

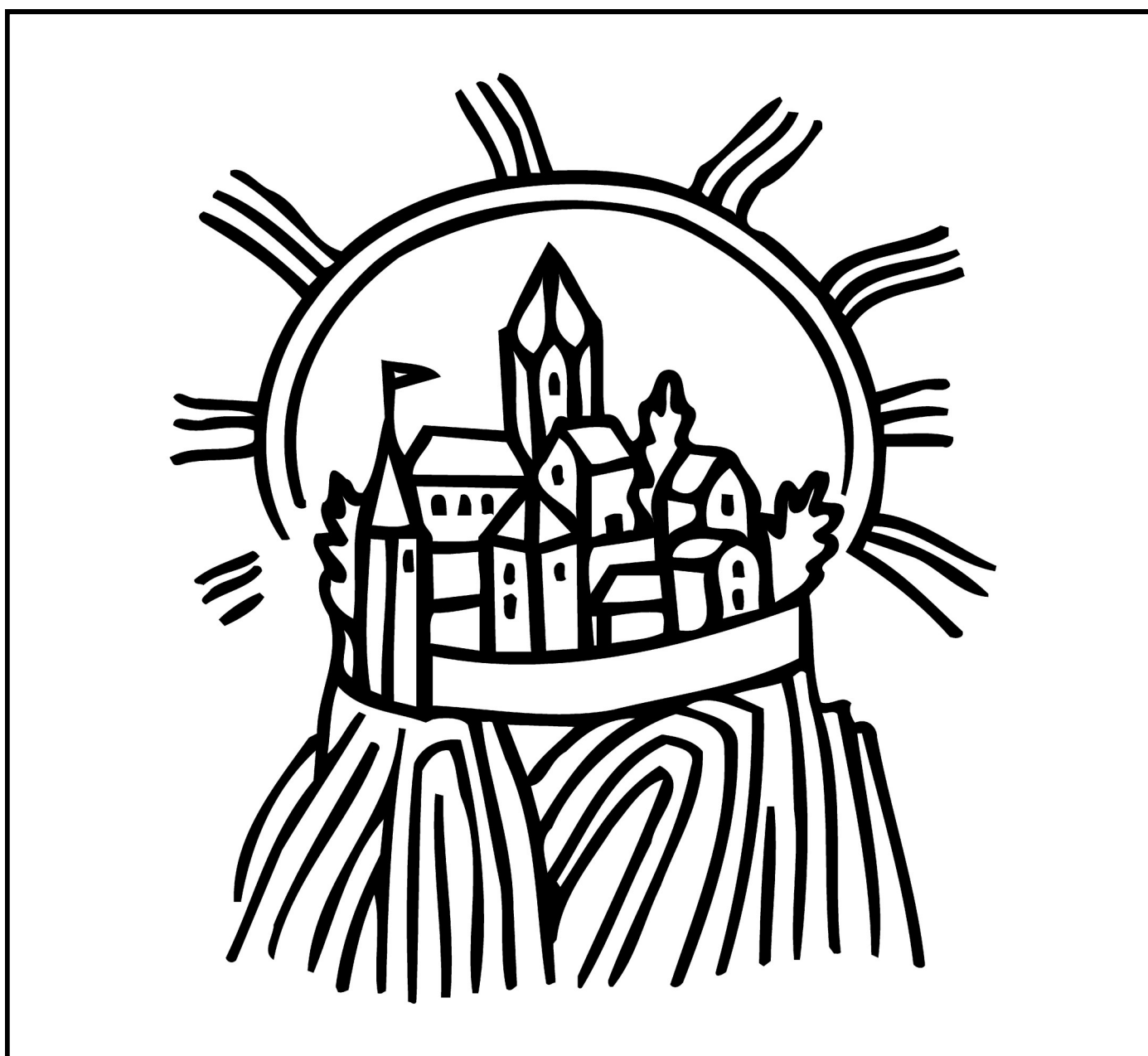
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

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

2025 Eastern Ave, Erie, PA 16510 814-899-6386 messiah-erie.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

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	February 15
Asst. Min.	Bella Alaniz	Blaine Waters
Lector	Bella Alaniz	Jean Parker
Acolyte	Manny Alaniz	Bella Alaniz
Usher	Brian Rogala	Arnold Conner
Sound System	Rich Alaniz	Rich Alaniz
Video	Rich Alaniz	Manny Alaniz
Counters	Candy Sprouse, Tim Smock	Mary Rush, Karen Pistner
Altar Guild	Sandy Hough, Candy Sprouse, Mary Rush, Bonnie Magee	

Opening Song Come, Now Is The Time to Worship

Refrain: Come, now is the time to worship.
 Come, now is the time to give your heart.
 Come, just as you are to worship.
 Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

1. One day ev'ry tongue will confess you are God.
One day ev'ry knee will bow.
Still, the greatest treasure remains for those
who gladly choose you now. *(R)*
2. Willingly we choose to surrender our lives.
Willingly our knees will bow.
With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
we gladly choose you now. *(R then Ending)*

Ending: Come. Come. Come, just as you are, come. Come.

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Opening Prayer

Song Raise A Hallelujah

1. I raise a hallelujah in the presence of my enemies.
I raise a hallelujah louder than the unbelief.
I raise a hallelujah; my weapon is a melody.
I raise a hallelujah; heaven comes to fight for me.

Refrain: I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm.
 Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar.
 Up from the ashes hope will arise.
 Death is defeated; the king is alive.

2. I raise a hallelujah with everything inside of me.
I raise a hallelujah; I will watch the darkness flee.
I raise a hallelujah in the middle of the mystery.
I raise a hallelujah; fear, you lost your hold on me. *(R)*

Bridge 1: *(L)* Sing a little louder. *(C)* Sing a little louder.
 (L) Sing a little louder. *(C)* Sing a little louder.
 (L) Sing a little louder. *(C)* Sing a little louder.
 (L) Sing a little louder. *(C)* Sing a little louder.

Bridge 2: (L) Sing a little louder, (C) in the presence of my enemies.
(L) Sing a little louder, (C) louder than the unbelief.
(L) Sing a little louder, (C) my weapon is a melody.
(L) Sing a little louder, (C) Heaven comes to fight for me.
(Repeat B2, R)

Ending: I raise a hallelujah. I raise a hallelujah.
I raise a hallelujah. I raise a hallelujah.

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Lesson

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs

in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 5:13-20

Jesus said:

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

A The Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Song

Say I Won't

1. Today it all begins. I'm seeing my life for the very first time through a different lens. Yesterday I didn't understand. Driving thirty five with the rocket inside, didn't know what I had. While I've been waiting to live my life's been waiting on me.

Refrain: I'm gonna run. No, I'm gonna fly.
I'm gonna know what it means to live and not just be alive.
The world's gonna hear 'cause I'm gonna shout.
And I will be dancing
when circumstances drown the music out. Say I won't.

2. Not enough is what I've been told, but it must be a lie
'Cause the Spirit inside says I'm so much more.
So let them say what they want; oh, I dare them to try. (R)

Tag: Say I won't. Say I won't. Say I won't.

Bridge: I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.
So keep on saying I won't, And I'll keep proving you wrong.
(R)

Refrain 2: I'm gonna run. No I'm gonna fly.
I'm gonna know what it means to live and not just be alive.
This world's gonna hear, whoa. 'cause I'm gonna shout.
And I will be dancing when circumstances
drown the music out. Say I won't.

Ending: Say I won't. Say that I won't. Oh, say I won't. Say I won't.

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Prayer of the Church

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

Breathe

Stand

This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe:
your holy presence living in me.

This is my daily bread, this is my daily bread:
your very word spoken to me.

Refrain: And I, I'm desperate for you. And I, I'm lost without you.

Ending: This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe.

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Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

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

C no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

Distribution 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)

Post Communion Prayer

A Let us pray. *(brief pause)* Radiant God,
C we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Blessing

P May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever.
C Amen.

Prayers of the People

Song ***Mighty to Save***

1. Everyone needs compassion, love that's never failing.
Let mercy fall on me.
Everyone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior.
The hope of nations

Refrain: Savior, he can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.
Forever, author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave.
Jesus conquered the grave.

2. So take me as you find me, all my fears and failures.
Fill my life again.
I give my life to follow, everything I believe in.
Now I surrender. *(R then Bridge)*

Bridge: Shine your light, and let the whole world see,
we're singing, for the glory of the risen King. Jesus.
Shine your light and let the whole world see,
we're singing for the glory of the risen King.
(R2x then Bridge)

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C Thanks be to God.

*The Vigil Candle is given to the Glory of God and in Memory of Isabel Jones
by Laurie Hecht*

Announcements

Second Mile Giving is that stewardship we offer in addition to our regular giving. For **February Pastor's Discretionary Fund** 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.

Inform the office if you would like a copy of your 2025 Giving Statement.

It's All Greek to Me Bible Study: Pastor Tom is leading a weekly Bible study on **Tuesdays at 1:00 pm & Wednesdays at 6:30 pm** in the Study Lounge.

Taize Service: Sunday, February 15 at 4:00 pm in the church. As part of our alternative worship experiences, join us for a meditative and singing liturgy at our Taizé worship. Taizé worship is a contemplative, music-driven form of Christian prayer that grew out of the Taizé Community, an ecumenical monastic community in Taizé, France. It emphasizes silence, simple repeated songs, and space for personal, interior prayer rather than preaching or long spoken sermons.

Mardi Gras Party: Tuesday, February 17, at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Come for a taste of New Orleans at Messiah! We will have a magic show with Magic De Jorge. Signup in the Narthex.

Ash Wednesday: February 18, at Noon & 7:00 pm with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

February 9 at 10:00am to unload senior boxes.

February 16 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.

February 17 at 10:00-11:00am & 5:00-6:00pm for regular food distribution.

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)

(See Newsletter for More Detail)

Monday Closed Tuesday 10:00

Office Hours :Monday Closed, Tuesday 10:00am-5:00pm.

Friday 10:00am-5:00pm

5th Sunday aft

M4 Service of Help

6:30PM

Guided Meditation

T

10:00AM

Sewing Circle

1.2. OOPM4

QWL

1. CORDM

Table 1

C-20DMA

Bible Studies

Thu

10:00AM

Paul Dwyer, CEO

7.20PM

NA Group

7.20PM

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M Service of Help

Conclusion

CONCLUSIONS

Introduction

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