



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

*The Lutheran Church-
Missouri Synod*

1308 Whitley Rd.
Keller, TX 76248

Sunday School &
Adult Bible Class
9:30am

Sunday Worship
8:00am, 10:45am

CHURCH OFFICE
(817) 431-2345

Rev. Thomas Chryst
Senior Pastor
Rev. Brennick Christiansen
Assistant Pastor

CLASSICAL ACADEMY
(817) 431-5486

www.messiahkeller.org
www.mlcataxas.org



*²⁰And Jesus said to them,
“Whose likeness and inscription is this?”*

²¹They said, “Caesar’s.

” Then he said to them,

*“Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s,
and to God the things that are God’s.”*

*²²When they heard it, they marveled.
And they left him and went away.*

(Matthew 22:20-22)

FOR OUR VISITORS....



Welcome! We encourage you to follow along with either the printed service or the hymnal. The page numbers for the hymnal are posted at the front of the sanctuary and on the next page. We realize it can take a while for newcomers to become familiar with our liturgy, so please feel free to ask someone near you for assistance—they would be happy to help.

We love children in our church! But if your little one gets fussy, you may use the **cry room** that is located at the north end of the hallway behind the sanctuary on your right. You are able to see and hear the worship service from there.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated in our services today. In this supper, our Lord Jesus Christ graciously feeds the humble sinner with His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Scripture clearly teaches that anyone who eats and drinks the body and blood of Christ without discerning that body and blood receives a judgment rather than a blessing from God (1 Cor. 11:29). Therefore, out of a Christian concern for souls, we require a thorough instruction in the teachings of the Lutheran Church before participating in this Sacrament. Participation at the altar is also a testimony of unity of faith with all others who partake (1 Cor. 10:17). Since unity at the altar presupposes unity in doctrine and confession (Acts 2:42), we kindly request that **only those who are in confessional fellowship** with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod participate. This includes active members in good standing of all sister Missouri-Synod congregations.



We recognize that **Closed Communion** is a sensitive issue for many and have a brochure that explains it more thoroughly. It is available in the narthex or from an usher. If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to speak with our pastor. However, **we welcome** both children and adults who are not communicant members of the Lutheran Church to come to the altar during communion for a pastoral blessing. Please indicate your request for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.



Please use the QR code on the left to visit our "**Virtual Guestbook**" and tell us about yourself and your visit with us.

This bulletin is available in large print upon request.

Divine Service—Setting Three—LSB 184

Hymns:
732, 940, 781

Hymns During Distribution:
851, 782

Sermon Title:
"Render Unto Caesar"

Scripture:
Matthew 22:15-22

Gradual—will be sung by all, using the psalm tone provided on the next page of the bulletin



We Are Recreated in the Image of God by the Cross of Christ

Plotting against Jesus, the Pharisees attempted *"to entangle him in his words"* by asking about the payment of taxes to Caesar (Matt. 22:15). The Lord pointed to coins required for the tax, and He answered that we should *"render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's"* (Matt. 22:21). But if coins bearing the image of Caesar should be rendered to him, then man — who is made in the image of God — must be rendered to the Lord. That tax is paid for us by the Lord Jesus, the image of God in the flesh, by His self-offering on the cross. And from His cross, as the Lord's anointed, He reigns as the true Caesar over all nations *"from the rising of the sun and from the west"* (Is. 45:6). The Lord once called and anointed Cyrus *"to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings"* (Is. 45:1). Now by the preaching of the Gospel, *"in power and in the Holy Spirit"* (1 Thess. 1:5), foreigners from all over the world are *"turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God"* (1 Thess. 1:9–10).



Serving in God's House Today

Organist: Josh Hatch		8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
Altar Guild: Linda Beecroft Nikki O'Dell Carrie Ratsch	Head Elder:	Roland Towers	Stephen Inglehart
	Head Usher:	Randy Burk	Marty Hobson
	Acolytes:	Luther Kirby	
Counters: Carol Lemmon	Crucifer:	Joseph Kirby	Cory O'Dell

The flowers that adorn the altar this morning are given by Karen Shrum to the Glory of God and in celebration of her 75th birthday.

Introit *Psalm 121:1-4, 7-8; antiphon: v. 5*



The LORD is your | keeper;*
the LORD is your shade on your | right hand.
I lift up my eyes | to the hills.*
From where does my | help come?
My help comes | from the LORD,*
who made | heaven and earth.
He will not let your | foot be moved;*
he who keeps you will not | slumber.
Behold, he who keeps | Israel*
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep.

The LORD will keep you from all | evil;*
he will | keep your life.
The LORD will keep your going out and your | coming in*
from this time forth and for- | evermore.



Collect of the Day

O God, the protector of all who trust in You,
have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and
guide we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not the things eternal; through
Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

Gradual: *sung by all* *Psalm 91:11; 103:1*



He will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.
Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS: OCTOBER 18-OCTOBER 31

18: Deut. 17:1-10 Matt. 14:1-21	22: Deut. 21:1-23 Deut. 22:1-24:9 Matt. 16:1-12	26: Deut. 28:1-22 Matt. 18:1-20	30: Deut. 31:30-32:27 Matt. 20:1-16
19: Deut. 18:1-22 Matt. 14:22-26	23: Deut. 24:10-25:10 Matt. 16:13-28	27: Deut. 29:1-29 Matt. 18:21-35	31: Deut. 32:28-52 Deut. 33:1-29
20: Deut. 19:1-20 Matt. 15:1-20	24: Deut. 25:17-26:19 Matt. 17:1-13	28: Deut. 30:1-20 Matt. 19:1-15	Matt. 20:17-34
21: Deut. 20:1-20 Matt. 15:21-39	25: Deut. 27:1-26 Matt. 17:14-27	29: Deut. 31:1-29 Matt. 19:16-30	



We rejoice with **Josh & Addie Hatch** in the birth of their son,
Truett Joshua Hatch, born **October 10, 2026**.

God bless **Josh and Addie** as they welcome this little one!

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD...
(Psalm 127:3)

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

TODAY 10/18 - 8:00AM - DIVINE SERVICE—STREAMING LIVE
- 9:30AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL—STREAMING LIVE
- 10:45AM - DIVINE SERVICE

MONDAY 10/19 - 6:00PM - LADIES' BIBLE STUDY—RECEPTION ROOM

TUESDAY 10/20 - 9:30AM - JOY GROUP—FELLOWSHIP HALL

WEDNESDAY 10/21 - 6:00PM -

THURSDAY 10/22 - 6:00PM - PASTOR'S CLASS—RECEPTION ROOM
- 7:00PM - FESTIVAL CHOIR REHEARSAL

FRIDAY 10/23

SATURDAY 10/24

Thank You!

A very special thank you to **Josh Hatch** for playing in our services this morning.

2027 Officer & Board Member Nominee Solicitation

The elections for officers and board members will occur at the January 2027 Voters' Assembly. All members 18 years old and older are encouraged to provide recommendations for nominees.

We are using an online form to gather submissions. This form will be available until October 31, 2027 at 11:59 P.M. Scan these codes:

Online Form



Constitution (Refer to Section 4.)



For more information, please read the **Look Ahead** newsletter.

Please direct questions to Steven Latham at Steven.W.Latham@Verizon.net or 214.769.4999.



MLCA IS HIRING!

POSITION:
PART-TIME CHOIR TEACHER
FOR GRADES K-8

For more information or to apply,
please email alison.smith@mlcatexas.org,
or call 817.431.5486.



MLCA HAS RECEIVED AN "A+" RATING FROM NICHE,
INCLUDING AN A+ RANKING FOR TEACHERS
AND ACADEMICS,
MAKING MLCA 1ST IN TEXAS AND IN THE DFW AREA!

Please keep in your prayers...

Delia, daughter of **David and Jessica Baker**, friends of **Linda Pinkston**, who is undergoing multiple surgeries following a motorcycle wreck.

We continue to pray for our members and loved ones battling cancer: Rob Bentley, Rev. Ernie Bernet, Ken & Carolyn Blume, John DiCesare, Mandy Demick, Randy Gay, Sarah Jarrett, Wayne Kirkland, Denny Knutson, Linda Pancake, Janie Peter, Tim Speight, Gaelina Strader, Mike Vandergriff.

...also those with other illnesses and trials: Natalia Boniek, Sharon Boniek, Jacob Brewer, Alli Burk, Brian Cade's mother, Abby Carpenter, Carole Cohen, Marilyn Curry, Marlene Eaton, Family of Dan Gholston, LaVina Goedecke, Adam Greer, David Gruben, Michael Hanson, Matt Hinde, Rose Hughes, William Johnstone, Dennis Kitzman, Aaron Koppelberger, Vicky Krolczyk, Brooke Lage, Bruce Lage, Chelsea Lage, Wes Liles, The Lewis family, The Lowry Family, Amy Lyon, Family of Bob Martin, Lee Masoian, Nikki McLeroy, Sandy McDougal, Family of Keith Leicht, Louise Nelson (daughter of Marilyn Kivett), Shelby Renfro, Connie Wesley Ramsey, Grant Smith, Patsy Smith, Terry Swender, Cheryl Traub, Tim Tomlinson, Peggy Wahlstedt, Wendell Wahlstedt, Jeff Wilson.

...and those who are unable to worship with us regularly: Carolyn Blume, Ron and Barbara Busse, Don & Marilyn Curry, Susan Gruben, Ronald and Brenda Patterson, Marvin Wilken.

..all of our college students in and out of state: Ashley Brewer, Jacob Brewer, Colby Carter, Seminarian David Christensen, Morgan Chryst, Maranda Crutchfield, Dorian Crutchfield, Ellie Johnson, Ethan Johnson, Erin O'Dell, Camilea O'Neill, Clara O'Neill, Daniella Osorio, Matthew Palmer, Felix Ping, Ethan Salgado, Mia Salgado, Max Tonniges, Charlie Umayam, Audrey Weber, Emily Weber.

We remember all those serving our country, particularly our members and loved ones in the military: Jesus Aranda, Tony Bourassa, Tyler Burk, David Cantrell, Cassie Gessling, Hannah Kajer, Joseph Kajer, Seth Kirch, Andrew Latham, Andrew Lowry, Hannah Pinkston, Carly Schwarzenburg, Brandon Towers, Nicolas Towers, Frank Wilde, Chaplain Peter J. Williams.

We also pray for...

- Our Braille ministry, that the Word will continue to reach the blind or visually impaired around the world.
- Messiah's educational ministry, especially our Academy, Preschool, Sunday School, and our Catechumens.
- Fellow Messiah members, married couples and children, young couples, singles, Pastor Chryst, and Pastor Christiansen.
- The voters, church council, and leaders of Messiah Church and School as they deliberate on the work the Lord has given His people to do.
- Our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world being persecuted for their faith.
- The spread of the Gospel around our nation and world and the work of our missionaries and relief workers.
- Rev. Dr. Michael Paul and his work in Taiwan.
- The Swaddling Clothes ministry and those who come seeking assistance.
- Those studying at seminary, including James Buhler (1st Year), Vicar Abram Egger, and Vicar Peter Williams, as they prepare to serve in the Holy Ministry.
- Prayers for peace in the Middle East and Ukraine.

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Pastor Christiansen: pastor.christiansen@messiahkeller.org
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School Board Chair: schoolboardchairman@mlcatexas.org
Board of Trustees: trustees@messiahkeller.org

Financial Director: jinel.munoz@messiahkeller.org
Financial Secretary: financial.secretary@messiahkeller.org
Church Office: churchoffice@messiahkeller.org
Church Office Administrator: linda.pinkston@messiahkeller.org
MLCA Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:00am—3:00pm
Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8am-4:00pm



A Life Thought in the Church Year for October 18 - Festival of St. Luke, Evangelist:

The Lord provides laborers in His harvest field.

We pray for our pastor and for more pastors in the Church of Christ (Luke 10). We, the harvest, will receive the crown of righteousness on the Last Day. There will be suffering between now and then, but we endure knowing that God provides (2 Timothy 4). The Lord turns everything on its head and provides for His people healing, restoration, life today, and life everlasting (Isaiah 35).



LCMS National Mission— 21st Sunday after Pentecost—Matthew 22:21 - “Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things

that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” So what is Jesus saying? Doesn’t everything belong to God? Yes — and God has a place for everything. Some of what He gives us goes to Caesar. Some must come back to the work of His church. And some goes to support the families He has given us. All belongs to God, and He has work for us to do with what He has given us in the home, in the church and in society.



A LUTHERAN VIEW OF DEPRESSION...

October is National Depression Education and Awareness Month. You can listen to the audiobook, "I Trust When Dark My Road: A Lutheran View of Depression" by Pastor Todd Peperkorn at issuesetc.org/depression. This audio book is produced by Lutheran Public Radio, Inc., based in Collinsville, IL. LPR, Inc. produces radio talk shows, podcasts, sacred music and talk stations, books, audiobooks, conferences, hymn recordings and videos.



QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING—

The next Voters' Meeting will be **next Sunday, October 25**, in the Fellowship Hall, immediately following the 10:45am service. Please make plans to attend. And if you plan to propose any amendments to the Constitution or bylaws, please refer to the **President's Corner** in the **September 23 Look Ahead** for an overview of the process.



On The Line (OTL) is a podcast dedicated to revolutionizing how Lutheran theology

is communicated, featuring interviews with leading experts in theology, culture, and the Christian faith, and offering confessional Lutheran insights. This past week, host **Rev. Bryan Stecker** was joined by **Rev. John Henry III**, Pastor of St. James Lutheran in Northrop, MN and Zion Lutheran in Fairmont, MN to discuss Beowulf, Tolkien, pagan courage, and Christian storytelling. Pastor Henry explains why old



myths still matter, how Beowulf brings the pagan past into a Christian frame, and what courage, honor, family, monsters, and death reveal about the Christian life. Click on the QR code to hear the latest episode.



BULLETIN PRAYER LIST UPDATES

We need your help to keep the prayer sections in the bulletin up to date!

College Students - if you have a **new college student** this year, please let us know so we can add them to that section of the bulletin. Likewise, if a college student **graduated** this past May, please let us know so we can remove them from that section of the bulletin.

Illness and other requests - if you have a friend or a loved one who has been on the prayer list but is now doing better, or if you have been on the prayer list but are now doing better, please let us know that, as well, so that we can update those areas of the bulletin. And of course, please always let us know when you or a loved one needs to be **added** to the list.

You can email churchoffice@messiahkeller.org, or call the church office at 817-431-2345 with prayer requests and with updates.



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: Last Sunday: 8:00am: — 94 10:45am: — 107 Total: — 201

Sunday School: —104 — OFFERINGS FOR THE WEEK: \$ 14,508.06 (includes online giving to Gen. Fund)

WEEKLY OFFERINGS NEEDED TO FUND THE CURRENT YEAR BUDGET: \$ 19,549.00

You may use this QR code for your convenience if you would like to give to Messiah. It will direct you to our Vanco System for electronic giving.



TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:
²“I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
³I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know me.
⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷I form light and create darkness,
I make well-being and create calamity,
I am the LORD, who does all these things.”

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in
God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for all of
you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,
³remembering before our God and Father your
work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of
hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know,
brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,
⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word,
but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with
full conviction. You know what kind of men we
proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you
became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you
received the word in much affliction, with the joy of
the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to
all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For
not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth

from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith
in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need
not say anything. ⁹For they themselves report
concerning us the kind of reception we had among
you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve
the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son
from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus
who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how
to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. ¹⁶And they sent their
disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying,
“Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the
way of God truthfully, and you do not care about
anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by
appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it
lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus,
aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test,
you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax.” And
they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to
them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?”
²¹They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them,
“Therefore render to Caesar the things that are
Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”
²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left
him and went away.