



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.mlcatexas.org



¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying,
“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”
²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said,
“Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children,
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child
is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
⁵“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me,
⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin,
it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck
and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

(Matthew 18)

FOR OUR VISITORS....



Welcome! We encourage you to follow along with either the printed service, or with 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—he or she 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. The Quiet Bags are returned 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 to explain 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 the 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 One—LSB 151

Hymns:
842, 820, 917

Hymns During Distribution:
608, 851

Sermon Title:
"Oratio Meditatio Tentatio"

Scripture:
Matthew 18:1-20

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



Living as Humble Little Children of the Father

True greatness is not self-sufficient strength, but humility like that of a little child. The greatness of childlike faith receives all good things as gracious gifts from our Father in heaven. Apart from such faith, *"you will never enter the kingdom of heaven,"* but whoever is humbled like a little child will be *"the greatest in the kingdom of heaven"* (Matt. 18:3-4). Though in our sin we deserve to be *"drowned in the depth of the sea"* (Matt. 18:6), we have instead been drowned ("buried") with Christ in Baptism and then raised to the new, humble life of a child of God. The Lord sends His watchman to warn us with a word from His mouth, in order that we may not die in our iniquity but be turned from our pride and selfishness to live (Ezek. 33:7-9). Thus, we live in humility and faith before God as well as in love for our neighbor, which *"is the fulfilling of the law"* (Rom. 13:10). In the reverent fear of God, we do no harm to our neighbor, but we *"pay to all what is owed to them"* (Rom. 13:7) and we *"owe no one anything, except to love each other"* (Rom. 13:8).

Serving in God's House Today

Organist: Josh Hatch		8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
	Head Elder:	Martin Littmann	David Loeffler
	Head Usher:	Randy Burk	Marty Hobson
	Acolytes:	Luther Kirby	Silas Christiansen
Altar Guild: Nikki O'Dell Carrie Ratsch Laurie Ward	Crucifer/ Altar	Jaxon Kirby	Nathan Munoz
Counters: Herbert Herrmann Carol Lemmon			

The flowers that adorn the altar this morning are given by Dennis & Sandi Niethoefer to the Glory of God and in celebration of their 59th Anniversary, and also by Bob Knipp to the Glory of God and in memory of his dear cousin, Wanda J. McFarland, as well as his dear friend, Sue Hunter Harper.

Introit

Psalm 92:1-4; antiphon: v. 5



How great are your works, | O LORD!*

Your thoughts are | very deep!

It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,*
to sing praises to your name, | O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the | morning,*
and your faithful- | ness by night,
to the music of the lute | and the harp,*
to the melody | of the lyre.

For you, O LORD, have made me glad | by your work;*
at the works of your hands I | sing for joy.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

How great are your works, | O LORD!*

Your thoughts are | very deep!

Collect of the Day

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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 6-19

6: 2 Kings 4:8-22, 32-37
Eph. 5:15-33

7: 2 Kings 4:38-5:8
Eph. 6:1-24

8: 2 Kings 5:9-27
Phil. 1:1-20

9: 2Kings 6:1-23
2 Kings 6:24-8:29
Phil. 1:21-2:11

10: 2 Kings 9:1-13; 10:18-19

2 Kings 13:1-18:8
Phil. 2:12-30

11: 2 Chron. 29:1-24
Phil. 3:1-21

12: 2 Chron. 31:1-21
Phil. 4:1-23

13: Deut. 11:26-12:12
Matt. 12:22-37

14: Deut. 12:13-32
Matt. 12:38-50

15: Deut. 13:1-18
Matt 13:1-23

16: Deut. 14:1-2, 22-23,
14:28-15:15
Matt 13:24-43

17: Deut. 15:19-16:22
Matt. 13:44-59

18: Deut. 17:1-10
Matt. 14:1-21

19: Deut. 18:1-22
Matt. 14:22-2

ALTAR GUILD MEETINGS RESUME THIS WEEK



All interested women are invited to join the ladies of the Altar Guild this **Wednesday, September 9, at 6:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. The Altar Guild will host a light supper featuring Fuhgeddaboudit stuffed breads and salad, introduce interested women to Altar Guild activities, and have a short business meeting.

To ensure an accurate meal estimate, please RSVP directly to Brenda Thowe at brenda.thowe@gmail.com, or by text or a phone call at 817-789-8374.

Please consider joining, as there are ways to serve which fit a variety of schedules and abilities.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

TODAY 09/06 - 8:00AM - DIVINE SERVICE—STREAMING LIVE
- 9:30AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL—STREAMING LIVE
- 10:45AM - DIVINE SERVICE

MONDAY 09/07

TUESDAY 09/08 - 9:30AM - JOY GROUP—FELLOWSHIP HALL

WEDNESDAY 09/09 - 6:00PM - SCHOOL BOARD—RECEPTION ROOM
- 6:30PM - ALTAR GUILD—FELLOWSHIP HALL

THURSDAY 09/10

FRIDAY 09/11 - 8:00AM - MLCA FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY

SATURDAY 09/12 - 7:00AM - BOARD OF ELDERS—RECEPTION ROOM
- 8:30AM - SWADDLING CLOTHES—MAC BUILDING
- 9:00AM - WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE FORUM—SANCTUARY & FELLOWSHIP HALL

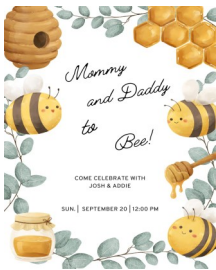
Thank You! A very special thank you to **Josh Hatch** for playing in our services this morning.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE FORUM—THIS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

We will begin at **9:00 AM** in the Sanctuary for **Matins**, then adjourn to the Fellowship Hall for a presentation from **Rev. Dr. Gifford Grobien, Professor of Biblical Studies and Systematic Theology** at **Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana**.

Dr. Grobien will present a Scripture-based overview of both sides of the issue, to help promote understanding, clarity, charity, and a well-informed congregation, more fully prepared for a future vote on the matter. Please pray about this matter and make plans to attend the forum.

BABY SHOWER

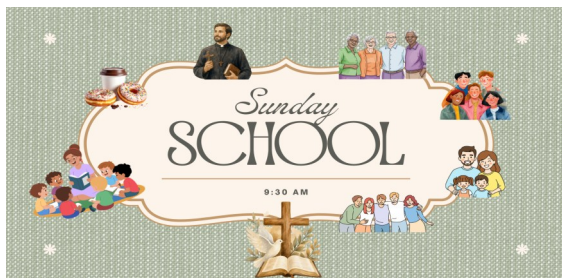


Debbie Lee and Rachel Lee will be hosting a baby shower for two of Messiah's newest members, **Josh & Addie Hatch**, on **Sunday, September 20**, in the Fellowship Hall, immediately following the 10:45 am service.

This is Josh & Addie's first baby so all gifts will be helpful, but below is a link to Addie's registry:

https://my.babylist.com/addie-hatch?session_synced=true

Please make plans to celebrate this joyous occasion with the Hatches.



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**.

We have donuts and coffee available, beginning immediately after the early worship service.

We hope to see you this Sunday!

Please keep in your prayers...

We continue to pray for our members and loved ones battling cancer: Joan Beach, 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, Ron Klingbeil, 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, 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, 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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Pastor Christiansen: pastor.christiansen@messiahkeller.org
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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—4:00pm
Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8am-4:00pm



(Three-Year Lectionary) A Life Thought in the Church Year for September 6 -

Pentecost 15: In faith, as God's watchmen, we humbly proclaim His Word. The faithful Word gives a true warning to the wicked (Ezekiel 33:7-8). We are called to speak boldly when lives are heartlessly ended and when God's gifts are mocked. We also rejoice as we teach about forgiveness. In Psalm 32 we read that the Lord forgives those who acknowledge their sin before Him. In God's plan, He allows us to be watchmen, proclaiming warnings so that all may confess their sins and have a clear conscience. Many have guilty consciences because they have rejected the truth concerning God's gift of life. May God's mercy lead them to rely completely on the grace of God.



LCMS National Mission—September 6—Matthew 18:4 — “Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

What does it mean to have childlike faith? Certainly Jesus does not want us to have a faith that is childish — we are not called to ignorance or silliness. Rather, we are called to trust the way a child trusts: with complete confidence in the Father. We show that confidence in our lives when we follow His directives for our life. Father knows best, so we'll take His advice!



LUTHER HAD WARTBURG, WE HAVE COLLINSVILLE... Issues, Etc.

is a podcast and radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent interview topics include: The Honesty Crisis, Luke's Gospel for the Hungry, Lutheran Schools & the Three Estates, The Story of a 16th-Century German City Embracing Lutheranism and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app or a 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, offering confessional Lutheran insights. This past week, OTL featured **Dr. Donna Harrison**, Board Certified Ob-Gyn, **former CEO of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists**, and later, **Director of Research** for the same organization. The interview discusses contraception, abortion, IVF, and the medical realities Christians need to understand.



The fall **Pastor's Class** will begin on **Thursday, September 24**. Class will meet from **6:00 PM — 8:00 PM** in the Reception Room. This class is for those interested in becoming Lutheran, as well as for those who simply want to study through the Small Catechism again. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Chryst or contact the church office at churchoffice@messiahkeller.org.



The fall **Ladies' Bible Study** will begin on **Monday, September 14**, at **6:00 PM**. This 10-week class will meet in the Reception Room and will study the book *Proverbs, God's Gift of Wisdom*. If you are interested, please contact Linda at churchoffice@messiahkeller.org.



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: Last Sunday: 8:00am: 88 10:45am: 91 Total: 179

Sunday School: 94 — OFFERINGS FOR THE WEEK: \$8,255.65 — (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.



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

Epistle Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Holy Gospel Matthew 18:1-20

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to him a

child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”