

THE SPIRIT



HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO
EVERYONE.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 3, 2026

Midterm Elections

Nov. 8, 2026

New Member Session

Nov 14-15, 2026

Commitment Weekend

Nov. 29, 2026

Advent



Coats for Holland School



Messiah will be collecting coats for the students at Holland Elementary School during the month of November. All gently used or outgrown coats will be accepted.

Any coats outgrown or no longer used by your household before it turns really cold will be appreciated.

Just place the coats anytime during the month in the box for Holland school in the narthex and they will be delivered.

Thank you for your help!
Irene Chaloupecky

CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS CRAFTERS

There is a wealth of yarn just for the taking in the yarn cabinet in the congregational care office. Look on the bottom of the closet and help yourself to whatever you want. There is sock gauge, suede, bulky and lots of hooks, needles and tools. No need to sign out for it or tell anybody. *It's a Meredith's Ministry Thing.*

Coats for Holland School	Pg. 1
Calling All Christmas Crafters	Pg. 1
From the Desk of Pastor Orin Cummings	Pg. 3
From the Desk of your Council President	Pg. 4
Parish Life	Pg. 5
Messiah Book Club	Pg. 5
Wine, Wit, & Wisdom	Pg. 5
Crosslines	Pg. 5
Lunch & Scripture	Pg. 5
WELCA Christmas Gathering	Pg. 5
Evangelism	Pg. 6
Thank You	Pg. 6
Stewardship	Pg. 6
Meet Your Council Member	Pg. 7
Trunk-n-Treat	Pg. 7
Congregational Care	Pg.10
November Flowers	Pg. 11
November Scripture Readings	Pg. 12
Mark Your Calendars	Pg. 12

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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!

Every three years, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) gathers thousands of young people for an extraordinary experience of faith, fellowship, worship, service, and spiritual renewal. The ELCA Youth Gathering is an opportunity to encounter Christ, build lasting friendships, explore questions of faith, and discover the joy of belonging to the wider church.

My journey with these gatherings began in 1997, when I brought a group of young people from Guyana to New Orleans and traveled with the Florida-Bahamas Synod delegation as part of the ELCA's companion synod program. Under the theme River of Hope, approximately 40,000 participants and guests gathered in the Superdome. That experience was life-changing for our young people. Some returned home to become congregational youth leaders, others pursued ordained ministry, and still others became national leaders in the church. I witnessed firsthand how this gathering inspired young people to deepen their faith and discover their place in God's mission.

Since then, I have attended gatherings in St. Louis (Dancing at the Crossroads), Atlanta (Ubuntu—Do Life), San Antonio (Cruzando—Crossing), and Houston (This Changes Everything). Each gathering has reaffirmed my belief that every young person should have the opportunity to experience at least one ELCA Youth Gathering.

Imagine thousands of young people worshiping together, sharing Holy Communion, learning from inspiring speakers, enjoying excellent music, serving local communities, and meeting sisters and brothers in Christ from across the United States and around the world. For five days, our young people experience a church alive with faith, possibility, and hope. They are encouraged to ask important questions, grow in their relationship with Jesus, and discover how God is calling them to serve in the church and the world.

The next ELCA Youth Gathering takes place June 28–July 2, 2027, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Because this opportunity comes only once every three years, I strongly encourage parents and young people to prayerfully consider participating. This experience can nurture faith, strengthen confidence, inspire service, and create friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

Please know that our congregation stands ready to support the participation of our young people. We want to walk alongside our families, encourage our youth, and work together to help make this opportunity possible. Investing in our young people is an investment in the future of our congregation and the wider church. Our youth are not merely the church of tomorrow. They are an essential part of Christ's mission today.

Parents, please talk with your children about this opportunity. Young people, speak with your families and church leaders and consider being part of this remarkable experience. Let us pray, plan, and prepare together so that as many of our young people as possible can attend.

I look forward to seeing our youth and adult leaders travel to Minneapolis in 2027, returning home with renewed faith, broadened horizons, and a deeper commitment to following Christ. May we embrace this opportunity with open hearts and generous spirits as we nurture the faith of the next generation.

In Christ,

Pastor Orin

From the Desk of Council President Scot Franson

Branson Tribute shows

On October 21st, I took one of my brothers and his wife to Branson and introduced them to my favorite show: A Neil Diamond Tribute starring Keith Allyn.

Keith mentioned during the show he is the longest running one-person tribute show in Branson. 20 years portraying Neil Diamond. He originally came to Branson to be a backup Elvis in a 50's show. After several attempts to headline different shows, he finally took his wife's advice and put together a tribute to Neil Diamond.

Branson has over 100 shows and about a third of them are tribute shows.

A tribute act, tribute band, tribute group or tribute artist is a music group, singer, or musician that specifically plays the music of a well-known music act. Tribute acts include individual performers who mimic the songs and style of an artist, such as Elvis impersonators covering the works of Elvis Presley or groups like Meet Loaf, that pay tribute to Meat Loaf.

Current and Past Branson Tribute Shows

Branson Show is a Tribute to:

Legends in Concert

Dean Z

Thank you for the Music

Sound of Simon & Garfunkel

Anthems of Rock

George Jones, Haggard

Rock to the Bee Gees

New Jersey Nights

Beach Boys California Dreamin

A Garth Tribute

Carpenters Once More

A George Strait Tribute

Classic Rock Icons

Patsy Cline & Friends

Awesome 80's

The Gambler

Best of Motown & More

Queen of Soul

Johnny Cash & Friends

Patsy to Patsy

Dancing Queen Ultimate 70's

Awesome 80's

MJ The Illusion

Roy Orbison Tribute

Dean Martin & More

A Neil Diamond Tribute

Various Headlines of the Past

Elvis Presley

ABBA

Simon & Garfunkel

Various Rock Bands

George Jones, Merle Haggard

Bee Gees

Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons

Beach Boys

Garth Brooks

The Carpenters

George Strait

Hits from several Rock Bands

Patsy Cline

Hits from the 1980's

Kenny Rogers

Motown artists

Aretha Franklin & Whitney Houston

Johnny Cash

Patsy Cline

Various 70's Artists

Various 80's Artists

Michael Jackson

Roy Orbison

Dean Martin

Neil Diamond

Branson shows provide excellent entertainment opportunities for couples and families. Christmas shows are in November and December.

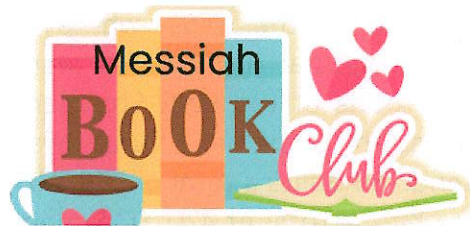
Parish Life

Come join us for our annual Thanksgiving eve dessert social following worship on November 25. It doesn't have to be pie, but DOES need to be pre-cut. LOL.

December 13 will be our congregational Christmas dinner. Join us following worship that morning. Our committee will provide chicken, beverages, and rolls. Please see the sign-up sheet starting November 21 so that we know how many to figure for.

Our committee continues to provide refreshments in the fellowship hall following Sunday morning worship. Come join us. It's a wonderful opportunity to grow closer with your church family.

Our committee usually meets the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 PM in the office. We welcome new members.



November Book: ***I Shall Not Hate* by Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish** (2011). A memoir that describes the author's life in Gaza. It narrates both his own story and explores the history of the ongoing conflict, as well as supporting the call for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Leader: Vickie



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

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

Crosslines

On October 1, Messiah volunteers Becky Roark, Dean McDowell, Carolyn Gerdes, Donny McKinney, Patty Hangen, Sheila Schaefer, Linda Elliott, and Susan Lane served 85 families/196 people. Fresh produce was abundant this month. Clients were allowed to take as much as they could use. Don't forget to save your Best Choice labels/barcodes. Crosslines gets money back on them which provides more food.

Place any boxed or canned goods in the wagon along with used plastic grocery bags.

Lunch & Scripture

Lunch & Scripture is cancelled until further notice.



Save the Date

Little Debbie's Circle will host a Women's Christmas Gathering for all Messiah women on

Saturday December 5 at 9:30 AM.



If you are interested in knowing more about what it means to be Lutheran, we will be having a new member class on December 8 at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall here at Messiah Lutheran Church. Please contact the church office to reserve your seat. We will serve a light meal also.

Thank You

Thank you for remembering my ministry during Pastor Appreciation Month. I appreciated each card and kind word. I wish that Craig and I could have joined you for the October 11th gathering, but we were spending Fall Break in Georgia with my step-daughters and grandchildren from Tennessee. Even so, thank you for thinking of us as you planned that special event. Special thanks to Pastor Orin for his willingness to share that time with others of us in ministry. Being part of Messiah is a rich blessing. We are so grateful for each of you and the ministry that we share.

Thanks!

Pastor Linda

Stewardship

The Stewardship Appeal Campaign: By Grace We Receive, In Faith We Trust, In Love We Give launched on the weekend of 10/17 and 18 with Announcement Sunday and continued on 10/24 and 25 with a temple talk by Karen Grochowsky on Ministry Excellence. We are grateful for the positive feedback from Karen's talk and look forward to seeing you in worship or by viewing online with two more temple talks leading to Appeal weekend on 11/14 and 15. The two planned bulletin inserts have been included in this Spirit for your consideration. We also hope to provide the congregation more information through the year as we transition to a Stewardship for all seasons model.

Lutheran World Relief

2026 has been a very active year at Messiah with many individuals helping to fulfill the part of our Mission Statement when we say at the end of every worship service: "to offer healing and care to all in need". These are not empty words. Many volunteers have worked faithfully at home, (knitting, crocheting, measuring/cutting/sewing to provide mission quilts, baby diapers from donated t-shirts, quilt blocks for quilt tops, school bags, receiving blankets) and/or meeting regularly in the Fellowship Hall to assemble and tie the quilts/cut and sew t-shirts into diapers and receiving blankets for the 2026 LWR In-Gathering. On Saturday, October 17th, 9:30 a.m., we delivered 58 boxes to Our Savior's ELCA Lutheran in Jefferson City. At 2:00 p.m. a semi was scheduled to pick up donations from churches in the Mid Missouri Area.

A total of 291 boxes {including the 58 Messiah sent} were then to be driven to the LWR Warehouse in Minneapolis, MN.

From Minneapolis, Mission Quilts, Personal, School, Fabric and Baby Care Kits are sent worldwide, including the U.S., wherever there is a need (natural disasters or war). Listed are the totals of the LWR Shipment and what Messiah Lutheran Church was blessed to send: 88 quilts a total of 758; 101 Personal Care Kits a total of 470; 97 School Kits a total of 408; 146 Baby Care Kits a total of 146; and 8 Fabric Kits a total of 13.

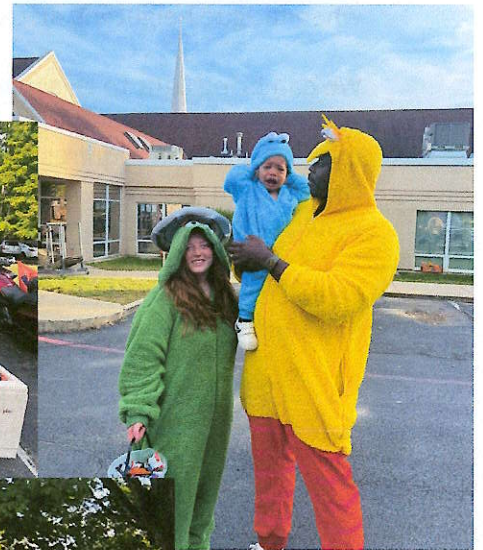
THANKS BE TO GOD FOR ENABLING OUR CONGREGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF LWR --- TO BRING COMFORT AND HOPE TO FAMILIES WHO LOST EVERYTHING FROM NATURAL DISASTERS OR WAR ----TO EMBRACE COUNTLESS FAMILIES WITH CHRIST'S LOVE; AND TO PROVIDE HYGIENE AND DIGNITY AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO KEEP CHILDREN IN SCHOOL WHERE SCHOOL SUPPLIES ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

Meet Your Council Member

Hi, my name is Mary Keidle and I am a member of the Church Council here at Messiah. I have been a member here for quite a while and enjoy attending the Saturday night service. I am a ringer in the handbell choir and truly enjoy meeting weekly with my fellow ringers as well as sharing our music with the congregation. I am also active helping with chapel duties at the Daycare. Once a month I gather with the children as they learn more about living a loving Christian life. Since I am on the Advisory Board for the Daycare, I also help with special functions throughout the year. I also plant and maintain the flower beds around the church and prayer garden. This summer with its heat and drought was a challenge. Each summer I help with Vacation Bible School and truly enjoy working with the young people who attend, especially the older ones that are the helpers. I am a retired PMA, Parish Ministry Associate, and enjoy sharing my faith and living it. I am glad that Messiah is broadening its horizons through our attendance and participation in multi-cultural events.



Trunk-n-Treat 2026



Congregational Care

Dear Members of Messiah Lutheran Church,

As the winter solstice approaches, the world outside is draped in a cold, stark silence, and the nights have grown long and heavy. In this season of expected merriment, the contrast between the world's expectations and our internal realities can feel profound. At the request of our Congregational Care Committee, I want to offer both professional and spiritual perspective on navigating these challenging months.

As a Licensed Professional Counselor, I want to normalize these struggles. Holiday stress is a common, temporary response to a culmination of financial, social, and emotional pressures. This season is a trial for many: the isolated, the forgotten, the overworked, and the struggling parent. It is a heavy time for those shivering in the cold, those burdened by shame, and those struggling to love family members without trying to fix them. We must also remember the lonely in care facilities, children without gifts, service members overseas, and first responders working grueling shifts on dark nights when fatigue heightens distress.

We can bring light to this darkness by shifting from assumption to action through practicing empathy, setting healthy boundaries, and sharing our resources. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves, which requires extending grace to our own hearts. To cultivate this, I recommend the self-compassion practices of Dr. Kristin Neff, which teach us to treat ourselves with the same warmth we would offer a dear friend.

I also share this timeless wisdom from my Great Aunt Sophie Danczyk, from a 1961 church clipping in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, reminding us of our enduring source of strength:

Are you SAD? Isaiah 40--TEMPTED? Psalm 139--DISCOURAGED? Psalm 23
BORED? Psalms 103 and 104--LONELY? Psalm 27--BUDGETING? Luke 19
WEARY? Matthew 11:28 to 30--DISILLUSIONED? 1 Corinthians 13
BEREAVED? 1 Corinthians 15--FEARFUL OF DEATH? John 11, 17, and 20

To navigate this season, consider these practical strategies:

- Validate your feelings: It is okay to feel sad, anxious, or tired. Acceptance is the first step toward relief.
- Maintain routines: Prioritize consistent sleep, exercise, and nutrition to buffer against stress.
- Seek light and connection: Spend time in natural daylight, brighten your space, and participate in community gatherings.
- Set realistic expectations: Focus on what is manageable and meaningful right now.

Please remember that seasonal blues are distinct from clinical depression. If your struggles persist or feel unmanageable, you do not have to carry them alone. Pastor Orin is always available for spiritual care, and professional clinicians are ready to help. If you or someone you know is in crisis, free, confidential support is available 24/7 by calling or texting 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

You are a valued member of this community. May you find true peace, grace, and restorative rest this winter.

Sincerely,
Lindsey J. Dillion, MS, LPC

November Flowers

	1	7/8	14/15	21/22	28/29
Vase 1	Rex & Mary Anne Johnson	Vic & Peggy Shelton	Vic & Peggy Shelton	Marilyn Dowell	Vic & Peggy Shelton
Vase 2		Vic & Peggy Shelton	Gene Chrisman		Dennis & Martha Morris



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

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November Scripture Readings

Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
1	MICAH 3:5-12	43	1 THESSALONIANS 2:9-13	MATTHEW 23:1-12
7/8	AMOS 5:8-24	70	1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18	MATTHEW 25:1-13
14/15	ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18	90:1-8, [9-11], 12	1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11	MATTHEW 2:14-30
21/22	EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24	95:1-7a	EPHESIANS 1:15-23	MATTHEW 25: 31-46
28/29	ISAIAH 64:1-9	80:1--7, 17-19	1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9	MARK 13:24-37

Mark Your Calendars

11-3 Mid-Term Elections
11-8 New Member Session
11-14 GriefShare Special Session
11-15 Church Council Meeting
11-18 Seminole-Holland Board Meeting
11-22 Receive New Members

11-22 Parish Life Fall Activity
11-25 Thanksgiving Eve Service
11-26 Thanksgiving-Church Office &
MLCFDC is Closed
11-29 Advent begins