



March 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,

If you've ever been in my office, you've probably noticed that I have a plastic model of a human skull on one of my bookshelves. Its reason for being there is partly kind of silly—I wanted my desk to look like St. Jerome's in Caravaggio's famous painting of him (he has a skull on his desk that he is contemplating as he writes)—but it's also serious, because the skull serves as something called a *memento mori*. That's a Latin phrase that means “Remember [you are going] to die.” Historically, the season of Lent was a time for contemplating mortality and for disciplining the flesh in order to grow in faith and moral conduct. Remembering death, therefore, helped a person strive for a “good death” following a life that was increasingly marked by faith in Christ and holy living. If we remember that we are going to die, then we remember to die to self and trust in Christ. It's not as morbid as it seems.

But how we die says a lot about us—specifically it says a lot about who we are in Christ. And one thing that I've discovered in the last few years is that, when people die and I am called to conduct their funerals, in many cases no one seems to know a whole lot about the deceased's faith and what they understood about what Christ has done for them, nor do they have any kind of instructions regarding what they would like to have read or sung for them. (Note: I'm not talking about people here at Messiah—the vast majority of funerals I conduct are for people in the wider community.) And that's a real shame, because as has so often been said, funerals are not for the dead, but for the living. A funeral, properly conducted, tells those of us “left behind” about what Jesus has done in the life of the deceased so that the rest of us may have hope in Him also.

Maybe the reason why so many folks don't have their funeral wishes recorded is because we, as a society, don't like to think about death all that much. COVID brought the specter of it back into our lives, but for the most part, we in the West try to keep death out of sight and out of mind. And when we put mortality out of mind, it's not surprising that we don't think about what we want to preach through our funerals. The only problem is, when death comes (as it must), and we haven't given any thought to this, then our loved ones (or even strangers) are put in a position to offer a testimony for us, and it may not be the one we want.

I don't want that to happen to you, brothers and sisters. I don't want your families to be confused as to what you want your funeral to preach. I want you to have peace of mind that your funeral will reflect your faith in the promised hope that Christ has given us. So I encourage you to plan your funeral ahead of time. And I offer you my help in doing this (I even have planned my own funeral). I know the act of planning a funeral before you are anywhere near death sounds macabre, but it can really help you to examine your faith and give you peace of mind. It will help give your families peace of mind, too, and they will thank you. I (or whichever pastor officiates) will also thank you because you will have helped me give an accurate account of *your* hope and *your* faith, so that all who are present will know about Jesus' love for you and them.

So if you would like my help in planning, give me a call or drop by the church office. I can give you a planning guide and we can work together to make sure your final testament proclaims the One who, by His death, has undone death and has given you the gift of everlasting life. Help me help you to remind those present at the graveside that, though we will die, in Christ we will live (*memento vivere*)!

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!



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS!

Don't forget to move your clocks ahead by one hour before going to bed Saturday evening, **March 9**, so you arrive at church on time Sunday morning!

*Thank you to all who attended our Fat Tuesday (on Sunday)
Pancake Breakfast!*



MARCH
Birthdays

1 ~ Karen Uhl-Smith,
4 ~ Kaitlyn Malcomson, **10** ~ Emily
McGinley, Liam Tabor, **11** ~ Aimee
Tantillo, **14** ~ Dylan Guise,
Kenneth Mertz, **15** ~ Marc Levine,
16 ~ Rebecca Lyman, **17** ~ Karen Cirrone,
18 ~ Jessica Wilkom, **19** ~ Caroline Rivard, Marilyn Jaeger,
20 ~ Lila McCabe, **21** ~ Victoria Hass, **22** ~ Nicole Murphy,
24 ~ Richard Hoey, **25** ~ Adalyn Brazier, **28** ~ Patrick Ochei,
Katie Emig, **29** ~ Jessica Spitz, Carl Caminske,
30 ~ Stephanie Ochei, William McGinley,
31 ~ Cameron Wolanski.



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!

ABOVE AND BEYOND GIVING CAMPAIGN

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

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!

Upcoming Events:



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!

THE LCMS ATLANTIC DISTRICT
Festival
OF WORKSHOPS

**Saturday,
March 16**
9:30AM-3:10PM

HOSTED AT
SUNY Maritime College
6 Pennyfield Avenue, The Bronx, NY 10465

*Over 30 workshops to
refresh and
energize you in your
ministry.*



Need a ride?

**NEW
THIS YEAR**

Chartered coach bus seats are available from Long Island and the Capital District for only \$15. Available upon registration.

\$35 per person / \$40 after March 3rd
Lunch shall be provided.

Register Online at ad-lcms.org



EASTER EGG HUNT & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST ON EASTER SUNDAY



Easter Breakfast following our 8:30 am service. All are invited to join us between services for a continental breakfast. If anyone would like to bring a dish, contact Liann Dennis at 631- 413-5476.

The breakfast will be followed by an **Easter Egg Hunt**
The children always have a good time trying to find the eggs with treats inside We are looking for youth to volunteer to help hide the eggs and help the children with finding the eggs.



Preparing for Lent and Easter



Wednesdays in LENT

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Wednesdays during Lent

March 6, 13, & 20

11 am Prayer Service

6 pm Pot Luck Supper

Followed by Worship Service

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



HOLY WEEK
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

March 24th

Palm Sunday 8:30 am & 11:00 am

March 28th

Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

March 29th

Good Friday – Service 12:00 pm

Good Friday – Tenebrae Service 7:00 pm

March 30th

Easter Vigil 7:00 pm

March 31st

Easter Sunday 8:30 am & 11:00 am

Messiah Lutheran Church
Easter Plants Order Form

Name: _____

Envelope # _____

Easter Plants

_____ Number of Plants X \$15.00 each = \$ _____

To the Glory of God in loving memory of:

To the Glory of God in honor of:

To the Glory of God in thankfulness for:

Checks should be made payable to:

“Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church”

All orders must be placed by

(**March 17th**) in order to be included in the
Easter Memorial insert.



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.

Fellowship Committee – help plan fellowship events at the church

Board of Evangelism – help with outreach to our community

Please contact the church office for more information. Thank you!

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.



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.



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Please join us on Friday, March 19th
at 10:00 am to assemble kits for
Lutheran World Relief!

Items needed are: baby sleepers or gowns (6-24 mo.),
receiving blankets,

Bars of Dove or Ivory soap, clippers, and dark bath towels.

Your help is greatly appreciated as we work towards
blessing many people who are in need.

Thank you!

Altar Guild

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 6, 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



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.

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!





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!

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**

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

Hansen's Gutter Installation

Our Only Business

Michael DeFilipo
Patricia Hansen | michaeld357@hotmail.com

Piano Lessons
All ages, all levels

Christopher Cuvier

www.chriscuvier.com
Phone: 631-252-3505
Email: cuvgroove@gmail.com

Allstate.
You're in good hands.

The Best Compliment
is a Referral

Mark S Jones
Agency Owner
Mark S Jones Ins Agency Inc
1109 Hallock Ave
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776

Office 631 928-8222
Fax 631-331-1490
marksjones@allstate.com
www.allstateagencies.com/062152
Mon 9-6, Tues-Fri 9-5, Sat 10-1
Auto, Home, Business, Life

Miss Josie's Preschool
of Port Jefferson Station
631.346.1136

NYS certified teacher, hot meals, private
playground, library, and kindergarten
readiness for children ages 2 to 4



Bun Bun's Bon Bons

Premium hand made chocolate in gift
boxes, popcorn wreaths and chocolate
pops for any occasion!

Text Mia at
631-346-1136

We deliver! Like us and see our
flavors on Facebook.



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

Our Messenger is delivered to 400 homes in our area
monthly.

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



**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
465 Pond Path
East Setauket, NY 11733**

**NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
E. Setauket,
NY 11733
PERMIT NO. 18**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED