



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



*¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi...
¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
¹⁶Simon Peter replied,
"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah!
For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,
but my Father who is in heaven.
¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter,
and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,
and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.*

(Matthew 16)

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 Four—LSB 203

Hymns:
647, 645, 909

Hymns During Distribution:
575, 644

Sermon Title:
"Peter's Confession"

Scripture:
Matthew 16:13-20

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



The Lord Jesus Christ Is the Son of the Living God

Jesus asked His disciples: *"But who do you say that I am?"* (Matt. 16:15). The question is also put to us: Who do you say that He is? Flesh and blood do not reveal this to us, but by the ministry of the Gospel, the Father in heaven reveals His Son to us on earth, who has become flesh and suffered death for our salvation. Thus, we believe and confess that He is *"the Christ, the Son of the living God"* (Matt. 16:16). As He died for our transgressions and was raised for our justification, He looses us from all

our sins and preserves our life within His Church, against which even *"the gates of hell shall not prevail"* (Matt. 16:18–19). His salvation is forever, and His righteousness *"will never be dismayed"* (Is. 51:6). He comforts us with the Gospel in His Church, so that *"joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song"* (Is. 51:3). Therefore, *"according to the measure of faith that God has assigned"* (Rom. 12:3), we also offer ourselves *"as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God"* (Rom. 12:1) through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Serving in God's House Today

Organist:	Nathan Leicht, Guest Organist		8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
		Head Elder:	Roland Towers	Dale Addink
Altar Guild:	Debbie Goedeke Debbie Lee Carol McGrath Sydelle Numsen Brenda Thowe	Head Usher:	Chris Nietenhoefer	Paul Cigainero
		Acolytes:	Luther Kirby	Dalton Jacobs
Counters:	Amy Hedman Cathy Keto	Crucifer/ Altar	Joseph Kirby	Evan Munoz

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

Introit *Psalm 2:6-7; 117; antiphon: Psalm 115:18*



But we will | bless the LORD*
from this time forth and forevermore. | Praise the
LORD!

As for me, I have | set my King*
on Zion, my | holy hill.

I will tell of | the decree:*
the LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I
have be- | gotten you.”

Praise the LORD, all | nations!*
Extol him, all | peoples!

For great is his steadfast | love toward us,*
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
| Praise the LORD!

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.

But we will | bless the LORD*
from this time forth and forevermore. | Praise
the LORD!

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life,
grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way,
the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess
Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the
way that leads to life eternal; 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*

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: August 23-September 5

23: 1 Kings 3:1-15
1 Kings 3:16-4:34
2 Cor. 1:1-22

24: 1 Kings 5:1-18
1 Kings 6:1-7:50
2 Cor. 1:23-2:17

25: 1 Kings 7:51-8:21
2 Cor. 3:1-18

26: 1 Kings 8:22-30, 46-63
2 Cor. 4:1-18

27: 1 Kings 9:1-9; 10:1-13
2 Cor. 5:1-21

28: 1 Kings 11:1-26
2 Cor. 6:1-18

29: 1 Kings 11:42-12:19
2 Cor. 7:1-16

30: 1 Kings 12:20-13:5,
33-34

1 Kings 14:1-16:28
2 Cor. 8:1-24

31: 1 Kings 16:29-17:24
2 Cor. 9:1-15
2 Cor. 10:1-13:14

1: 1 Kings 18:1-19
Eph. 1:1-23

2: 1 Kings 18:20-40
Eph 2:1-22

3: 1 Kings 19:1-21
1 Kings 20:1-22:53
Eph. 3:1-21

4: 2 Kings 2:1-18
Eph. 4:25-5:14

5: 2 Kings 2:19-25; 4:1-7
Eph 4:25-5:14

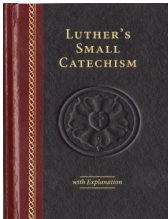
FALL PASTOR'S CLASS

The **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 in attending, please speak with Pastor Chryst or contact the church office at churchoffice@messiahkeller.org.

NOTICE REGARDING BRAILLE CENTER

Please note there **will not** be any work in the Braille Center this coming **Monday, August 24**.



THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

TODAY 08/23 - 8:00 AM - DIVINE SERVICE—STREAMING LIVE
- 9:30 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL—STREAMING LIVE
- 10:45 AM - DIVINE SERVICE
- 12:00 PM - RALLY DAY PICNIC

MONDAY 08/24

TUESDAY 08/25 - 9:30 AM - JOY GROUP—FELLOWSHIP HALL

WEDNESDAY 08/26

THURSDAY 08/27

FRIDAY 08/28

SATURDAY 08/29

Thank You!

A very special **thank you** to our guest organist, **Nathan Leicht**, for playing in our services this morning.

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Both services this morning will include the installation of our 2026-2027 Sunday School teachers.



RALLY DAY PICNIC

The **Sunday School "Rally Day" Picnic is today**, immediately following the 10:45 AM service!

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for food, games, and snow cones!

We would like to thank **Talita Goodwin, Barbara Tilka, and Meredith Sifford** for helping teach this summer.



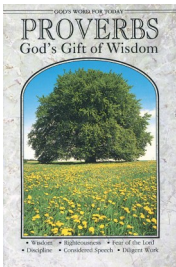
MLCA is hiring!

The academy is growing and is in need of a **part-time teacher for grades 5-8**. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Smith at alison.smith@mlcatexas.org or **817.431.5486**.

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

The fall Ladies' Bible Study will begin on **Monday, September 14**, at **6:00 PM**. The class will meet in the Reception Room and will study the book *Proverbs, God's Gifts of Wisdom*.

Please contact Linda at churchoffice@messiahkeller.org if you are interested.



Please keep in your prayers...

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

...also those with other illnesses and trials: Chelsea Lage, Helen Fletcher, Rose Hughes, Family of Keith Leicht, Family of Bob Martin, Karen Campbell, Tim Tomlinson, Marilyn Kivit, Cheryl Traub, Adam Greer, Connie Wesley Ramsey, Wendell Wahlstedt, Carole Cohen, Family of Dan Gholston, Terry Swender, Michael Hanson, Aaron Koppelberger, Bruce Lage, Marilyn Curry, Nikki McLeroy, Marilyn Kivit, Brian Cade's mother, Abby Carpenter, Ron Klingbeil, Vicky Krolezyk, Matt Hinde, Lee Masoian, Alli Burk, Amy Lyon, the Lewis family, Grant Smith, William Johnstone, Marlene Eaton, Wes Liles, Patsy Smith, Shelby Renfro, Connie Worley Ramsey, Brooke Lage, The Lowry Family, Sandy McDougal, Jacob Brewer.

...and those who are unable to worship with us regularly: Carolyn Blume, Don & Marilyn Curry, LaVina Goedecke, Ron and Barbara Busse, 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, Maranda Crutchfield, Dorian Crutchfield, Ethan Johnson, Erin O'Dell, Clara O'Neil, Daniella Osorio, Mia Salgado, Max Tonniges, Charlie Umayam, Audrey Weber, Emily Weber, Morgan Chryst, Matthew Palmer.

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

Pastor Chryst: pastor.chryst@messiahkeller.org
Pastor Christiansen: pastor.christiansen@messiahkeller.org
MLCA Office: schooloffice@mlcatexas.org
MLCA Preschool: schooloffice@mlcatexas.org
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—4:00pm
Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8am-4:00pm



A Life Thought in the Church Year for August 23 - Pentecost 13 - Do you

remember the day you were born? No? Your Father in heaven does! So do your earthly mother and father. "Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him" (Isaiah 51:2). Every human life has a divine plan and purpose: "The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me" (Psalm 138:8)! "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things" (Romans 11:36)! Blessed are all whom God our Father in heaven forgives, saves, and justifies by faith (Matthew 16:17).



LCMS STEWARDSHIP for August 23—2 Corinthians 3:5 - "Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim

anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God." We are not sufficient, not enough, not capable in and of ourselves. But God gives us what is enough and makes us capable. This is the beginning of wisdom: we are utterly dependent on God's mercy. Our whole Christian life flows forth from this dependence, for if we are dependent upon the Lord, how can we not follow His commandments and walk in His way?



BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND...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 topics include: Freedom from Shame; Christians & Anxiety; Encouraging Early Marriage & Childrearing; Mission Outreach to Indigenous Communities in Canada 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. Benjamin Mayes, Associate Professor and Chairman of Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne**, discussing Christian teaching on marriage and divorce. You may use the QR Code to the left to access the episode.

Pastor Christiansen will be teaching two online classes this fall for the **Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education (CCLE)**.

The first course will be **Greek I**, an exploration of the essence of grammar as found in Koine Greek. Students will learn the Greek alphabet, collect Greek vocabulary, and begin to understand the structure of the biblical Greek language. For more information or to register, please visit <https://www.ccle.org/classes-1/greek-i>

Pastor Christiansen is also teaching a course called **Lutheran Theology and Philosophy of Education**. This course will be a comparative read-through of primary texts—theological, philosophical, pedagogical, literary, all of which concern what classical Lutheran education is. The course will consider Scriptural foundations for learning and how such things may be applied for families today. For more information or to register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2fwpcu6k>.



Debbie Lee and Rachel Lee will be hosting a baby shower for two of our newest Messiah 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! Please make plans to celebrate this joyous occasion with the Hatches.



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: Last Sunday: 8:00am: 74 10:45am: 136 Total: 210

Sunday School: 101 — OFFERINGS FOR THE WEEK: \$7,246.77 — (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.



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were
dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.

³For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴“Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the
peoples.

⁵My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like
manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be
dismayed.”

Epistle Romans: 11:33-12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and
knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his
judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴“For who has known the mind of
the Lord, or who has been his
counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from him and through him and
to him are all things. To him be glory forever.
Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers,
by the mercies of God, to present your bodies
as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to
God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not
be conformed to this world, but be
transformed by the renewal of your mind, that
by testing you may discern what is the will of
God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to
everyone among you not to think of himself
more highly than he ought to think, but to
think with sober judgment, each according to
the measure of faith that God has assigned.

⁴For as in one body we have many members,
and the members do not all have the same
function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body
in Christ, and individually members one of
another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to
the grace given to us, let us use them: if
prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if
service, in our serving; the one who teaches,
in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his
exhortation; the one who contributes, in
generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the
one who does acts of mercy, with
cheerfulness.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

¹³Now when Jesus came
into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked
his disciples, “Who do people say that the
Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say
John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others
Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to
them, “But who do you say that I am?”
¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus
answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon
Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not
revealed this to you, but my Father who is in
heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and
on this rock I will build my church, and the
gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I
will give you the keys of the kingdom of
heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall
be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose
on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he
strictly charged the disciples to tell no one
that he was the Christ.