bill Moyer
- The Lutheran Handbook - Augsburg Fortress Press
- The Red Tent - Anita Diamant
- Interpretation: Matthew - Hare
- The Bible - every day we read this!

If any of these titles don't excite you, check out the other books in the church's library. You can also talk to Pastor Tom about what you might like to read. He has his own library in his office and more books at home that he can share.



BUBBLE CHURCH

Bubble Church is a lively, family-focused church experience designed especially for children and their caregivers. It typically takes place in the Fellowship Hall in the basement and is structured to be informal, interactive, and full of energy. The name "Bubble Church" comes from the idea of each family sitting in their own "bubble." Here's what a typical **Bubble Church experience** looks like:

Atmosphere

- **Welcoming and informal:** No pews, no pressure. Families sit on mats or within their "bubble" area.
- **No long sermons:** The focus is on engagement, storytelling, and worship that's designed for all ages to understand.

Worship

- **Action songs:** High-energy worship songs with fun motions that kids can follow along.

Story Time

- **Interactive Bible story:** Think puppets, props, costumes, or even short videos. Leaders often use call-and-response or sound effects to keep kids involved.
- **Big Idea takeaway:** Each story ties into a simple, memorable theme or message (like "God is with us" or "Jesus brings peace").

Prayer & Response

- **Creative prayer:** This might involve drawing prayers, lighting candles, or dropping stones in water to represent worries.
- **Whole family participation:** Kids are encouraged to speak or act out prayers; parents model and support their involvement.

Crafts & Play

- **Themed activities:** After the main session, there might be coloring, crafts, or play stations related to the day's Bible story.

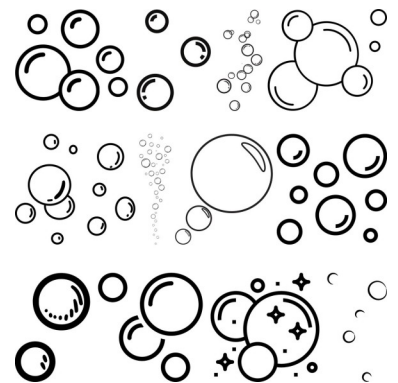
Time Frame

- Usually **30 minutes** long to match children's attention spans.

Core Values

- **Accessible:** No prior church experience required. Everyone is welcome.
- **Joyful:** Worship is fun and filled with laughter, movement, and celebration.

Relational: It's as much about community as it is about teaching parents and kids grow together. Join us this September as we begin a new chapter in our worshipping life here at Messiah.



VISION IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE



We continue to make the vision which the congregation adopted a reality.

- The Worship Team continues to explore the options regarding the placement of the screens, which screens work best, and the installation that accompanies those screens.
- The worship listening devices are installed! Anyone can use the listening units that accompany the base, either by using the earpiece provided, or bringing

your own headphones. This will be of great help for those who have any hearing difficulties.

- The children's ministry is coming into shape with the Children, Youth and Family Ministry Teams.
- The Bubble Church implementation is in the embryonic stage but will be ready for Fall 2025.
- The School Day Off Day Camp is still on course for the first camp day in October on Indigenous/ Columbus Day.

There are other aspects of our vision, but those are not expected to be implemented until next calendar year. Therefore, we do not have updates yet.

We ask that you continue to keep our congregation in your prayers as we explore new and exciting ways to do ministry in our ever - changing, fluid, dynamic world.



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

- Reviewed minutes from last meeting;
 - Next meeting will be August at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room
-

Committee Meetings**Altar Guild**

Bible Study Every Wed.
Oct.-April 6:30 pm

Bound 1st Wed.
Together 1:00 pm
Sept.-May

CYFM 1st Thu.
12:00 noon

Church Life

Grateful Every Thu.
Prayer 10:00 am CC

Guided Every Mon.
Meditation 6:30 pm

Property 2nd Sun.
9:45 am

Sewing Circle Every Tue.
10:00 am

Servant 1st Sun.
Outreach 9:45 am

Stewardship / 3rd Thu.
Finance 5:30 pm

Worship 1st Wed.
11:00 am

Church Council Leadership

Art Anderson-President

Robin Curtis-Vice-President

Briana Alaniz

Cyndi Allen

Laurie Hecht

Tim Smock

Blaine Waters-Secretary

Vacancy



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

Church-wide - www.elca.org

NWPA Synod -
[www.northwesternpasynod
elca.org](http://www.northwesternpasynod.elca.org)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH PRELIMINARY 3-YEAR VISION

Approved- 2025 to 2027

WORSHIPTechnology

Add Screens in sanctuary (Fall 2025)
Update website (On-Going)
Obtain Hearing Assisted Devices **(DONE)**

Music Ministry

Build out the Band (2025)

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

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

PROPERTY

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

IN-REACH

Recruit and Train More Volunteers (2025)
Training for in-home communion ministry (2025)

EDUCATION

Bible Study (Adult and Children) - have more options (2025-2027)

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)
Continue to grow OWLs ministry (spiritually and fellowship) (On-Going)
Lutheran Walkers (2025)

On-Going 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 **June24 \$105.00** has been donated for **BETHANY OUTREACH CENTER**

Thank you for your generosity!

Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunities

July 1 at 5:00-6:00pm for Country Fair distribution.

July 7 at 10:00am to unload senior boxes.

July 14 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.

July 15 at 10:00-11:00am & 5:00-6:00pm for regular food distribution.

Community Blood Bank Blood Drive

Thank you to those who have donated in the past. As you may know, you can donate every 56 days, so we have scheduled our next drive for **July 14-19** so that you can stay on schedule.

Needless to say, the Blood Bank is always in need of new donors!

For anyone who wishes to donate but doesn't have a ride, please call the church office and let them know when you would like to go.

If you would be willing to drive someone and wait for them to donate, please call the church office and let them know your availability.

If you have any questions, please contact Jean Parker at 814-528-5817.

Bound Together Book Review

1st Wednesday at 1:00 pm

Happy Summer!

Join us in the fall.

Altar Flowers

\$30.00 for one, \$55.00 for two

July 6

1.

2.

July 13

1.

2.

July 20

1.

2.

July 27

1.

2.

Bulletins

\$7.00 each

June 1

8:30:

11:00: Candy Sprouse

July 13

8:30:

11:00: Mary Rush

July 20

8:30:

11:00: Mary Rush

July 27

8:30:

11:00: Candy Spouse

Vigil Candles

\$3.00 a week

July 6**July 13****July 20****July 27****Memorials****Steve Rizzo**

Ethelynne Cunningham

William "Bill" Voigt

Bresee Family

Ethelynne Cunningham

Dave & Ann Kent

Karen Pistner

Gene & Linda Jones

Robin Curtis

Lawrence Cox

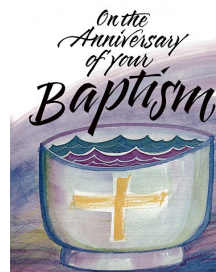
Tom & Ruth Dombrowski

Ernie & Carol Ann Wolf





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



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

July

Your Purpose



"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.

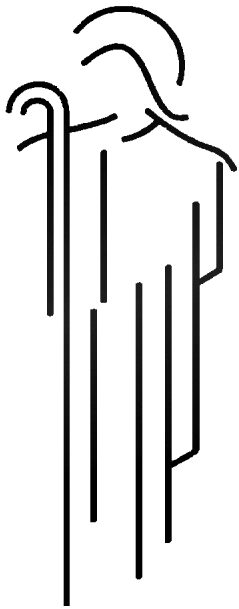
Thank you!

A sincere & heartfelt thank you for all of the beautiful cards, messages, gifts, hugs, and love that I have received from my Messiah Family throughout Bill's recent health issues & his passing. Also for the passing of my fur baby, Sandy. Everything this truly given me the strength & comfort during this difficult time. With love, Linda Voigt

- 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



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Wesleyville, PA 16510

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Check out Messiah Lutheran Church on.

