MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod

1308 Whitley Rd.
Keller, TX 76248

Sunday School &
Adult Bible Class
9:30 am

Sunday Worship
8:00 am, 10:45 am

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



[29]For to everyone who has will more be given,
and he will have an abundance.
But from the one who has not,
even what he has will be taken away.
[30]And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness.
In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

(Matthew 25)

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 15, 2026

For Our Visitors....

Welcome! We encourage you to follow along with either the printed service or the hymnal. The hymnal page numbers are posted at the front of the sanctuary. 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 located at the north end of the hallway behind the sanctuary on your right, where you can see and hear the service.



We celebrate the Lord's Supper 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 we have a brochure that explains it in more detail. It is available in the narthex or from an usher. If you have questions or concerns, please 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.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING TWO – LSB 167

Sermon Title
"Stagnation vs. Multiplication"
Scripture
Matthew 25:14-30

HYMNS

Opening Hymn	516
Hymn of the Day	508
Distribution Hymns	627, 730
Closing Hymn	781

✢SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY✢

	8:00 AM	10:45 AM
ORGANIST	Josh Hatch	Josh Hatch
ALTAR GUILD	Debbie Goedecke Sydelle Numsen Linda Phillips Barbara Tilka Brenda Thowe	Debbie Goedecke Sydelle Numsen Linda Phillips Barbara Tilka Brenda Thowe
HEAD ELDER	Steven Latham	Luis Munoz
HEAD USHER	Chris Nietenhoefer	Paul Cigainero
ACOLYTE	Luther Kirby	Liam Hinskey Matthias Loeffler
CRUCIFER	Jaxon Kirby	Evan Munoz
COUNTERS	Laurie Ward	Laurie Ward

✢THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH✢

Sunday	11/15	8:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM	Divine Service – Live Streaming Sunday School Divine Service
Monday	11/16	6:00 PM	Ladies' Bible Study – Reception Room
Tuesday	11/17	9:00 AM 6:00 PM	JOY Group – Fellowship Hall Board of Christian Education – Reception
Wednesday	11/18		
Thursday	11/19		
Friday	11/20		
Saturday	11/21	7:00 AM	Men's Breakfast Bible Study – Rosa's Café Hwy 377

The flowers that adorn the altar this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of Sheri Lara's birthday and in appreciation of the staff of MLCA.

Introit *Psalm 143:2, 5–6, 10–11; antiphon: v. 1*



Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*
In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with your | servant,*
for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that | you have done;*
I ponder the work | of your hands.
I stretch out my | hands to you;*
my soul thirsts for you like a | parched land.
Teach me to do your will, for you | are my God!*
Let your good Spirit lead me on | level ground!
For your name's sake, O Lord, pre- | serve my life!*
In your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*
In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!



Collect of the Day
Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gradual *sung by all* *Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5*



These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.
Blessed are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

Daily Bible Readings – Nov. 15-28

15: Jer. 30:1-24 *Rev. 15:1-8* Matt. 26:57-75 16: Jer. 31:1-17, 23-34 *Rev. 16:1-21* Matt. 27:1-10 17: Jer. 33:1-22 *Jer. 34:1-36:32; 45:1-51:64* Matt. 27:11-32	18: Jer. 37:1-21 *Rev. 17:1-18* Matt. 27:33-56 19: Jer. 38:1-28 *Jer. 39:1-44:30* Matt. 27:57-66 20: Dan. 1:1-21 Matt. 28:1-20 21: Dan. 2:1-23 Rev. 18:1-24	22: Dan. 2:24-49 Rev. 19:1-21 23: Dan 3:1-30 Rev. 20:1-15 24: Dan. 4:1-37 Rev. 21:1-8 25: Dan. 5:1-30 *Dan. 7:1-8:27* Rev. 21:9-27	26: Dan 6:1-28 *Dan. 9:1-27* Rev. 22:1-21 27: Is. 1:1-28 1 Peter 1:1-12 28: Is. 2:1-22 *Is. 3:1-4:6* 1 Peter 1:13-25



We rejoice with **David & Rachel Lee**
in the birth of their daughter,
Elizabeth Claire Lee,
born **November 11, 2026.**
God bless **David & Rachel**
as they welcome this little one!

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

MESSIAH'S YOUTUBE PAGE

Messiah has a new YouTube page! There, you will find livestreams of services, recordings of previous services, as well as a special new feature. Pastor Chryst is hosting a short Monday morning video, **Messiah Minute**, with reflections on the readings for the upcoming Sunday service.

Please visit us at **https://www.youtube.com/@MessiahKellerLCMS**



THANKSGIVING EVE
SERVICE OF PRAYER & PREACHING

Wednesday, November 25
7:00 PM

"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!"
(Psalm 107:1)



ADVENT MIDWEEK SERIES 2026

"The Family Tree of Christ"

Advent Meal – 6:00 PM
Evening Prayer – 7:00 PM

This Advent, our Midweek Series,
"The Family Tree of Christ,"
will examine the genealogy of Jesus according to St. Matthew.

We will begin our Wednesdays together with a meal at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall, followed by The Office of Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

Week 1 – December 2 - "From Abraham to David"
Matthew 1:1-6a
(Baked Potato Bar- Meal Provided by the Altar Guild)

Week 2 – December 9 - "From David to Babylon"
Matthew 1:6b-11
(Soup & Salad - Meal Provided by MLCA Parents)

Week 3 – December 16 - "From Babylon to Jesus"
Matthew 1:12-17
(Italian - Meal Provided by MLC Youth)



POINSETTIA ORDERS

On Christmas Eve, the chancel area will be decorated with beautiful red poinsettias, donated by congregation members. We need 75 plants for our poinsettia "trees," plus additional plants for the chancel area. **The cost is $12.00 per plant.** Poinsettias are donated primarily to adorn the sanctuary, but donors are welcome to take their plants home after the 10:00 AM service on Christmas Day.

HOW TO ORDER POINSETTIAS

This year, you have two options for ordering poinsettias!

ONLINE:

1. Go to www.messiahkeller.org and choose the **Online Giving** tab in the upper right corner, which will take you to the **Online Donation** page.
2. Go to the **Special Offerings** section and scroll down to the **Poinsettias/Lilies** option (3/4 down the list).
3. Check the box on the left, then enter the amount proportionate to the number of Poinsettias you wish to order ($12, $24, $36, etc.)

GIVING ENVELOPE:

As you enter the sanctuary, you will find special envelopes on the offering table designated for Poinsettia purchases. Simply fill out the information on the front, place your check in the envelope, and place in the offering plate, or you may put it in the designated basket on the table in the narthex, where it will be collected by an Altar Guild member each Sunday.

Angel Tree 2026

Angel Tree provides Christmas gifts to strengthen relationships between incarcerated parents and their children by sponsoring gifts for them.

How can you help? On Sunday, **November 22**, Angel Tags will be distributed after both services at the table in the Narthex. Once you receive a tag, simply purchase a gift for under $25, wrap it, and place it under the Christmas tree in the Narthex by Sunday, **December 6** (the date will be printed on the tag you receive).

Contact Jonathan Griffith at jn__griffith@att.net for more information.

MLCA will be participating in the Very Merry Light Parade,
as part of Keller's Holly Days event!

Holly Days is **Friday, December 4**,
from 5:00-9:00 PM.
The parade begins at **7:00**,
followed by the lighting of the Christmas Tree at Town Hall.

Make plans to arrive early,
to secure a good spot to view the parade
and to support MLCA!

If you have further questions,
please contact **schooloffice@mlcatexas.org**

Please keep in your prayers…

Sandy McDougall – recovering from surgery

Marlene Easton, sister of Karen Shrum, who is suffering serious health issues, including an inoperable spot on her lung.

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, Ryan Richard, Gaelina Strader, Mike Vandergriff.

…also those with other illnesses and trials: Delia Baker, Natalia Boniek, Sharon Boniek, Jacob Brewer, Alli Burk, Brian Cade's mother, Abby Carpenter, Carole Cohen, Marilyn Curry, Marlene Eaton, Paul Egner, 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 McDougall, Family of Keith Leicht, Louise Nelson (daughter of Marilyn Kivett), Linda Pinkston, Shelby Renfro, Todd Ramage, Connie Wesley Ramsey, Grant Smith, Patsy Smith, Becky Speight, 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, Clara O'Neill, Danielle 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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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

On The Line (OTL) is a podcast featuring interviews with leading experts in theology, culture, and the Christian faith, and offering confessional Lutheran insights. This past week, host **Rev. Bryan Stecker** moderated a debate between **Rev. Brian Wolfmueller and Rev. Steven Zank** on whether Lutherans should adopt contemporary worship. https://tinyurl.com/4ezp95xb

WHERE DOCTRINE IS LIFE..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 subjects include: Hymn Therapy for Depression, The Case for Technological Foot-Dragging, Worship in the Book of Revelation, Feminism & Grievance Culture and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

A Life Thought in the Church Year for November 15 – Pentecost 25: The end of the Church year reminds us that there is an urgency to sharing the Gospel and God's Word about life. Naturally, when Christ returns, we want Him to find us as "good and faithful servants" (Matthew 25:21), using the talents and resources He's given us to glorify Him and love and serve every one of our neighbors. And, because the Lord "has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation" (1 Thessalonians 5:9), we share God's Word with eager anticipation that every life God has created may escape the day of wrath (Zephaniah 1:15) and live eternally with Him.

LCMS National Mission - Matthew 25:30 – "And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness." Why did the worthless servant act the way he did? Because of what he believed about the Master. He didn't trust or love the Master; so, his actions did not demonstrate love and trust, but rather hate and mistrust. It's the same with us, but in reverse: since we know our Lord God to be faithful and kind, we desire to serve Him and render faithful service with what He has given us.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 8:00 am: **99;** 10:45 am: **116;** (Total: **215**) Sunday School: **107**

OFFERINGS FOR THE WEEK: $25,698.22 (Plate and Online Giving to General Fund – all services)
OFFERINGS NEEDED EACH WEEK TO FUND CURRENT YEAR BUDGET: $18,317.25
OFFERINGS REQUIRED THROUGH 10/31/26 (17 SUNDAYS): $311,393.25
OFFERINGS RECEIVED THROUGH 10/31/26 (17 SUNDAYS): $285,162.86

NOTE: MLC's current budgeting philosophy is that only offerings are counted as revenues in the annual budget plan; therefore, the Offerings Needed Each Week to Fund Current Year Budget is the amount in offerings that is required each Sunday during the fiscal year to fully fund the church. The actual number of offerings required is less due to other revenues that the church receives during the year; however, these additional revenues do not represent a material amount.

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1:7-16

7 Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is near;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.
8 And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
9 On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
10 "On that day," declares the Lord,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.
11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'
13 Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them."
14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
15 A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

14 [Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"