



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

2nd Sunday in Advent

December 7, 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	December 14
Asst. Min.	Carol Ann Wolf	Brian Rogala, Jr.
Lector	Jean Parker	Pam Bresee
Acolyte	Josh Bartlett	Manny Alaniz
Usher	Arnold Conner	Brian Rogala
Sound System	Rich Alaniz	Rich Alaniz
Video	Rich Alaniz	Rich Alaniz
Counters	Mary Rush, Karen Pistner	Candy Sprouse, Art Anderson
Altar Guild	Sandy Hough, Candy Sprouse, Mary Rush, Bonnie Magee	

Opening Song

Your Grace is Enough

1. Great is your faithfulness, O God;
you wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.
You lead us by still waters into mercy
And nothing can keep us apart.

Pre-Refrain: So, remember your people, remember your children,
remember your promise O God.

Refrain: Your grace is enough, your grace is enough
your grace is enough, for me.

2. Great is your love and justice, God of Jacob;
you use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song of your salvation,
and all your people sing along. (*Pre-Refrain, Refrain, E*)

Ending: Your grace is enough; heaven reaches out to us.
Your grace is enough for me.
God I sing: your grace is enough; I'm covered in your love.
Your grace is enough for me, for me.

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Opening Prayer

Song

Here I Am To Worship

1. Light of the world you stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
hope of a life spent with you.

Refrain: So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that you're my God.
And you're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.

2. King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came to the earth you created,
all for love's sake became poor. (*R, Bridge*)

Bridge: And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross. (*2x, R*)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
- C **those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.**
- P The light grows gradually brighter as we move through Advent together.
- C **The candle of Hope already burns bright. Today, we light the candle of Peace.**
- P The coming Christ desires us all to thrive, patiently wanting us to turn from the ways of sin and death. As we wait for the coming of the day of God, we want to be ready.
- C **Seeking a straight path, we light this candle to guide our steps. Together, we prepare the way and strive to lead lives of holiness, goodness, and peace.**

Lighting Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

1. Oh, come, oh come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That morns in lonely exile here. Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel. Shall come to you, O Israel.

2. O, come, O come, wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay,
teach us your will and guide our way. (R)

Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead

them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

A The Gospel of the Lord.

5 C Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Song

Holy Spirit

1. There's nothing worth more that will ever come close.
No thing can compare; you're our living hope. Your presence.
2. I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves,
where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone,
in your presence, Lord.

Refrain: Holy Spirit, you are welcome here;
come flood this place and fill the atmosphere;
your glory, God, is what our hearts long for,
to be overcome by your presence, Lord. Your presence, Lord.
(Repeat from Beginning)

Bridge: Let us become more aware of your presence
Let us experience the glory of your goodness (4X) (Lord)(R)

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Prayers of the People

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.

Song of Offering

Messiah

1. Long awaited precious promise, Son of God and Son of Man.
Heaven's glory in a manger will come to us in Bethlehem, oh.

Refrain: Messiah, Messiah, a baby born to save us all.
Messiah, Messiah, on our knees we fall.

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Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

A Let us pray. *(brief pause)* Nourishing God,

C you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may
rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Great Meal

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

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

Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

C 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. Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

Distribution Song

Gratitude

1. All my words fall short; I got nothing new.
How could I express all my gratitude?
2. I could sing these songs, as I often do,
but every song must end and you never do. *(R)*

Refrain: So I throw up my hands and praise you again and again, cause all that I have is a hallelujah, hallelujah.

And I know it's not much, but I've nothing else fit for a king except for a heart singing, "hallelujah, hallelujah."

3. I've got one response, I've got just one move:
with my arms stretched wide I will worship you. *(R)*

Bridge: Come on, my soul, oh, don't you get shy on me.

Lift up your song, cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs.

Post Communion Prayer

A Let us pray. *(brief pause)* God our host,

C at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen

Blessing

P May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good
news to share today and always.

C Amen.

Song

Less Like Me

1. Oh I have days I lose the fight.
Try my best but just don't get it right.
Where I talk a talk that I don't walk,
and miss the moments right before my eyes.

Pre-Refrain: Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped.
Somebody with a hand that I could have held.
When I just can't see past myself. Lord, help me be.

Refrain: A little more like mercy. A little more like grace.
A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith.
A little more like patience. A little more like peace.
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.

2. Yeah there's no denying I have changed.
I've been saved from who I used to be.
But even at my best, I must confess,
I still need help to see the way you see. *(Pre-R, Bridge)*

Bridge: Oh to feed the beggar on the street.
Love to be your hands and feet.
Freely give what I receive, Lord, help me be.
I want to put you first above all else.
Love my neighbor as myself.
In the moments no one sees, Lord, help me be. *(R, Ending)*

Ending: A little more I'm living, everything I preach.
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.

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Dismissal

A Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Second Mile Giving is that stewardship we offer in addition to our regular giving. For **December** the **Mercy Center for Women** 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.

It’s All Greek to Me Bible Study: Is on break for the Christmas holiday. We will resume Wednesday, January 3.

2026 Offering Envelopes: Are available on the table in the Narthex. You can pick them up during regular office hours as well.

Angel Tree: will be in the Narthex through **December 7**. Please take a tag or two from the tree located in the Narthex to benefit the Mercy Center for Women. The unwrapped items, along with the tag, **MUST** be returned to the Church by **December 7**. They asked for “Back to Basic” items due to changing in Federal Funding.

Advent Devotional Pamphlets: are in the Narthex. Feel free to take one to use.

Prayer Cards: are in the Narthex on the counter.

Christmas Cookies: Donations of homemade Christmas cookies would be greatly appreciated for our Christmas Breakfast. Sign up in the narthex or by contacting the Church Office. Drop your cookies off at the church by **December 19**.

Christmas Breakfast: December 21 at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall. Everyone in the congregation is invited. The menu is cheese or western egg bake, pancakes, sausage, juice and Christmas cookies. Sign up in Narthex if you plan to attend.

Poinsettia Orders: Help decorate the church for Christmas by sponsoring a poinsettia or two! The decision was made to offer Red and White plants this year. Order forms are on the counter in the Narthex. The cost per plant this year is **\$9.50**. Orders are due by **December 7**. **Please only ONE sponsorship per plant.**

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRELIMINARY 3-YEAR VISION
APPROVED - 2025 to 2027

WORSHIP	Start?
<u>Technology</u>	
Add Screens in sanctuary	(DONE)
Update website	(ongoing)
Obtain Hearing Assisted Devices	(DONE)
<u>Music Ministry</u>	
Build out the Band	(2025)
CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY	
Bubble Church	(ongoing)
School Day Off Camp	(Fall 2025)
Milestone Ministry	(Fall 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 Volunteer	(2025)
Train in-home communion ministry	(2025)
EDUCATION	
Bible Study (Adult and Children) - have more options	(2025-2027)
OUTREACH	
Maintain Community Garden	(ongoing)
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)

Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

December 8 at 10:00am to unload senior boxes.
December 15 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.
December 16 at 10:00-11:00am & 5:00-6:00pm for regular food distribution.

<div>This Week at the Church</div> <div>(See Newsletter for More Detail)</div>		
Office Hours :Monday Closed, Tuesday 10:00am-5:00pm, Wednesday Closed, Thursday 10:00am-5:00pm, Friday 10:00am-5:00pm		
Sun. 12/7	2nd Sunday in Advent	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion
	9:45AM	Servant Outreach
Mon.	6:30PM	Guided Meditation
Tues.	10:00PM	Sewing Circle
	6:30PM	Bible Study
Thu.	10:00AM	Grateful Prayer Group-CC
	7:30PM	NA Group
Fri.	7:30PM	AA
Sun. 12/14	3rd Sunday in Advent	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion