

# *The SPIRIT*

*September* 2026

Vol. 1 Issue 9

## **Grow With God**

We hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing summer! Although it's still hot outside, we're looking ahead to cooler days and are excited about the start of Sunday School.

Sunday School kicks off on **September 13** with **Rally Sunday**. Our theme this year is **Grow With God** and all kids age 2 and up are welcome to join us upstairs that day from 10:45-11:30 and in the Fellowship Hall for games, crafts, and snacks.

If anyone is interested in assisting in either of our Sunday School classrooms this year, please reach out to Tara Melgren, Susie Rucker, Beth Melgren, or Katie Dogwiler. We have a great group of kids! We meet each week from 10:45-11:30, and start with everyone together singing fun songs with Rachel Bergin. We then split into two groups for the lesson: kids age 2 to pre-kindergarten meet with Beth and Susie, and kids from kindergarten to 6th grade meet with Tara and Katie.



## **Receiving New Members**

Are you or someone you know interested in exploring more about the Christian faith or church membership as practiced by Lutherans and Messiah members?

There will be a Lutheran/Messiah Basics Class planned for September 20th at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A light meal will be served.

Please notify the church office at 417-831-2192 or email [officemanaer@messiahmo.org](mailto:officemanaer@messiahmo.org) to let us know how many to plan for.

New members will be received during worship on the weekend of September 27th.

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|----------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Saints,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our crucified, risen, and ascended Lord and coming Savior, Jesus Christ.

It has been a busy summer because many of our members have been traveling and vacationing, while others have experienced the sorrow of saying goodbye to loved ones who have been called home to the Lord. We still have two celebration of life services to conduct, and we continue to hold these families in our prayers.

As summer gives way to fall, we look forward to cooler temperatures, and hopefully, some much-needed rain. It has been a dry season, and we pray that God will refresh the earth as we prepare to begin a new season of ministry together.

*Join us for*  
**"God's work. Our hands."**

A dedicated day of  
service in our community.



There is much to look forward to this fall. One of the highlights of our fall will be our **13th Annual God's Work, Our Hands Neighborhood Cleanup**, taking place on **Saturday, September 12, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth and adults to come together in service, strengthen our relationships with one another, and make a positive difference in the lives of our neighbors. This year, we are adding a picnic to the event, giving us even more time to share conversation, fellowship, and friendship with those in our community. Let us put our faith into action and show our neighbors what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ!

The very next day is **Rally Sunday**, when we officially kick off our fall activities. There is so much to be excited about. Following worship, we will have fun activities and treats for the children, along with our **Ministries Fair** in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate our Christian Education program, learn about the many ministries of our congregation, and discover new ways to share your gifts and talents in service to Christ and His Church. Come, enjoy the fellowship, support our children and youth, and find a ministry where you can get involved.

On **Monday, September 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, we will have our **Annual Blood Drive**. Our goal is to collect at least **22 units** for our Community Blood Bank. Giving blood is a simple but powerful way to serve others. Every donation has the potential to save a life. I encourage you to consider participating and helping us reach and hopefully exceed our goal.



Finally, I invite you to join us after worship in the sanctuary for **Adult Forum beginning September 20**. This fall, we will begin an engaging series entitled **"Making Sense of Martin Luther."** Together, we will explore topics including **Justification by Grace through Faith, The Ambidextrous God, Semper Simul**, and other important themes from Luther's theology and our Lutheran heritage. This will be an opportunity not only to learn more about Martin Luther and what we believe as Lutheran Christians, but also to deepen our faith and become better equipped to boldly share the Gospel with others. Come prepared to learn, ask questions, grow in faith, and enjoy the fellowship of your sisters and brothers in Christ.

In addition to the above mentioned ministries, Youth Group and Fireflies will resume meeting. Youth Group will meet in the Youth Room with Pastor on Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. and Fireflies will meet on Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room.

There is a lot happening this fall, and I hope you will find many opportunities to participate. Whether through serving our neighbors, supporting our children and youth, giving blood, learning together, or simply sharing fellowship, **there is a place for each of us in the life and ministry of our congregation.**

Let us enter this new season with joyful and willing hearts, open hands, and a renewed commitment to being God's people at work in our congregation and in our community. I look forward to seeing you in worship and serving alongside you in the weeks ahead!

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Orin

## From the Desk of Council President

### *Flashbulb Memories*

25 years since 9/11

Flashbulb memories are specific memories surrounding unexpected and impactful news events. People can often recall where they were, their actions, and the time when they heard the news. Major historical moments, like the assassination of prominent figures, serve as prime examples of these memories.

**September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001:** The terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon are among the most often cited examples of Flashbulb Memories (FBMs) in the United States. It was a shocking event that received a tremendous amount of news coverage in every country around the globe. I was at home getting prepared to take my spouse to Cox Hospital for some same-day surgery.

**Death of Princess Diana:** In the early morning hours of August 31, 1997, Princess Diana died of injuries sustained in a car crash in a tunnel in Paris. News coverage around the world was extensive and lasted for weeks, undoubtedly creating an enduring FBM in the minds of billions of people. My family was at home watching a show on television.

**Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.:** April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1968 has gone down in U. S. history as one of the most shocking events in the country's existence. It happened in Memphis. I was at home watching television.

**The Passing of a Beloved Grandparent:** Not all FBMs are created as a result of a public event that affects an entire society. The passing of a beloved grandparent can be traumatic enough to be ingrained in an individual's memory for a lifetime. I remember my mother being on the phone when she got the news that Grandma had died.

**A Marriage Proposal:** A proposal for marriage is usually a very private, intimate moment; quite the opposite of a public event. However, it fits many of the conceptual conditions for an FBM, including being personally significant, distinct, unexpected, and involving strong emotions. That happened for me at Inspiration Point at Shepherd of the Hills Homestead in Branson.

**A Medical Diagnosis:** Learning the outcome of an important medical exam can be a traumatic event. Although it may not have consequences for a society or general public, it will more than likely produce an FBM for the individual receiving the news. Every time I have a colonoscopy I am amazed when I wake up.

**Pregnancy Test Results:** The moment a couple discovers they will have a baby might be one of the most memorable events in their lives. Although the event itself can be anticipated and planned for, it is still dramatic enough to produce an FBM that may endure

for a lifetime. Both times for me it involved a home pregnancy test.

**Challenger Space Shuttle Disaster:** On January 28, 1986, the entire world was glued to their television screens as the Challenger Space Shuttle, exploded shortly after launch. This tragedy that took the lives of seven individuals, including a civilian teacher, turned into a flashbulb memory for many amidst the shock and collective grief. I was in the HBA section of Kmart on Sunshine Street.

**Fall of the Berlin Wall:** The unexpected downfall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, signifies an FBM for those who witnessed the monumental event, marking a turning point in global history. It captured the essence of freedom and united a divided Germany. I watched it unfold on television at home.

**Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings:** The devastating bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan on August 6 and 9, 1945, respectively, were such traumatic events, they produced intense and enduring FBMs in the minds of survivors and the global community. I was not alive yet.

**First moon landing:** On July 20, 1969, millions witnessed the historic moment when Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon. This achievement in human history undoubtedly created a flashbulb memory, particularly for those who recall the historic words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Was at home watching the event on TV.

**The Assassination of John F. Kennedy:** The tragic news of U.S. President John F. Kennedy's assassination on November 22, 1963 razed the nation, making it an FBM for those who remember the time, place, and emotional reaction to the event. I remember being in elementary school and being told by our teacher.

**Graduation Day:** A vivid FBM for many students would be their graduation day. The mixed feelings of accomplishment, anticipation, and apprehension are dramatic enough to etch this moment in their lifelong memory.

**Birth of First Child:** The birth of a first child is a private yet intense occasion for parents that typically etches a long-standing FBM thanks to its unmatched emotional depth and significance. Both times I got to be in the delivery room.

**A Near-Death Experience:** Such experiences heighten a person's awareness and emotional response and can leave a powerful FBM that lasts a lifetime. I remember vividly going through a rock wall that stopped a jeep from going off a cliff.

**The Start of Covid:** March 2020, a global health crisis that impacted daily life. I was in Hot Springs, Arkansas on a Thursday night for the Friday horse races at Oaklawn. I got a text that read. Horse racing is on, no spectators allowed beginning tomorrow, Casino will be opened.

Have you got a Flashbulb Memory you would like to share? Send it to me at [ScotFranson@gmail.com](mailto:ScotFranson@gmail.com).

## **Messiah Lighthouse Child & Family Development Center**

We are currently enrolling ages 1 year to age 6 if you have friends or family looking for a Christian daycare.

We also currently have an infant lead teacher role open. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please have them reach out to Jessica Phillips, Center Director.



We invite the women of Messiah to join us for Wine, Wit and Wisdom gathering for great food and fellowship.

Watch the Midweek Messenger for more information. For more information, please contact Debbie Corlett at 417-848-9426 or [debbiecorlett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debbiecorlett@sbcglobal.net)

## **Crosslines**

We had a small group of hardworking Crosslines volunteers on August 6th. Those present were John and Carol Flanders, Becky Roark, Carolyn Gerdes, Donny McKinney, Dean McDowell, Patty Hangen, and Lisa Melgren. They served 99 families/225 people along with our partners from Grace Methodist. Just a reminder that shelf-stable food and hygiene products are much appreciated and can be placed in the wagon next to the water fountain. Checks are welcome too!

## **Ministries Fair**

Ministries fair September 13 following worship

All committees and groups in the church are invited to have a table for the ministries fair in order to share your ministry opportunities with our church members. Everyone is welcome to come for this event. If your group is interested and has not already contacted parish life committee, please do so prior to September 6, so that we can prepare for everyone. Contact person is Lucy Stillwell.



## **Parish Life**

Mark your calendars for our Ministries Fair September 13, following the worship service. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the different groups in our church.

We will be taking a "field trip" to Hermann, Missouri to celebrate Oktoberfest on October 10. We plan to carpool, leaving church at 8:30am and leaving Hermann around 4:30 pm. There will be a sign up sheet in Mission Hall by mid-September. Come join us!

For our November activity we are planning on having adventures November 22. Mark your calendars.



Messiah will be hosting God's Work Our Hands for the 13<sup>th</sup> year on **September 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.** A sign up sheet will be posted at the church or you can call the church office to volunteer.

This is a great opportunity for our youth to get involved and share their talents with this outreach.

Volunteers are needed for:

Assist in drive through:

- \* Directing Traffic
- \* Dumpster captain: to unload vehicles into designated dumpsters
- \* **Important** to make sure that we do not take the **Forbidden items below**
- \* Assist with unloading vehicles with scrap metal to scrap dumpsters
- \* Unloading vehicles with yard waste and loading/running a chipper.

Assisting with a picnic lunch for the neighborhood

- \* With setup
- \* Cooking & serving
- \* Cleanup

There will be dumpsters for the following items:

1. Household Items
2. Yard Debris
3. Documents to be shredded (in shred bins)
4. Scrap Metal

Items that will **NOT** be taken are:

1. TV's
2. Computer Monitors
3. Large Appliances
4. Hazardous waste (paint, used oil, pesticides or lawn chemicals, etc.)

**Recycling:** Bicycles, Scrap Metal, & Cardboard

**Neighborhood Lunch: A picnic lunch will be served.  
Contributions welcome!**

### **Messiah Book Club**

**We will meet August 13 at 2:30 p.m. in the Library at church.**

When Breath Becomes Air, 2016, is a nonfiction memoir written by neurosurgeon Paul Kalanithi, as he battles stage IV 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.

### **Lunch & Scripture**

Everyone is welcome to join us at MaMa Jean's on the corner of South Campbell and Sunshine for Lunch and Scripture on **September 8 at 12 noon**. If you have any questions please reach out to Ileen Kendall.

## Congregational Care



### Blood Drive Messiah Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall  
925 E. Seminole, Springfield

**Monday, September 14, 2026  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

To schedule an appointment call 417-227-5006 or go to  
[www.cbco.org/donate-blood](http://www.cbco.org/donate-blood)



Scan or visit  
[www.cbco.org/zoo](http://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.**

You can scan the bar code in the bottom left corner to register and get more information on the blood drive or you can go [cbco.org/donate-blood](http://cbco.org/donate-blood) and when the first screen opens follow below

1. click on find private event
2. Which sponsor are you looking for?  
Drop down menu scroll find Messiah Lutheran church
3. What do you want to donate? Drop down menu choose whole blood
4. Click Search
5. Next screen click Select this will allow you to choose your time slot to come and donate
6. Click on the gray box that says Whole blood in the time slot that you want
7. Then confirm your appointment at the bottom.



## Children's Sermon

Look at how all the children gathered around the altar to listen intently to Pastor Orin Cummings during the children's sermon on Sunday, August 23. What a beautiful picture of our children showing such reverence and respect as they listened to Pastor and, most importantly, to God's Word. It is truly a blessing to see our children growing in faith and being an important part of worship at Messiah! What a beautiful reminder of the faith we are nurturing in the next generation.

My Sheep hear My Voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. John 10:27



## Welcome New Members



Chris was born and raised in the St. Paul area. He was baptized and confirmed at an ALC parish, St. Timothy's Lutheran. He reports having "some college", and went on to spend 20 years as a paraprofessional in the St. Paul Public School System. He worked with both elementary and secondary students. Following that, he was employed by the National Guard for 20 years.

Chris moved to Springfield in 2003. He says between work and establishing his farm, he didn't attend much church. When he was ready to pursue a congregation, he found Messiah online. He is now retired.

Chris was married in MN in 1981. A son, aged 44, still lives in MN. Chris states that he has a couple of horses, and that he grows hay. As far as hobbies are concerned, he says that caring for his farm, cats and a dog take up most of his time. Chris usually attends our Sunday morning service.



Bonnie was born in Peoria, Ill. Her family moved to Wisconsin when she was five. She completed high school and then became a beautician. Her religious background is primarily Baptist.

Bonnie's younger sister and brother are both deceased. Bonnie was married in 1955 and remained so for 61 years. Bonnie has lived in the Ozarks area since 1985. She moved into The Waterford last year. She is friends with our member, Virgie Wood, who also lives at The Waterford.

When in Wisconsin, Bonnie and her husband owned a Chevrolet dealership which sold and repaired school buses. Bonnie is well-traveled, having visited places such as Greece, Alaska and Hawaii. Bonnie has four children. Bill is retired and lives in Ozark. Bob is a retired Assemblies of God pastor who resides in Minneapolis. Jay is a semi-retired nurse who fills in at our local Mercy Hospital. Beth is also a nurse who lives in Florida.

Bonnie usually attends our Sunday morning services. Her hobbies are sewing baby quilts to donate and engaging in crafts and games at the facility. She recently attended Messiah's quilting group, which she thoroughly enjoyed. Bonnie can no longer drive due to macular degeneration.

## Meet Your Council Member

Ken Edstrom was born in Chicago, IL and spent time growing up in Cincinnati, OH, Rochester, MN and Pine Island, MN, before landing in Springfield. He is the oldest of four children with a brother and two sisters.

He attended the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and graduated with a BSBA, Accounting major. While at school, he was active in intramural athletics and also played baseball for the Gophers as a pitcher. Upon graduation, he returned to Pine Island to run the financial side and improve operations of the family manufacturing business. After a number of years of rapid growth, the company was sold. Ken continued to work for other manufacturing companies. He began working for Carlisle Power Transmission Company and was transferred to Springfield in March 2005.

Ken has three children: Ann Marie, Tom and Michael. Between them, there are seven grandchildren with the oldest in the US Marines and the next four starting college over the last two years. Ann Marie and Michael live in Minnesota while Thomas is in New Hampshire.

He met the love of his life – Marty Gentry. Marty was a teacher with the Springfield Public Schools system and also grew up in a small town, so they had a lot in common and have been inseparable since then. Marty has two children and four grandchildren, so between them they have five kids, eleven grandchildren and a boxer dog named Riley!

When they were looking for a church, Messiah was the second one that they visited, but right from the start, they knew this was home. From the warm and sincere welcome from everyone they met, to sermons that gave a strong message to think about. It did not take long for them to become members.

Ken is currently serving on the Church Council as liaison to the Property Committee, member of the Finance Committee, and as a lector. He is also active in the Men's Bible Study, Mid-Week Bible Study and Pub Theology. It is amazing to see all that is going on in the church! It is like a beehive that is alive with activity doing God's work.

## September Flowers

|               | 5/6           | 12/13           | 19/20 | 26/27 |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------|-------|
| <b>Vase 1</b> | Gene Chrisman | Cummings Family |       |       |
| <b>Vase 2</b> |               | Cummings Family |       |       |



### 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.



## Ready For Sunday School



[www.messiahmo.org](http://www.messiahmo.org)


[messiah@messiahmo.org](mailto:messiah@messiahmo.org)

[MessiahMOELCA](#)

[MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA](#)

[MessiahMoELCA](#)


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 Springfield, MO 65807

*\*Return Address Requested*

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

## September Scripture Readings

| DATE  | FIRST READING         | PSALM           | SECOND READING      | GOSPEL           |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 5/6   | EZEKIEL 33:7-11       | 119:33-40       | ROMANS 13:13-14     | MATTHEW 18:15-20 |
| 12/13 | GENESIS 50:15-21      | 103:[1-7], 8-13 | ROMANS 14:1-12      | MATTHEW 18:21-35 |
| 19/20 | JONAH 3:10—4:11       | 145:14:1-12     | PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30 | MATTHEW 20:1-16  |
| 26/27 | EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32 | 25:1-9          | PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13  | MATTHEW 21:23-32 |

## Mark Your Calendars

|          |                                          |          |                         |
|----------|------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| Sept. 7  | Church office & Childcare will be closed | Sept. 13 | Education Forum Resumes |
| Sept. 8  | Lunch & Scripture                        | Sept. 14 | MLC Blood Drive         |
| Sept. 9  | Celebration of Life—David Adams          | Sept. 20 | Church Council Meeting  |
| Sept. 12 | God's Work, Our Hands & Community Picnic | Sept. 20 | New Member Session      |
| Sept. 13 | Rally Sunday                             | Sept. 27 | Receive New Members     |
| Sept. 13 | Ministries Fair                          |          |                         |