



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.mlcateexas.org



*“So the last will be first,
and the first last.”*

(Matthew 20:16)

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. We also have "**Quiet Bags**" available for children to use during the service. Please ask an usher or elder if you need assistance, then return the Quiet Bags after the service.

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.



Follow the QR code 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:
566, 555, 738

Hymns During Distribution:
602, 853

Sermon Title:
“The Last Will Be First”

Scripture:
Matthew 20:1-16

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



Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ

Those who are sent as “laborers for his vineyard” (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear “the burden of the day and the scorching heat” on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that “he may be found” (Is. 55:6), “have compassion” and “abundantly pardon” (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, “whether by life or by death” (Phil. 1:20), by “fruitful labor” (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are “worthy of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27).

Serving in God’s House Today

Organist: Josh Hatch		8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
Altar Guild: Nikki O’Dell Carrie Ratsch Laurie Ward	Head Elder:	David Phillips	Roland Towers
	Head Usher:	Eric Weber	Durand Crutchfield
	Acolytes:	Silas Christiansen	Jacob Lemmon
Counters: Kenneth Pedersen Herbert Herrmann	Crucifer:	Cory O’Dell	Christian Hernandez

The flowers that adorn the altar this morning are given by Ruby Wilson to the Glory of God.

Introit

Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16



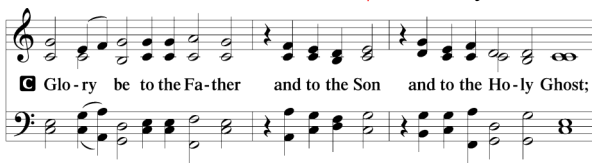
I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*
and call on the name | of the LORD.

What shall I render | to the LORD*
for all his bene- | fits to me?

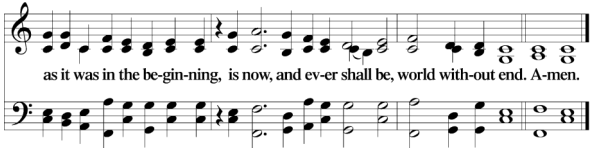
I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation*
and call on the name | of the LORD.

Precious in the sight | of the LORD*
is the death | of his saints.

O LORD, I am your | servant,*
I am your servant, the son of your
maidservant. You have | loosed my bonds.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Collect of the Day

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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 34:9, 19, alt.*



Fear the Lord, | you his saints,*
for those who fear him lack | nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the Lord delivers him out | of them all.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS: SEPTEMBER 20–OCTOBER 3

20: Deut. 19:1-20 Matt. 15:1-20	24: Deut. 25:17-26:19 Matt. 17:1-13	28: Deut. 1:1-18 Matt. 5:1-20	2: Deut. 3:1-29 Matt. 7:1-12
21: Deut. 20:1-20 Matt. 15:21-39	25: Deut. 27:1-26 Matt. 17:14-27	29: Deut. 1:19-36 Matt. 5:21-48	3: Deut. 4:1-20 Matt. 7:13-29
22: Deut. 21:1-23 <i>Deut. 22:1-24:9</i> Matt. 16:1-12	26: Deut. 28:1-22 Matt. 18:1-20	30: Deut. 1:37-2:15 Matt. 6:1-15	
23: Deut. 24:10-25:10 Matt. 16:13-28	27: Mal. 3:6-4:6 Matt. 4:12-25	1: Deut. 2:16-37 Matt. 6:16-34	

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

TODAY 09/20 - 8:00AM - DIVINE SERVICE—STREAMING LIVE
- 9:30AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL—STREAMING LIVE
- 10:45AM - DIVINE SERVICE

MONDAY 09/21 - 6:00PM - LADIES' BIBLE STUDY—RECEPTION ROOM

TUESDAY 09/22 - 9:30AM - JOY GROUP—FELLOWSHIP HALL
- 6:00PM - BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—RECEPTION ROOM

WEDNESDAY 09/23

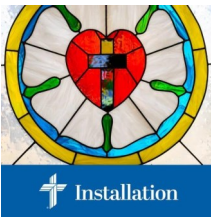
THURSDAY 09/24

FRIDAY 09/25

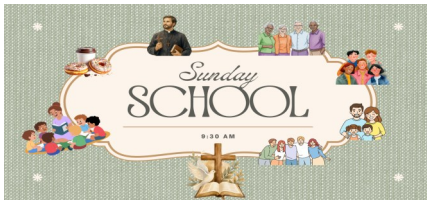
SATURDAY 09/26

Thank You!

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



Congratulations to **Pastor Chryst**
on his installation to the LCMS Board for National Mission (BNM)
this past Friday in St. Louis, MO.



Please join us for **Sunday School** after the early service or before the late service! We have classes for all ages.

Sunday School classes begin at **9:30 AM**.

Donuts and coffee are available, beginning immediately after the early worship service.

We hope to see you this morning!



REFORMATION DAY FESTIVAL CHOIR

To celebrate Reformation Day, we're putting together a festival choir! Rehearsals will be held on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m., beginning September 24.

If you are interested in singing with us, please call or text Carrie Ratsch at (217) 685-3736.

Please keep in your prayers...

David Gruben, in the death of his sister, **Joan Beach**.

Ron Klingbeil, who has fallen and broken his hip.

Jeff Wilson, who has undergone recent surgery.

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, Helen Fletcher, Family of Dan Gholston, Adam Greer, Michael Hanson, Matt Hinde, Rose Hughes, William Johnstone, Marilyn Kivit, 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, Linda Pinkston and family, Shelby Renfro, Connie Wesley Ramsey, Grant Smith, Patsy Smith, Terry Swender, Cheryl Traub, Tim Tomlinson, Helen Vacha, Peggy Wahlstedt, Wendell Wahlstedt.

...and those who are unable to worship with us regularly: Carolyn Blume, Ron and Barbara Busse, Don & Marilyn Curry, LaVina Goedecke, 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, Ethan Johnson, Erin O'Dell, Camilea O'Neill, Clara O'Neill, Daniella Osorio, Matthew Palmer, 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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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 September 20 - Pentecost 17: Thanks be to

God for faithful servants of God who have lifted up the truth of God's Word in their times. Believers who recognize the difficulties of this life often yearn to be with the Lord as Paul says, "...for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). So, today, we need not fear death or any enemy, but we can rejoice and stand firm in the Holy Spirit, speaking the truth about God's gifts of life, eternity, and forgiveness. The Lord's Word makes clear that He wants people everywhere to repent and be cleansed of their sins that they may dwell with Him forever (Psalm 27:4).



LCMS National Mission—September 20—Matthew 20:9 - "And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them

received a denarius." Behold the generosity of God! He gives out of His grace, not what we deserve to receive. Living a godly life means living in imitation of God — and surely one of the foundations of God's being is His generosity.



UNANSWERED BIBLE QUESTIONS...

Issues, Etc., a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio, will have Pastors Bryan Wolfmueller and Brian Kachelmeier respond to your unanswered Bible questions. You can submit your question via email: talkback@issuesetc.org; Facebook: [facebook.com/issuesetc](https://www.facebook.com/issuesetc); X: @IssuesEtc or the Issues, Etc. Comment Line: (618) 223-8382. You can listen to the interview at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app, and with a favorite podcast provider.



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** interviewed **Rev. Dr. Joshua Miller**, Pastor of Jehovah Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN, discussing Hermann Sasse, confessional Lutheranism, Nazism, political idolatry, and the dangers facing the Church when Christianity becomes a tool of power. Click on the QR code to hear the latest episode.



The fall **Pastor's Class** will begin on **Thursday, September 24.** Class will meet from **6:00 — 8:00 PM** in the Reception Room. This class is for

those interested in becoming Lutheran and those who want to study through the Small Catechism again. If you are interested in attending, you may speak with Pastor Chryst or contact the church office at churchoffice@messiahkeller.org.

LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Lutheran Witness is a monthly LCMS publication featuring articles on a variety of topics related to Christian life and interests, as well as Synodical news and information. **To subscribe, you may do so at the discounted price of \$32.00/yr through Messiah; this also includes a subscription to the Texas Messenger**, the publication of the Texas District of the LCMS. If interested, place a check in the offering plate made out to Messiah Lutheran Church, designated **"For Lutheran Witness,"** or bring your check to the church office. **The subscription deadline is October 23rd.**

Please call the church office at 817.431.2345 or email churchoffice@messiahlutheran.org with any questions.



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: Last Sunday: 8:00am: 90 10:45am: 100 Total: 190

Sunday School: 116 — OFFERINGS FOR THE WEEK: \$ 8,844.92 — (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.



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

- ⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have
compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly
pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares
the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Epistle: Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the

sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”