



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

MESSENGER

Volume 25, Issue 04

Special Points of Interest

Soup Supper: 5:30 pm
Wednesdays of Lent

Vesper Service: 6:00 pm
Wednesdays of Lent

OWLs: Tuesday, April 8,
10:30 am. Great Lakes Popcorn
tour.

Sound Bath
Sunday, April 13, 4:00 pm

Meal in the Upper Room
Monday, April 14, 5:00 pm

Maundy Thursday
April 17, 7:00 pm

Good Friday
April 18, 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday:
8:30 am & 11:00 am

Inside this Issue

Pastor's Article	2
Contact Information	2
Interest Articles	3-5
Ongoing Ministries	6-7
Committee Meetings	8
Council Highlights	8
Members Page	8

Holy Week



Meal in the Upper Room **Monday, April 14, 6:00 pm**

Remembrance of the Last Supper
with choice of Lamb or Turkey.
Meal and service intertwined for
a unique and uplifting service.



Maundy Thursday **April 17, 7:00 pm**

Service of Holy Communion with
Corporate Confession and
stripping of the altar.



Good Friday **April 18, 7:00 pm**

Take time this evening as our
faith community gathers to
remember the sacrifice our Lord
made for us.



Easter Sunday: **Sunday, April 20,**

8:30 am Traditional
11:00 am The Gathering,
Contemporary
Celebrating the resurrection of
Jesus Christ.

All Services will be live streamed
on our website: messiah-erie.org
with the exception of the Meal
in the Upper Room.

OWLs

Tuesday, April 8

Tour of Great Lakes
Popcorn in Colony Plaza.
Meet at **10:30 am**. We will
have lunch at the Colony
Restaurant afterwards.
RSVP to Karen Pistner know
by April 4 for one or both
activities.

Sound Bath Worship Service: An Immersive Spiritual Experience

**Sunday, April 13, 2025
4:00 pm
Fellowship Hall**

In the quiet hum of modern
life, many people seek deeper
spiritual connection and
peace, often through practices
that transcend traditional
rituals. One such practice
which has gained popularity in
recent years is the sound bath
worship service, a unique
blend of spiritual reflection
and auditory immersion
designed to foster
mindfulness, healing, and
connection with the divine.

What is a Sound Bath?

A sound bath is a meditative
experience where participants
are enveloped by healing
sounds created by singing
bowls. These bowls produce a
range of frequencies that can
help calm the mind, lower
stress levels, and promote
emotional balance. The term
"sound bath" refers to the
idea of being "bathed" in
sound waves, allowing the
vibrations to wash over and
through the body, mind, and
spirit.

The Worship Element

In the context of a worship
service, the sound bath
becomes a sacred ritual,
blending the power of sound
with spiritual intention. Often
conducted in a quiet, dimly lit
space, the service begins with

a brief introduction and a
period of silence for
participants to center
themselves. The Pastor guides
the group in prayer or
reflection, setting an intention
for the experience.

As the sound bath begins, the
reverberations of the sound
bowls become the focal point
of the service. The sound is
designed to guide participants
into a deep state of relaxation
and spiritual openness, often
evoking a sense of unity with
the divine. In many traditions,
sound is believed to be a
powerful conduit for spiritual
healing and transformation.
The vibrations created by the
bowls can help clear
blockages, balance the energy
centers of the body, and
deepen one's connection to
God.

continued page 3

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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

From the Desk of Pr. Tom

Easter is April 20. As we reflect on the first Easter morning, it's difficult to fully grasp the emotions the women must have experienced. Imagine their panic and horror upon discovering the empty tomb, only to be met by two radiant figures proclaiming that Christ had risen. In the stillness of that early morning, with dew glistening on the leaves and petals, these women faced an unimaginable reality. They had come to complete a simple ritual - preparing Christ's body for burial - yet what awaited them was far from ordinary.

Instead of finding the body they expected, they encountered an empty tomb and two glowing messengers declaring, "He is not here." In our modern context, we have the advantage of hindsight; we know the significance of

this moment and celebrate it as a cornerstone of our faith. However, for those women, this event was shocking and bewildering, prompting them to flee in fear.

It is not surprising that the first Easter should begin with such terror. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus consistently defied conventions and expectations. He raised Lazarus from the dead, healed the sick, and taught profound truths that astonished the religious scholars of His time. Given His extraordinary life, it makes sense that His resurrection would also break the mold.

The story of Easter presents two distinct realities. The first is the reality of the women approaching the tomb - a reality much like our own, filled with rituals,

traditions, and a sense of security rooted in the past. In contrast, Christ's reality transcends these limitations. It is a reality that embraces creativity and possibility, one that sees beyond sin, human frailties, and even death. Christ envisioned a future that included all of creation, inviting us into a life unbound by our past.

Easter is an invitation from Christ to step into this new reality with Him. Easter calls us to defy conventions and explore a life brimming with imagination, opportunity, and service. As we celebrate this Easter season, may we draw closer to Christ and allow His resurrection to inspire us to break free from the rituals that confine us, leading us toward new opportunities and a vibrant life.



Sound Bath from page 1

A Holistic Experience

The beauty of a sound bath worship service lies in its holistic nature. The gentle, immersive nature of the sounds allows participants to let go of the mental clutter that often crowds the mind during traditional prayer or meditation. Some may experience visions, heightened emotions, or deep moments of insight, while others simply find themselves enveloped in a sense of peace and calm.

For those seeking an alternative or complement to more conventional worship practices, a sound bath worship service can offer a unique opportunity to experience spirituality through the healing power of sound. It allows participants to engage with their faith on a deeper level, transcending the limitations of words or thoughts, and embracing the profound resonance of the universe.

Sound bath worship services are a contemporary spiritual practice that

combines the ancient art of sound healing with modern worship experiences. Whether used for meditation, reflection, or connection, these services offer a transformative and deeply peaceful way to engage with spirituality in a world that often feels disconnected from its deeper rhythms. In a sound bath, the echoes of the divine are heard, not through words, but through the very vibrations of the universe itself.

BUBBLE CHURCH IS COMING THIS SEPTEMBER!

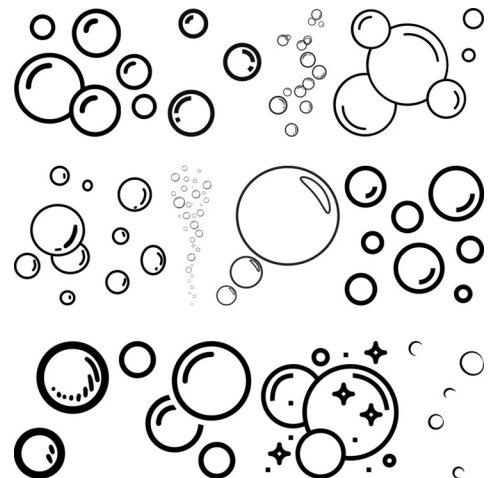


A new kind of worship is coming to Messiah as Pastor Tom launches Bubble Church, a service geared for children and young families in September.

Pastor Tom is introducing the new worship service to encourage more young families to come to church. Part of our mission as a church is to make disciples. We want to connect with those who have shown an interest in what church is about.

Bubble Church is worship geared for families with children. The worship follows the pattern of a traditional church service with some elements lifelong Lutherans would recognize. For example, we begin by saying sorry (confession), then go on to offer thanks to God and children share what they are thankful for (intercessions), a Bible story is told using puppets or skits (the Word) and they use the same form of words to say goodbye to each other (the blessing).

Pastor Tom sees that there a lot of young families in the area. Our Back to School Bash shows that there are a lot of families in the community and they are willing to come to our church when there is something that meets their needs. This shows us people are interested in the church. People want to have a connection with Messiah and this is a way to do that. Pastor Tom believes Bubble Church will be a real blessing for us as a congregation and a community of believers.



VISION IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE



At our congregation meeting in January, the congregation voted to approve the proposed vision that was presented by the Vision Team.

Since then, the leadership of the congregation council has begun the process of accomplishing the tasks and making the various items a reality. Of course, there are some items that need time and serious consideration to accomplish, but there are items able to be completed now.

- The Worship Team is looking at the various ways we can add the screens to our worship space. There has been consideration of television screens or projection screens. Where and how large do the screens have to be? Once those questions are answered, we will proceed with the installation. Thank you to various members of the

congregation who have contributed money to the cost of the screens and the wiring.

- Our electronic church sign on the front lawn is installed and working. This allows us to advertise, share, and celebrate the various events and ministries that occur here at Messiah and at other ministry sites. If you notice, the sign has been raised so people at Country Fair or on Buffalo Road can see it.
- We are working to prepare for the Bubble Church children's worship starting in the Fall 2025. This family - oriented worship will occur at 9:45 am in Fellowship Hall and will last approximately 30 minutes, with fellowship time before and after.
- The School Days Off Camp is a day camp, held at our church, which will engage children on days when school is not in session during the school year. It is about helping families and getting to know young families and children. We

plan this for days during the school year when the children are off but parents still have to work, such as Columbus/Indigenous, Martin Luther King Jr, President's and teacher - parents conference days.

- This summer we will continue our involvement with the National Night Out with the Borough and plan to host again the Back to School Bash. We are also hosting events for the community in May and in October which will provide community members with information for assistance and other resources. This event is especially geared toward women and children who are leaving tough situations and are in need of social services.
- We are growing our community garden this spring to have more garden spaces for more people to grow their own vegetables and plants. More information will be coming soon.

He Is Risen Indeed!

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Everything is new. Birds arriving, newborns ready to enter the wonderful world our God has created for us. Thank you, Triune God, for your many blessings. Our Savior has risen from the dead. He lives again so that we may live again.

My youngest brother - in - law passed away too soon, but don't all of our loved ones? At my age, we see the life ahead as short, not nearly enough left. Don't most people feel that way? Yet there is so much more to pack into every day we live and to relax and enjoy what we have. Our lives will not end except on this earth. Jesus has promised us eternal life - free from the earthly ills we have endured (many of them of our own making, I'm afraid!).

Death is just part of human life. Our Triune God knows this and has given His sons and daughters a

chance to live again in paradise where there will be no wickedness. What a gift! Only He knows the state of our hearts and minds. All He asks is that we believe, we trust, and we do our best to love one another as He loves us.

During Lent we spent time looking at our respective lives, looking at our conscience, praying for Jesus to come. Hopefully we will have learned the lessons and gifts with which God has presented us.

At Easter all those prayers are fulfilled! Jesus has risen! Our sins are forgiven! Eternal life is a promise! On this most important day of the Christian calendar we can be sure that the Bible is the true witness - Jesus died and rose from the dead for us, His believers.

We believe the sun will come up, that water will come out of the faucet, that night follows day. Why should the Son setting and rising up be so difficult to believe??

As for the secular Easter celebration, well, God created chocolate and lilies and tulips from all over the world so that we could bring them together for His glory. He created the bunnies and the chicks, too. We can't deny that the Church and the secular world come from the same God.

So celebrate your Easter however you wish...just remember that all of it comes from God and the sacrifice of His only Son. We have our freedom of will and freedom of choice as further gifts of our Creator.

From my family to yours, have a very happy Easter and a wonderful spring!

Jesus has died, Jesus has risen.
Jesus will come again.

Your servant in Christ,

Marilyn DiLuzio Rizzo

Green Corner– NWPA Synod Green Team

What is a Labyrinth? A labyrinth is a walkway or path that always leads to the center. There are many places to find a labyrinth, but the one we want to talk about today is the Labyrinth of the NWPA Synod on the grounds of the synod office at 22598 Titusville Road (Rt 27), Pleasantville, PA 16341. While there are many reasons to use a labyrinth, we are focusing on contemplating creation and God's gifts to us in nature and our response to these gifts by Caring for Creation. Labyrinths have a long history in the Christian tradition beginning as early as 350 AD. Stopping at various spots, prayers and/or meditation guide the participant toward a deeper understanding – in this case nature and God's creation. You can walk the labyrinth alone or in a small group. Ground was broken for the

labyrinth on the synod property on September 22, 2015. After digging a full circle, a gravel and sand layer were tamped and pavers were put into place in a pattern. Three benches and a walkway from the parking lot was created. The Synod's Green Team is working with Synod staff to add native trees and shrubs to the property, including around the labyrinth. We encourage you to visit YOUR labyrinth on our Synod property. We encourage you to enjoy nature, pray with or without words and commune with God. We covet your prayers and thoughts concerning how to fulfill our mission as your Synod Green Team. The Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress has written three books to help us understand and use a labyrinth. The Sacred Path Companion: A Guide to Walking the Labyrinth to Heal and Transform(2006),

Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice(2006), and The Path of the Holy Fool: How the Labyrinth Ignites Our Visionary Powers (2020). The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation." Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

Like and follow us on Facebook:
Northwestern PA Synod Green Team –
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Contact us at:
nwpa synodgreenteam@gmail.com

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 April Lutheran Disaster Response

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 **March 20 \$20.00** has been donated for **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Thank you for your generosity!

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

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunities

March 4 at 5:00-6:00pm for Country Fair distribution.

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.

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 **May 12-17** 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

Mar The Women by Kristin Hannah (Sandy)

April The Uncharted Flight of Olivia West - Sara Ackerman (Anna Mae)

May ?? (Bonnie M)

Baby Bottle Tree**Supporting Erie Foster Care**

Sunday, April 27 through
Sunday, May 11.

To help support Foster Care Children in the Erie area, we will be collecting baby items, ages preemies to 18 months. Some bottles will have a monetary donation, made out to the church, to reimburse purchases made through NAIER, which is a warehouse website with greatly discounted prices for non-profit organizations.

Take a bottle from the tree, purchase the item requested and bring the unwrapped gift to place in the box in the Narthex by Mother's Day, May 11.

Thank you in advance for your support!

*For monetary donation please note for Foster Care

Thank you!

Thank you to all our church family for making Bernice feel so special on her 104th birthday! She received so many beautiful cards...some handmade...all with touching sentiment, even a note in conveniently large type which discussed all the changes she had lived through in her many decades! The cards

were received for a couple of weeks and she was able to enjoy seeing them on her fireplace mantel (2-3 rows worth!) while she sat in her recliner. Each time she looked at them up close, it was like they were new all over again!

Love and miss you,
Linda Fryer

Altar Flowers

April 27 open

April 6

- 1.
- 2.

April 13

- 1.
- 2.

April 20

1. Marylou Bartlett
- 2.

April 27

1. Marylou Bartlett
- 2.

Vigil Candles

April 6 open

April 13 open

April 20 open

Bulletins**April 6**

8:30:
11:00: Pistner

April 13

8:30:
11:00:

April 20

8:30:
11:00:

April 27

8:30:
11:00: Ethelynne
Cunningham

**Welcome to our new church family members:**

March 9, 2025

Marie Harman

Frank & Sydney Amicucci

Passing of family members

June Kennedy: stepmother of Sean Kennedy
2/11/25

Robert Wenner: brother of Robin Szczutkowski
2/12/25

Committee Meetings**Altar Guild**

Bible Study Every Wed.
6:30 pm

Bound 1st Wed.
Together 1:00 pm

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 Wed.
10:00 am

Servant 1st Sun.
Outreach 9:45 am

Stewardship / 3rd Thu.
Finance 5:30 pm

Worship 1st Wed.
11:00 am

Church Leadership

Art Anderson-President

Robin Curtis-Vice-President

Briana Alaniz

Cyndi Allen

Laurie Hecht

Tim Smock

Blaine Waters

Vacancy



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

Church-wide - www.elca.org

NWPA Synod -
www.northwesternpasynod.org

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 March meeting;
- The new sign was put up out front and is fully functioning;
- Finances are where the council expected them to be after having a harsh winter and having property related things that needed to be done during the last few months - everything is adding up and checking out;
- Pr. Tom is planning a mission trip for the youth this summer and is hoping to get a committee together for Bubble Church in the fall;
- A Sound Bath Service will be held on Palm Sunday, April 13 at 4:00 pm;
- Bible Study will be ending for the summer during Holy Week and starting up again in October;
- The Community Garden will be receiving 4 adolescent apple trees;
- Community Outreach and CYFM will be doing a Dog and Cat Walk on June 22, 2025;
- Cyndi Allen has created an Inside Advertising Committee with plans to place posters and signs around different rooms in the church about who we are and the things we do - please reach out to her if you'd like to help!
- Next meeting will be on April 24, at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH PRELIMINARY 3-YEAR VISION

PROPOSED - 2025 to 2027

WORSHIPTechnology

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 Cam (2025)

Milestone Ministry
(Sept. 2025)

PROPERTY

Fix Front Electronic Sign
(DONE)

Repair/Purchase Boiler
(DONE)

Plumbing Upgrades/
Restrooms (2027)

Buy New Freezer (ASAP)

IN-REACH

Recruit and Train More
Volunteers (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

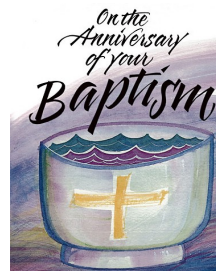
Explore more group events
(ongoing)

Continue to grow OWLs
ministry (spiritually and
fellowship) (ongoing)

Lutheran Walkers (2025)



- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 6 Steve Porada | 20 Mary Rush |
| 7 Madalyn Shatzer | 23 Winifred Gardner |
| 9 Nathan Sprouse | 25 Shirley Case |
| 17 Emmanuel Alaniz | 26 Bryson Brown |
| Kira Brown | 28 Linda Jones |
| 18 Cindy Anderson | |



"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."

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 3 Thomas Ecke | 20 Kaden Brainard |
| 10 Madison Bartlett | 22 Elijah Carner |
| 11 Sandy Hough | 24 Doug Wolf |
| 14 John Needham | Chloee Mills |
| Jace Brainard | 25 Karen Pistner |
| 18 Joshua Bartlett | 26 Eva Edwards |
| 19 Steve Porada | 28 Timothy Wolf |

April

**Prayer
Power**

- Day 1: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- Day 2: Philippians 4:6-7
- Day 3: Matthew 6:9-13
- Day 4: James 5:16
- Day 5: Ephesians 6:18
- Day 6: Jeremiah 29:12
- Day 7: Matthew 18:20
- Day 8: Luke 11:1
- Day 9: Mark 11:24
- Day 10: Psalm 17:1
- Day 11: 1 John 5:14-15
- Day 12: 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Day 13: Romans 12:12
- Day 14: Colossians 4:2
- Day 15: Psalm 145:18
- Day 16: 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- Day 17: John 15:7
- Day 18: Proverbs 15:29
- Day 19: Acts 2:42
- Day 20: Psalm 102:17
- Day 21: James 1:5
- Day 22: Matthew 21:22
- Day 23: Luke 18:1
- Day 24: Psalm 32:6
- Day 25: Hebrews 4:16
- Day 26: Daniel 9:18
- Day 27: Mark 1:35
- Day 28: Acts 1:14
- Day 29: Psalm 141:2
- Day 30: 1 Kings 8:28

*Prayer is the nearest approach to God
and the highest enjoyment of Him that
we are capable of in this life." — William Law*

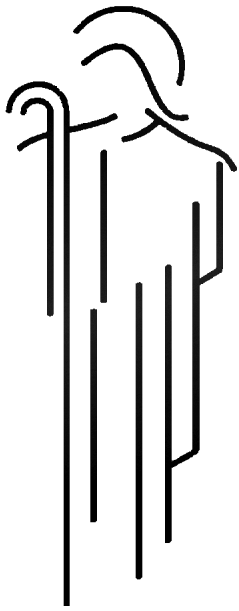


"Bless them so that all may see in their lives together within the community of your people a vision of your kingdom on earth."

4 *Sandy & Fred Lee*

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

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



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