



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

MESSENGER

Volume 25, Issue 7

Special Points of Interest

Wesleyville National Night Out
August 5, 6:00-9:00 pm

OWLs: August 14, 11:30 am-
Yahn Planetarium at Penn State
Behrend

Church Picnic- Whitford Park,
Pavilion 4, August 17 1:00 pm

Back to School Bash- August 20
6:00-8:00 pm

SeaWolves Game- August 23
6:30 pm

Wesleyville National Night Out

**Tuesday, August 5
6:00-9:00 pm**

Join us behind Borough Hall
for free food, games and
fellowship.

We are in need of
volunteers to sit at a table
for Messiah with Wesley
Methodist.

We will have information
about Bubble Church, our
worship times, and the
Wesleyville Community
Garden.

OWLs

**Thursday, August 14
11:30 am**

**Yahn Planetarium at
Penn State Behrend**

Adults: \$3.50

Children 12 & under: \$2.50

Meet in the church parking
lot at 11:00 am to
carpool/follow each other
to Behrend

Lunch to follow, place TBD

**Make reservations to Steve
Porada with payment by
Sunday, August 10**

Back to School Bash

**Wednesday, August 20
6:00-8:00 pm**

Join Messiah and Wesley
Methodist Church in our
church parking lot for free
food, games, music, dunk
tank, bounce house and a
backpack for each child in
attendance. Tell your
neighbors to join us.

Calling Volunteers!

Many hands make light
work. We are in need of
people to man the stations.
Love to bake?
We are in need of cookies
for this event!

Church Picnic

**Sunday, August 17
1:00 pm, Whitford Park
pavilion 4**

Our annual church picnic is
at Whitford Park this
year! We have the
pavilion close to the ball
field(and the bathrooms)

Please signup on the poster
in the Narthex.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, and
chicken will be provided.
Make sure to mark what
side dish you will be
bringing!

This is for **all** church
members and friends to
enjoy great food and
fellowship! It is a great
way to introduce us to
your friends.

SeaWolves Game

**Saturday, August 23
6:30 game time.
\$40.00 per person**

We have two boxes on the
Party Deck reserved.
All you can eat, fountain
drinks plus two draft
beers per adult.
Signup in the Narthex.
Money due by **August 10.**

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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

Dear friends in Christ,

August has a rhythm all its own, doesn't it? The days are hot and golden, the cicadas are singing their endless hymn, and gardens across Wesleyville seem to grow faster than we can harvest. School is just around the corner, but for now, there's still time to soak in the long afternoons, popsicles on porches, and one more swim before Labor Day. In the middle of it all, the mission of the Church continues.

One of the beautiful things about following Jesus is that His mission doesn't take a vacation. While we rest, God keeps moving. While we travel, He keeps calling. Even on lazy August afternoons, His Spirit is stirring in places we least expect — in backyard barbecues, worship songs

still echoing in our heads, roadside farm stands, and quiet moments under shady trees.

Mission isn't only what happens when we fly across the landscape on our summer drives or host a big event. It's what happens when you bring a cold drink to your neighbor. It's the love in the casserole dropped off for someone recovering from surgery. It's inviting a friend to church, or praying with someone at a campfire. Every moment, even the seemingly small ones, can become sacred when offered in Jesus' name.

So this month, I invite you to live into the mission of the Church with summer feet - sandaled, dusty, maybe even a little sunburned - but still following the path Jesus

sets before us. Ask yourself: Who needs encouragement today? Where can I bring joy? What act of love can I offer, however simple?

We're also preparing for our Fall launch of three children's ministries - including our Back-to-School Bash and Bubble Church. But before we hurry ahead, let's savor these August days. Let's remember that *this* is mission too - living faithfully, lovingly, right where we are.

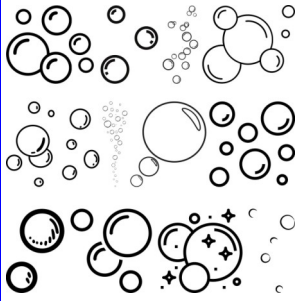
Stay cool, stay kind, and stay rooted in grace.

With peace,

Pastor Tom

P.S. Remember that 10% of all your harvest from your garden, goes to the Pastor.





+ Coming Soon: Bubble Church! +

*A New Worship Experience for
Young Children and Their
Families*

Something *bubbly* and beautiful
is about to begin!

We are thrilled to share some joyful news - in just a few short weeks, we'll be launching Bubble Church, a brand-new worship experience specially created for young children and their parents. This new ministry marks an exciting step forward in our church's mission to be a welcoming, faith-nurturing home for all ages, especially the youngest among us.

If you've ever tried to keep a toddler still and silent during traditional worship, you know it's a tall order! That's why we're creating a space where children can be their energetic, curious, joyful selves while engaging deeply with the love of God.

So, what is Bubble Church?

Bubble Church is a high-energy, highly-interactive worship experience built around three things that kids love: movement, music, and meaning. Through Bible storytelling, singing, crafts, prayer, and hands-on activities, children will discover the beauty of worship in a format that makes sense to them, a space where wiggling is welcome and laughter is part of the liturgy.

Parents, you're not just invited - you're needed! This is a worship time for families to grow in faith together, side by side. Bubble Church offers a rare and sacred opportunity: to see God through the eyes of a child, and to worship in a way that connects generations.

And yes... there will be bubbles! Floating, shimmering reminders of the joy and lightness God brings into our lives - and maybe a little bit of chaos too. But we believe that God is fully present in the noise, the color, the giggles, and the questions.

Why Bubble Church?

Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* (Matthew 19:14). We believe that children are not just the church of tomorrow - they are the church of today. Bubble Church honors that truth by offering them a seat at the table (and maybe a bubble wand, too).

We also recognize how important it is for families to worship together. So much of modern life pulls families in different directions - Bubble Church offers a chance to hit pause, be together, and celebrate God's love in a space created just for you.

What Can You Do?

As we count down the weeks to launch, we invite you to:

- Pray for this new ministry - that it may be a place of welcome, wonder, and spiritual growth.
- Spread the word to young families in our community. Invite neighbors, friends, and co-workers.
- Volunteer to help! From storytelling and music to bubbles and snacks, there are many ways to get involved.

Support with joy - even if Bubble Church isn't your worship style, your encouragement means the world to our young families.

Stay tuned for more details about our official launch date, worship schedule, and ways to participate. We can't wait to see the joy, wonder, and yes - *bubbles* - fill the halls of our church.

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.

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.

- When Bad Things Happen to Good People - Rabbi Harold Kushner

- 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.

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**

- There was no meeting in July
- Next meeting will be September 18 at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room

NWPA Green Team

Lake Erie Still Struggles NW PA includes approximately 75 miles of Lake Erie shoreline and tributaries. Modern day problems hinder Lake Erie from achieving its potential as a part of God's creation. Since God's creation of Lake Erie through glacial action, it has provided habitat for animals, plants, and humans. Excessive industrial development in the lake's watershed during the 19th and 20th centuries led to the National Environmental Protection Act of 1972. NEPA funding stimulated enforcement and research that led to tremendous improvements in Lake Erie waters in the last years of the 20th century. While Lake Erie has improved in many respects, threats still exist and are increasing daily. Growth in the human population near the lake, new chemicals and plastics introduced by humans, climate changes and reductions in research and protection have created a threat in the 21st century.

A Nov. 13, 2024 PA Department of Environment Protection (DEP) press release announced grants for the improvement of Lake Erie "coastal

zone." These grants support Lake Erie research, protection, and restoration. The federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the source of funding for these grants. (<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/newsroom/2024-11-13-shapiro-administration-awards-funding-to-protect-lake-erie-coast.html>)

An April 11, 2025 report by CBS news describes vast impending budget cuts at NOAA that could have great negative consequences for Lake Erie. (<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/noaa-budget-cut-climate-research-draft-proposal/>) Part of the NOAA budget addresses climate change matters. Reduction in attention to climate change can only create more stress on the fragile ecosystem of Lake Erie. Planned cuts in the EPA budget and staff for air pollution research and enforcement of water regulation will threaten Lake Erie, among many other locations. (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-biggest-deregulatory-action-us-history>)

The struggles of Lake Erie continue. However, we can take comfort in knowing that protection of Lake Erie is not completely reliant on governmental research and enforcement. Individuals and small groups can take local actions to protect Lake Erie. We can reduce plastic use, waste of all sorts, pick up litter, do educational work in the community and contact government officials. Local effort cannot replace the research and work that NOAA, EPA, and other agencies support. The preservation of Lake Erie requires collaborative efforts to maintain its ecological function in creation.

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: nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com

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.org
[elca.org](http://www.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 **August** is:

BWERANYANGE GIRLS SCHOOL

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 **July 24 \$85.00** has been donated for **Lutheran World Relief Kits**

Thank you for your generosity!

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

In 2012, the centenary year, the school had flourished and it celebrated her centenary. Faith in God, hard work, imagination and the vision that inspired their leadership have kept us growing and given birth to thousands of women of substance and of character and faith, who serve, whether known or unknown. We look to the future with hope.

Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunities

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

August 11 at 10:00am to unload senior boxes.

August 18 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.

August 19 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 **September 15-20** 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

September - Counting Miracles by Nicholas Sparks (Karen)

October - The Diamond Eye by Katie Quinn (Jean)

November - All the Broken Places by John Boyne (Candy)

December - Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier (Madalyn)

January - The Book of Lost Names by Kristen Harmel (Mary)

February - Women in War by David Yuzuk (Cyndi)

March - The Glassblower by Peter Benning (Bonnie M.)

April - The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters (Sandy)

May - To be determined

Altar Flowers

\$30.00 for one, \$55.00 for two

August 3

- 1.
- 2.

August 10

- 1.
- 2.

August 17

- 1.
- 2.

August 24

- 1.
- 2.

August 31

1. Linda Voigt
- 2.

Bulletins

\$7.00 each

August 3

- 8:30:
- 11:00:

August 10

- 8:30:
- 11:00: Mary Rush

August 17

- 8:30:
- 11:00: Mary Rush

August 24

- 8:30:
- 11:00: Mary Rush

August 31

- 8:30:
- 11:00:

Vigil Candles

\$3.00 a week

August 3

Cindy & Art Anderson

August 10

Cindy & Art Anderson

August 17

Cindy & Art Anderson

August 24

Cindy & Art Anderson

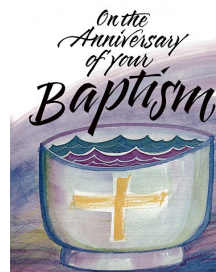
August 31

Linda Voigt





1 Kay-Leigh Conner	22 Briana Alaniz
11 Lisa Booth	25 Art Anderson
12 Joyce Hauser	27 Mary Lou Bartlett
14 Linda Voigt	29 Candy Sprouse
15 Robin Szczutkowski	30 Blaine Waters
17 Sydney Amicucci	31 Sharon Orlando
21 Sean Kennedy	



"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."

01 Mary Rush	16 Isabella Alaniz
Tim Smock	17 Ernie Wolf
07 Rachel Porada	18 Wendi Proper
08 Alyssa Bresee	

August

Peaceful Pursuits



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

- Day 1: John 14:27
- Day 2: Philippians 4:7
- Day 3: Isaiah 26:3
- Day 4: Matthew 5:9
- Day 5: Romans 5:1
- Day 6: Colossians 3:15
- Day 7: Psalm 34:14
- Day 8: 2 Thessalonians 3:16
- Day 9: Isaiah 54:10
- Day 10: Romans 12:18
- Day 11: Psalm 85:8
- Day 12: John 16:33
- Day 13: Romans 14:19
- Day 14: Ephesians 2:14
- Day 15: Proverbs 12:20
- Day 16: Hebrews 12:14
- Day 17: James 3:18
- Day 18: Psalm 119:165
- Day 19: Isaiah 32:17
- Day 20: 1 Peter 3:11
- Day 21: Philippians 4:9
- Day 22: Psalm 4:8
- Day 23: Psalm 29:11
- Day 24: Luke 2:14
- Day 25: Romans 15:13
- Day 26: 2 Corinthians 13:11
- Day 27: Galatians 5:22
- Day 28: Isaiah 9:6
- Day 29: 1 Corinthians 14:33
- Day 30: Psalm 37:37
- Day 31: Mark 9:50

01	Ernie & Carol Ann Wolf
10	Ron & Barbara Martucci
11	Rich & Madalyn Shatzer
14	Bob & Carole Pommer
25	Brian & Debbie Rogala

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

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

Thank you!

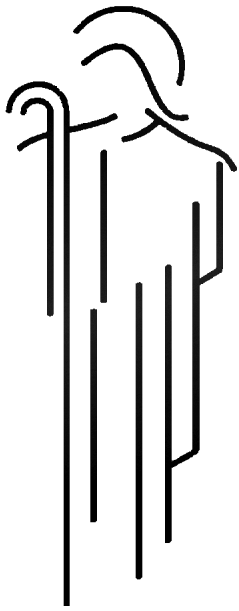
Memorials

William "Bill" Voigt

Karen Bennett

"Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal." – Martin Luther King Jr."





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Volume 25, Issue 08

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Check out Messiah Lutheran Church on.

