

The SPIRIT August 2025



Education Forum: Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where individuals are exploited for commercial sex or labor through force, fraud, or coercion. It's a global issue, happening in both urban and rural areas, and can affect anyone, regardless of age, race, or gender. It's estimated that 27.6 million people were being trafficked during 2022.

Human Trafficking 101 is an overview of human trafficking including what human trafficking looks like in Southwest Missouri. This presentation will include a discussion of the signs to look for as well as the risk factors that can put both adults and children at a higher risk of both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We will also discuss the impact that technology has had on human trafficking and online exploitation as it has made it easier than ever to exploit vulnerable people, especially children.

Stand Against Trafficking Coalition is an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to mobilize the community to end human trafficking in the Ozarks.

Susan Prine will be speaking to Messiah congregation after the worship service on August 24, 2025. She is Director of **Stand Against Trafficking Coalition**. Please make plans to join us for this presentation.



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If you are interested in becoming a member of Messiah Lutheran Church please contact the church office at 417-881-2192 or by email at Messiah@messiahmo.org. You can also speak with Pastor Orin or Vickie Donnell after worship.

Messiah Staff

Rev. Orin Cummings, PhD	Pastor	pastor@messiahmo.org
Abbey Knappman	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
Chris Evans	Custodian p/t	custodian@messiahmo.org
Karen Bowman	Contemporary Music Coordinator	karen.bowman@messiahmo.org
Sheryl Hansen	Senior Choir Director	sheryl.hansen@messiahmo.org
Drew Bowman	Assistant A/V Technician, p/t	drew.bowman@messiahmo.org
Jessica Phillips	Director, Lighthouse	jessicaphillips@lighthousecfdc.org
Melody Farabee	Family Support Coordinator	messiahlighthousefsc@gmail.com

Contractor

Marilyn Boston	Musical Services	marilynboston@att.net
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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Saints,

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

When asked, “Who are you?”, we are not just asking for a label. We are not looking for a resume, or a category. We are asking about relationships history, context and so on. A name is not just a tag. It is a story. You are a story that is being written.

Mention of the name Jesus of Nazareth is an example of an individual rooted in a time, a place, and a community. Even today, our surnames, hometowns, or the way we introduce ourselves — “I am Mary from Magdala, a follower of Jesus Christ” — helps others understand how we see ourselves, and how we want to be seen.

Identity is both *given* and *chosen*. Others name us, but we name ourselves too. Some names we inherit; others we claim. Some we grow into, for example a mother/father, mentor, friend or leader. Some we relinquish, e.g. perfectionist or people-pleaser or unworthy or Abram for Abraham. It is becoming more common to construct our own identity rather than stick with something given through family or genes.

Our truest name is the one that speaks to our eternal worth and belonging as a child of God. This is not a title we earn. It is a gift we receive through faith in Jesus Christ. So, the heart of a relationship with God is baptism. Not simply a ritual of water, but a moment when we are named: children of God. “To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God” (John 1:12).

Through baptism—new birth—our sin (the barrier between us and God) is washed away. “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above” (John 3:3). We are forgiven and claimed! “You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Romans 8:15–17). Thus, we belong to God’s family.

Baptism, then, is the beginning of that becoming where love becomes our defining characteristic. As Jesus taught, the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbor.

For some, identity is defined by power, wealth, or status, but not so for those who follow Christ. For Christians, love is the defining mark of who we are, the mark of the children of God. This love is not abstract or sentimental. It shapes how we live, how we relate, and how we respond, especially in a world often driven by fear, division, and self-interest.

As Christians, how we are with others matters deeply. We are called to forsake the ways of the world and walk in the way of love. We love instead of hate. We show compassion rather than respond with violence. We build up, not tear down. We affirm, not reject. And this begins with those closest to us: our families, neighbors, and fellow believers. The church is not just a gathering place. It is a family where this love is lived out daily, in real and practical ways.

Our identity as children of God is not just something we claim. It is something we live. And when we love as Christ loves, we reflect our true name: beloved daughters and sons of Abba/Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In Christ,

Pastor Orin



It's Time to Make a Joyful Noise!!!

Our music groups are gearing up for another great season of singing and ringing God's praises!

Alleluia Singers will resume practices on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on August 20th. This dedicated, friendly group prepares music for the Traditional worship services on the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays of the month and the Festival services of the church year. This choir is always open to new voices and adult participants of all ages. If you are interested in knowing more about this group, please speak with Director Sheryl Hansen or any choir member.

Joy Ringers is our adult handbell choir. This talented, dedicated group will resume practices on Wednesday, August 27th at 6:30 p.m. Joy Ringers provides musical offerings for various worship services approximately once a month and for many of our Festival services and special occasions in the life of the church. Please speak to Director Lucy Stillwell, or any member of the bell choir if you are interested in being part of this group.

We also have music groups for young people to ring and sing. These groups are directed by Mark Herron and Rachel Bergin. Please speak to them if you are interested in knowing more about these groups.



Safe to Sleep

We are needing volunteers for overnights at Safe to Sleep. There are two shifts, 7 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. or 10 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.. You will have a 4-hour window to sleep. The address is 1232 E Dale, Springfield. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please reach out to Jessica Luraas by emailing her @ jluraas@ccoarks.org

Christian Education

BACKPACK BLESSING

On **Saturday, August 16, and Sunday, August 17**, youth are invited to bring their backpacks to service and receive a special blessing and prayer as they start the 2025-2026 school year.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On **Sunday, September 7**, the start of the educational year at Messiah will kick off with Rally Day. The theme for the year will be introduced and there will be special activities happening that morning starting at 10:45 a.m.

Confirmation and Sunday School instruction will begin on

Sunday, September 14. There will be more details in the September Spirit.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

The last two years of offering has been distributed between 2 causes that the kids voted on.

\$240.50 was split between Rescue One and The Developmental Center of the Ozarks. What a caring group of kids.

A new cause will be decided on by the youth this September.

MILESTONE MINISTRY

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 14.

Bibles will be presented to 2nd graders or anyone who has missed past presentations.

Announcements

- Aug. 2 Vicar Abbey begins internship
- Aug 3-7 VBS-Messiah & Prince of Peace "True North"
- Aug. 7 Life Line screening
- Aug. 8 Marilyn Boston Student Piano Recital
- Aug. 9 Seminole Holland Neighborhood
Produce Exchange in the parking lot
- Aug. 10 Welcome Celebration for Vicar Abbey
- Aug. 17 Parish Life Breakfast Potluck
- Aug. 17 Church Council Meeting
- Aug. 24 Human Trafficking Education Forum
- Aug. 25 Grief Share Begins Fall session
- Aug. 27 Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association
Pot Luck
- Aug. 30/31 Healing Service

Altar Flower Committee



If you are interested in contributing to the altar flowers, we still have openings in the book throughout the year. Please check with the church office by calling 417-881-2192, stopping by or emailing officemanager@messiahmo.org.

The cost per vase is \$20.00. If you pay by check please put "for altar flowers" in the memo

Crosslines

On July 3rd Sandra Carlson, Marilyn Dial, John and Carol Flanders, Mary Anne Johnson, Lisa Melgren, Martha Morris, Sheila Schaeffer, and Annetta Svagara served 89 families / 208 individuals at Crosslines.

Crosslines has switched to using laundry soap pods so it is no longer collecting the empty water bottles for liquid soap. So no more bottles in the wagon. Thanks!

This will leave more room for boxed and canned goods and hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, shampoo, combs, adult diapers, etc.). Any baby items are always welcome, too. Please continue to carefully check expiration dates on all food items! If you are traveling this summer, be sure to save sample-size hotel shampoos and soaps. They are always glad to get these.

Parish Life

Our committee continues to provide refreshments during the fellowship hour, following worship on Sundays.

Please join us for fellowship time in the fellowship hall this month on August 10 to Meet & Greet for Vicar Abbey to Messiah and on August 17 we will be having a potluck brunch following worship.

There will be a sign-up sheet in Mission Hall for you to use so we know how many to expect. Please bring your favorite dish.



Be watching the Midweek Messenger for a dinner location for August. We hope you will join us.

Let me know if you'd like to attend or if you have questions. Email debbiecorlett@sbcglobal.net or text me at 417-848-9426.



Messiah Book Club

Messiah Book Club meets monthly in the library at 2:30-4 p.m. second Thursday of each month

AUGUST 2025

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid, published in 2017, is a historical drama that tells the story of the fictional old-Hollywood star Evelyn Hugo, who at age 79 gives a final interview to an unknown journalist. Evelyn was reclusive but wanted to auction her famous gown collection to raise money for a breast cancer charity. However, at the interview, Evelyn reveals she wants the journalist to write her biography...thus this book .

BOOK SELECTIONS for 2025-26

OCTOBER 2025 Theo of Golden, published 2024, by Allen Levi, is an endearing story of a curious old man who quietly moves into a southern city and for reasons unknown to anyone but himself, undertakes a campaign of anonymous generosity.

NOVEMBER 2025 James, published in 2024, by Percival Everett, reimagines Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn from the perspective of Jim, the enslaved Black man who accompanies Huck Finn. Taking place in 1861, Jim learns he's to be sold to a New Orleans owner which separates him from his family.

DECEMBER 2025 Lovers in Auschwitz, published 2024, by Keren Blankfeld, is an unbelievable true story of romance, sacrifice, loss, and resilience. It chronicles the lives of two young people ensnared in the Nazi horrific creation, who discovered hope and humanity in history's darkest hour.

JANUARY 2026 Mother of Pearl, published 1999, by Melinda Haynes, is set in 1950s Mississippi. The story is about Even Grade, a Black man who grew up an orphan, and Valuable Korner, a white girl who is the daughter of the town prostitute. They are both separately seeking the family, love and affection they have not had.

FEBRUARY 2026 Winter Solstice, published 2000, by Rosamunde Pilcher, is about an actress who moves from London to the little village of Dibton, eager to make a fresh start.

MARCH 2026 The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters, published 2024, is a debut novel that follow a Mi'kmaq family from Nova Scotia who travel to Maine each

summer to pick blueberries. The story centers on the disappearance of four year old Ruthie from the fields, and the impact it has on her brother Joe, the last to see her.

APRIL 2026 The Great Divide by Cristina Henriquez is a powerful novel about the construction of the Panama Canal. Published in 1924, it casts light on the unsung people who lived, loved, and labored there. This canal is said to be the greatest feat of engineering in history.

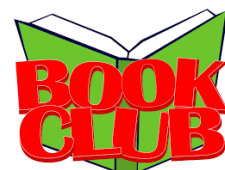
MAY 2026 The Kingdom, Power and Glory, 2023, by Tim Alberta, paints a troubling portrait of the American evangelical movement. He highlights ways conservative Christians have pursued, exercised, and often abused power in the name of securing this earthly kingdom.

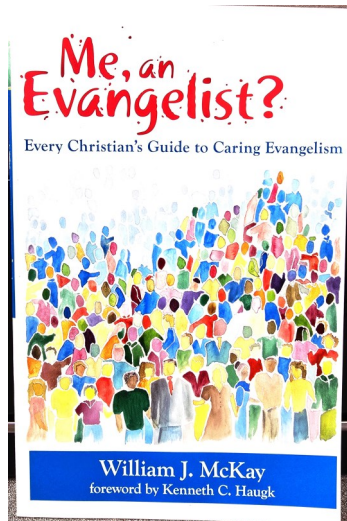
JUNE 2026 The Measure, by Nikki Erlick, follows eight people after they, like the rest of the world, receive a box containing a string that designates their lifespan. The book explores how these people's lives and relationships change as a result of knowing the length of their lives or choosing not to know at all.

JULY 2026 The Secret Chord, published 2015, by Geraldine Brooks, reimagines the life of King David through the eyes of the prophet Nathan, his constant companion. This book makes us think about what qualities a leader needs to have.

AUGUST 2026 Code Name Helene by Ariel Lawhon, published in 2020, is a work of historical fiction inspired by the real story of Nancy Grace Augusta Wake. When her husband goes to war against the Germans, she becomes a leader on the French Resistance, a most wanted person on the Nazi target list.

SEPTEMBER 2026 When Breath Becomes Air, 2016, is a nonfiction memoir written by neurosurgeon Paul Kalanithi, as he battles stage 4 metastatic lung cancer. The epilogue is written by his wife, Lucy, after his death. It shows her point of view on the experience with her husband.





*~Learning to Share Our Faith~
Council's 2025 Goal for Messiah Congregation*

**Have you ever wished that you were better at sharing
your faith and communicating
the love of Christ to other people?**

Be a part of this 11-session Adult Education Forum
beginning on Rally Day following worship.

Council will lead this forum discussing the book
Me, an Evangelist?
Every Christian's Guide to Caring Evangelism
By William J. McKay

September Sessions	
DATE	CONTENT
Sept. 7	Chapter 1--Taking the Fear Out of Evangelism
	Chapter 2--Evangelizing the Evangelists
Sept. 14	Chapter 3--Growing in God
	Chapter 4--Process-oriented Evangelism
Sept. 21	Chapter 5--Building an Evangelizing Relationship
	Chapter 6--Listening: The Most Important Skill
Sept. 28	Chapter 7--Empathic Evangelism
	Chapter 8--Holistic Evangelism

Get your copy of the book for \$12.00 by calling the office.
If paying by check, put "evangelism book" in the memo line.

***"...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body
of Christ..." Ephesians 4:12***

VBS Messiah & Prince of Peace



VBS will be held here at Messiah Lutheran Church and co-hosted with Prince of Peace.
August 3 through 7.

We will serve a light meal each evening at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

VBS will start at 5:45 till 8 p.m.



Blood Drive

Messiah Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall
925 E. Seminole, Springfield

Monday, September 8, 2025

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

To schedule an appointment call 417-227-5006 or go to www.cbco.org/donate-blood



Scan or visit
www.cbco.org/zoo
for more info.

Sponsored by:



Photo identification required. Please eat well and drink plenty of fluids prior to the blood drive.

Community Blood Center of the Ozarks is the exclusive provider of blood to ALL your area hospitals.



Confirmation Class 2025 led by Pastor Orin



Classes Begin: Sunday, September 14



Time: 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Location: Church Office

Confirmation Sunday, October 27, 2025

All candidates preparing for confirmation are invited to join this important journey of faith and learning. Attendance is essential from September 14 through October 19 as we explore what it means to affirm your baptism and live as a disciple of Christ. If you have questions or scheduling concerns, please contact Pastor Orin.



Refreshing Summer Salad

- 3 6 oz. containers of vanilla yogurt
- 1 3.4 oz box of cheesecake instant pudding
- 1 12 oz. container of CoolWhip
- 1/2 c. blueberries
- 1/2 c. blackberries
- 1/2 c. raspberries
- 2 c. strawberries sliced
- 3 c. miniature marshmallows (optional)

Instructions

1. Place the whipped topping, pudding mix and yogurt into a large bowl. Whisk together. Cover and refrigerate until just before serving (at least an hour).
2. Remove whipped cream/pudding mixture from refrigerator and gently fold in sliced strawberries, berries, and marshmallows, and stir gently to combine.
3. Serve immediately.

Messiah Lighthouse Child & Family Development Center Employee Recognition



We want to thank Ms. Sally for 15+ years of service here at Messiah Lighthouse. She has fed hundreds of children and staff over the years. She always made sure everyone was well fed and taken care of. She took pride in decorating the center and organizing special parties for the children at each holiday. Children always thought Ms. Sally's food was delicious. Parents would come ask her how she made certain items because their child wouldn't eat the same thing at home. We are thankful for her being a faithful cook for 15+ years. We will miss her greatly!

We had our Family Picnic on July 17th. It was a huge success and all the families really enjoyed themselves. We want to thank the church for providing the meal and thank you to the following members for contributing to the evening's events: Pastor Orin, Nancy Hoeman, Joy Ward, Mary Keidle, Charles Hill, Ed Donnell, Bud Schwab, and Mark Herron. We enjoyed an evening full of fellowship, food, and games.

August Flowers

	Aug. 2/3	Aug. 9/10	Aug. 16/17	Aug. 23/24	Aug. 30/31
Vase 1	Ben & Pat Schultz	Mike & Susan Lane	Norma Isenberg	Michael & Nancy Hoeman	
Vase 2		Mike & Susan Lane	Debbie Corlett	Rex & Mary Ann Johnson	



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.



www.messiahmo.org



messiah@messiahmo.org

MessiahMOELCA



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA



925 E. Seminole, Springfield, MO 65807

MessiahMoELCA

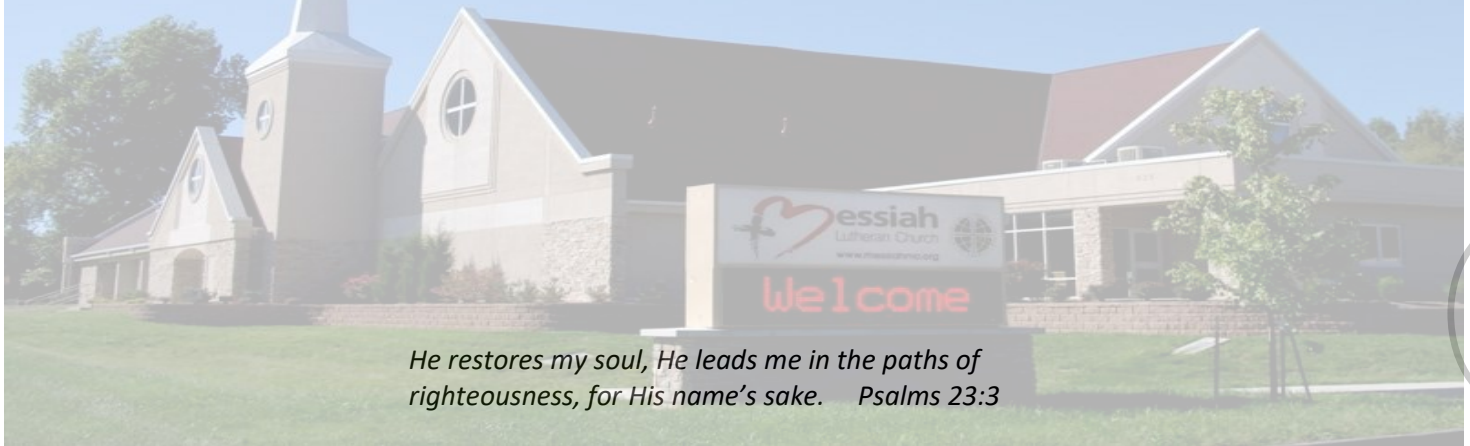


417-881-2192

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

**Return Address Requested*

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Permit 1339



*He restores my soul, He leads me in the paths of
righteousness, for His name's sake. Psalms 23:3*

August Scripture Readings

Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
2/3	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23	49:1-12	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
9/10	Genesis 15:1-6	33:12-22	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
16/17	Jeremiah 23:23-29	82	Hebrews 11:29—12:2	Luke 12:49-56
23/24	Isaiah 58:9b-14	103:1-8	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17
30/31	Proverbs 25:6-7a	112	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14

Mark Your Calendars

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|-------------------|--|
| Aug. 2 | Vicar Abbey begins internship |
| Aug. 3-7 | VBS-Messiah & Prince of Peace "True North" |
| Aug. 7 | Life Line screening |
| Aug. 8 | Marilyn Boston Student Piano Recital |
| Aug. 9 | Seminole Holland Neighborhood Produce Exchange in the parking lot |
| Aug. 10 | Welcome Celebration for Vicar Abbey |
| Aug. 17 | Parish Life Breakfast Potluck |
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