

# Messiah Memos

## Messiah Lutheran Church

21485 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, OH 44126

440.331.2405 + church@messiahfairview.org + MessiahFairview.org

Drawing in to Christ . . . Building up in Christ . . . Sending out for Christ . . .



### Worship at Messiah

#### Sunday

8:30 am Weekly Worship  
9:50 am Education Hour  
Adult—Weekly (in-person/zoom)  
Sunday School—1st & 3rd Sunday  
MYGroup—1st & 3rd Sunday  
11 am Weekly Worship

#### Saturday

February 10 & 24  
5:30 pm Evening Worship

+ + +

#### Office Hours

Monday—Friday  
8:30 am—4 pm

+ + +

#### Midweek Memo & Flocknote

Want to receive additional communications from Messiah? To be added and receive a weekly memo and periodic texts email Sarah at [sheinsbergen@messiahfp.org](mailto:sheinsbergen@messiahfp.org).



### SHROVEFEST DRIVE-THRU

Tuesday, February 13

11:30 am - 6:30 pm

We are excited to bring back our ShroveFest Drive-Thru Event on February 13—and share with you some other awesome news! We are offering the same great food as in years past for guests to take home and enjoy. Featured entrees include Messiah’s famous Cabbage Roll Meal, Pulled Pork Meal, and Combo Plates—with homemade strudel and packzis for dessert. Cabbage and Noodles will be available beginning at 4 pm.

- ShroveFest To Go will be available for sale as both lunch and dinner from 11:30 am to 6:30 pm.
- KidsShrove, Carry-Out, and ShroveLounge (more on that at the end!) will take place from 4—6 pm.

Many helping hands are needed to continue to make this event a success. During the event we need help in the kitchen, packing bags, handing out orders and more! For all things Shrove please visit [www.mfp.fyi/Shrove](http://www.mfp.fyi/Shrove) for event details, menu, and volunteering opportunities. We are thrilled to see you again for another amazing event that happens only once a year.

So what is ShroveLounge? We heard many of you say that the fellowship that this event has brought over many years was missed—this is why we are offering space to mingle amidst fellow guests while you wait for your carryout order, or while children enjoy the excitement of KidsShrove. Come inside from 4—6 pm for Shrove ambiance with standing tables to gather around and connect. We can’t wait to see you!

### OBSERVING LENT AT MESSIAH

Midweek Service & Soup Supper

February 21—March 20 at 5:30 pm

Join for the five Wednesdays during Lent at 5:30 pm to enjoy a relaxing social hour in the Fellowship Hall and a hot supper with a bowl of soup, bread, a beverage, and dessert.

Soup Supper precedes the **7 pm Lenten worship services on February 21 & 28, March 6, 13, & 20**. Join on February 21 and March 20 as Messiah hosts Family Night during Soup Supper. Everyone is invited to bring soup, bread, or dessert to share.



# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

## FAMILY NIGHTS

Wednesday, February 21 @ 5:30 pm

Join us on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm at Messiah to celebrate as one big family. Come together with your friends and family to Eat, Play, and Pray.



**Eat...** 5:30 pm dinner is served. Bring a side dish (chips, fruit, veggies, side, etc) to share if you'd like.

**Play...** 6 pm activities begin.

**Pray...** 7 pm Lenten evening prayer.

\*\* Family Night February and March overlap with Soup Supper from 5:30—6:30 pm. Come to Soup Supper each Wednesday starting February 21 through March 20.

## OPEN CERAMICS STUDIO

Sundays 12—3 pm

Sunday Open Ceramics Studio is back! Mrs. Roman is ready to welcome our church, school, and community families into the art room on Sunday afternoons from noon to 3 pm to get creative with clay! All are welcome; bring a friend! No reservation required for this free family activity, and all projects are yours to keep. Come as you can, leave when you must. Children grade 4 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.



## LAUNDRY LOVE!

**Date:** February 29

**Time:** 6—8pm

**Where:** Leo's Laundromat (20210 Lorain rd.)



Laundry Love is not a service project or something you do "to" or "for" people. It's an expression of loving your neighbor. On the last Thursday of every month, Messiah Church provides the community with clean laundry free of charge, a wonderful meal, and the opportunity to meet some new friends.

## PINTS WITH PASTOR

Wednesday, February 7 @ 7 pm

Join Pastor Seth on Wednesday, February 7 at 7 pm at **Fat Head's Brewery in North Olmsted**. This is an informal opportunity to connect with others within the Messiah community and fellowship together.

## WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Doughnuts are available on the 1st Sunday of each month and coffee is available each week in the Fellowship Hall during Education Hour in-between services.

## 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

We installed our 2024 Church Council on January 7. In general, Messiah's life and mission is directed by our church council composed of 15 elected members, the pastors and the principal. Council members were elected at our annual meeting last September. The council elects congregational officers at their first meeting in January. Each member serves on one of three standing committees: Administration & Finance, Education & Enrichment, or Missions & Engagement. Council members are:

### Mission & Ministry Committee

Jerry Biacsi  
Amy Hunger  
Kathy Hayduk, Chair

Marth Ressler  
Mike Thiel

### Education & Enrichment Committee

Don Braun, Chair  
Melissa Hollander, Secretary  
Nancy Richter

Bob Trapp  
Jared Waugaman, Vice President

### Administration & Finance Committee

Beth Henderson  
Craig Jernigan, Treasurer  
Jay Machado, Chair

Tom Ratvasky  
Bob Zalac, President

## SAVE-THE-DATE

Save the date for Messiah's annual Tee It Up golf outing on June 1. We are returning to Grey Hawk Golf Club in LaGrange. Look for registration information in the near future. This outing is quite popular and registration fills quickly, we are limited to 144 golfers. We look forward to seeing you on the greens. In the meantime, direct questions to Darlene Waugh at [dwaugh@messiahfp.org](mailto:dwaugh@messiahfp.org).



## FROM THE PASTOR

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ..." Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV)*

Greetings & Peace,

I wish to share some of reflections from a devotion which was recently shared with our Messiah School staff during morning devotions. Did you know that our MLS staff gathers each day for morning devotions before the students arrive? At approximately 8:15 am each and every school day, you can pray for our school staff as our staff gathers to begin the day with a faithful word and shared prayer together.



The Rev. Seth

This particular devotion focuses on the *"slow, healing work of winter."* This devotion speaks to me. And I believe it may also speak to you. Rather than reprint the entire devotion entitled: **The Slow, Healing Work of Winter** written by Jennifer Dukes Lee, I invite you to follow the link and read the devotional for yourself: <https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2022/02/10/the-slow-healing-work-of-winter>.

Here, I offer some reflections: My grandfather's name was Carl. He was, amongst other things, a farmer in Ashland County, Ohio. My cousins and me would routinely be asked to go "rock picking" on the family farm. This yearly activity involved walking in crop fields behind a hay wagon being pulled by a tractor. Our job was to pick up rocks and throw the rocks in the wagon. *Why was "rock picking" necessary?* So that the farm implements could do their work tilling the soil without interference. Rocks can do significant damage to the equipment. And broken or compromised farm machinery could impact productivity and the bottom line. So "rock picking" was a yearly activity. I always wondered where all the rocks came from? "Didn't we walk this field last year, Grandpa?"

It turns out the earth has a built-in system of healing. Jennifer Dukes Lee's devotion mentioned above says it like this: *"You may wonder how rocks keep emerging. There isn't some "rock fairy" dropping stones onto fields to annoy farmers. Instead, stones are heaved forth in the frost/thaw cycle of the earth."* The winter season has a way of healing the land.

In a similar way, the winter seasons of our lives have the capacity of offering slow, steady healing to the lives of people like you and me. Human beings need seasons of rest, seasons of healing. Or as the devotion says, *"we all need winter seasons to heal us -- to unearth rock-like burdens embedded in the soil of our hearts."*

A life of faithful response to the love of Christ oftentimes looks more like a crooked country road than a straight, well-paved city street. We all need seasons of winter healing and times of slowing down, so that God can go to work in our lives. We need to rest, reflect, and allow God to go to work "picking rocks" in our hearts. God frees us for the next season of our lives and a continuation of this journey of faith.

As we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming Lenten season, may you experience an unburdening and renewed perspective in Christ.

*A Prayer to Pray: Dear God, part of me resists the slow, healing work of winter. But I know that there are rocks in the field of my heart, and You are the One who can roll them away. Please come "pick rock" in my heart right now, showing me the hard places I may not even be aware of, and till the soil so that You can grow something new and beautiful in me. Thank You that You are with me for every step of my healing. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

With you on the journey, + *Pastor Seth*

## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Saints of Messiah,

At the time of writing this (Early January) we are interviewing new candidates. Our first initial batch of candidates did not yield someone we felt called to move forward with. We reiterate that we cannot comment on any candidates or the nitty gritty details of the process we are currently in. We will continue to interview until we find a candidate suitable for the position and at that time, we will present that candidate to Church Council. We promise to keep you updated at the end of the month, each month, in real time. If you find yourself discouraged by the update, I encourage you to look to Ecclesiastes 3:1, NIV "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." We find ourselves in a new year full of new opportunity. The timing of this process is guided by the Holy Spirit, and we are navigating it with diligence and grace. May you rely on the fact that we as a Call Committee are being guided by the Holy Spirit as we navigate this lengthy process. Your continued prayers are continually requested, thank you for lifting us up thus far.

In Christ,  
Allison K. Younger—Waugaman  
On behalf of the Call Committee

## FAMILY NEWS



### BAPTISMS

Murphee Lumbatis 12/3/2023  
Autumn Johnson 1/14/2024

### IN MEMORY

Daniel F. Feuerstein  
September 3, 1951—December 30, 2023



# EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschool - 4th Grade

Sunday School, for Preschool thru 4th grade students, is offered on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month from 9:45-10:30 am. The theme for this year is the Fruits of the Spirit. Sunday School meets in the Sunday School room on the same floor as the Sanctuary across from the bathrooms.

Upcoming dates are:  
**February 4 & 18**



Questions? Send an email to Allison at

[allisonyounger@gmail.com](mailto:allisonyounger@gmail.com)

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

The Messiah Youth groups meets most first and third Sundays of each month during education hour.

Upcoming dates are:  
February 4 & 18 @ 9:45 am

For more information or to receive communications about the Messiah Youth Group (MYGroup) email Adonai Henderson at [ahenderson@messiahfp.org](mailto:ahenderson@messiahfp.org)

## SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION



In-between worship services on Sundays at 9:45 am the E&E Committee hosts Adult Education Hour. Join in-person or via zoom as each week offers different topics and speakers.

2/4—Chris Neumann  
2/11 @ 8:30 am—Deb Zudell-Dickey “Stories Behind Hymns”  
2/18—Joe King “Symbols in Messiah’s Sanctuary”  
2/25—Chris Newmann

Join via Zoom at [mfp.fyi/AdultEduHour](https://mfp.fyi/AdultEduHour)

Meeting ID: 893 7113 2137  
Passcode: 200357

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Every Wed @ 10 am; In-Person & Via Zoom

Each Wednesday morning at 10 am, join Pastor Seth for a study of Colossians. We are using the following resource for this course: The Mighty and the Mysterious: A Study of Colossians by *Heidi Goehmann*. During March, this class will begin studying a new book of the Bible.

The class is taught as a hybrid class (In Person each week in the Commons @ Messiah or participate via Zoom)

Meeting ID: 864 8011 0615 Passcode: 890748

## THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday Night Bible Study meets via Zoom on Thursdays at 8 pm. It's a great way to connect with others and to study scripture together.

Each Thursday we study one of the scripture passages for the upcoming weekend of worship.

Meeting ID: 818 2419 9752 Passcode: 851330

## GRIEF GROUP

Friday, February 9 @ 10 am

Have you recently experienced a loss? Chaplain Brent Raitz, Director of Spiritual Care & Chaplain at the Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital holds a Grief group meeting on Friday, February 10. This group meets at 10 am in the Commons and is intended for adults who have recently experienced a loss of any kind—loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of a pet, all are welcome. In January, 6 people attended the morning Grief Group.



## LISTEN TO WEEKLY WORSHIP

An audio recording of the weekly worship service is available through any phone at any time. If you are interested in listening to the weekly services call 440-276-4450, wait through the silence and then press 1 to listen to the full service. This is a service at no cost to you but the opportunity to worship with Messiah each week. Questions? Call the Church Office.



# LAUNDRY LOVE GENEROSITY

## A “MITE-Y” EXAMPLE OF GENEROSITY

In the Gospel of Mark, the story of the Widow's Mites describes a widow who gives two small copper coins, mites, to the temple treasury. Two mites together were worth the smallest Roman coin, the smallest and least valuable in Judea—worth about six minutes of an average daily wage.



Jesus witnesses this offering and describes how great the woman's gift is because it represents a greater proportion of her wealth than the larger gifts of other religious leaders. Calling his disciples, Jesus said to them, “This poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.”

Last year Laundry Love had a “Mite-y” example of generosity with a gift in support of our outreach ministry to our monthly guests at Leo's Laundromat. Over the last few years, our Care Team got to know Chandra (Shaun), age 45, very well. Everyone knew that she loved the heavy-metal band Metallica and dragons! She was outspoken and fiercely independent, taking her wheelchair on the bus, hauling it up, then down those three steps—all while carrying her laundry to Leo's and back to her apartment. Her mom called the church to let us know that Chandra passed away when her transplanted kidney of 13 years failed this past June. In conversation, her mom said that Laundry Love was the social event Chandra looked forward to every month, especially the free community meal. She also informed me that Chandra had left all she had to Laundry Love—her checking account balance of \$167.67. That amount plus another \$50 in memorials given in Chandra's name, provided funds for two community meals—including Giant Eagle fried chicken (her favorite!) at Thanksgiving.

While Mark's parable of the Mites gives us no indication of the widow's demeanor or frame of mind, she gave more than the rich; because she gave ALL she had. Another school of thought is that Jesus was condemning the social system that rendered the widow poor. In Ohio, a “living wage” for a single adult with no children is \$15.33. Minimum wage is \$10.10. Poverty wage is \$6.53/hour. This is the situation for the majority of the people whom we've met through Laundry Love.

Our Messiah Epiphany “Star Words” brings memories of Chandra to mind. Her name comes from Sanskrit, “She outshines the stars”. Chandra was diagnosed with functional autism at age 23. She attended college and had lived independently since high school graduation. Life was often challenging for Chandra, but she tackled it head-on, and our Laundry Love Care Team was there to make a difference. Here's to our upcoming 8th year of Love. Dignity. Detergent. Let's help MORE people in Jesus' name! Who's with us?!

Your sister in Christ,  
Janice Snyder, Laundry Love Care Team Leader  
[jsnyder@messiahfp.org](mailto:jsnyder@messiahfp.org)



## “STAR WORDS” FOR 2024

In the spirit of the magi who followed the star to Bethlehem to worship Jesus the newborn King, the congregation is invited to select a “Star Word” for 2024. This year, Pastor Seth is inviting the congregation to pray and select their work to be compiled in a list of “Star Words.” Visit [mfp.fyi/StarWords](http://mfp.fyi/StarWords) to enter your word. Additional yellow stars are on the table outside of the Church Office.

All of the “star words” of the congregation will be used in a special way in the coming weeks of Epiphany.

## DEMENTIA RESOURCE

Are you a caregiver for someone with Alzheimer or dementia? The Carolyn L. Farrell Foundation is a non-profit organization and important resource that provides an opportunity for socialization through a variety of art enrichment and wellness programs at no cost. Programs are led by professionals and encourage interactions so important to prevent social isolation. Support group and individual counseling are also available. We are located nearby at 26633 Detroit Rd. in Westlake. For information call 400-414-0434 or visit [farrellfoundation.org](http://farrellfoundation.org).



# WAYS TO GIVE



## LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION OF OHIO Donation Deadline Extended

Good news! **It is not too late to contribute to the LSGO for 2023.** Recent legislation passed that allows a taxpayer to make the contribution up until the date you file your Ohio Tax return or the return due date.

If you have not already contributed for 2023 and have not yet filed your Ohio taxes, please consider doing so. Donation limits are \$750 for individuals and \$1,500 for married couples filing jointly.

You may also begin making contributions to the 2024 campaign—either in a lump sum or spread into periodic contributions between now and April 15, 2025. On behalf of Messiah Lutheran School, we wish to thank all the donors who supported the Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Ohio (LSGOO). Throughout 2023, 42 donors designated Messiah Lutheran School for their contributions. These donations help make private Lutheran education a reality for more students and families.

The LSGOO purpose is to raise scholarship dollars for students to attend Lutheran schools throughout Ohio. The LSGOO makes it possible for Ohioans to contribute funds to be allocated to Messiah Lutheran School. Donors to the LSGOO qualify to receive a non-refundable tax credit for their donation, which will be applied to their Ohio income tax liability, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$750 (or \$1,500 if married filing jointly, where each person separately donates \$750 or more).

Donations to the LSGOO on behalf of Messiah Lutheran School are accepted year-round. If you are looking at your tax planning for 2023, this may be a valuable resource for you. Please visit the website [www.clhsa.org/LSGO](http://www.clhsa.org/LSGO) for more information and to donate.

### ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

**Direct Your 2023 Thrivent Choice Dollars to Messiah Church & School  
Deadline for Donations is March 31, 2024**



If you are a Thrivent member you may have Choice Dollars to direct to Messiah Church & School. Choice Dollars are free to members and provide an opportunity to give back to a charitable organization. It's a gift that costs you absolutely nothing. Messiah is registered as one of the many charities in this program. Log into your Thrivent account or call **(800) 847-4836**. This is free money for Messiah Church & School and is likely already sitting in your account waiting to be donated. If you need additional help, call Darlene Waugh at 440-331-2405.

### ANOTHER WAY TO GIVE TO MESSIAH AT YEAR-END

- Do you own an IRA investment?
- Are you age 72 or older?
- Do you need to make a distribution this year?
- Do you know you can make a required minimum tax-free donation to Messiah from your IRA?

As you think about your year-end donations, please consider directing your IRA distribution to Messiah Lutheran Church and School as another way of giving. Contact your investment officer to discuss this possibility. Thank you.

### WAYS TO GIVE

Thank you for your continued, steadfast donations to Messiah. Your support is appreciated greatly. You may mail checks, give online or text to give.

\***Online:** Visit [messiahfairview.org](http://messiahfairview.org); look for the "Donation" tab.

\* **Text:** "Fund" to 855-913-1744

\* **Mail:** Messiah Lutheran Church (21485 Lorain Rd, Fairview Park, OH 44126)

# FEBRUARY 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>28</b> <b>8:30a Holy Communion</b> 9:50a Education Hr (Adult Ed) <b>11a Holy Communion</b> <b>12:15p Congregational Meeting</b>	<b>29</b> 7p Joy Ringers 7p M&M Committee Meeting	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9a School Chapel 10a Bible Study	<b>1</b> 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via zoom	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>8:30a Holy Communion</b> 9:50a Education Hr (Adult Ed, SS, MYGroup) <b>11a Holy Communion</b>	<b>5</b> 7p Joy Ringers	<b>6</b> 7p Deacon's Meeting	<b>7</b> 9a School Chapel 10a Bible Study 6p Parent Teacher League 7p Pints with Pastor-Fat Head's	<b>8</b> 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via zoom	<b>9</b> 10a Grief Group—in the Commons	<b>10</b> <b>5:30p Saturday Worship—Holy Communion</b>
<b>11</b> 8:30a Education Hr (Adult Ed) <b>10a Holy Communion</b> 11a Strudel Making	<b>12</b> 7p Joy Ringers 7p Church Council Meeting	<b>13</b> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">                         No Messiah School—Teacher in Service Day                     </div> ShroveFest—11:30a—6:30p 	<b>14</b> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">                         Valentine's Day                     </div> 9a School Chapel 10a Bible Study <b>7p Ash Wednesday Worship</b> 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 	<b>15</b> 8p Bible Study via zoom	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>8:30a Holy Communion</b> 9:50a Education Hr (Adult Ed, SS, MYGroup) <b>11a Holy Communion</b>	<b>19</b> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">                         Presidents Day Church &amp; School Offices Closed                     </div>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9a School Chapel 10a Bible Study 5:30p Family Night 5:30p Soup Supper <b>7p Lenten Evening Service</b> 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 8p Bible Study via zoom	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>5:30p Saturday Worship—Holy Communion</b>
<b>25</b> <b>8:30a Holy Communion</b> 9:50a Education Hr (Adult Ed) <b>11a Holy Communion</b>	<b>26</b> 7p Joy Ringers 7p Trustees Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9a School Chapel 10a Bible Study 5:30p Soup Supper <b>7p Lenten Evening Service</b> 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 6p Laundry Love—Leo's Laundromat 8p Bible Study via zoom	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

Messiah Lutheran Church & School  
21485 Lorain Rd,  
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Phone (440) 331-2405

# Messiah Memos

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Materials

February 2024

Insert Label Here

Drawing in to Christ . . . Building up in Christ . . . Sending out *for Christ* . . .  
*To the glory of God, through the strength of the Spirit.*



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MESSIAH

**Family  
Nights**  
FEBRUARY

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| February 9  | Grief Group in the Commons (10 am)                    |
| February 10 | Saturday Worship (5:30 pm)                            |
| February 11 | One Worship Service (10 am) Education Hour (8:30 am)  |
| February 13 | ShroveFest (11:30 am—6:30 pm) Messiah School Closed   |
| February 14 | Ash Wednesday Service (7 pm)                          |
| February 21 | Soup Supper, Family Night, & Lent Worship (5:30—7 pm) |
| February 24 | Saturday Worship (5:30 pm)                            |
| February 28 | Soup Supper, & Lent Worship (5:30—7 pm)               |
| February 29 | Laundry Love—Leo's Laundromat (6—8 pm)                |
| March 6     | Soup Supper, & Lent Worship (5:30—7 pm)               |
| March 13    | Soup Supper, & Lent Worship (5:30—7 pm)               |
| March 20    | Soup Supper, Family Night, & Lent Worship (5:30—7 pm) |
| March 24    | Palm Sunday—Holy Week Begins (8:30 & 11 am)           |
| March 31    | Easter Sunday   |

