

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

Saturday

November 9 & 23

December 7 & 21

5:30 pm Saturday Evening

Worship In The Commons

Sunday

8:30 am Holy Communion

9:45 am Education Hour

Adult—Weekly (in-person/
zoom)

11 am Holy Communion

+ + +

Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday

8:30 am—4 pm

+ + +

Midweek Memo & Flocknote

Messiah offers various ways to stay connected and engaged with all of the exciting activities and events! To receive updates and info, send your email, mailing address & phone number to Sarah at sheinsbergen@messiahfp.org

OUR SAINTS

All Saints Day is November 3. Come as We Honor and Remember Those Who, in Death, Have Joined the Church Triumphant this Past Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Calvin Anthony Monachino	10/20/2023	10/20/2023
Sandra Benhoff	2/13/1947	10/23/2023
Betty Brewer	3/3/1932	11/7/2023
Bruce Hathaway	1/17/1938	11/23/2023
Dan Feuerstein	9/13/1951	12/30/2023
Ed Dunn	3/27/1958	3/11/2024
Gertrude (Trudy) Gustke	1/14/1942	5/6/2024
Stephen Ruetschi	9/4/1948	5/7/2024
Jodi Hoffman	12/17/1958	6/4/2024
John E. Huetter	10/14/1938	7/7/2024
Sharon Berghaus	3/26/1951	8/30/2024
Helen Weber	7/17/1935	9/2/2024
Audrey Ruettinger	8/31/1935	9/5/2024

PASTOR. SPY. ASSASSIN.

BONHOEFFER

In select theaters beginning November 22, 2024 (including Regal Crock-er Park, 30147 Detroit Road Westlake OH)

As the world teeters on the brink of annihilation in the 1940s, German Lutheran Pastor and Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer is swept into the epicenter of a deadly plot to assassinate Hitler. Bonhoeffer, disappointed in the moral courage of the church, both locally and globally, looked for ways to resist evil. With his faith and fate at stake, Bonhoeffer must choose between upholding his moral convictions or risking it all to save millions of Jews from genocide. Will his shift from preaching peace to plotting murder alter the course of history, or cost him everything?

Watch the trailer: <https://youtu.be/WZM90izJ8sI>

PG-13 for violent content, thematic elements, and some smoking.

Group Discounts available

Run time: 2 hours 12 minutes

Purchase tickets online <https://www.angel.com/tickets/bonhoeffer>

Use code BON24 to receive 41% off at checkout.

Sign the Bonhoeffer Declaration at <https://www.angel.com/movies/bonhoeffer> and declare your commitment to reject all forms of racism and antisemitism.

Pay it Forward! Provide free tickets for someone to claim and watch at the movie theaters. Learn more at <https://www.angel.com/movies/bonhoeffer>



LAUNDRY LOVE PROJECT™

Give the Gift of Warmth to our Laundry Love Guests

Laundry Love Messiah is looking for donations of new or gently worn hats, gloves, and scarves in both children's and adult sizes to give to our guests at Leo's Laundromat and The Wash House. Many of our guests take the bus or walk to the laundromat in all weather.

Our adult attendance averages 80 adults, a few toddlers, plus several elementary school kids who attend with their parents.

Our Care Team is seeking 20 scarves, 30 hats, and 10-20 pairs of gloves/mittens. Men's gloves are especially welcome. We would love to have a selection of cold-weather items to share with our guests. Please leave any donations on the pew in the hall outside the Messiah School Admission's office on the lower level by the Preschool room.

Thank you heaps & loads,

Janice Snyder, Laundry Love Care Team Leader

Laundry Love Expansion Doubles Number of People Served

Our first two Thursday night Laundry Love events at the Wash House in West Park were AMAZING. And BUSY! We served over 80 individuals each month, doubling our outreach at Leo's Laundromat. In August we washed over 3500 pounds of clothing and bedding in just 2 hours. The next month, we laundered 3800 pounds. We also are meeting neighbors whose first language is Spanish.

I like to say that Laundry Love offers direct community engagement with a sprinkle of storytelling. Since I don't speak Spanish, I was working hard (and typing fast) via Google Translate to explain to our guests why Messiah pays to wash laundry. The husband of a Peruvian couple I chatted with via Google Translate didn't speak much English. As we reached an understanding, he typed back to me, "We are equal." YES!! At the laundromat, we are all equal. We amplify and celebrate our laundromat guests as we make friends (and connections!) with our neighbors—even with a language barrier. **It would be wonderful to add a Spanish-speaking member to our Care Team** to make our connection more personal. Let me know if that person is YOU. Laundry Love is a listening ministry, so we are always ready to adapt to needs as we're made aware.

In November, we will mark our 100th Laundry Love event in eight years. To celebrate, we are installing a Little Free Library at the Wash House, while maintaining our LFL at Leo's as part of Messiah School's Literacy commitment. **We are looking for a book-lover who would like to help Steward the THREE Little Free Libraries that Messiah maintains**—one on our campus (on W. 215) and at our two laundromat sites—Leo's in Fairview Park, and the Wash House in West Park. We receive free books from the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank, and through Messiah School, but gently used children's book donations are always welcome.

Laundry Love is a national movement that brings hope to low-income people utilizing local laundromats, in unique and meaningful ways. If this small group ministry resonates with you and you'd like to learn more, please contact me at jsnyder@messiahfp.org

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

ADULT EDUCATION HOUR

Sundays @ 9:45 am

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



11/3 "The Footsteps of Paul" - Pr. Bridger
11/10 "St. Paul's Pastoral Letters (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus)"—Chris Neumann
11/17 Chrismon Make it and Take It—Janice Snyder

11/24: "2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans" —MLC Youth

To join via Zoom visit:
mfp.fyi/AdultEduHour

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Every Wed @ 10 am In-Person & Via Zoom

Wednesday morning Bible Study has returned for the fall! The topic for the remainder of 2024 (Sept. through Dec.) will be **Acts of the Apostles**.

The weekly 10 am Bible Study is offered as a "Hybrid" option—meaning, the bible study meets BOTH in-person in the Commons at Messiah AND there is a Zoom. Your choice, to gather in-person or virtually with the group.

Meeting ID: 864 8011 0615 Passcode: 890748

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Every Thu @ 8 pm Via Zoom

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 will study one of the scripture passages for the upcoming weekend.

Meeting ID: 818 2419 9752
Passcode: 851330

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



STEWARDSHIP SOUNDINGS – PART 1 – GOD DID NOT GIVE YOU TITLE OF OWNERSHIP

Ok, I hear you; you have a file or safe with titles to things like your car or boat or house. And I know these titles were prepared by some fairly smart attorneys for your protection; and these titles are recorded in official government

offices. But, and it is a big BUT, God made everything and, since it all belongs to God, God is the only person who can rightly give title to someone else. And, wait for it...God did not give you title to anything.

So, what does that mean for stewardship? The following example may clarify it:

Consider the public library. One goes to this community resource and borrows a book. The book belongs to the library, but when you borrow it you promise to care for it and return it in good order after a set period of time. Key concepts:

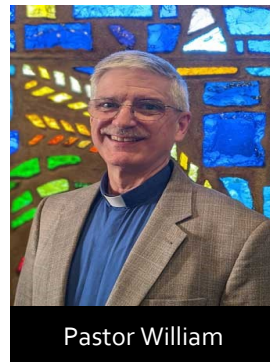
One takes control of something that belongs to someone else (the book).

One promises to care for the book properly.

One promises to return the book to the owner at the owner's discretion.

So in summation, everything you have is borrowed, it rightly belongs to God, and God has expectations of how you are to care for it and how you are to return it.

Let that soak in. Then look elsewhere in this publication for further information.



WAYS TO GIVE

LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION OF OHIO

The purpose of the LSGOO is to raise scholarship dollars for students to attend Lutheran schools throughout Ohio. Donors can designate Messiah Lutheran School to receive 100% of the gift or split it between other participating schools in the group. Scholarships are prioritized for students of low-income households and are granted at the beginning of each school year.

Since the program began in 2023 Messiah School has been blessed by 52 families who have donated \$71,865 for the benefit of Messiah's students.



Donations to the LGSOO are a triple win:

A **WIN** for you as an Ohio taxpayer because you receive an Ohio income tax credit for your donation dollar-for-dollar up to \$750 per person or \$1,500 if married filing jointly.

A **WIN** for Students and Families by making private Lutheran education a reality through an additional stream of scholarship dollars.

A **WIN** for Lutheran schools by allowing them to offer more tuition assistance to families who want to provide their children quality Christian education.

Our goal is to raise \$50,000 between now and December 31, 2024 (the deadline for the 2024 Tax Credit).

Please prayerfully consider donating online at CLHSA.org/LSGODonate. Any questions can be directed to Jay Machado (jayrmachado@gmail.com) or Helen Casselberry (hcasselberry@messiahfp.org).

Frequently Asked Question: How is LSGO of Ohio different from other scholarships offered by the school?

Answer: Various scholarships and/or tuition assistance may be available, including merit/need based scholarships and state programs such as EdChoice Scholarship and Cleveland scholarship programs. The LSGO of Ohio adds an additional level of assistance for schools to offer families, while also qualifying donors for a state tax credit.

MESSIAH SCHOOL NEWS



CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF MESSIAH LUTHERAN SCHOOL

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of Messiah Lutheran School. Christian Education at Messiah Church began in 1929 with a Sunday School for six. Recognizing that parents and teachers have a dual responsibility for the education of children, Messiah congregation planned for a Christian Day School. From 1949 to 1954 Messiah was a member of the West Shore Lutheran School Association, along with St. Thomas, Ascension, and St. Paul's Westlake. There were sixty Messiah children enrolled in the association, with a potential for many more, so the congregation decided to open its own Day School. In September 1954, Messiah School opened with 108 pupils. Classes were held in the Chapel and the Fellowship Hall, and by 1958, the school had run out of space! Moving forward in faith, ground was broken for a \$200,000 education wing that we maintain and utilize today.

As Admissions Coordinator for Messiah School, I regularly welcome prospective families and their children on behalf of our congregation. In a world where our favorite stores and restaurants increasingly go out of business, things seem impermanent. During tours, I emphasize our deep roots in the community with a brief history of the Church and School and detailing all the ways we continue to move forward in faith, preparing our students for the future.

The team of marketing experts at Twist Creative Inc. increases awareness of our Trailblazing community in social media, and also through our branding. The Academic Seal (pictured above) is a nod to our longevity and to our continued growth. T-shirts with this Seal have been purchased for all current students and staff in celebration of our 70th school year. They will be distributed at Parent/Teacher Conferences. Look for them on our campus and in the community!

What's Happening at Messiah School:

Do you remember the excitement of the Scholastic Book Fair when you were in school? Messiah's students and church members were offered a choice of several days to browse through popular kids books in a shop set up in the Atrium during Literacy Awareness Month.

Our annual **Chrismon Make-It-And-Take-It** event will be held during the Christian Education Hour on **Sunday, November 17** starting at **9:45 am** in the Fellowship Hall/Lunch Room. Kick off the Advent season with this fun intergenerational program making Christmas decorations with Christian symbols. Come and get your glitter on!

Janice Snyder, Admissions jsnyder@messiahfp.org

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

CHRISTMAS BOXES

Messiah is offering Christmas Boxes again this year, pick out a name of a child that is in need of Christmas box. Place all of the items in a shoe box to be picked up, wrapped, and given to the children. The list of names will be on a tri-fold board near the church office early in November. Please bring the Christmas box to the Church office by **December 1**, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Contact the church office with any questions.

LIKE TO COOK AND PROVIDE HOSPITALITY FOR OTHERS?

United Protestant Campus Ministries in Cleveland is looking for partnering churches to provide a meal for their Sunday evening meetings. The commitment asks for purchasing food, preparing and serving a dinner for 12 (maybe less) at 6:30P at Presbyterian Church of the Covenant on Euclid Ave. across from Case Western Reserve Univ. Dave Lamar, a former Messiah member, is the current Board Chair for the ministry and is eager to include supportive church members and share what Campus Ministries is busy with among our young people. If you feel called to take up this one-time opportunity to provide food and fellowship for college students and their spiritual caregivers, contact Pastor Seth (sbridger@messiahfp.org) for more information. The young people will thank you!

HELP OUR NEIGHBORS FIGHT FOOD INSECURITY

Our Little Free Pantry is part of Messiah's Laundry Love efforts to fight food insecurity in Fairview Park. Wendy Vortruba picks up our monthly food order from Aldi. The non-perishable items are stored in our LL cupboard and rotated into our Pantry located outside the Messiah School Office. Members of our Care Team restock the box throughout each week, at an average cost of \$100 worth of groceries per week. Contributions are always welcome!

Best Winter Gifts for Messiah's Little Free Pantry include:

- Mac & Cheese that is already prepared
- Tuna, canned meat, spam
- Canned foods with pop-tops (soups, stew, chili, pasta, vegetables)
- Cake mix & frosting
- Small bags of sugar and flour
- Cartons of broth (chicken, beef, vegetable)
- Small bottles of cooking oil
- Soft baked breakfast bars / cereal
- Hot chocolate packets
- Peanut butter/jelly · Holiday cookies · Teabags or coffee
- Dishwashing detergent · Feminine hygiene products
- Knit hats/gloves or socks

Please place donations in the Laundry Love shopping cart by the church elevator during business/worship hours. Thank you in advance for your generosity! For more information, contact Janice Snyder at jsnyder@messiahfp.org

MESSIAH NEWS

JOY RINGERS



Have you considered being a part of a wonderful group known as the Joy Ringers? Playing handbells is a beautiful way to glorify our Lord and Savior. Reading music helps but is not a requirement to join. **The Joy Ringers practice on Monday evenings from 7 to 8 pm in the Church balcony.** We try to play at least twice a month in Church; either at 8:30 or 11 am. If you are interested in joining or have any questions contact Ruth King at rcjking@cox.net.

**Upcoming Practice Dates:
November 4, 11, 18 & 25**

MUSICAL MEMBERS OF MESSIAH!

Yours is a congregation with a wealth of musical talent! Several musicians have graced our worship with their gifts in the last month:



We give thanks for Adonai Henderson, trumpet, Bethany Henderson, flute, Claire Connelly, soprano soloist, and especially to all the Cantors and choir members who faithfully sing every Sunday.

We are also grateful for Joy Ringers, who have enhanced the psalm accompaniment and have played the Voluntary while the Offering is collected.

In November, we invite you to sing in the Festival Choir for **Christ the King Sunday** on November 24th. And on Wednesday evenings In Advent we will worship with Holden Evening Prayer, so mark your calendars for **December 4th, 11th and 18th.**

Share your musical gifts to the Glory of God!

*~Deb Zudell-Dickey
Choir Director and Coordinator of Music Ministry*

CONFIRMATION CORNER

Confirmation is a significant faith formation ministry in the Church. All current 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade aged young people are invited (and very much encouraged) to be part of Messiah's Confirmation Ministry program.

The Confirmation Ministry of Messiah involves the whole family. By that, we mean that parents and/or guardians, grandparents and baptismal sponsors of each of the young people are asked to participate.

The Confirmation "Kick Off" was held in September and here are the upcoming class topics and schedule:

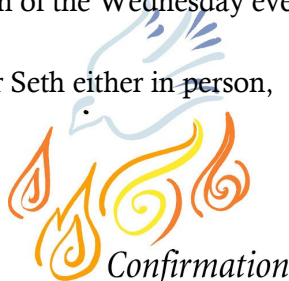
3 class sessions = 1 "Confirmation credit"

"Church History" Class	"The Liturgical Calendar" Class:
11/3 - Sanctuary 9:45 am	12/4 - Fellowship Hall at 6:15 pm
	12/11 - Fellowship Hall at 6:15 pm
	12/18 - Fellowship Hall at 6:15 pm

Confirmation families are invited and encouraged to worship during the Advent season each weekend, and on each of the Wednesday evenings during Advent at 7 pm.

Questions, concerns, or ideas? Contact Pastor Seth either in person, during office hours, or by email or cell:

sbridger@messiahfp.org; (513) 335-2882.



Confirmation

PINTS WITH PASTOR

Wednesday, November 13
SPECIAL LOCATION

Join Pastor Seth on Wednesday, November 13 at 7 pm at Gunselman's Irish Pub in Olmsted Falls.. This is an informal opportunity to connect with others within the Messiah community and fellowship together. This location is:

7928 Main St.
Olmsted Falls



FAMILY NEWS

BAPTISMS

Penelope Rose Koza and Piper Rose Koza
Baptized: 10/6/2024
Daughters of Joshua & Ashley Koza

Marlowe Elizabeth Wilson
Baptized: 10/13/2024
Daughter of Jonna & Nicole
Tomasqewski-Wilson



STEWARDSHIP SOUNDINGS – GOD’S GIFTS TO US?



What we have is not a *gift* from God.

Hmm, that’s interesting.

In the words of Pastor Harry Wendt, president of Crossways International; God doesn’t give gifts, at least not in the way we use the word *gift* (quoted in Charles Lane’s book, *Ask, Thank, Tell*, p21).

When something is given to us we usually call that a gift. But once given, a gift no longer belongs to the giver and the giver no longer has (or should try to have) control over how the gift is used. A gift given with strings attached is not really a gift. With a true gift, the recipient is the new owner and can do what they want with the gift.

But God gives us everything we have, right?

Nope, God entrusts things to our care. Let’s look at this biblically:

Psalm 24:1 tells us that God owns everything. So, if God *gifts* something to us, it means it belongs to us.

Which means the thing would no longer belong to God.

So, who is wrong? God’s word, or our understanding.

Oh, you say, “I worked for what I have, nobody gave it to me.”

The Bible teaches us about that too:

“Do not say to yourself, ‘My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.’ But remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth” Deuteronomy 8:17-18.

It all really does belong to God; “There is not a transfer of ownership. God the creator is still God the owner.” (*Ask, Thank, Tell*, p25) So, everything you have has been entrusted to your care, it’s not yours to do with as you please. That should change how you look at things. It is not your house, nor your car, nor your children, nor...wait for it... your money.

But Pastor, you said Stewardship is not about money. Right, stewardship is about recognizing correct ownership. Let that soak in, there will be more to come.



WHERE HAVE ALL THE WORSHIP LEADERS GONE?

- Acolytes
- Assisting Ministers
- Communion Assistants
- Deacons
- Ushers



You may have noticed how, for some time now, there have been many unfilled worship leaders positions every week.

We no longer have a paid staff person to call and bug people to serve, so we went to Sign Up Genius hoping people would volunteer. But, alas, it is not working so well.

So, we need your help:

- Are you willing to serve in any of the worship leader positions?
- We’re being like Santa and compiling a list...
- Are you willing to be a leader coordinator? For a group or the whole list?

The work is very fulfilling and the benefits are out of this world.

Please let us know:

Phone = (440)331-2405 (anyone who answers will take your information)
or

Email Pastor William at Wweidenbach@MessiahFP.org

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CARDS 2024

Do you enjoy receiving Christmas cards? Do you enjoy sending Christmas cards? If yes, a few of our brothers and sisters in Christ would love to receive your cards of Hope, Love and Joy this Advent & Christmas season. Call the church office or email, and they will send you names and addresses of 6-7 members in need of God’s grace and your kindness.

~ Deaconess Ruth



NOVEMBER 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
27 Reformation Sunday 8:30a Holy Communion 9:45a Adult Ed. 11a Holy Communion	28 No School - Messiah Parent Teacher Conferences 7p Trustees Meeting 7p Joy Ringers	29	30 9a School Chapel	31 Halloween 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via Zoom	1	2
3 All Saints Day 8:30a Holy Communion 9:45a Adult Ed. 11a Holy Communion	4 7p Joy Ringers	5 Election Day	6 9a School Chapel 10a Morning Bible Study—In The Commons 6p PTL Meeting	7 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via Zoom	8 10a Grief Group	9 5:30p Saturday Worship—Holy Communion
10 8:30a Holy Communion 9:45a Adult Ed. 11a Holy Communion 2p Trunk or Treat (see page 1)	11 Veterans Day 7p Church Council Meeting 7p Joy Ringers	12	13 9a School Chapel 10a Morning Bible Study—In The Commons	14 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via Zoom	15 No School Messiah Teacher Inservice	16
17 8:30a Holy Communion 9:45a Adult Ed. 11a Holy Communion	18 7p Joy Ringers	19	20 9a School Chapel 10a Morning Bible Study—In The Commons 6p Family Night	21 6p Laundry Love—The Wash House & Café (15149 Lorain Ave.) 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Bible Study via Zoom	22	23 5:30p Saturday Worship—Holy Communion
24 8:30a Holy Communion 11a Holy Communion	25 7p Joy Ringers	26 9a School Chapel	27 No School Messiah—Thanksgiving Break 10a Morning Bible Study—In The Commons 7p Thanksgiving Eve Service	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

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Permit No. 3829



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Materials

November 2024

As part of the worship services on **November 9 & 10** you are invited to present your intent card as a gift representing your joyful response to God. For those worshipping online, please visit mfp.fyi/Pledge to enter your commitment.

A BRIEF MOMENT – PART 1

From our Introduction in October's Monthly MEMO, we had the following statement:

Stewardship is **NOT** about money.

Did you let that soak in? Did you give that deep thought? Did you think we were crazy?

Are you ready for more? This month, let's ponder the implications of this thought:

God did not give you Title of Ownership.

Let that soak in, then look elsewhere in the publication for more details.

Remember:

Stewardship is a way of life.

It is the way you feel.

It is the way you react.

It is the way you make choices.

Stay tuned and stay curious.

