

The SPIRIT

May 2026

Alleluia! Christ is Risen



God’s Love Comes In All Shapes & Sizes

The daycare children are currently learning about bugs. Little creepy crawly things that hide in the dirt and come in all shapes and sizes. Yet, no matter how much we wish they weren’t in our homes or buzzing around us when we are outside, they too are a part of God’s creation. To God, these small creatures are beautiful and therefore loved by the same God who loves us.

Sometimes it can be difficult to look at the world and see God. We spend more time recognizing our enemies than we do God’s creation. But we have all been made in the image of God. Our best friends, our enemies, ourselves, and everyone on Earth has been made by God in the image of God. That does not mean that we should ever elevate ourselves to the level of God, essentially making ourselves into our own idols. But as Christians we must acknowledge that God has placed the Cross of Christ on our hearts and called us beloved, just as God has done for billions of others around the world.

So, while we may not like all of creation and we may spend some time scratching our heads wondering why God made mosquitos, we also acknowledge that God is present in all things and remains close by to all creation.

Blessings,

Vicar Abbey Knappman

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Messiah Staff

Rev. Orin W 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
Kenny Lourwood	A/V Sound Specialist, p/t	kenny.lourwood@messiahmo.org
Drew Bowman	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	bostonmarilyn@outlook.com
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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Saints,

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

“Parting is such sweet sorrow” is a famous quote from William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*. That phrase captures well where we find ourselves. For over three years, we received and hosted two Ukrainian families in response to the war in Eastern Europe. What began as an act of compassion became a meaningful chapter in the life we shared together. We came to know Lana and her family of six especially well, along with Inna and her two sons, Ilia and Ivan.

As this journey began, it was not entirely new territory for Messiah. Nancy Terry reminded me that, in years past, Vietnamese families had also been welcomed in Southwest Missouri. Still, it was new to me, and as God’s people, you showed me what it means to extend Christian hospitality. If there is one truth about Messiah that is enduring, it is this: We are people of grace.

“Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God” (Romans 15:7). Those words were not merely spoken but were lived among us. You opened your hearts, gave generously, and walked alongside our Ukrainian neighbors as they established new lives.

All of us need grace. Left to ourselves, we cannot turn to God. Instead, we depend on a gracious God who comes to us first, initiating a relationship of reconciliation. In Jesus Christ, God meets sinners with mercy. As Martin Luther came to understand through Scripture, grace is God doing for humanity what humanity cannot do for itself. “For by grace you have been saved through faith...it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8–9). The Means of Grace, that is Word and Sacrament (Baptism and the Lord’s Supper), are the ways God continues to deliver that gift among us.

Our Ukrainian friends did not come seeking forgiveness, nor did they need us to save them. They needed compassion. And as those called to love our neighbor, we responded. “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” (Hebrews 13:2). You provided shelter, security, and daily support so that they might build a life here. In doing so, you bore witness to Christ’s love in tangible ways.

Now, as they move forward into the next chapter of their lives, we commend them to the Lord’s care. “The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore” (Psalm 121:8). And so, this moment is both sweet and sorrowful. I am grateful for what has been, and prayerful for what lies ahead.

I give thanks to Rose Hohbein for inviting us into this ministry and for her faithful leadership. I also thank each of you who contributed your time, resources, and care. Your work has not been in vain. And we are grateful as well for our partnership with Bread of Life Slavic Church, through which we share a living bond in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“Let all that you do be done in love” (1 Corinthians 16:14). By God’s grace, that is exactly what you have done. Thank you!

In Christ’s service,

Pastor Orin

From the Desk of Council President

Winter is over with and Spring is here!

19 Motivational Quotes to Help You Get It Together from *SUCCESS Magazine*

1. "You can't be that kid standing at the top of the waterslide, overthinking it. You have to go down the chute." —*Tina Fey*
2. "You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do." —*Henry Ford*
3. "You see, in life, lots of people know what to do, but few people actually do what they know. Knowing is not enough! You must take action." —*Tony Robbins*
4. "Life is short. Do stuff that matters." —*Siqi Chen*
5. "It always seems impossible until it's done." —*Nelson Mandela*
6. "Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort." —*Paul J. Meyer*
7. "Amateurs sit and wait for inspiration, the rest of us just get up and go to work." —*Stephen King*
8. "If you spend too much time thinking about a thing, you'll never get it done." —*Bruce Lee*
9. "Your mind is for having ideas, not holding them." —*David Allen*
10. "You may delay, but time will not." —*Benjamin Franklin*
11. "While one person hesitates because he feels inferior, the other is busy making mistakes and becoming superior." —*Henry Link*
12. "The only way around is through." —*Robert Frost*
13. "The secret of getting things done is to act!" —*Dante Alighieri*
14. "The critical ingredient is getting off your butt and doing something. It's as simple as that. A lot of people have ideas, but there are few who decide to do something about them now." —*Nolan Bushnell*
15. "Procrastination is opportunity's assassin." —*Victor Kiam*
16. "Until we can manage time, we can manage nothing else." —*Peter Drucker*
17. "I don't wait for moods. You accomplish nothing if you do that. Your mind must know it has got to get down to work." —*Pearl S. Buck*
18. "Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone." —*Pablo Picasso*
19. "So what do we do? Anything. Something. So long as we just don't sit there. If we screw it up, start over. Try something else. If we wait until we've satisfied all the uncertainties, it may be too late." —*Lee Iacocca*

Crosslines

We had a great group of volunteers April 2nd and served 101 families/220 people. Thank you to Sheila Schaefer, Becky Roark, Dean McDowell, Donny McKinney, Frances Crawford, Linda Elliott, Carol Flanders, Patty Hangen and Susan Lane.

The produce selection for this day was limited to grapefruit and potatoes. Many thanks to those of you who donated boxed or canned goods. Guests always enjoy selecting a free food item from the miscellaneous shelf. Remember to check the expiration dates before placing in the wagon. Plastic grocery bags are always welcome. This is one of the most expensive items Crosslines has to buy.

Thank You's

Thank you for the kind words and cards to Bonnie and me on the passing of her father, Cliff Rule. He was a gifted welder, mechanic, and plant engineer, a valued co-worker, and a kind and helpful father-in-law to an unmechanical son-in-law. Cliff and Bonnie's mother Vira were active members at Community Lutheran Church in Eagle Rock, which has now closed. The church donated paraments, banners, books, and hymnals to Messiah. Altar Guild, Worship and Music, and the Library committee have been through the donations and you may notice new additions to the library and sanctuary.

Mark & Bonnie Herron

Thank you for the visits and the beautiful flowers. They have surely brightened my Easter day.
Harold Lokensgard

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers during my brother's (Bruce Whiting) illness and your kindness and cards since his passing.
Marilyn Dowell



Hymn Sing

We are once again beginning to make plans for our annual Hymn Sing Service. Sign-ups began right after Easter with a poster in the narthex as well as through an electronic format. Please start thinking about your favorite hymns and praise songs that you would like us to include in this service. Watch for the sign-up poster and more information to come, and let's all work together to make this a glorious, praise-filled worship experience!

Online form sign-up link below:

<https://forms.gle/iLfjHSFXiRc7Dkbq6>

In His Name,
Marilyn Boston, Karen Bowman, Sheryl Hansen



A/V Team

The Messiah Audio/Visual team is looking for volunteers to help with the slide presentation for the Saturday and Sunday services in both the Sanctuary and for our online live stream. Volunteers are usually only scheduled once a month. Slide advancement is an easy position that does not take much training. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering or if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Drew Bowman, A/V Technician
drew.bowman@messiahmo.org

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 **May 12 at 12 noon**. If you have any questions please reach out to Ileen Kendall.

Congregational Care

The purpose of the Congregational Care Committee is to minister to those in our congregation with physical, emotional, and spiritual needs by showing them God's love. The members of the Committee and others in the congregation who assist in carrying out the committee's ministries are committed to 'caring for our own'. We actively work with Pastor to maintain communication with our members, particularly during times when the need for support is increased. For example, during the diagnostic thru treatment phases of illness and in times of transition to new levels of care until end of life.

We have discovered that at times it is difficult to carry out this work as we would like, because we lack a piece of necessary information. Most usually, that is the lack of the contact information of the adult children or closest relative to the member. Granted, the need to use the information may never surface, but it is also possible that after Pastor or a member visits there may be questions or observations worthy of being shared. Also, we have had members relocate without informing Pastor or the office, and without contact information have been unable to follow-up. Thus, we welcome members to provide the church office the contact information for those of their choosing. The information will be securely maintained in our membership management system.

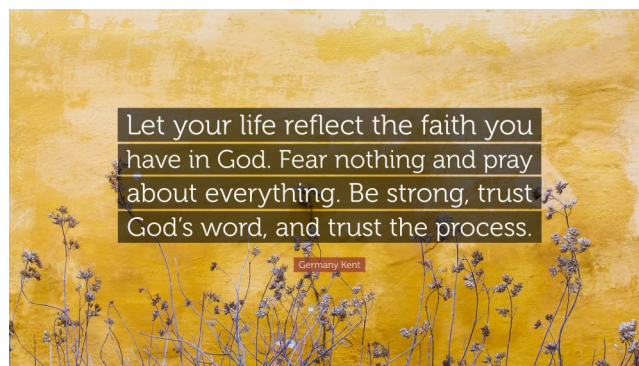
There are two other documents that are often shared with church offices to facilitate communication and offer compassion of the highest level should the need arise. First, a copy of advance directive documents. While our local health systems request they be maintained electronically within the system, having a copy available at the church would be helpful should pastoral consultation be requested. In a previous issue of the *Spirit* we were reminded that copies of the *Advance Directive, including Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care* forms utilized by both Mercy and CoxHealth are available in the church office.

The other information that is often shared and maintained in the office is documentation of wishes regarding funeral/celebration of life services, burial, etc. Having this available is helpful as Pastor prepares to meet with family members to finalize plans when the need arises—it provides the place to start the

conversation.

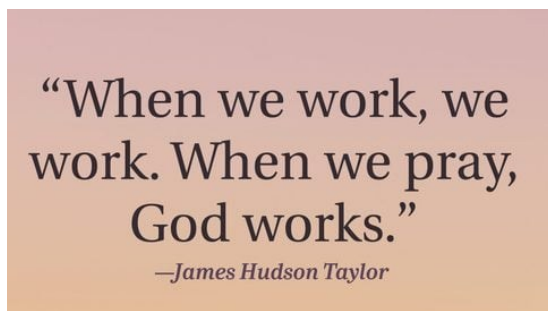
Some members have already shared this information and it is securely maintained in the church office. We welcome others to share should they choose. Feel free to reach out to Pastor with questions.

Submitted by Vickie Donnell



Church Workday

A church workday has been scheduled by the Property Committee for **5/9 beginning at 8:00 am**. Items include rebuilding a fence and deck on two of the Kings street properties, trimming and mulching the landscaping, tidying the rubber mulch in the Daycare playground, painting of the Ka-Boom playground benches, and some smaller items. **If you want to volunteer, let Mark Herron or a property committee member know.**



Messiah Book Club

We will meet May 14 at 2:30 p.m. in the Library at church.



The Kingdom, the Power and the 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.

MAY I NEVER
FORGET ON
MY BEST DAY
THAT I STILL
NEED GOD AS
DESPERATELY
AS I DID ON
MY WORST

Parish Life

Thank you to everyone who provided food and helped with the cleanup for our Easter breakfast. It was very well attended.

We have no special activities planned for May since it is already a very busy month, but we continue to have the fellowship hour in the fellowship hall following worship on Sundays. Please come join us.

Mark your calendars for **June 14**. We are planning to gather at noon at Nathaniel Greene Park at the Nathaniel Greene Pavilion. We ask everyone to bring a sack lunch, and we can gather to eat and enjoy walking the grounds and enjoying the playground there.



We invite the women of Messiah to join us for Wine, Wit and Wisdom gathering for great food and fellowship. **Please watch the Midweek Messenger for May's date and location.**

For more information, please contact Debbie Corlett at 417-848-9426 or debbiecorlett@sbcglobal.net

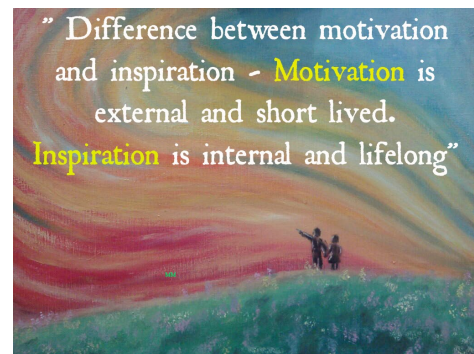


Messiah Lighthouse is currently enrolling children ages 1 to 6. We also have a short waiting list for infants aged 6 weeks to 1 year. Please share this information with anyone you know who may be looking for childcare. Interested families can contact the center at 417-881-4119 or via email at messiahlighthousedirector@gmail.com.

Update from Jackson

I've been hard at work in New Jersey studying for the Master of Theology (ThM) in biblical studies at Princeton Theological Seminary. After leaving Messiah last July, I spent a few months in Iowa, where I was approved for ordination in the ELCA, before heading back out east. This past fall, in addition to my studies, I embarked on the stressful process of applying to PhD programs in New Testament. In January, I had the amazing opportunity to attend a travel course to Egypt through Wartburg Seminary. Then, in early spring, I was elated to receive the fantastic news that I had been accepted to a few PhD programs, including my top choice, Princeton Theological Seminary, which is one of the best in the nation. So, I'll be hanging around New Jersey for at least a few more years to complete the doctorate. I miss the place and people of Messiah very much, especially helping lead worship and preaching in the light of the lovely stained glass.

Grace and Peace,
Jackson



Council Member

My life journey started in Mesa, Arizona. When I was about five years old, our family moved to Modesto, California where I attended school through high school. I came to Missouri with my family in 1968 and began college at Southwest Missouri State College (now MSU). I originally was planning to go into teaching and then began wondering if there might be something different that I might like to do. It was during the Vietnam War that I decided to join the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps to see if I might like to do something related to healthcare. After completing training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois, I served in a medical clinic at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, California and after year and a half at that location, I went to serve at the U.S. Naval Hospital on the island of Guam. I was serving at the naval hospital when Guam became the staging area for the Vietnamese boatlift as South Vietnam fell to North Vietnam. After completing my tours of duty in the Navy, I decided to return to college to major in Medical Technology. I completed the program through SMS (MSU) and St. John's School of Medical Technology in 1979. I worked in the Microbiology Laboratory at St. John's/Mercy Hospital for 26 years and then Laboratory Information Systems for another 12 years before retiring in 2015.

My family did not attend church when I was growing up. Except for attending a Baptist church occasionally by myself when I was in grade school, I did not attend a church regularly until my 30s after a friend introduced me to a Catholic Church. I feel very well rounded in a religious sense because I met my wife in a Methodist singles group. We were married in 1995. She subsequently joined the Catholic church, and we attended together for about 20 years until about the time of the Covid pandemic. During this time we decided to look around for something different. We began streaming different church services on Facebook. I had friends who attended Messiah Lutheran Church and I was especially interested in streaming those services.

Streaming Messiah church services made an impact on our lives because we decided to begin attending the beautiful house of worship in 2022 and officially joined later that year. I have always felt that if I wanted to gain something from the church, then I would need to get involved in the church, so I became a Shepherd. My wife later wanted to join the choir, so I brought her to choir practice one evening. The song they were rehearsing was for men only,

so I was immediately "drafted." (I told them I was pretty much fired from the last choir I was in, but they told me that didn't matter.) My wife and I have been in choir ever since. It has been quite a learning endeavor for me since I do not read music and have never been in a choir that required me to sing "parts."

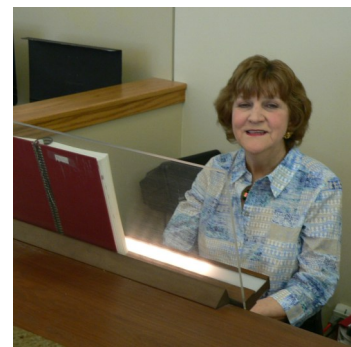
We have found Messiah Lutheran Church a close, welcoming and supportive community. As I feel that it is important to share time, talent and resources with the church community, I was honored to have been asked to serve on Council and look forward to making whatever contribution that I can to our church community.

As a council member, I am awed by the number of committees in the church (and the number of volunteers who staff those committees) that make the church into what it is in spreading the message of Christ. Also, as council liaison to the Parish Life Committee, I will be hosting fellowships after Sunday services occasionally, so I hope to see more members taking advantage of those opportunities in which we can come together as a church community and get to know each other better.

Blessings,
John Charles



July 25 at the Saturday service and a catered meal following worship, we will celebrate Marilyn Boston's 50 years of serving Messiah Lutheran Church as our organist. More details to follow.



May Flowers

	2/3	9/10	16/17	23/24	30/31
Vase 1	Mark & Bonnie Herron	Michael & Nancy Hoeman	Vic & Peggy Shelton		Gene Chrisman
Vase 2	Mark & Bonnie Herron	Rex Johnson	Vic & Peggy Shelton		Gene Chrisman



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

MessiahMoELCA



925 E. Seminole, Springfield, MO 65807



.417-881-2192

Messiah Lutheran Church
 925 E. Seminole Street
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*He restores my soul, He leads me in the paths of
 righteousness, for His name's sake. Psalms 23:3*

May Scripture Readings

DATE	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
2/3	Acts 7:55-60	31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
9/10	Acts 17:22-31	66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
16/17	Acts 1:6-14	68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
23/24	Acts 2:1-21	104:4-24, 34,35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23
30/31	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20

Mark Your Calendars

May 02	WELCA Meeting	May 21	MLCFDC Preschool Graduation
May 03	Senior Recognition	May 24	Lay Internship Meeting
May 06	Music Studio Recital	May 25	Church Office & MLCFDC Closed
May 09	Church Workday		Memorial Day
May 10	Mother's Day/Baptism Anniversary	May 30/31	Healing Services
May 12	Lunch & Scripture		
May 17	Teacher Appreciation		
May 17	Parent Meeting Youth Gathering		
May 17	Church Council Meeting		