



... fear not,
for I am with you;
be not dismayed,
for I am your God;
I will strengthen you,
I will help you,
I will uphold you
with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

September 2026 Messiah Messenger

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
465 Pond Path, East Setauket, NY 11733
(631)751-1775
www.messiahny.org
e-mail info@messiahny.org**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Brothers and Sisters of Messiah,

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we leave behind the frivolity of summer, we come into a new season. A season full of new beginnings, hope, and new opportunities.

We are reminded of what we were taught in the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes (Chapter 3):

Everything has its own time, and there is a specific time for every activity under heaven;

A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to plant and a time to pull out what is planted.

A time to kill and a time to heal.

A time to tear down and a time to build up.

A time to cry and a time to laugh.

A time to mourn and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones and time to gather them.

A time to hug and a time to stop hugging.

A time to start looking and time to stop looking.

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to tear apart and time to sew together.

A time to keep quiet a time to speak out.

A time to love and a time to hate.

A time for war and a time for peace.

While the summer kept many of us apart, it also brought many of us together. We took the opportunity to regularly join together to pray for the future of Messiah, while actively putting plans into motion to help secure that future. Now we are going into our new season. Sunday classes are beginning and fall activities are upon us. We look forward to seeing all of your faces as we begin anew.

Peace be to you, my friends.

Come back and see us.

We've missed you.

Love in Christ,

Liann Dennis and the Messiah Council





Vacation Bible School 2026
Thank you to all who attended and helped out!
We had more than 20 children in attendance!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



3 ~ Janet Carey, Connor Mackey, 4 ~ Claudia Retzlaff,
6 ~ Debra Woolley, 9 ~ Meghan Bell, 11 ~ Bonnis Baynon,
12 ~ Nancy Noakes, 13 ~ Lillian Wilson, Courtney Quinn,
David Emig, 14 ~ Madison Yoos, Jayden Setek,
15 ~ Collin McCabe, 16 ~ Brynn McFarland, 17 ~ Kenneth
Hass, Aiden Larsen, Audrey Brazier. 19 ~ Jean Caminske,
21 ~ Wendy Mendriski, Nevaeh DeFilipo, 23 ~ Rev. Charles Bell,
26 ~ Debbie Blasco, 27 ~ Charles A. Bell, Megan Perfetti, 28 ~ Ella Walsh,
Linda McGrady, 29 ~ Hailey Buttarro, 30 ~ Laura Bell, Mackenzie Gazura

Cycle 300 Mile Challenge
~ A Message from Guy Gourlay ~

Dear Members & Friends of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church,

“I thank my God every time I remember you.” — Philippians 1:3

With a grateful heart, I sincerely thank everyone at Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church for your generous donation to the American Cancer Society and for the love, prayers, encouragement, and support you gave me throughout my 300-mile cycling challenge.

Scripture reminds us to “carry each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2). Through your generosity and compassion, you are helping carry the burdens of individuals and families affected by cancer while bringing them strength, comfort, and hope.

Every mile I completed was made easier knowing that my church family was riding beside me in spirit. When the road was long, your prayers and encouragement gave me strength to keep moving forward. Each turn of the pedals became a reminder that no one faces life’s hardest journeys alone.

Although the challenge is complete, the fight against cancer continues. The finish line of one ride is not the end of the journey; it is another starting point. Because of your generosity, hope continues to move forward—to patients, survivors, caregivers, and families who need strength for the miles ahead.

I am deeply grateful that Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church chose to walk and ride with me in this mission. Your kindness transformed a personal cycling challenge into a shared expression of faith, compassion, and service.

So, the ride continues. There will be difficult hills, unexpected turns, and miles still to go—but we will face them together. With every prayer, every act of kindness, and every gift, we help carry one another forward. And together, we can keep hope moving until the day cancer no longer stands in anyone’s path.

Thank you for believing in this mission and in me. I am truly blessed to be part of such a loving and generous church family.

With love, gratitude, and respect,

Guy W. Gourlay



Please join our **Prayer/Special Needs Chain**

and intercede for those needing prayer throughout the course of the week. It is such a wonderful way to support our church family and those we love.

If you are interested in participating, please contact
the church office at (631) 751-1775 or info@messiahny.org.

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, don’t hesitate to call!

Thank you!

Messiah Events:

Welcome Back to
Sunday School!



Rally Day Picnic

Sunday School Kick-Off BBQ!

Join us on Sunday, September 13th after the worship service
for our annual barbeque picnic!

The church will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, brats,
beverages, and condiments.

We ask those attending to sign up and bring salads (potato,
macaroni, sauerkraut, coleslaw), side dishes, and desserts.

This is the kick off for Sunday School but NOT just for families.

It is also to celebrate the end of summer and beginning of fall blessings. ALL are
welcome to attend. Bring a friend.

Register your family for Sunday School and Bible study classes.
Please sign up so we will have enough food for everyone attending.

Sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

Lumos Experience Candlelight Concert

Sat., Sept 26th, 2:30-3:30pm, 4:30-5:30pm,

6:30-7:30pm (sold out) & 8:30-9:30 pm (sold out)

Join us here at Messiah for an unforgettable evening of candlelight & instrumental
music performed by a trio featuring the music of Fleetwood Mac.

Tickets are available at www.lumos-experiences.com – book tickets now!

Blessing of the Animals

Sat., Oct. 3 at 2:00 pm. Bring your pets for a blessing. Enjoy light refreshments.

*God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to
their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their
kinds. And God saw that it was good.” – Genesis 1:25*

Trunk or Treat & Vendor Fair

October 24th, 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

We need church members to decorate their car trunks and hand out candy.

Please sign up in Narthex.

Bring your children for a safe way to Trick or Treat and shop with local craft vendors.

We have some great vendors: Crochet by Sofia, Quilted Creations by Ingrid,
Karen's Kreations, Made by Me, Just For You, Berna's Sensory Boutique & More,
The Cotton Candy Lady LI, All About Beads and more!

Games for the children to play and win prizes plus free face painting.

Annual Thanksgiving Feast

November 15th at 11:45 am. This is a time of fellowship with your church family,
giving thanks for all that God has done for us.

District Events:

LWML Retreat at Tuscarora, Pa.

The Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) Atlantic District Fall Retreat is scheduled
for **October 16–18, 2026**, at the Tuscarora Inn & Conference Center in Mount Bethel,
Pennsylvania. More info to come!



Messiah Reaching Out

The Stewardship Committee sends cards and postcards out to members who are homebound or fighting an illness.

We will also send greetings to baptism families, college students, military families, and others to let them know that we are thinking about them and are praying for them.

Please contact the church office at (631) 751-1775

or talk to Tracey Donohue if you would like to help,

or if you know of someone in need of encouragement.



Tender Loving Care Group

The Bible says, *"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith"*

~ Galatians 6:10

We are seeking volunteers to join this group.

This group would help our Messiah family with anything they need help with. Yard work, doing things around the house, going shopping, etc. If you would like to join (youth are welcome) or if you need help, please contact the church office

(631) 751-1775 or info@messiahny.org



College and Military Care Packages

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 consider donating non-perishable food items for our Care Packages.

All items should be individually wrapped.

Thank you, as always for your kind generosity!



Volunteers - Help Needed!

We are in need of help for many of our events. Please prayerfully consider helping with our events:

- Trunk or Treat/Vendor Fair – Saturday, Oct. 24th at 12pm to 4pm

We also need volunteers for:

- Running & creating the Power Point for Sunday Services
- Parsonage Committee
- Fundraising Committee

please speak with Liann!

Mission of the Month ~ September, 2025

911 Fund / Setauket Fire Department

In memory of the great sacrifice given by all service workers on 9/11, we are taking a special offering to help support our local fire department.

Please support them with your prayers and a financial gift.

To donate, please make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church, and write "Setauket Fire Department" in the memo line, or for cash donation, write "Setauket Fire Department" on your envelope.

Thank you, as always for your kind generosity!



The Lutheran Women's Mission League

LWML will meet on Friday, Sept. 11th at 10:00am.
The LWML collects items all year long for School Kits,
Personal Care Kits and Baby Care Kits.

Items for school kits:

70 Sheet Lined Spiral Notebooks
Centimeter Rulers (can also have inches on it)
Manual Pencil Sharpeners
Unsharpened #2 Pencils
2-1/4 Inch Erasers
Black or Blue Ballpoint Pens
16 to 24 Count Box of Crayons
Drawstring Bag (no logos)

Other kits:

Personal Care Kits: dark bath towels; bars of soap; adult toothbrush w/cover; sturdy combs; and metal nail clippers.

Baby Care Kits: cotton t-shirts (6-24 months); Long or short sleeve gowns or sleepers without feet; swaddling blankets (36-52" squares); cloth diapers; jackets, sweaters or sweatshirts w/cap or hood (9-24 months); socks (9-24 months); bars of gentle soap (ex: ivory); diaper pins; and dark hand towels.

Thank you!

Messiah Shoe Drive

We are collecting gently used or new shoes
to raise funds for Messiah.

Tell your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc.

We need to collect 100 bags of 25 pairs of shoes
per bag so let's spread the word!!

We will continue to collect shoes through November,
so please help us reach our goal!



An Important Message from our Strategic Planning Committee:

God has blessed our congregation in many ways, and we have an opportunity to build a strong and sustainable future for generations to come.

To help guide that effort, the Church Council has established the **Strategic Planning Committee.**

Our committee has been asked to focus on three primary goals:

1. **Strengthen Messiah's spiritual and financial health.**
2. **Increase participation through our members' time, talents, and treasures.**
3. **Create a sustainable future that supports the calling of a pastor and expands Christ's ministry through Messiah.**

Our Mission

The Strategic Planning Committee exists to prayerfully develop and recommend both a short-term and long-term vision for Messiah Lutheran Church—one that strengthens our spiritual vitality, encourages greater participation in worship and ministry, ensures financial sustainability, and supports the calling of a pastor.

***Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm for a Time of Prayer.
We are seeking the Lord together for the future of our church.***

Altar Guild



Please consider joining the Altar Guild! Watch announcements and emails for our next meeting. Please contact the church office for more details.

+ *Soli Deo Gloria* +
the Messiah Lutheran Altar Guild

Altar Flowers



If you wish to provide flowers at the altar, we ask for a donation of **\$35 (or more)** for two bouquets. Bouquets may be taken home after the late service, or donated to the homebound or nursing home patients.

Please write your name on the Flower Calendar in the Narthex and complete a flower donation envelope along with your payment. Please include the sentiment that you would like printed in the bulletin. Thank you!

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!



PARISH EDUCATION:

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School registration is on Sunday, Sept. 13.
Adult class begins on Sun., Sept. 13th at 9:00 am
Childrens' Class begins on Sun., Sept. 20th at 9:00 am

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Midweek Bible Study resumes on
Wednesday, Sept. 16th at 10:30 am.
All are welcome.
Bring your Bible and a notebook!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will resume in October.
Watch announcements for dates!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class for 7th and 8th graders
Resumes on Sunday, Sept. 20th at 9:00 am.
Be sure to register on Sept 13th!



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.

Please prayerfully consider filling out a MY GIVING GOAL PLEDGE CARD

Your pledges help us with budgeting and help support the ministries we provide here at Messiah.

Your support will help us to make preparations to welcome a new pastor!

Cards can be found on the little table in the narthex by the grotto.
Please complete card and place it in the box. Thank you!



Find Us on Social Media!

On the Messiah Facebook page, you will find information about church services, health updates, and 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, *and now on Instagram* pages on our website, www.messiahny.org.

SUPPORT MINISTRY AT MESSIAH WITH ELECTRONIC GIVING THROUGH FAITHSTREET!

SCAN ME



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. In the upper right-hand corner click on **MORE**, click on **ONLINE**

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Faithstreet.com to set up your on-line giving account with Messiah.

Your donation helps us keep sending The Messiah Messenger to members and friends of Messiah

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