

# 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 . . .**



**February 2025**

## Worship at Messiah

### Saturday

February 8 & 22  
5:30 pm Evening Worship

### Sunday

8:30 am Weekly Worship  
9:45 am Education Hour  
Adult—Weekly (in-person/zoom)  
11:00 am Weekly Worship

+ + +

### Office Hours

Monday—Friday  
8:30 am—4 pm

+ + +

### Contact Information

Do you need to update your contact information with the church office? Call the office to update your information.

### Weekly Memo & Flocknote

Don't receive a Messiah Weekly Memo or texts from Messiah? To be added to our communications email [sheinsbergen@messiahfp.org](mailto:sheinsbergen@messiahfp.org)

## 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

We installed our 2024 Church Council on January 5. 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. Council members are:

### Mission & Ministry Committee

Kathy Hayduk, Melissa Hollander (Secretary), Amy Hunger, Marth Ressler, Mike Thiel

### Education & Enrichment Committee

Chip DiFiore, Kyle Gooderham, Nancy Richter, Bob Trapp, Jared Waugaman (Vice President)

### Administration & Finance Committee

Beth Henderson, Craig Jernigan (Treasurer), Jay Machado, Tom Ratvasky, Bob Zalac (President)

## DO YOU PAY OHIO INCOME TAX? THERE IS A WAY TO PAY LESS.



Not only is it legal, but it is ethical, and it is a way to benefit Messiah Lutheran School. This year, when you prepare your tax returns, do the following:

1. Take a look at line eight on your Ohio Individual Tax Return – do you have a tax liability?
2. If yes, would you like to reduce it by \$750 (or \$1500 if filing jointly)
3. If yes, don't file your taxes just yet, but do the following:
  - a. Go to [LSGOohio.org/givetomessiah/](http://LSGOohio.org/givetomessiah/) (Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization) and follow the links to donate \$750 (joint filers have to do separately for each filer)
  - b. Be certain to select Messiah Lutheran as the recipient
  - c. When you receive your official letter of receipt, enter your donation as a Non-refundable Credit on your Ohio tax return and subtract it from what you owe.
  - d. Now file your taxes, sit back and wait for your refund.

Owe less than \$750 (\$1500 joint) in Ohio taxes, simply give Messiah School (through LSGO) what you do owe, then you pay nothing to Ohio. Last year, your fellow Messiah Church members transferred their taxes of **\$37,400 to Messiah School**. Come join them.



# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

## FAMILY NIGHTS

Wednesday, February 19 @ 6 pm

Join us on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 pm at Messiah to celebrate as one big family. Come together with your friends and family to Eat, Play, and Pray.

**Eat...** 6 pm dinner is served. Bring a side dish (chips, fruit, veggies, side, etc) to share if you'd like.

**Play...** 6:30 pm activities begin.

**Pray...** 6:45 pm story time, followed by a devotion and prayer.



## PINTS WITH PASTOR

Wednesday, February 12 @ 7 pm

Join Pastor Seth on Wednesday, February 12 at 7 pm at **Fat Heads in North Olmsted**. This is an informal opportunity to connect with others within the Messiah community and fellowship together.



## GRIEF GROUP

Friday, February 14 @ 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 14. 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.

## LAUNDRY LOVE

Feb. 8 @ Leo's - 10 am

Feb. 27 @ Wash House - 6 pm

Two opportunities to come alongside people who are struggling financially by assisting them with paying for their laundry. If this event resonates with you, please join us to offer Love, Dignity, and Detergent to our neighbors in a unique, meaningful and relation way. Email Janice Snyder at [jsnyder@messiahfp.org](mailto:jsnyder@messiahfp.org) for more information!

**Where:** Leo's Laundromat (20210 Lorain Rd, Fairview Park)  
**When:** Saturday, February 8  
**Time:** 10 am - Noon

**Where:** The Wash House & Café (15149 Lorain Ave, Cleveland)  
**When:** Thursday, February 27  
**Time:** 6 - 8 pm



## SAVE-THE-DATE

Save the date for Messiah's annual Tee It Up golf outing on June 7. 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 [dwaugh@messiahfp.org](mailto:dwaugh@messiahfp.org).



## OPEN CERAMICS STUDIO

Sundays 12—3 pm

Open ceramic studio is returning for its 12th season **starting Sunday January 19 and runs through**

**February 23**. Mrs. Roman invites YOU—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 4th grade and younger must be accompanied by an adult.



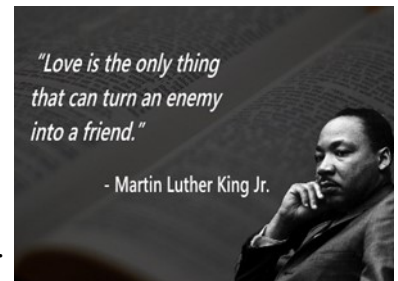
# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



Pastor William

As I settle into a new year, I'm challenging myself to not settle into old habits, but to search for the new, the intriguing, the opportunities. But where would I find all that? Well, there is one old resource called the living word of God. Perhaps it contains some new things for me (and you) to hear. This is what I've been hearing and pondering lately:

- **February 2** we'll hear how his family took Jesus up to Jerusalem, to the Temple, to dedicate him to God. First born children were to be consecrated – set apart, made holy, dedicated to God. That was stewardship; recognizing that life came from God, thanking God for that life, and committing to doing things that are pleasing to God with and through that life. Are we willing to do that today? How can we consecrate ourselves to God?
- **February 9** we'll hear how Jesus called the first disciples and their response was to leave everything to follow him. Jesus calls us to that same kind of action – yes, really! Are we willing to put aside our wants and desires to follow Jesus? Even when it gets difficult? Or will we follow only when it is convenient for us to do so?
- **February 16** we'll hear how a great multitude came to hear Jesus teach. Sunday morning is just like that. We put away our fear of missing out on something else going on in our life, to come hear Jesus teach us. What has Jesus got to say to you? Come and hear!
- **February 23** we'll hear Jesus give his most dismissed directive; Love your enemies. We'll hear Jesus ask a rhetorical question; How hard is it to love those who love you; even non-believers do that. So, how will people know we are Christians? Not by our love, but by our love of our enemies; those we don't like too much and those who don't love us.



Being a Christian is not about being something, but about doing something. Jesus gives us the instructions; go, love, forgive, be Christ to your neighbor (that last one is actually from Martin Luther).

Let us each ponder how our actions enhance the common good; of all people. Everyone can't do everything, but everyone can do something.



Ask not what others can do for you.  
Ask what you can do for others.



What are you pondering? I look forward to hearing about it.  
Graciously, *Pr. William*



## FAMILY NEWS

### BAPTISMS



Emerson Louise Polenz Baptized: 12/22/24  
Daughter of Allison & Brian Polenz  
Jacob Douglas Poole Baptized: 1/12/25  
Son of Lindsey & Austin Poole

### IN MEMORY

Greg Conley  
July 20, 1953—January 4, 2025

Brian Kvasnicka  
June 21, 1955—January 5, 2025





# EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

## 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.

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

Meeting ID: 893 4963 7993  
Passcode: 623541

## NEW FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

**What:** Children's Church, a time for young ones to do a craft, learn a song, and be together.  
**When:** Every week during the 11am worship service; after the Children's Time With Pastor. Children will return for communion.  
**Who:** Squirmy, squiggly, potty-trained children. Parent participation welcome, but not required or expected.

No sign-up needed, just show up. Got questions? Contact: Claire Connelly, 918-402-4386, [CBConn@gmail.com](mailto:CBConn@gmail.com).



## MESSIAH HYMN SOCIETY February 2 & 16 @ 5:30 pm

Join us to sing any hymn you want! Our meetings include lots of hymns to sing, discussion about hymns, and a lesson on hymnody. This is not a worship service, but an informal get-together of anyone who loves hymns. If we have the hymn you want to sing, we will sing it! If not, we will during our next meeting.



Michael Cherup, Principal Organist  
(740) 971-1741  
[mcherup@messiahfp.org](mailto:mcherup@messiahfp.org)

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY Every Wed @ 10 am; In-Person & Via Zoom

Each Wednesday morning at 10 am, join Pastor Seth for a study on Acts of the Apostles. We are using the following resource for this course: Acts: Books of Faith Series by Ray Rickett. 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 @ 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

## GOD LOVES MARRIAGE April 25-27, 2025

Enrich your relationship with your spouse. Learn unique insights and tools that can reignite your love by improving your communication skills! Lutheran Marriage Encounter is a weekend of learning that can help you reap joyful long-term rewards for your relationship, your family relationships, and your faith journey. Your relationship *Deserves* Marriage Encounter. April 25-27, 2025 at Fairfield Inn & Suites in Streetsboro, Ohio. Apply now at [GodLovesMarriage.org](https://GodLovesMarriage.org) Questions? Contact Dale & Ruth Mortensen [d.r.mortensen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.r.mortensen@sbcglobal.net) (440) 734-6312. Meals and side dishes will be catered by local Honeybaked Ham and Ruby Tuesday Restaurant. Registration is \$100 per couple. Pre-registration is required to secure your room and meal reservations—don't miss out!



# LAUNDRY LOVE

## Laundry Love Messiah is now a 2-Point Ministry Outreach

In December, our Laundry Love Care Team started serving at two sites. We organized a Second Saturday Team at Leo's Laundromat in Fairview Park on the 2nd Saturday of each month to join our Last Thursday Team at The Wash House & Cafe in Cleveland's West Park neighborhood. We are outlying \$1,000 each month to launder 4000 pounds of clothing and bedding at both locations (using our recent \$10,000 grant from The Reinberger Foundation.)



**The Second Saturday group** is led by Liz Kitzel from 10 am to noon. Liz has been a Care Team member for two years. Her team has a starting budget of \$300 per month, and is currently laundering 600 pounds of clothing and bedding; serving around 12 people. Those numbers are expected to grow as word gets out in the community. A slow, steady growth is preferred, so the team is not overwhelmed.

**The Last Thursday team** is led by Janice Snyder from 6-8 pm at The Wash House. Janice has led this unique ministry on Messiah's behalf for eight years. The Wash House is a large venue three miles east of Messiah on Lorain, near W. 150th. The guests at this location are primarily blue-collar and service-industry workers. Many are immigrants for whom English is a second language. The current budget for this location is \$700 per month where we are regularly laundering 3400 pounds of items and serving 60 guests in two hours.

New Care Team members are always welcome, and there are many ways to serve! **Harisa Henderson is our Laundry Love Little Free Library steward to both laundromats.** If you have kids' books to donate, she'll be happy to accept them. **Wendy Voruba picks up our Laundry Love Little Free Pantry food order each month.** Our budget for these non-perishable food items is \$350-\$400 each month so that our neighbors-in-need have 24/7 access to food when food banks are closed. This cost is also covered under grants received from Community West Foundation and the Fairview Park Women's Club.

Thank you to ALL who support Laundry Love. Last year we paid to launder over 30,000 pounds of laundry. Our eight-year total is 195,000 pounds.

**Janice Snyder**, Laundry Love Team Leader  
[jsnyder@messiahfp.org](mailto:jsnyder@messiahfp.org)

*Laundry Love washes the clothes and bedding of low/no-income families and person(s) across the US. We brighten the lives of thousands of people through love, dignity, and detergent by partnering with diverse groups and laundromats nationwide.*

### Laundry Love Event Dates for 2025

January 11 & 30	May 10 & 29	September 13 & 25
February 8 & 27	June 14 & 26	October 11 & 30
March 8 & 27	July 12 & 31	November 8 & 20
April 12 & 24	August 9 & 28	December 13 & 18



## Messiah Lutheran School

### Messiah School Admissions Update

Since the first week of January, we have received over 20 inquiries for new students for the 2025-26 school year—earlier than any other year since I joined the staff as the Admissions Coordinator in 2016. The cohort is a nice mix of Messiah School Alumni parents, and people who have heard good things about us, or discovered us online.

A recent tour was for a family newly Baptized following a 2-year conversion process from Buddhism to Christianity. What a holy moment to witness a child's and his mom's excitement to know Jesus loves them and they can see that reflected in our welcoming staff and students. The mom lit up when I told her we teach about Jesus' love for us across our curriculum. They were impressed with our gym, and amazed by the beauty of our Cross Walls and the repeating image of our risen "Messiah" on the cross in the Sanctuary and the Atrium stained glass wall. Mom said, "Your virtual tour online doesn't do justice to the captivating beauty of your church and school." And then she applied for next year at the end of our tour.

### Busy Bags Ministry

Messiah School provides small, colorful activity bags to children (toddlers through 2nd grade) at all Sunday worship services. The busy bags contain a Christian-themed mini coloring book, crayons, a quiet toy, fruit snacks, and an invitation to tour Messiah School. Look for 60 special Valentine RED bags proclaiming John 3:16 at 8:30 and 11 am worship throughout February.

### Faith Mentors

Each class at Messiah School has a Faith Mentor, a congregation member who corresponds with children by grade level. Long-time Messiah member Mrs. McDonald is the liaison to our Pre-Kindergarten. Teacher Mrs. Kim Hilden says, "Mrs. McDonald has been a true blessing to the Pre-K classroom! The students look forward to reading her messages every week. She provides beautiful meaning behind different church traditions and my students love discovering more. She also gives them little challenges and questions each week! The students enjoy learning more about her, and creating things to share with her. Mrs. McDonald came to meet us and watch our Christmas Concert. We couldn't have asked for a better faith mentor!"

### Set up a Tour of Messiah School

For over 70 years, Messiah School has been a place where our students are known, safe, and valued as children of God. If you or a friend/neighbor/relative are interested in a Christian education for children aged 3 through 5th grade, please contact me for a personalized tour by email to [jsnyder@messiahfp.org](mailto:jsnyder@messiahfp.org)

*Janice Snyder,*

Admissions Coordinator

## EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

**Contributed \$15,000 to Messiah in 2024**

Many companies offer matching gift programs to educational institutions and non-profit charitable organizations. Messiah Lutheran Church and School qualifies as one of these organizations. We have been blessed to receive matching gifts over the years from the Benevity Impact Fund, Google, Key Bank, Lubrizol, PNC, Progressive Insurance, Schwab Charitable Fund, The Sherwin Williams Foundation, Thrivent Financial and more. Check with your Human Resources Department if this benefit is available to you. Don't miss out. This is the easiest matching gift program available. Questions? Contact Darlene Waugh, 440-331-2405.

## ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

**Direct Your 2024 Thrivent Choice Dollars to Messiah Church & School**

**Deadline: March 31, 2025**



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 the church office 440-331-2405.



# THANK YOU MESSIAH

Messiah Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for participating in the Love Inc. annual coat drive. We were blessed with over 1000 coats this year. Each coat was cleaned and matched with a hat, scarf and gloves. They were given to the unhoused, partner agencies and churches. Many of the children have experienced trauma and their families cannot afford coats to keep them warm.



Sincerely Michelle, Staff & Board.



To the congregation of Messiah Lutheran Church:

During this Christmas season you again helped the KIDS CHURCH/ISAIAH PROJECT ministry on the near west side of Cleveland by providing 27 Christmas shoebox gifts. Many of these kids get very little in the way of Christmas gifts at this giving time of the year. In fact, we learned from a mom on the day of the party her family, who has many kids that come to church, that they would not have gifts under the tree this year. The family has fallen into hard times recently and the only gifts under the tree are the Christmas boxes from Messiah Lutheran.



The kids are always so excited to get a gift with their name on it and then experience the excitement of opening and going through the gift box. You were all so generous again this year with most of the boxes packed completely full of fun items, candy, and necessary items like socks, gloves, toothpaste, etc.

The leadership team profusely thanks you for your help in 2024 and all of the many years



in the past. You are a very caring group of brothers and sisters in Christ. The mission of the ministry is to reach the kids of today with a message of love through Jesus Christ. The hope is that by influencing the kids of today there will be an effect on the next generation. This is actually occurring as some of the young ones today are the kids whose parents themselves experienced the joy of opening Christmas gifts from Messiah Lutheran in the past.

Thank you, Messiah Lutheran, for your long-term and faithful support of this ministry to reach the kids of Cleveland for Jesus.



## WAYS TO GIVE

### ANOTHER WAY TO GIVE

- Do you own an IRA investment?
- Are you age 73 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.



### WAYS TO GIVE

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

\***Online:** Visit [messiahfairview.org](https://messiahfairview.org); look for the "Donation" tab. Or scan the QR code below.

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

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



# Easter At Messiah Lutheran

Come worship at Messiah Lutheran this Easter Season.  
You're invited to attend several family friendly  
events. Dates and time are listed below.

All are welcome!



*Family  
Nights*  
**MARCH**

March 4	11:30 am-6:30 pm	ShroveFest
March 5	Noon & 7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
March 12	5:30 pm	Soup Supper - 7 pm Worship
March 19	5:30 pm	Soup Supper & Family Night
March 26	5:30 pm	Soup Supper - 7 pm Worship
April 2	5:30 pm	Soup Supper - 7 pm Worship
April 9	5:30 pm	Soup Supper - 7 pm Worhsip
April 13	8:30 & 11 am	Palm Sunday
April 17	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday
April 18	12 & 8:30 pm	Good Friday
April 20	6:30, 9 & 11 am	Easter Sunday





## FEBRUARY 2025

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>2</b> <b>8:30a Holy Communion</b> 9:45a Education Hr (Adult Ed) <b>11a Holy Communion</b> 5p Hymn Society	<b>3</b> 7p Joy Ringers	<b>4</b> 7p A&F Meeting	<b>5</b> 9a School Chapel 10a Bible Study 6p PTL Meeting	<b>6</b> 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via zoom	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10a Laundry Love @ Leo's <b>5:30p Saturday Worship—Holy Communion</b>
<b>9</b> <b>8:30a Holy Communion</b> 9:45a Education Hr (Adult Ed) <b>11a Holy Communion</b>	<b>10</b> 7p Joy Ringers	<b>11</b> 7p Church Council Meeting	<b>12</b> 9a School Chapel 10a Bible Study	<b>13</b> 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via zoom	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day Messiah School Closed 10a Grief Group—in the Commons	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>8:30a Holy Communion</b> 9:45a Education Hr (Adult Ed) <b>11a Holy Communion</b> 5p Hymn Society	<b>17</b> President's Day Church & School Offices Closed 7p Joy Ringers	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9a School Chapel 10a Bible Study 6p Family Night	<b>20</b> 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via zoom	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>5:30p Saturday Worship—Holy Communion</b>
<b>23</b> <b>8:30a Holy Communion</b> 9:45a Education Hr (Adult Ed) <b>11a Holy Communion</b>	<b>24</b> 7p Joy Ringers	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9a School Chapel 10a Bible Study	<b>27</b> 6p Laundry Love @ Wash House 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via zoom	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>

## MARCH 2025

<b>2</b> <b>8:30a Holy Communion</b> 9:45a Education Hr (Adult Ed) <b>11a Holy Communion</b> 5p Hymn Society	<b>3</b> 7p Joy Ringers	<b>4</b> ShroveFest Church & School Offices Closed 11:30a—6:30p ShroveFest Drive Thru 4p-6p KidsShrove	<b>5</b> Ash Wednesday 9a School Chapel 10a Bible Study <b>12:00p Ash Wednesday</b> <b>7p Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>6</b> 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via zoom	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>5:30p Saturday Worship—Holy Communion</b>
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Phone (440) 331-2405

# Messiah Memos

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Cleveland  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Materials

February 2025

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.*



## SHROVEFEST TO-GO

Tuesday, March 4th 11:30am—6:30pm

We are so blessed to be able to come together as a church and reach the community that surrounds us. We are excited to bring back our ShroveFest Drive-Thru Event on March 4! We are offering the same amazing food as in years past for you to take home and enjoy. Featured entrees include Messiah's famous Cabbage Roll Meal, Pulled Pork Meal, and Combo Plate—with homemade strudel and packzis for dessert. Cabbage and Noodles will be available beginning at 4 pm.



- ShroveFest To-Go will be serving lunch and dinner from 11:30 am to 6:30 pm.
- KidsShrove and Carry-Out will take place from 4 to 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, the menu, and volunteering opportunities. The fun of this event only happens once a year—you won't want to miss it. Add your name to the sign up board today!

Remember when we mentioned our famous cabbage rolls? On January 26 we prepared nearly 900 cabbage rolls! This would have been impossible without 300 pounds of locally grown cabbage, 170 pounds of pork, and many amazing volunteers. A limited number of these delicious cabbage rolls are already available for sale as frozen 4 packs for \$13. Come with cash, card, or check in between and after services to get yours before they are all gone!