

April 2024
Messiah Messenger

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

Rev. Nils Niemeier – Pastor
Thom Brownworth - Deacon

PASTOR NIEMEIER'S NOTE:

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Messiah,

On Palm Sunday, I had the privilege of admitting seven of our young people to the Lord's Table for the first time. It's always an exciting event for me, because it means that these young folks are more fully able to partake in the life of the church and are able to receive God's gifts to them in the Sacrament of the Altar. No more waiting for them—they get to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus given and shed for them for the forgiveness of their sins.

Part of the preparation for admitting children to the Lord's Table involves some question-and-answer time with the pastor to make sure that they understand what it is they are partaking of. We do this because Paul warns us in 1 Corinthians 11 against receiving the Sacrament while not discerning that it is Christ's Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. He says that not understanding that Christ is truly present in the Sacrament can lead to eating and drinking judgment upon oneself. Suffice it to say, it's important to understand this. If the Sacrament of the Altar is the medicine of immortality, then the proper understanding of what it is and what it's for is important to proper "dosage" and "use." But when we know that the Sacrament is Christ's Body and Blood, oh what an incomparable gift we receive: Christ's Body and Blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins!

Anyway, one of the children I examined was so thrilled when I told her she was ready to receive the Sacrament that she physically could not contain her excitement. She ran about the room, jumped up and down—it was like Christmas morning for her, so happy was she to be able to receive Christ for the strengthening of her body and soul. Her joy models the sort of joy we ought to have every time we commune.

For every time we come to the altar, we are invited to have a foretaste of the feast to come, the feast that will be forever inaugurated when Christ returns in glory. We taste heaven, we eat the bread of angels. We partake of one of the greatest mysteries of the faith, and Christ Himself is our food. Is that not incredible?

Is that not something we should be jumping for joy to receive?

Lutherans jumping for joy is of course an odd image—we've got a reputation for being reserved! But regardless, brothers and sisters, we ought to be joyous in our hearts and not more than a bit awed at the miracle we witness every week. I hope that we can all recapture that childlike awe and exuberance over coming to the Table. I look forward to seeing you at Sunday's feast.

In His grip,

Pastor Nils Niemeier



Home Blessings

Those of you who attended the Epiphany service on January 6 will remember that part of the service involved chalking the church doors as part of a blessing of the church and the congregation. Chalking the door is also part of the rite of blessing a home. At the 2022 Atlantic District Convention, a resolution was adopted to promote the use of home-blessings in the congregations of our district for better congregational care. The rite of home blessing consists of prayers and scripture readings throughout the various rooms of a house, asking that God would make them a refuge and a help for the Christian family.

If you would like to receive a home blessing Pastor Niemeier at pastorn@messiahny.org. He would love to share this wonderful gift of the Word and prayer with you as we begin 2024!





1 ~ Karen Uhl-Smith, 2 ~ Nancy Underwood, Christopher Varvaro, Bill Spitz, Sarah Wood, 5 ~ Julia Cirrone, 6 ~ Luke VanDyke, 7 ~ Scott Eriksen, 8 ~ Pastor Niemeier; 9 ~ Mark Jones, Lindsey Donnelly, 10 ~ Michele Hass, 11 ~ Ashley Mendriski, Garrett Schneider, 12 ~ Lisa TeNyenhuis, 13 ~ Daniella Tarquinio, Arthur Morris, Catherine Dennis, 14 ~ Jake Depinto, 16 ~ Sara Murphy, Jesse Guise, Olivia Brazier, Michael Musano, 17 ~ Wayne Mechow, 18 ~ Aubrie Yoos, Kenneth Klunder, 21 ~ Taylor Riley, 24 ~ Ashley Walsh, David Koehler, 25 ~ Matthew Cirrone, Deirdre Milligan, 26 ~ Steven Duignan, 27 ~ Kim Andersen. 28 ~ Thomas Buttarro, 29 ~ Patricia Hansen, Avonlea TeNyenhuis, Hayden Bell, Alec Star, Adrienne Varvaro, 30 ~ Tyler Flynn.



We would like to start a **Prayer/Special Needs Chain** for anyone 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 in this prayer chain, please contact the church office at (631) 751-1775 or info@messiahny.org to provide your contact information.

Thank you!

Offering Envelopes



2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

are available for pick up.

They are on the table in the Narthex.

If you have not been issued envelopes but would like a set, please contact the church office.

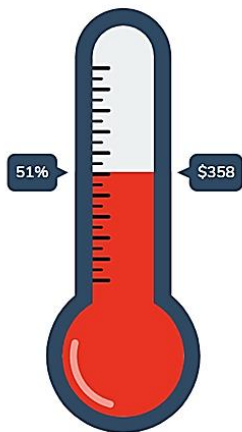
ABOVE AND BEYOND GIVING CAMPAIGN

Our first Above and Beyond campaign has been met with the donation of an AED for Messiah.

Our second campaign has been met with the purchase/donation of vacuums.

Our third campaign is under way with plans to purchase a fire safe for the church office.

GOAL: \$700



Future campaigns will help support other needs at the church.

Do you see a need that we can fill through “Above and Beyond Gifts”?

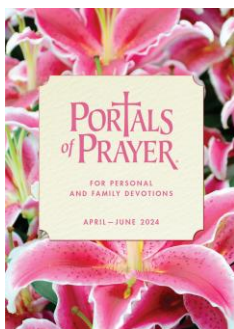
Let us know.

Thank you for your kind generosity!

Mission of the Month ~ April, 2024 **OSNAS (Our Savior New American School)**

Our Savior New American School began in 1992 as a mission to Our Savior Lutheran Church. OSNAS is a classical Christian school seeking to honor Jesus Christ in everything they do.

We are blessed to support them with prayer and financial gifts.



Portals of Prayer

A great way to start each day, readings feature a Bible passage, meditation, and prayer in an easy-to-read format. It's great for personal devotions. Copies can be found on the table in the Narthex.



Altar Flowers

If you wish to provide flowers at the altar, we ask for a donation of **\$40 (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!

Mark Your Calendars!

Church Grounds Cleanup



**Big Spring Cleanup! on Saturday,
April 13th at 10am.**

We need your help in caring for our church property. Bring your rakes, blowers, trimmers, etc. All are welcome – come for an hour or for the day!
Many hands make light work!

If you would like to help, please contact Nancy 516-316-1336.

Bingo Night!

April 20, 2024 6:30 pm

Let the fun begin!

We will have snacks, drinks, and prizes.
Please keep an eye out for the sign up sheet, or contact the church office.
We hope to see you there!



High Tea



May, 2024 (date to be announced)
Messiah will be hosting a High Tea.
Please watch for more information in the Announcements, church website, and Newsletter.

We hope to see you there!

How you can Help at Messiah

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are many ways to serve
here at Messiah!

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:

Coffee Hour Helpers

It only takes a few moments of your time to:

- make coffee before the 8:30 service
- fill carafe and set it on the table in the Narthex
- put out milk from the small fridge
- clean up when coffee hour is over
 - rinse out coffee carafe
 - rinse out coffee maker pot
 - make sure milk is put away

Thank you for your help!

Altar Guild

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, **April 3, 2024**
at 1:00 pm in the Council Room.

Please consider joining the Altar Guild!

Please contact the church office for more details.

+ *Soli Deo Gloria* +

Ruth Hawkins for the Altar Guild



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Please join us on **Friday, April 12th**
at 10:00 am to assemble kits for
Lutheran World Relief!

– Items needed are: Baby Sweaters, Sleepers, and

T shirts (6 – 24 months); Receiving Blankets, Diapers, Baby Socks;
Toothbrushes with covers, Nail Clippers, Ivory or Dove Bar Soap, Dark
bath towels. Thank you, as always for your kind generosity!



Parish Education:



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is offered between services at 9:45 for both Adults and Children.



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

Midweek Bible Study is on hiatus during Lent and will reconvene on April 10, 2024.

Our topic will be the **Gospel of John**.

Please feel free to read ahead.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 631-751-1775.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will resume on Thursday, April 4 at 7pm at St. James Lutheran Church.

The study material is "**Strengthening Your Grip**", by **Chuck Swindoll** (available on Amazon). If you have questions, please call Messiah church office at (631) 751-1775.



CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class for 7th and 8th graders is held on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm.

Please contact the church office if you have questions.



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.

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 pages on our website, www.messiahny.com.

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. 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.



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!

631-678-3079/ or 516-983-4676

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Your donation helps us keep sending The Messiah
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Our Messenger is delivered to 400 homes in our area
monthly.

Contact the church office at 631-751-1775
for more information.



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