

Messiah Memos



MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
Church & School

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 . . .



March 2025

Worship at Messiah

Wednesday

March 5

12:00 & 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday

March 12, 19 & 26

7:00 pm Lenten Worship

Saturday

March 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

+ + +

Weekly Memo & Flocknote

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

SOUP SUPPER

Midweek Service & Soup Supper
March 12—April 9 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 March 12, 19, 26, & April 2, & 9.** Join on March 19 and April 9 as Messiah hosts Family Night during Soup Supper. Everyone is invited to bring soup, bread, or dessert to share.



THRIVENT MEMBERS

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.



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/ (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.



Riveting news...
it's tax time!



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



Pastor William

We enter into the third month of a new year. Are you still feeling like it is a new year, or have you fallen into the same old routine? Last month, I challenged you to search for the new, the intriguing, and the opportunities for this new year. In our Adult Education time we talked about being curious. How are you doing with all that? I'm excited by what I'm reading and hearing from God. My ponderings have been invigorated. How about yours? This is what I've been hearing and pondering lately:

- **On March 2** we'll hear how Jesus goes up the mountain with Peter, James and John, and is transfigured before their very eyes. It is an amazing event that often challenges us. This time, I was caught by the voice from the cloud: "This is my Son, my Chosen; Listen to him!" Whoa there, wait a minute, you are commanding (notice the exclamation point) us to listen to Jesus? Well, maybe we better focus on what Jesus has to say, not the detail of how his face changed, how Moses and Elijah showed up, or how Peter wants to build three dwellings. Just what has Jesus got to tell us that we need to hear and follow?
- **On March 9** we'll hear how Jesus was tempted in the desert after being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism. Wait a minute; after being baptized, claimed as God's beloved Son, and filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus is tempted? But we too are baptized. How come we aren't tempted like Jesus? Oh but wait, we are! Tempted to do the things we want to do. Tempted to spend on ourselves. Tempted to worship the gods of work, societal activities, and self-interest. Jesus relied on the Bible to challenge his temptor; so can you.
- **On March 16** we'll hear that Herod wants to kill Jesus, but Jesus is too busy doing his work to be at all concerned. Jesus also expresses compassion for Jerusalem, the city, and its inhabitants. Jerusalem is in need of reform; it needs to return to following God, God's will, and God's desires. Jesus longs for our city, state, and country to reform too.
- **On March 23** we'll hear Jesus say more about reforming. Jesus wants us to bear the fruit of God's kingdom. The fruit that is for the benefit of the greater good, not just for the benefit of a few, or the benefit of the one.
- **On March 30** we'll hear Jesus tell the parable of the prodigal. Often, we equate this story as of the prodigal son, but could this be about the prodigal father? Prodigal means reckless; isn't that how the father acts? Welcoming the wayward son home, enveloping the son with love, and celebrating the return of the son? That is reckless behavior. But that is how our Father in heaven responds to our coming back into God's household. Jesus wants us to know we have a great Father, a recklessly in love with us Father.



Love, Joy, Peace,
Patience, Kindness,
Generosity, Faithfulness,
Gentleness,
Self-control



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

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



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Sunday, March 9

It's that time of year. **Remember to set your clocks forward 1 hour Sunday, March 9** as we spring ahead. **Worship services will be at 8:30 and 11:00 am that Sunday with education hour at 9:45 am.**



ASH WEDNESDAY PRIMER

Ash Wednesday is recognized on the first day of Lent and occurs 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. Since it is tied to Easter, which is a “moveable feast,” Ash Wednesday falls on different dates each year. It can be as early as February 4 or as late as March 10, so this year is one of the latest dates.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the forehead as a sign of repentance. The ashes used are made from burning the palm branches used in last year’s Palm Sunday celebration.

At the Ash Wednesday worship service, the minister marks the sign of the cross using the ashes while pronouncing the words of scripture: Remember; “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” These words from Genesis 3:19 are God’s words spoken to Adam as he was punished for disobeying God’s command.

In ancient Jewish tradition, penitential people covered themselves with ashes as a sign of their remorse and humbleness as they asked God for forgiveness of their sins. Job, in recognizing the power of God, is humbled and declares; “therefore, I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job 42:6) Our practice is a bit cleaner, but is intended to be the same sort of sign of repentance, humbleness, and reliance upon God.

These forty days of Lent are meant as a time of repentance and reliance. We repent for those things we have done that dishonor God and dishonor God’s creation. We repent for doing those things that damage the relationship we have with God and the relationship we have with others. And we come to the recognition, like Job, that God is in control. We recognize that we are unable, on our own, to be absolved of our sins. We are totally reliant upon God not only for our forgiveness, but for everything for which we are blessed.

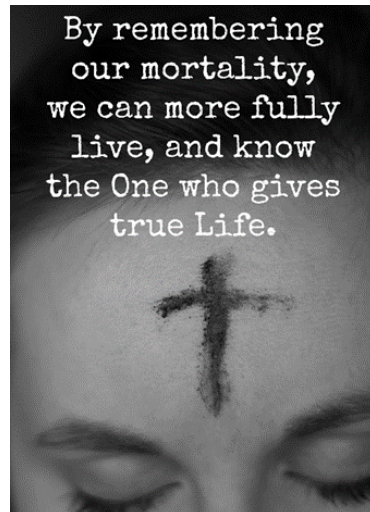
Therein, comes the practice of “giving something up for Lent.” In Luke 18:22, Jesus tells the rich man to “Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” Jesus wants to know that all that we have is a gift from God; nothing belongs to us, everything is God’s. Jesus wants to be certain we don’t want to hang onto our stuff so much that we put it above God.

Can you recognize something of which you would have a difficult time letting go? Is there something you just refuse to give up? That might be an idol for you. You might be like the rich man in Luke and not be willing to let go of it and follow God.



And so, is there something you can find that you can give up and give to the poor? You see, just giving up something is only part of Jesus’ command. We must be willing to give to those who are in need.

Prayer: Generous and gracious God, remind me today that it all belongs to you, and help me to embrace generosity, let go of my treasures, and trust you. Amen.



HOLY WEEK TEXTS

Would you like to receive “real time” text messages describing the events leading up to Easter Sunday? You can sign up by texting “HWTM” to 84576 to be added to the group. This will add you only to receive Holy Week texts, not texts sent to the wider community. The texts begin at 6pm Maundy Thursday and end on Easter Sunday. Questions? Email Sarah at sheinsbergen@messiahfp.org

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

Meeting ID: 893 4963 7993

Passcode: 623541

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: Squirmly, squiggly, potty-trained children. Parent participation welcome, but not required or expected.

No sign-up needed, just show up. Got questions?

Contact: Claire Connolly, 918-402-4386,
CBConn@gmail.com.

SECOND GRADE FIRST BIBLES COURSE

Sign your second grader up for Messiah Lutheran Church's First Bibles course! This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to learn about God's love and Jesus' gift of salvation.

As parents and care takers, you brought your child to be baptized and promised to teach them about God and his promises and to place the scriptures in your child's hands. We are delighted to help you fulfill this promise by presenting to your child currently in second grade their first Bible!

Email Nancy at njr17413@gmail.com for more information.

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 the Gospel of Luke. This new series is for those who wish to "jump in!" The material covered begins in March until the end of May.



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

FIRST COMMUNION

Classes for those interested in receiving their First Communion are starting soon. Here are some details:

Who: 4th and 5th graders

When: Sundays during 9:45 am education hour
Five week, March 9 through April 6

Where: Messiah's School Library; for an "upper room" experience

First Communion will be celebrated on the following dates:

- Maundy Thursday, April 17, at the 7 pm worship service
- Sunday, April 27, at the 11 am worship service

Questions? Contact Deaconess Ruth Mortensen at d.r.mortensen@sbcglobal.net

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.



HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

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 packzies 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 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 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!



MESSIAH HYMN SOCIETY

March 2 & 16 @ 5:30 pm

Are you unable to come to Sunday morning services, but would still like to sing on the Lord's day? Do you have a passion for singing anytime and in any place? Have you not sung a hymn you really like recently? Are you interested in expanding your horizons with church songs? The Messiah Hymn Society is the place to do all of this! Join an intimate group that relishes in hymns of all sorts. We sing hymns that have been forgotten by time, and new hymns from different cultures and traditions. It can be from our cranberry hymnal, the green hymnal, or even one outside of our Lutheran hymnal. The Messiah Hymn Society is a place to celebrate all hymns. Come and see for yourself!



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

PINTS WITH PASTOR

Tuesday, March 11 @ 7 pm

Join Pastor Seth on Tuesday, March 11 at 7 pm



at **Gunselmans Steakhouse & Irish Pub in Olmsted Falls**. Due to Lenten Soup Suppers, Pints will shift to Tuesday night this month. This is an informal opportunity to connect with others within the Messiah community and fellowship together.

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 Questions? Contact Dale & Ruth Mortensen d.r.mortensen@sbcglobal.net (440) 734-6312. Meals and side dishes will be catered by local Honey-baked 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!

GodLoves
MARRIAGE

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

A Lenten Devotional Guide has been assembled, *A Gift of Hope, Faith and Love*, by your very own members of the Messiah community. These devotions have been taken from previous years along with new additions. Each day of Lent, a Messiah member, faculty, or friend offers a scripture, prayer, and brief reflection. Copies are available on the table outside of the Church office. Special thanks to all those who contributed to this project. We pray you will listen to and take comfort from God's Word as it reminds you of God's never-ending mercy.

Individual reflections are posted each day on our Facebook page, and the booklet is available in its entirety on our website mfp.fyi/Devotion

NEWS ABOUT PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13 @ 8:30 & 11 AM



Palm Sunday concludes our 40-day Lenten journey. It recognizes the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and is marked by words of praise and adoration for the God who came to save us.

The people welcoming Jesus didn't know what was to come, but we know what awaits Jesus after his final entry into Jerusalem; the cross, for our sake.

We are called to remember that Jesus' suffering and death demonstrates God's love for us.

We experience this through Holy Week services; Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Unfortunately, across Christianity, participation in these vital worship experiences has waned over the decades.

In response, the church began to couple the joy of Palm Sunday with the passion of Christ's arrest, persecution, and death.

Here at Messiah, we recognize the importance of Holy Week and we actively participate in those worship services, so we will uncouple these two significant events; thus bringing us an opportunity to walk closer with Jesus.

You are encouraged to fully participate in this most significant part of the church year; immersing yourselves in Holy Week services – we look forward to being with you at both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services.

NEWS ABOUT EASTER VIGIL APRIL 19 @ 8 PM



Good news! You asked for it, you said you missed it, you said it was an important part of your Holy Week worship experience; and we listened. 2025 marks the return of the Easter Vigil to the Holy Week worship service schedule.

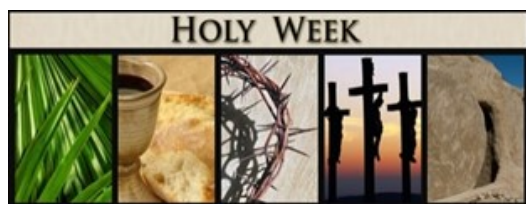
Easter Vigil is not just a substitute for Resurrection Sunday. This night is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. Tonight, we gather around a pillar of fire and hear ancient stories of our faith. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection.

At the Easter Vigil we wait with God while the Son lies in the tomb and look forward to the morning when the Light of the World will break forever the bondage of death and declare life for us all.

Water plays an important part of our Christian story and the sacrament of Baptism. As a unifying symbol of our relationship with each other, you are invited to bring a vessel of water from home and contribute your portion to the Baptismal waters we will use during the Thanksgiving at the Font. During the offering, you will be encouraged to come forward with your offering and to pour your water into the font.

This is the night! This is the dawning of our new birth in Christ! Thanks be to God.

ALL ABOUT HOLY WEEK AT MESSISH



Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and proceeds through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Resurrection Sunday. This is the defining season of Christianity and you are encouraged to grow closer to your Savior by fully participating in all these worship experiences.



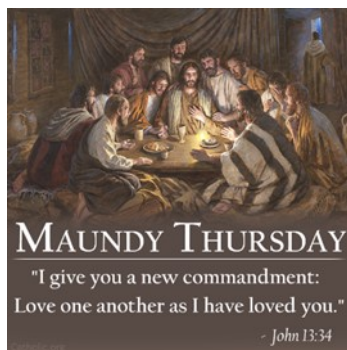
Palm Sunday,

Saturday April 12 at 5:30 pm

Sunday April 13 at 8:30 & 11:00 am

On this day, united with Christians around the world, we mark Jesus' triumphant entry in to the holy city of Jerusalem to complete the work of our salvation. We follow his footsteps as we enter the church, our Jerusalem, acclaiming the one whose throne was the cross.¹

Worship Pattern: On Sunday, we gather in the church office area with palms and joy to interactively read of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The children will lead us with instruments as we process into the worship space and continue worship in the usual pattern. See the separate article about the uncoupling of Palm/Passion. Between services we will enjoy a pancake breakfast.



Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 12:00 & 7:00 pm

On this night we begin the Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death into life. The Maundy Thursday service includes the words of Jesus' new commandment (*madatum*, from which *Maundy* comes) to love one another. On this night in which Jesus was handed over to death we also gather around the Lord's supper. At the service conclusion, the altar area is stripped of furnishings as a sign of

Jesus' abandonment.¹

Worship Pattern: We will gather in the Atrium to experience the Living Last Supper and join some First Communicants in receiving Christ's body and blood. Service concludes with silent procession to the worship space where we sing *Were You There*, followed by the solemnity of stripping the chancel.

¹Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Leaders Desk Edition, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2006

ALL ABOUT HOLY WEEK AT MESSISH



Good Friday, April 18 at 12:00 & 8:30 pm

At the heart of this service is the passion reading according to John, which celebrates Christ's victory on the cross. As Jesus draws all people to himself, we pray for the whole world for which Christ died. Finally, we honor the cross as the sign of forgiveness, healing, and salvation. With all God's people we are invited to before this mystery of faith. Christ has died, so that we may live.¹

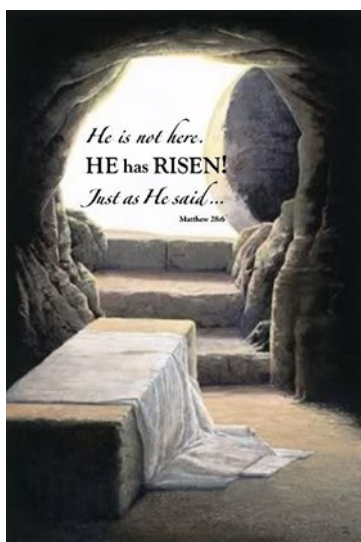
Worship Pattern: We gather in silence, pray for one another, hear God's Word, glorify the cross, and ponder what Christ did for us and the whole world. At the 8:30 service we will worship in the Tenebrae tradition of darkness and shadows.



Easter Vigil April 19 at 8:30 pm

As we wait with God while the Son lies in the tomb, we gather together to look forward to the morning when the Light of the World will break forever the bondage of death and declare life for us all. This is the night! This is the dawning of our new birth in Christ! Thanks be to God!

Worship Pattern: we gather outside (weather permitting) to light the new fire from which we light the paschal Candle and hold it high for all to see and proclaim the central part of our faith; that we are claimed by God, cleansed by God, and renewed in the death and resurrection of God's Son. We then move indoors to the usual worship space where we will hear and sing the story of our faith; from creation to resurrection.



Resurrection Sunday, April 20 at 6:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am

Every Sunday in worship, the church celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us to receive again the gifts of God that come to us through Christ, the saving Word. On this day, we rejoice anew. Easter is the day of all days. The tomb could not keep Jesus. As Christ is risen, we too shall be raised. Come, join with all the faithful across the world as we raise our voices in triumphant song and share the meal of Holy Communion which Christ set before us. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He's Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Worship Pattern: Sunrise service at Bain Park begins our jubilant celebration of Christ's resurrection. Breakfast at church will follow. The other two morning worship services will celebrate the triumphant resurrection of Jesus with brass, song, fresh flowers and shouts of; He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

¹Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Leaders Desk Edition, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2006

LAUNDRY LOVE

PEOPLE ARE THE POINT. NOT THE MISSION.

Laundry Love calls us to live lives that return. Showing up at Leo's Laundromat and The Wash House every month is a practice of presence and a commitment that all Laundry Love Care Teams and locations adhere to. This is what differentiates Laundry Love from other hygiene initiatives.

Within the four walls of a laundromat you meet your neighbors, you meet people from different parts of the world and different cultures—all with interesting and heartbreaking experiences and stories. The laundromat is one of the most beautifully diverse places in America. We sometimes say, "If you want to meet the world, just walk into your local laundromat."

We choose to enter Laundromats NOT only to make a difference, we choose to enter laundromats so those we serve make us different. Reciprocal transformation through mutuality! Time is a gift. Time builds relationships and trust. When you spend several hours each month inside a Laundry Love laundromat, you build relational equity and community with the guests you serve. This is the core of Laundry Love.

I recently read that "Budgets are Moral Documents." Laundry Love Messiah is like countless other Lutheran social service providers. We are highly transparent, effective, and trustworthy with our grants, and donor support. Our non-partisan work helps us to earn the trust of neighbors and community leaders alike. We believe it's crucial to create a way for all people to live with dignity, and for our guests/friends to be afforded the opportunity — even in seemingly small ways — to care for themselves and their families.

Food insecurity has steadily risen since before the pandemic, with 65% of food banks recording an increase in the number of people served in October 2024 compared to October 2023. From September to October of last year, about half the food banks in the survey saw an increase in the number of people served, with an average increase of about 15% more people.

This is a tough time of year for food pantries. Many donors head south for the winter, and yet need increases because so many hungry children are out of school for Snow Days and national holidays. Our Messiah School first-grade class has decided to serve their community this year by creating Birthday Kits for local food pantries. They are collecting items and assembling birthday kits to help low-income families have a great birthday—even if they are facing food insecurity. At Messiah School, we believe in stepping back to let young leaders shine, fostering a sense of community and friendship.

Our Laundry Love Messiah Care Teams serving at Leo's and The Wash House LOVE our guests, realizing that each person carries a story that is original to them and requires patience, graciousness, and discernment. Thank you for letting me love you, too.

Janice Snyder, Care Team Leader

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Thank you for giving, your gifts made a difference!

The results are in from our annual Fall Fundraiser. We've been blessed with \$30,000 from 60 donors! Together, with your generosity, we can Cover the County with the love of Christ!



Over the past five years, prices in Ohio have risen 22.7% overall. Many of our neighbors don't have the margin to make ends meet. Your generosity to our annual fundraiser will enable us to assist those families in need. Your gifts will save them from evictions, keep houses warm and utilities paid, supply chain for growing children, and provide budget coaching for new beginnings.

Most importantly, your generosity will ensure each person is met with prayer, hope and the love of Christ! Thank you!

Westshore Meals on Wheel Rocky River-Lakewood Kitchen is look-



West Shore Meals On Wheels

ing for volunteers to deliver meals on Wednesdays as well as volunteers for our kitchen on Fridays. If you are unable to commit to one day a week, we also need substitute volunteers to fill in as needed. Please contact Kathy Blackwell at (440) 333-6298 or rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org

For more information visit www.westshoremow.org

MESSIAH SCHOOL—#COMEHOMETOMESSIAH

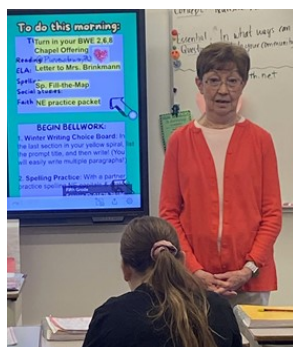


**Messiah
Lutheran
School**

THE MESSIAH SCHOOL DIFFERENCE: FAITH MENTORS

A faith mentor is a person who helps others grow in their faith through guidance and support. They are often Christians who are a few steps ahead in their faith journey.

At a recent Chapel service, each class (Preschool through 5th Grade) met their official Messiah School Faith Mentor—a designated Messiah Church member who prays for and encourages each class.



Messiah School Faith Mentors

- Encourage others to have a personal relationship with Christ
- Share stories and teach about the Bible
- Pray with mentees
- Celebrate milestones and growth with mentees
- Help mentees navigate relationships with compassion and love
- Help mentees understand how to walk with Jesus

Mrs. Paula Brinkmann, our 5th-grade faith mentor, plays a special role in helping us grow in our faith and draw closer to Jesus. She shares meaningful stories from her own faith journey, both as a child and throughout her adulthood, inspiring us to deepen our relationship with God. Through her teachings about the liturgical seasons and her challenge to "Be the Light," she encourages us to apply these truths to our daily lives in meaningful ways. Her kindness shines through in her letters, and we're truly enjoying getting to know her.

Messiah School is Enrolling students NOW for the 2025-26 School Year. Classes are filling up quickly! If you are interested in a personalized tour to experience the Messiah School Difference, contact Janice Snyder, Admissions Coordinator at jsnyder@messiahfp.org

MESSIAH SCHOOL—#COMEHOMETOMESSIAH

FAMILY NIGHTS

March 19 & April 9 @ 5:30 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... 5:30 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.

**Family Night March & April are combined with Soup Supper @ 5:30 pm.*

**Family
Nights**
MARCH

LAUNDRY LOVE

March 8 @ Leo's - 10 am

March 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 for more information!

Where: Leo's Laundromat
(20210 Lorain Rd, Fairview Park)

When: Saturday, March 8

Time: 10 am - Noon

Where: The Wash House & Café
(15149 Lorain Ave, Cleveland)

When: Thursday, March 27

Time: 6 - 8 pm



MARCH 2025

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
2 8:30a Holy Communion 9:45a Education Hr (Adult Ed) 11a Holy Communion 5p Hymn Society	3 7p Joy Ringers	4 <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> ShroveFest Church & School Offices Closed </div> 11:30a—6:30p ShroveFest Drive Thru 4p-6p KidsShrove	5 <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Ash Wednesday </div> 9a School Chapel 10a Bible Study 12p Ash Wednesday 7p Ash Wednesday	6 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via zoom	7	8 10a Laundry Love @ Leo's 5:30p Saturday Worship—Holy Communion
<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px;"> Daylight Savings </div> 9 8:30a Holy Communion 9:45a Education Hr (Adult Ed) 11a Holy Communion	10 7p Joy Ringers 7p Church Council Meeting	11 7p Pints with Pastor—Gunselmans Steakhouse in Olmsted Falls	12 9a School Chapel 10a Bible Study 5:30p Soup Supper 7p Lenten Evening Worship	13 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via zoom	14 10a Grief Group—in the Commons	15
16 8:30a Holy Communion 9:45a Education Hr (Adult Ed) 11a Holy Communion 11a Messiah Student Choir 5p Hymn Society	17 7p Joy Ringers	Messiah School Spring Break			21	22 5:30p Saturday Worship—Holy Communion
23 8:30a Holy Communion 9:45a Education Hr (Adult Ed) 11a Holy Communion	24 7p Joy Ringers	25	26 9a School Chapel 10a Bible Study 5:30p Soup Supper 7p Lenten Evening Worship	27 6p Laundry Love @ Wash House 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via zoom	28	29
30 8:30a Holy Communion 9:45a Education Hr (Adult Ed) 11a Holy Communion 5p Hymn Society	31 7p Joy Ringers	1	2 9a School Chapel 10a Bible Study 5:30p Soup Supper 7p Lenten Evening Worship	3 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via zoom	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> No Messiah School—In-service Day </div> 4	5

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Materials

March 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.

OPEN MY LIFE LORD: AN EVENING SERIES FOR LENT

Lent is a forty-day season of penitence and preparation for the Three Days of Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Originally a two-day period of baptismal preparation and fasting, in the fourth century it expanded to six weeks. By the end of the fifth century there was a desire to exclude Sundays from Lent as Sundays are always considered as feasts of the Resurrection. The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday and end on the Saturday Easter Vigil. This Lent, we focus on Christ opening our life to what he would have it be; It is the duty if every Christian to be Christ to his neighbor” (Martin Luther).