



ISSUE 10 | October 2026

THE

SPIRIT



CHURCH UPDATES

✓ New Audio/Visual
Equipment installed in
the sanctuary.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 13, 2026

✓ Lunch & Scripture

Oct. 15, 2026

✓ MLCFDC Carnival

Oct. 25, 2026

✓ Rite of Confirmation

Oct. 25, 2026

✓ Trunk-n-Treat

Piecemakers Auction Quilt

The Piecemakers auction quilt for this year is an old-fashion Santa quilt. The quilt will be hung in the Narthex beginning September 26. Bidding instructions will be next to the quilt. Bidding will end on quilt Sunday, October 18. The highest bidder will be notified following the Sunday service. If there are any questions regarding the quilt or bidding instructions please contact Linda Michael.



PASTOR APPRECIATION

Pastor Appreciation Sunday is October 11 immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a program honoring pastors and refreshments for all.
Join us for this event.

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From the Desk of Pastor Orin W. Cummings

Dear Saints,

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

As we enter the last quarter of the calendar year and begin to consider Messiah's ministries in relation to the coming budget, I wish to share with you a vision for our congregation. This is not simply my vision; it was presented to the Council by the Stewardship Committee, which recommended that Messiah consider calling a Deacon to serve among us. Many of you have heard the term "deacon" before. There is also a rich history behind the term that helps us understand what this ministry might mean for Messiah.

The story begins in Acts 6. The early Christian community in Jerusalem had grown rapidly, and a problem arose. The Greek-speaking Christians, known as Hellenists, complained that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. Widows were particularly vulnerable in the ancient world, and the Church had taken responsibility to care for those in need.

The apostles recognized that this problem required a response. They called the community together and asked them to choose seven people who were "full of the Spirit and wisdom" to take responsibility for this ministry, while the apostles devoted themselves to "prayer and serving the word." Interestingly, Acts 6 does not actually call the seven "deacons."

The Greek word diakonia, meaning service or ministry, is used to describe their work, and in the years that followed, the term diakonos, servant or minister, became associated with a recognized ministry in the Christian Church. What began as a practical problem became an opportunity for the Church to embody the Gospel in a new way.

This pattern continued throughout the years. The Church came to recognize different callings and ministries, including the ministry of deacons. While the particular role of a deacon has differed among Christian traditions, at its heart has been the calling to serve Christ by serving others.

Within Lutheranism, there is a particularly rich history of diaconal ministry. Lutheran churches have long recognized the importance of Christian service in the world; caring for the poor and vulnerable, accompanying people in times of crisis, teaching the faith, serving families and communities, and making the love of Christ visible beyond the walls of the congregation.

Today, the term "deacon" is used differently among Lutheran bodies and other Christian traditions. In some churches, a deacon is a layperson who assists the pastor. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, however, a Deacon is a rostered minister called to the **Ministry of Word and Service**. This is complementary to the ministry of a pastor, whose vocation is the **Ministry of Word and Sacrament**. Both are ministries of Christ and of the Church, but they have distinct emphases and responsibilities.

This brings us back to the story in Acts 6. The apostles did not regard service as something separate from the Gospel. Instead, they recognized that the proclamation of Christ and the concrete service of one's neighbor belong together. That is the opportunity we see for Messiah, especially now that we have paid off our building debt.

An ELCA Deacon could help Messiah cross some of the boundaries that can easily develop between sanctuary and community, worship and service, faith and daily life. The calling would be to help us make the love of Christ visible in places where people most need to encounter it.

For Messiah, we envision a Deacon providing leadership and ministry in areas such as:

Pastor's article continues on page 5.

From the Desk of Council President Scot Franson

I graduated from Missouri State University with a degree in marketing. When I answer the question "What did you do when you work? my answer is most of my life... I did sales and marketing. Many of the companies I worked for had slogans for the company, product or service they provided.

Simply put, a slogan is a short, memorable statement or phrase meant to convey a business's mission or purpose. Companies or organizations use slogans to quickly tell customers what they offer and what sets them apart from their competitors. A slogan can be used to convey an idea about the business, or it can be used to draw attention to a specific product, service, or campaign.

Due to its strong ties with television and print advertising, it can be easy to think of a slogan as a modern invention. But Merriam-Webster the word "slogan" is derived from a Scottish Gaelic word meaning "army cry".

In that sense, you may think of your slogan as the "war cry" of your business as it battles with market competitors to win over customers.

Slogans that come to mind about my Life Experience:

God's Work. Our Hands. Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Most Scenic Mile in America--Fantastic Caverns

Does she...or doesn't she? Clairol

Is it true blondes have more fun? Clairol

The closer he gets, the better you look Clairol

By Your Side Brasseler USA Dental

You've Got a Great Past Ahead of You Silver Dollar City

Where The Bible Comes To Life Sight and Sound Theatres

World's Top Touring Illusionist REZA Magic Show

America's Cave Meramec Caverns

Greatest Show Under the Earth Meramec Caverns

Little Switzerland of the Ozarks Eureka Springs, Arkansas

Music Show Capital of America Branson, Missouri

Water Park Capital of the World Wisconsin Dells

Things Go Better with Coke

The Choice of a New Generation Pepsi

You Deserve a Break Today McDonald's

Have it your way Burger King

30 Minutes or Less Domino's

Make a Run for the Border Taco Bell

Your Adventure Starts Here Bass Pro Shops

Queen City of the Ozarks Springfield, Missouri

Natural State Arkansas

There's No State like MO State Missouri State University

The Cave State Missouri

Show-Me State Missouri

Eating Good in the Neighborhood Applebee's

Your Adventure Awaits Big Cedar Lodge

GOAT Michael Jordan

O-O-O-O'Reillyyyyyyy's O'Reilly's Auto Parts

10,000 Lakes and No Sharks Minnesota

- Christian formation by helping people of all ages grow in faith and connect what we learn in the Church with how we live in the world.
- Youth and family ministry by accompanying young people and families and helping them discover their place in the life and mission of Christ's Church.
- Community engagement by building relationships beyond our congregation and helping Messiah respond faithfully to the needs and opportunities around us.
- Compassion and accompaniment by walking with people through seasons of life such as poverty, grief, transition, and other circumstances in which the presence of a Christian companion can make a profound difference.
- Faith in daily life by helping us recognize that Christian vocation does not end when we leave the sanctuary, but continues in our homes, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and communities.

This is not about adding another position to our organizational structure and making room for it in the budget. It is about asking what God may be calling Messiah to become.

The story in Acts 6 reminds us that sometimes a problem reveals a calling to see a need within the community as an opportunity for the Church to discover a new way of serving Christ and the neighbor. This is such a moment for Messiah. Therefore, I invite you to prayerfully consider this vision. What might happen if Messiah calls a Deacon? What might God do through such a ministry among us?

In Christ,

Pastor Orin

Messiah Book Club

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.



We invite the women of Messiah to join us for Wine, Wit and Wisdom gathering for great food and fellowship. **Thursday, October 22 at 5:30 p.m. at Van Gogh's Eeterie 334 E. Commercial St. Springfield**

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

Crosslines

Thursday, September 3rd, was a light shopping day for those getting groceries at Crosslines. We served 65 families/149 people along with our partners from Grace Methodist. Volunteers included Patty Hangen, Sheila Schaeffer, Dean McDowell, Carolyn Gerdes, Donny McKinney, John and Carol Flanders and Susan Lane. As always, canned food and dry goods can be placed in the wagon next to the water fountain. Used plastic grocery bags are also very much appreciated.

Thank You

I can't tell you how much joy your cards, flowers, text messages, and meals brought to me while I was recovering from my knee replacement surgery! I would also like to thank those that took over my Lector readings during this time. Thank you to all my Messiah family!

Jolynn Szesny

Lunch & Scripture

Lunch and Scripture meets on **Tuesday, October 13 at 12 p.m. at MaMa Jean's corner of South Campbell & Sunshine.**

Come and join us for a time of Devotion and Fellowship.

Audio/Visual

As you participate in services held in the Messiah sanctuary starting Saturday, October 3, you will notice that the new LED Walls will be functioning (purchased from and installed by Vision-Tech of Springfield, Missouri). Also, notice at the upper level at the back of the sanctuary there are now two televisions functioning to assist the pastors, band, and choir. Now, everyone in the sanctuary will benefit from the posted text and songs we enjoy during services. The sunlight and extra light will not interfere with our ability to read what is posted.

Messiah's Audio/Visual Upgrade Committee met from March through May to recommend these enhancements to our Church Council for the benefit of those worshipping in our sanctuary. Many thanks go to the church committee: Elaine Novak, Paul Melgren, Cathy Murrell, Jack Rosenkoetter, Betty Thomas, and Drew Bowman. Thanks to Stillwell Electric for their installation of needed wiring. Thanks also to those that donated funds to permit this beneficial enhancement for our worship services.

Alleluia Singers

JOIN CHOIR!!!! IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!!!!

Did you know that singing in a choir provides powerful physical, mental, and social health benefits?

Group singing reduces stress and boosts our mood by triggering a release of "feel good" chemicals like dopamine, endorphins, and serotonin, which ease depression and anxiety.

Singing together increases oxytocin, a hormone that builds trust and social connections. The breathing required for singing strengthens respiratory muscles and improves lung capacity.

Group singing also strengthens your immune system and helps the body fight off illness. It promotes neuroplasticity because it engages many brain regions at once.

Singing in a choir combats loneliness by providing structure, purpose, and a strong sense of belonging.

By joining Alleluia Singers you can experience all of these benefits plus the spiritual benefit of praising our Lord, which is the greatest blessing of all. Please join us on Wednesday night at 7:30!

In His Name,
Sheryl Hansen

Evangelism

OZARKS PRIDE ON C-STREET STREET FEST

Thanks to all who came out to join the Multicultural Team on Historic C-Street on September 26th. It was a beautiful day for Messiah to have a presence in the Springfield community.



October 25, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the church parking lot. If it rains we will move it inside. Decorate those



Parish Life will be taking a "field trip" to **Hermann, Missouri** to celebrate **Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 10**. We plan to carpool, **leaving the church at 8:30 a.m. and leaving Hermann around 4:30 p.m.** There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Come and join us!

Meet Your Council Member

I would like to thank the congregation for the confidence afforded me in electing me to the council. Messiah is a very busy church and one does not become aware of all the work that goes on behind the scenes until one is part of the team which helps make that happen. As a church every week we recite our mission statement. Those are not just words. They are put into practice by dedicated people. If given the opportunity every member of the congregation ought to take a turn serving.

I have served on church councils before. I was a longtime member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Walton Beach, FL and served at two different times on the council there. The experience was very different since Holy Trinity is a much smaller church which serves a transient population of military people who are transferred in and out as well as a large tourist population. The challenges are quite different.

I have also been active in the Women of the ELCA for over 40 years. In Florida I served as president of both our local church and the regional organizations and on the synodical board. My maternal grandmother was a devout German Lutheran and my earliest memories are of attending church with her and of her participating in church women's charities. She died when I was 10 years old but she planted some persistent seeds in me.

We were a military family and we moved nearly every 2-3 years. Church was not part of our lives and I didn't find my way back to the Lutheran church until I was in my 30's. But my grandmother saw that I was Baptized at Our Savior Lutheran Church and (perhaps made my mother promise) confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church, both in Michigan. So I just want to conclude by encouraging parents and grandparents not to give up on their children if they wander away. It might take awhile but those good seeds will eventually sprout. All praise and glory to the Lord!

Marilyn Dial

Congregational Care

Dear Messiah Lutheran Church Family,

As the October breeze rolls in, painting our trees in beautiful shades of amber and gold, we naturally begin to transition into a slower, cozier pace of life. While many of us look forward to autumn gatherings and the warmth of our church community, this time of year also brings shorter days and longer nights. For some of us, this seasonal shift can bring a noticeable change in our energy, mood, and overall well-being. If you find yourself feeling unusually tired, heavy, or disconnected as the autumn light fades, please know that you are not alone, and there maybe a medical explanation for these feelings.

This struggle is commonly known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). In clinical terms, as outlined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5-TR), it is classified as a specific type of depression that recurs during particular seasons, most often starting in the autumn and lifting when spring arrives.

SAD is more than just a temporary case of the "winter blues." While a rainy autumn day might make us feel a bit sluggish, seasonal depression is more persistent and can significantly impact daily life.

Stewardship

Greetings, the Stewardship Committee has been working on the 2027 stewardship drive for some time now and here is an update.

The campaign will begin on October 18 and end on November 15 with Appeal Sunday. The theme this year will be: By Grace We Receive, in Faith We Trust, In Love We Give. The inspiration for this theme is the hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness.

The campaign will focus on our need to increase giving to maintain ministry excellence. This means supporting our staff with compensation, providing worship, growing discipleship, supporting Christian education, and youth activity opportunities, and maintaining our buildings. Our goal is to present the needs of the congregation, taking into consideration the current challenges of inflation.

This year we have a second initiative goal to grow and strengthen meaningful youth programs, Christian education, and community outreach by adding a deacon to our rostered staff. Pastor has explained how a deacon would work with the congregation earlier in this Spirit issue. Our hope as a stewardship committee is to help pastor with 'casting the vision' of how a deacon can enhance the church, especially for children.

Our committee is part of a network of congregations in our learning community on stewardship and we have noticed how blessed Messiah Lutheran is in several ways. Chief among those blessings is our Pastoral care is steady and our mortgage on the church is paid. This gives us a great opportunity to increase our giving to expand our ministries as our Upon This Rock capital campaign winds down and the committee hopes to communicate those plans to you through the campaign.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3: 22-23 NRSVue

According to resources from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), seasonal depression typically builds up slowly as the days get shorter. Common signs include:

- Feeling sad, anxious, or "empty" most days.
- Having very low energy and feeling wiped out, even after a full night's sleep.
- Oversleeping and having a hard time waking up in the morning.
- Craving carbohydrates and experiencing weight gain.
- Feeling like "hibernating" and wanting to withdraw from friends and family.
- Losing interest in the hobbies and activities you usually love.

The wonderful news is that seasonal depression is highly treatable. Clinical guidelines, including those from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), highlight several evidence-based ways to find relief.

In my practice, I find that combining clinical treatments with intentional lifestyle adjustments can make a profound difference:

- **Acclimate to the Outdoors:** My mother, LouAnn Sherman, always loved to share a classic Swedish saying, "There is no bad weather, only bad clothing". Instead of retreating indoors as the weather cools, we can learn to embrace the crisp autumn season. Also, if you have the resources, consider creating an inviting outdoor space with evergreen pine, spruce, and a warm outdoor fireplace or heater. Alternatively, simply bundle up in your favorite autumn layers and sit outside with your morning coffee, or take regular daytime walks to capture vital daylight.
- **Light Therapy:** Sitting in front of a specialized 10,000-lux "light box" for 20 to 30 minutes each morning can work wonders to reset your body clock and boost your mood.
- **Nutritional Support:** Because SAD can alter appetite and cause carbohydrate cravings, consulting with a registered dietitian can help you design a balanced meal plan to sustain your energy.
- **A Mid-Winter Getaway:** The post-holiday period of January and February can be the most challenging. If possible, planning a short trip to a warmer, sunnier climate during those months can provide a great mental reset.
- **Psychotherapy & Connection:** Speaking with a counselor can help you build healthy coping habits. Additionally, staying active and leaning into our Messiah Lutheran faith community helps lift that heavy feeling of isolation.
- **Medical Consultation:** Consulting with your primary care physician is a vital step. A doctor can rule out other medical issues, check your Vitamin D levels via simple lab work, and discuss whether a temporary prescription medication might be beneficial.

As a counselor, I often remind people that our physical bodies and our spiritual lives are deeply connected. Experiencing seasonal depression is not a sign of weak faith or a spiritual failure. It is a physical vulnerability, and God cares deeply about our physical well-being.

Even when the days feel dark, Scripture offers us steady comfort and reminds us of God's abiding presence:

- Psalm 139:11-12 (NIV): "If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."

As a church family, we are called to walk together through every season of life. If you find the transition into these colder months difficult, please know that reaching out for help is a sign of strength.

If you or a loved one are struggling, I encourage you to talk to a healthcare professional or a counselor. Pastor Orin is always here to offer spiritual support, prayer, and a listening ear. Let us look out for one another this autumn and winter, making sure no one in our Messiah Lutheran family has to walk through the darkness alone.

Blessings,

Lindsey Dillion, MS, LPC

Messiah Lutheran Church Community Member

October Flowers

	3/4	10/11	17/18	24/25
Vase 1	Sandra and Nathan Carlson (in memory of Heidi Martman)	Herman family (in memory of N.A. "Gus" and Iva Skoglund)	Emily Davidson (in memory of Coleen Prosser's birthday)	Ed and Vickie Donnell (in honor of their 55 th wedding anniversary)
Vase 2	Gene Chrisman (in memory of his wife Jane Chrisman)	Martha Morris (in memory of Mike and Mariah Tapsak)	Emily Davidson (in memory of Coleen Prosser's birthday)	Ed and Vickie Donnell (in honor of their 55 th wedding anniversary)



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.



Messiah Lutheran Church

925 E. Seminole Street

Springfield, MO 65807

Non-Profit Org.**U.S Postage****PAID****Springfield, MO****Permit 1339****Return Address Requested***October Scripture Readings**

Date	First Reading	Psalms	Second Reading	Gospel
3/4	Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalms 80:7-15	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
10/11	Isaiah 25:1-9	Psalms 23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
17/18	Isaiah 45:1-7	Psalms 96:1-9 [10-13]	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
24/25	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18	Psalms 1	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46

Mark Your Calendars

Oct. 13 Lunch and Scripture

Oct. 15 MLCFDC Fall Carnival

Oct. 17 Messiah Golf Tournament

Oct. 18 Church Council Meeting

Oct. 25 Reformation Festival Sunday

Oct. 25 Rite of Confirmation

Oct. 25 Trunk-n-Treat

Oct. 28 Seminole Holland Neighborhood Potluck

Oct. 28 Seminole Holland Neighborhood Meeting

Oct. 30 Marilyn Boston Halloween Student Recital