

## October 2023 Messiah Messenger

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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**Rev. Nils Niemeier – Pastor**

**Rev. Stephen Unger - Associate Pastor**

**Thom Brownworth - Deacon**

## **PASTOR NIEMEIER'S NOTE:**

My dear brothers and sisters at Messiah,

As you are likely aware, Grace and I were married on September 23rd this past month. One of the readings we had at our wedding comes from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, specifically the fifth chapter. It is one of my favorite selections to preach at weddings, partly because nobody really knows what Paul is talking about in Ephesians 5:21-33 when he says that husbands and wives should "submit to one another," and it provides a great opportunity for a pastor to clear up our misunderstandings.

In Ephesians 5, Paul communicates God's high standards for husbands and wives while also communicating how much God loves us and how much the love between spouses should reflect God's love. When Paul wrote his epistle to the Ephesians, he wrote it to help them overcome the ethnic and theological divisions wracking their congregation. The Jewish and Gentile Christians of Ephesus were not walking together in love: Christians of Jewish extraction wished to have those of Gentile stock conform to Jewish practice, and the Gentile Christians argued that they did not need to do what the Jewish Christians were doing in order to be "real" Christians. This led to strife and infighting in the congregation as brothers in Christ turned on each other.

To resolve the situation and bring harmony back to the Ephesian congregation, Paul, through this epistle, seeks to demonstrate to them that in Christ's baptism there are no divisions between the Jews and Gentiles. Instead, all who are baptized into Christ are made one in Him; as part of the church, they are part of His body. Baptism, as Paul says, joins believers together into Christ's body and makes it possible for them to walk in newness of life, behaving toward one another as God would have them do, walking "in love" as Christ loves them. In addition to explaining to them how baptism unites them, Paul expanded this view of baptismal unity to more than just the fellowship of all humans in Christ. For Paul, this baptismal unity is especially manifested in the relationship between husband and wife.

According to Paul, the relationship between husband and wife is a special one because it is a representation in-small of Jesus' relationship with his church. The church is Christ's bride, won to Himself through baptism and His bloody sacrifice on the cross, and as human husbands and wives are one flesh, so is Christ one with His church. And because the church is Christ's body, He loves her, even to the point of dying for her to redeem her from her sins. In the same way, husbands are to love their wives "as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"—even to the point of dying for her. As the church is Christ's body, so are wives, in essence their husbands' bodies, to be loved and cherished by them as if they were their own. At the same time, wives are to "submit" to their husbands as the church does to Christ, trusting in them as the church trusts in Jesus to hold her best interests at heart in all His actions and to guide and protect her in all situations.

God has placed a tall order before husbands and wives in Ephesians 5. It is hard to love someone as much as or in the same way as Christ loves the church, nor is it easy to trust that your spouse has your welfare at heart in all things. The world may even sow doubt, causing one to think that all this talk of submission and headship somehow permits domineering in the marriage and submission in the face of egregious behavior, making such a relationship out to be a bad thing. But that is not what God has in mind for husbands and wives. Instead, *both are to submit their wills to His, loving one another in a way which mirrors Christ's love.* And while this is impossible for husbands and wives to do *on their own*, to love one another so much as to put their spouses before themselves in all things, with Christ, such things are possible. For through faith in Christ's laying down His life for the church, husbands and wives are made righteous in Him, no longer slaves to sin and selfishness. In this righteousness, they are able to better live in accordance with God's will for them, freed in Christ's redemption to love one another fully. And when they fail in the task of truly loving their spouse as Christ does His church, Jesus is there to forgive them and help them to live for the other as He does. Living in submission to Christ in His grace, husbands and wives are able to live truly as a new creation, as "one flesh."

Brothers and sisters, I hope this gives you a better idea of what Paul means in Ephesians 5, and I hope this encourages you in your own callings as husbands and wives. And for those who desire to someday be a husband or wife, I hope this helps you understand what we are called to be and do as husbands and wives in Christ.

In His grip,

Pastor Nils Niemeier



## Welcome Home Reception

The congregation is joyously invited to an Open House to welcome Grace Niemeier into our Messiah family!

Sunday, October 15, 2:00-5:00PM

This very special gathering will include a short program at 2:30. No RSVP is required. Just come when you wish and stay as long or as short as you wish. Don't miss this opportunity to welcome Grace while enjoying a snack and a piece of cake.

Questions? Contact Susan Benes (631-742-0672), Donnalee Morris (631-456-1039), Nancy Murphy (516-316-1336), or Linda Unger (631-751-8184).





Are you new to our church?  
Have you been attending services but have not indicated that you want to become a member?  
Have you been enjoying services online but have not returned to in-person services?

If you have not been back to church since we started having services again, we invite you to come back and join us here around the Lord's table at Messiah. Often, we heard it said during the pandemic that the church is not the building, but the people. And this is true to some extent. But church is also the place where God gives us His gifts through the word that we hear read and preached, and through the sacraments that we receive from Him, and moreover, it's the place where God's people gather. It's hard to be the Body of Christ when we are separated. So "church" is both the place and the people, and they belong to each other.

Messiah is *your church*, and *you* belong to *each other*.

So join us! The Lord's Table is set, the Supper is ready, your brothers and sisters are seated around it, waiting for you. Come, join us at the feast!

Please contact the church office at 631-751-1775 or speak with Pastor Niemeier if you have questions or concerns.

We look forward to seeing you in church!



## Birthdays

**1** Jeffrey Noakes, **2** Megan Wood, **3** Michael Rutowicz, **6** Bryce Wooley, Clayton Hofler, Derek Setek, **7** Robert Anderson, Christian Bell, Pat Klunder, Megan Yoos, **8** Daniel Ochei, Matthew Genow, Colin Hassell, Ann Gorse, **10** Addison Depinto, **11** Robert Underwood, Judy Dragotta, Michael Elco, **12** Heidi Gross, Robin Ochei, Maxwell Furrer, **14** Joseph Cirrone, **15** Madison Mendriski, **17** Kenneth Hass, Walker Bell, **18** Kristin Mertz, **20** Elizabeth Blasco, Hank Baum, Nicholas Castellano, **21** Bill Bambina, **22** Jocelyn Riley, **24** Brynn Smith, **26** Ryan Connolly, Noah Carey, **27** Kirsten Hassell, Lisa Anderson

## Fall Service Schedule



Our fall Sunday service schedule at Messiah will see two services each Sunday, the early service at **8:30** and the late service at **11:00**. The 8:30 service will be more of a blended/family service, while the 11:00 will more strictly follow the liturgy as printed in the hymnal. Sunday school for both children and adults will take place between the services at 9:45.



## A GOOD TIME HAD BY ALL ON WELCOME BACK SUNDAY!

Our Rally Day Picnic was held on Sunday,  
September 10<sup>th</sup>

Thank you to everyone who came out for our picnic kicking off the 2023-2024 Sunday School year! We enjoyed all kinds of good food and fellowship with one another, As well as fun games!

Sincere thanks to the Education, Youth, and Evangelism Committees for all their hard work in planning the day's events. We could not have done it without your help. Thank you!



## Parish Education:

### Sunday School



Sunday School is offered between services at 9:45 for both Adults and Children.  
We look forward to seeing you there!

We are looking for Sunday School teachers and substitutes. It's a wonderful opportunity to help our children learn about our faith. If interested, please speak with Liann Dennis or Pastor Niemeier.



### Midweek Bible Study

The Midweek Bible study is held on **Wednesdays at 5:30 pm**. A Wednesday morning Bible study time will be announced soon.

We will be doing a study on the Church using Christa Petzold's *Gathered by Christ: The Overlooked Gift of Church*. This will be available through the church office. If you would like to take part, please contact the church office,

Pastor Niemeier, or sign up on the church website.  
We look forward to seeing you soon!

### Women's Bible Study



Women's Bible study is held on **Thursdays at 7pm**. We will be reading [Inspired by the Holy Spirit](#), Four Habits for Faithful Living by Christina Hergenrader. Books are available through the church office.

All are welcome, even if Bible study is new to you. Please contact the church office ([info@messiahny.com](mailto:info@messiahny.com)) to sign up.

### Confirmation Class

Classes are held on **Tuesdays at 5:30 pm** for students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

## How you can Help at Messiah

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



There are many ways to serve here at Messiah!

Using your gifts and talents to help support Messiah Lutheran Church can be a truly rewarding experience in so many ways.

At this time, we ask all who attend our church to consider volunteering to serve. We have various ministry and service opportunities that need your help.

#### **Please consider the following:**

#### **Service Helpers**

- Lectors - serve on a rotating basis, reading the scripture lessons at Sunday service.
- Acolytes – assist on the altar during service. A good opportunity to earn service hours!
- Ushers – assist before and after service, guiding and directing church attendees.
- Live Stream – providing computer assistance for those members who are not able to attend in person.
- Power Point – set up and run slides during service.

**Trustees** – help with maintaining our building, with various projects, ....

**Altar Guild** – setting up for Communion and cleaning up afterward, changing the Altar candles, decorating the Sanctuary and Narthex at Christmas and Easter, etc.

**Weekly Coffee Service** - purchasing snacks, milk, and coffee, making sure we have enough coffee cups and sugar.

**Yard work** – please see article to follow.

**Board of Evangelism** – help with outreach to our community

Please see the **Sign Up Sheet** in the Narthex or contact the church office for more information. Thank you!



## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

### **YARD WORK DAYS**

**Saturday, Oct 21<sup>th</sup> at 10 am**

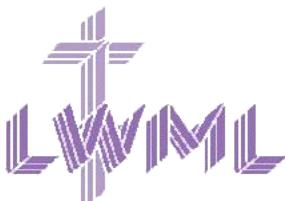
**Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 am**

We need your help in caring for our church property. Bring your rakes, blowers, trimmers, etc.

Many hands make light work!

Please be sure to come on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> for our big fall cleanup!

## **The Lutheran Women's Mission League needs your help!**



**Please join us **Friday,  
October 13<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.****

Come and help us assemble school kits  
and baby items for  
**Lutheran World Relief.**

Needed for these kits are: Dark colored  
bath towels; Pencil sharpeners; Rulers; Erasers;  
Bars of Ivory or Dove soap.

Thank you, as always for your kind generosity!

## **Fall Coat Drive**

**Help folks keep warm this winter!**



Starting September 10th, we will be  
collecting new or clean, gently used  
outerwear for adults and children—coats,  
jackets, hats, scarves, boots, and gloves.

(No sweaters or sweatshirts, please.)

Brand new packaged underwear and socks are also needed.

**Deadline to donate is October 8.**

Volunteers will also be needed to help organize the  
donations and distribute them at Lighthouse Mission. For  
details, contact the Evangelism committee: Nancy Murphy,  
Donnalee Morris, Linda Unger, or either of the pastors.

## Altar Guild



Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, **October 4, 2023 at 1:00 pm** in the Council Room.

Please consider joining the Altar Guild!

Please see the Sign Up Sheet in the Narthex or contact the church office for more details.

*+ Soli Deo Gloria +*  
Ruth Hawkins for the Altar Guild

## OCTOBER EVENTS!



Join us **Saturday, October 7th at 2pm** for a **Blessing of the Animals**. God loves all the creatures He has made! Bring your four-footed, feathered, and finned friends for a Blessing!

Rain date is Sunday, October 8th at 2:00 pm.



Attention all ghouls and goblins, join us **Saturday, October 28th at 2pm to 4pm** for **Trunk or Treat**. Candy, prizes, games and fun for all the children in the community! A safe and fun alternative to Halloween.

Anyone who would like to participate and decorate their trunk and hand out candy or other goodies, please email the church and let us know ([info@messiahny.org](mailto:info@messiahny.org)). Rain date Sunday, October 29th at 2pm to 4pm.



## Altar Flowers

If anyone wishes to have flowers at the altar, we ask for \$50 for two bouquets, or \$90 for one arrangement, to be displayed on the designated Sunday. You would be able to take those bouquets home after the late service. Thank you!



## Do you have a loved one away at school or in the military?

Living away from home can be a lonely experience. Please allow us the opportunity to reach out to your student/service member with words of encouragement, spiritual resources, and care packages. We can even help to find local churches in their community, so that they can continue in fellowship with other believers and maintain a strong foundation in the Christian faith.

Please contact the church office for details.

## **Would you like to come to church, but are in need of transportation?**

Please contact the church office at (631) 751-1775.  
We may be able to arrange a ride for you!

## Find Us on Social Media!



On the Messiah Facebook page, you will find information about church services, COVID-19 updates, as well as devotionals and meditations.



And don't forget to subscribe to Messiah YouTube page! Here you'll find archived videos of streamed services, messages from the pastors, devotionals and other video resources.

Follow our pages today! You can find links to both our Facebook and YouTube pages on our website, [www.messiahny.com](http://www.messiahny.com).

SCAN ME



### SUPPORT MINISTRY AT MESSIAH WITH ELECTRONIC GIVING THROUGH FAITHSTREET!

FaithStreet provides you with the ability to make your pledges/offerings online to support Messiah's various programs and ministries. FaithStreet allows you to give one-time, weekly, monthly or twice per month securely via your bank account, credit card, or debit card (just like you pay your utility bills). You can make your offerings online or via text. This will help the church keep a consistent flow of funds throughout the year. To give via FaithStreet, scan the QR code above or go to our website, [www.messiahny.com](http://www.messiahny.com). In the upper right-hand corner click on **MORE**, click on **ONLINE GIVING/DONATION** and it will take you to the link for Faithstreet.com to set up your on-line giving account with Messiah.



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