

# God Is Good

## Making Disciples: An Adult Education Series

Hello people of Messiah!

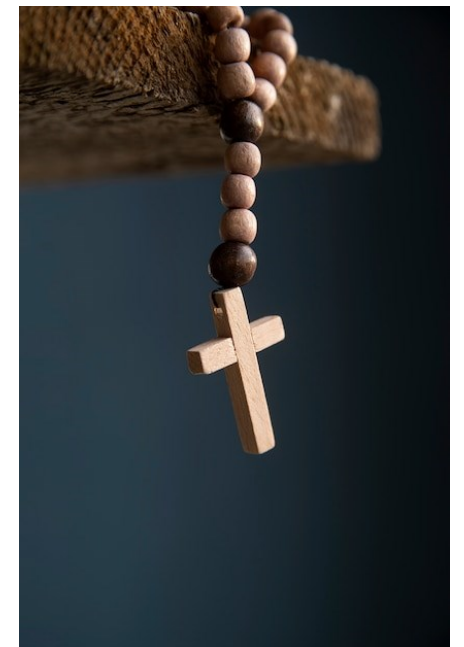
When my internship began, one of the first things about Messiah that made an impression on me was the mission statement. The statement is simple, clear, and powerful, but more important than the words themselves is how seriously the people of Messiah take them. I have witnessed countless occasions where members here have worked very intentionally to live up to those words that we say together every weekend after worship. What's great about Messiah's mission statement is that it's not just a series of words strung together to sound nice and to market our church. Rather, it is a statement and a goal that the people of Messiah earnestly strive to live into.

In celebration of this fact, I want to present you all with an opportunity to look at a part of our mission statement a little bit closer. Beginning in March, and continuing once a month during the Sunday School hour after worship, I will be offering a series of adult Sunday School sessions where we will take a look at our mission statement goal of 'making disciples.' Over 4 total sessions, we will learn about what discipleship is, how to be a disciple, and how to invite others into discipleship.

We will begin on **Sunday, March 24th** with an introductory session where we will explore the meaning of discipleship together, and will proceed to meet every **4th Sunday of the month** after worship. I am looking forward to this great opportunity for us to learn together

Submitted by: Vicar Samuel Trottier

The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)



Lord,  
Hear Our  
Prayer

## Table of Contents

Making Disciples—Adult Education Series	Page 1
From the Desk of Pastor Orin	Page 3
A Message from the Congregational Council President	Page 4
Congregational Care	Page 4
Parish Life	Page 5
Crosslines	Page 5
New Council Member	Page 5
New Member Classes	Page 5
Messiah Lutheran Church Financials	Page 6
Messiah MLCFDC Financials	Page 7
Messiah Lighthouse Child Care & Family Development Teacher of the Month	Page 8
Farewell & Godspeed to Margaret	Page 8
Supporting Our Pastors	Page 9
Seeds of Inspiration	Page 9
Calendar Date Change	Page 10
Women of the ELCA	Page 10
Youth & Family	Page 10
March Altar Flowers	Page 11
March Birthdays	Page 11
March Scripture Readings	Page 12
Mark Your Calendars	Page 12



## Messiah Staff

Rev. Orin Cummings, PhD	Pastor	pastor@messiahmo.org
Samuel Trottier	Vicar	vicar@messiahmo.org
Nathan Carlson	Business Manager	nathan.carlson@messiahmo.org
Leisa Rushton	Office Administrator	officemanager@messiahmo.org
Missy Fite	Custodian p/t	janitor@messiahmo.org
Andi O'Donnell	Custodian p/t	custodian@messiahmo.org
Marilyn Boston	Organist	marilyn.boston@messiahmo.org
Karen Bowman	Contemporary Music Coordinator	karen.bowman@messiahmo.org
Morgan Benedict	A/V Technician, p/t	morgan.benedict@messiahmo.org
Drew Bowman	Assistant A/V Technician, p/t	avassistant@messiahmo.org
Jessica Phillips	Director, Lighthouse	jessicaphillips@lighthousecfdc.org
Leslie Donegan	Family Coordinator, Lighthouse	lesliedonegan@lighthousecfdc.org

MessiahMOELCA



messiah@messiahmo.org

MessiahMoELCA



www.messiahmo.org

messiahmo



925 E. Seminole, Springfield, MO 65807



417-881-2192

March Spirit

**Messiah Lutheran Church**  
925 E. Seminole Street  
Springfield, MO 65807

*\*Return Address Requested*

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Springfield, MO  
Permit 1339

### March Scripture Readings

Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
March 2/3	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
March 10/11	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
March 16/17	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 51:1-12	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
March 23/24	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 15:1-39
March 31	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Mark 16:-1-8

### Mark Your Calendars

- March 6-20 Lenten Services Wednesday 12 p.m. & 7 p.m.
- March 28 Maundy Thursday Seder Meal @ 6:30 p.m.
- March 29 Good Friday Service Tenebrae @ 7 p.m.
- March 30/31 Easter
- March 31 Easter Breakfast following Worship

### From the Desk of the Pastor

Dear Saints,

Greetings in the name of our crucified, risen, and ascended Lord and coming Savior Jesus Christ!

A ten-year-old child with a learning disability struggles in school. It was decided that since he cannot keep up his grades, he would not have post-secondary education. This was devastating news to his parents. Then, a teacher decided to do something about it. By giving a few extra hours of one-on-one instructions each week, a year later the child showed remarkable progress. The child kept this up, graduated and received a scholarship to a prestigious college.

We call this story a small miracle. Resurrection is no small miracle because it inspires faith and is life-giving. I imagine that everyone has a resurrection story. Life-giving stories that inspire faith, hope and love.

I remember celebrating Easter by wearing my Sunday best—bright colors—to worship and there was always an Easter pageant put on by the youth in the evening at church that was open to the community. It was always a personal delight to see my non-Christian friends and neighbors attend. They did not become members, but they heard the gospel—how Christ defeated death and offers salvation to all people.

In our family home, we celebrated Easter with a special breakfast, dinner, and flew kites in the park. Kite flying was not limited to Christians. My Hindu and Muslim neighbors joined in making and flying kites too. Easter was a festive season for all regardless of one’s religious tradition.

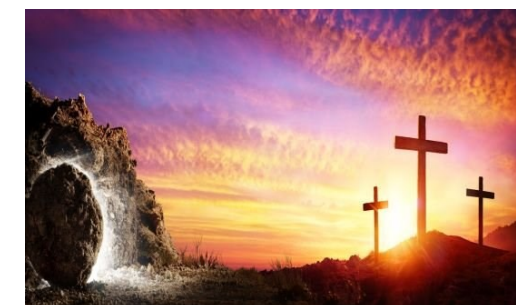
The same is true having moved to the USA. Instead of flying kites, people of religious and non-religious traditions celebrate Easter by dyeing eggs, filling them with candy/coins and having egg hunt. In so doing, they acknowledge the gospel that Christ has defeated death and offers abundant life.

Today, the resurrection story inspires faith when a child, who is struggling in school, is given tools to succeed because death is defeated. It is resurrection day when we join in to improve our neighborhood because death is defeated. We are resurrection people when we walk alongside the grieving, encourage them to cherish the memories of loved ones, and speak words of comfort and hope as Jesus did to Mary because death is defeated. Resurrection day is when the lapsed return to worship God, a sinner turns to God in faith, new members are received, children receive First Communion, and choir members dig deep to praise God despite not having a director because death is defeated.

Resurrection is and continues to be the celebration of life! So, come and join in the celebration of Easter with sisters and brothers who were dead and are raised to life in baptism. Celebrate what God in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit has done and continues to do in you that is life-giving. Your story is worth telling for in so doing you “let your light so shine before people, that they will see the good things you do and praise your God” (Matt. 5:16).

A blessed Easter to you!

Pastor Orin



## "Message from the Congregation Council President"

### Message from Congregational Council President

"Without counsel, plans fail, but with many advisers, they succeed." (Proverbs 15:22). The Congregational Council Retreat was a day to help us plan for the year with each member as an advisor. Setting goals and having a purpose is what Jesus and the disciples taught through scripture and action. Jesus and his disciples showed us that their journey was not just happenstance. It had a purpose, which made it successful.

The Congregational Council met on Saturday, February 10, 2024. This was a fun and strategic day of fellowship among the Congregation Council members, wherein each participant had input. Proverbs 16:3 states, "Commit your work to the lord, and your plans will be established." This happened the entire day, with each member committing their work to the Lord. Through prayer, fellowship, reflection, and guidance, the Council rose to see beyond the horizon to what we want to aspire to. The Council worked diligently and voiced their opinion to come up with continued needs and aspirations with group cohesion. This day of planning was fruitful.

As it says in Proverbs 21:5, "The plans of the diligent lead to profit." We have created goals and potential action steps since then, so please look for the final draft soon. Then, the real work begins with help from the Lord, as it says in Proverbs 16:9, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." So, we will approach this year with a plan and purpose, but we will give it to the Lord to show us our steps.

Blessings,  
Lindsey Dillion

## March Flowers

January	2/3	9/10	16/17	23/24	30/31
Vase 1			Bowman Family Jay's Birthday		
Vase 2					



### Flower Vase Costs

Cost per vase is \$20. Please make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church, and then in the memo line, write "Altar Flowers" and the date for which you are paying. If you are using an offering envelope, you will find a line for "Altar Flowers" and the amount.



**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!** Psalms 22:26

## Congregational Care

### 10 Tips for Healthy Eating

1. Eat before shopping to avoid making impulsive food choices
2. Avoid saving up your calories for special meals. Eat balanced meals and snacks all day!
3. If you're contributing to a meal take something healthy
4. If you're eating at a buffet survey what's available to build a healthy balanced plate
5. Enjoy alcohol in moderation, stick to 1-2 servings
6. At a party, spend more time socializing, less time grazing
7. Instead of sweets, maybe healthy gift choices such as flavored olive oils, spices, etc.
8. Re-evaluate your appetite before going for seconds, it can take up to 10 minutes to feel full
9. Stay active! Take walks and play active games
10. Get motivated. Set realistic Fitness & Nutrition goals!

Cassie Dimmick, AYB Nutrition & Training GOALS



O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen**

### Prayer of the Day



This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24

## March Birthdays

March 1 Elaine Novak Billie Stewart	March 10 Trevor Brannon	March 19 Jeff Davis	March 25 Holly Marsh
March 4 Rob Bergin Alex Hover	March 11 Jayne Davis Julie Jackson	March 20 Jay Bowman	March 26 Jeffery Brannon Angie Myers
March 5 Karen Ward	March 13 Cathy Carlton	March 21 Jessica Atchison Irene Chaloupecky	March 28 Penny Gordon-Chumbly
March 7 Adam Melgren Ben Melgren	March 14 Jared Burnell Don Kendall	March 23 Bev Carlson	March 29 Brandi Murr
March 9 Betty Lundh	March 15 Dennis Hoffman Richard Sims	March 24 Mike Hudson	March 30 Susie Rucker

If you have a birthday please email the church office at [officemanager@messiahmo.org](mailto:officemanager@messiahmo.org) so that we can get your name and birthday added to the birthday list. We would love to recognize you in the monthly Spirit newsletter.

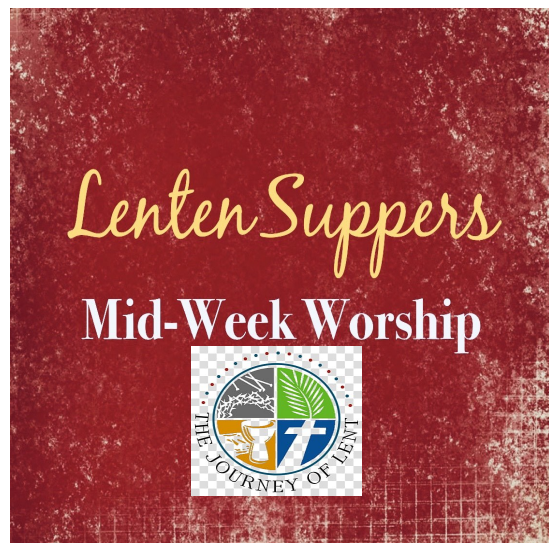
## Calendar Change

Thursday, March 21

Mark your calendars Pub Theology and Wine, Wit, & Wisdom moved their meetings to the Third Thursday for March only at this time due to the fourth Thursday is Maunday Thursday.

PUB THEOLOGY—MEETING MARCH 21 @ 7 P.M.

WINE, WIT, & WISDOM—MEETING MARCH 21 @ 5:30 PM AT RED LOBSTER



Youth & Family Ministry

### Youth and Family Committee - Upcoming Events

**March 17** - We look forward to a visit from Ethan Feistner, the director of Camp Tomah Shinga. He will be sharing information about the camping programming being offered this summer.

**April 1** - Final payment for the Youth Gathering attendees is due.

**April 14** - Tentative date for Youth and Family bowling - watch for more info in the Midweek Messengers and April Spirit!

**April 21** - Casserole sales return!

## Women of the ELCA

### Mark Your Calendar

Messiah Women of the ELCA

General Meeting

April 6, 2024

9:30 - Noon

- Bible Study
- "Israel Through Our Eyes"  
Marty Gentry will present a guided tour of their recent trip to Israel.
- Food and Conversation
- Offering designated to ELCA Middle East Crisis

You do not need to attend a circle to join us for this event

~All Messiah women are welcome~



God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)

## Parish Life



Sunday morning fellowship time We wish to thank the Youth and Family Committee and Congregational Care for taking care of the fellowship times February 11 and 18. Our committee continues to provide refreshments on Sundays when other groups don't have special occasions. Come join us and get better acquainted with your church family.

### Lenten Suppers

Different groups within the church are providing "crockpot suppers" prior to Wednesday evening worship. Supper is served from 5:15-6:45. This is another wonderful fellowship opportunity. Representatives from Parish Life will help facilitate the suppers.

### Easter Breakfast

There will be a simple breakfast of beverages, pastries, and fruit following the Easter Sunday morning service. Please come join us!



## Crosslines

On February 1, our hard-working Crosslines volunteers served 89 families / 205 individuals. Thank you Becky R, Marilyn D, Susan L, Annetta S, Mary Anne J, Martha M, Lisa M, and new volunteers Carol and John Flanders.

Please remember not to donate expired food to the wagon. We just have to throw it away.

From you comes my praise in the <sup>l</sup> great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who <sup>l</sup> fear the LORD.

Psalms 22:25

## New Council Member



My formal name is Catherine Murrell, but I go by Cathy. I was born and baptized a Lutheran, being my dad was a good Lutheran Swede. We started with the LCA church and I remember when it changed to the ELCA. When my husband and I moved here with our 2 sons in 2006. I had an option for 2 ELCA churches and I chose the one that offered daytime VBS, since I was not working at the time. We immediately made friends and stayed with Messiah. Funny how small things bring us in, but good people keep us here.

I currently work full time as an Architect. Our boys have moved out and moved on. We have a granddaughter and grandson through my oldest Mason and his wife Haylie. Sawyer, our youngest, will be graduating from grad school this spring. My mom Pat, moved in with us and we all attend the Saturday evening service.

This will be my first time as a council member. I hope to do well, but know that there are good people willing to help me out.



## New Members

New members will be received during worship on March 3rd.

If you are interested in New Member classes please reach out to Vickie Donnell, Evangelism Committee.

## Messiah Child Development Teacher of the Month

My name is Mandy and I'm currently working on obtaining my nursing degree with hopes of switching to cox college in the fall of 2024. In my free time I enjoy camping, thrift shopping and going on walks with my kiddos.

I enjoy working at the center because getting to be a part of a child's timeline at any age is such a blessing. Watching them grow and knowing that you have a hand in shaping them into who they will become is something I will never take for granted. Walking into a classroom and being greeted with hugs and smiling faces from kiddos is an amazing feeling that fills you with warmth.



## Farewell, Godspeed

Following worship on February 18th, many gathered to wish Margaret Peterson farewell, as she moves to close to her daughter and family. She was blessed earlier in the month with a farewell by her Piecemaker Friends, receiving a quilt pieced by Susan Spathe.



May God bless you and take care of you; May God be kind and gracious to you; May God look on you with favor and give you peace. Farewell Friend: May God go with you as you leave this place.



## Supporting our Pastors

"Well, I didn't get as much out of church today as I should have" Of course, we have never said that.... but have you ever heard that? Perhaps we personally have not always put as much into our worship as we should have. However, if you have concerns or suggestions about the service or Messiah's ministry, you can speak to the Mutual Ministry members. The Mutual Ministry committee is tasked to be the "eyes and ears" for our pastors to support their ministry. It is not a personnel committee. *"The Mutual Ministry Committee shall support and facilitate the mutual ministry of the rostered minister and congregation members."* Members, Joy Ward, Jack Dimond, Dave Siewert, Alex Hover, Carolyn Gerdes, and Lisa Melgren, meet monthly with Pastor Orin and Vicar Samuel. Messiah members respect and appreciate our pastors but are we supporting them as best we can?

Jesus spoke of respect and honor for the pastors who would follow him to spread the message. "Whoever serves me must follow me and where I am, my servant will also be. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him" (John 12:26). Continuing verses contain Jesus's prayer for the disciples that they be consecrated to the truth and to keep them from the evil one. Jesus was speaking of the sanctity of the truth of his message that would reside with the disciples and those who would teach the Word in the next generations.

The letter in Hebrews, addresses second generation Christians to correct confusions that had already begun to creep into the message. The author emphasized the obligation to obey the teachers (pastors) who brought the Word to avoid apostasy. Hebrews, 13:7-9 "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led astray by diverse and strange teachings." 13:17 "Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you."

So, what further can we do? There are many ideas, below are a few.

- Pray for Pastor Orin, Vicar Samuel, and their families. Not surprisingly, this was the request from our pastors as most important. (See suggestion below)
- Be open to the Word and new ideas. Pastors teach from the Word but sometimes take some risk in their message.
- Speak to them to tell them what their message meant to you or send a note or email on what they mean to us. An example of how our minds and hearts are opened by them would be welcome.
- Nurture their families with opportunities to be together "off duty."

### Prayer

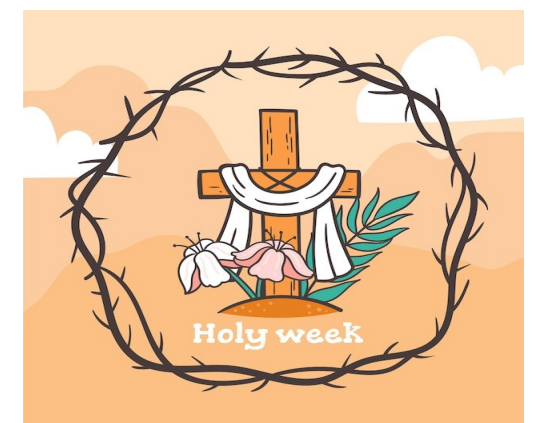
God our father almighty, we pray for Pastor Cummings and Vicar Samuel and their families. Keep them whole and safe in your love and protection. Remind us that what we receive in the Word and sacraments are blessings from you through our pastors. Remind us that the blessings need our open ears, minds, and hearts. Help guide Messiah congregation to actively support Pastor Cummings and Vicar Samuel for their sake and for your service. Help Messiah respond such that Pastor and Vicar can serve you gladly. Amen

In the Lord's service, Mutual Ministry committee.

## Seeds of Inspiration

As spring approaches, you begin to think about planting flowers or maybe even a garden. All of these things are beautiful and we need food to sustain us, but do you think about the spiritual seeds of inspiration.

- ◇ **Strength**—God's Spirit gives you Power, Love, Self-control & Strength
- ◇ **Thankful**—Give thanks to the Lord for He is Good
- ◇ **Courage**—You are the light of the world. A city on a hill that cannot be hidden
- ◇ **Patience**—When we pray we don't always pray for patience. Pour our gentleness & love to one another and to those who try our patience
- ◇ **Faith**—May your Faith not rest in human wisdom but in God's power
- ◇ **Joy**—Go out in Joy and be led into a whole and complete life
- ◇ **Peace**—Give all your worries to God because He cares for you
- ◇ **Wisdom**—Wisdom is more precious than rubies and nothing compares with God
- ◇ **Hope**—Hope in the Lord and renew your strength. You will soar on wings like eagles
- ◇ **Trust**—Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take
- ◇ **Love**—Nothing can separate us from God's Love



Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

Psalms 25:5