

“Messiah Messenger”

ISSUE #28

August 2025

Hi Messiah Family,

God's blessings be with you all as we enter another August, for many families, yet another new year of school. For me, this time of the year has always been a time of change, even more so than January and New Year's Day. August always seems to land right in the middle of a bunch of changes. In 2009, August was the month I completed the Crucible in Marine Corps boot camp; in 2010, it was the month before my son was born; and after 8 years of college, August has always been the month to start school again.

This year, August is special because it'll be the first full month I spend with all of you as your Pastor here at Messiah Lutheran! It seems to be consistently a time of change in my life. And with that comes a feeling of both excitement and trepidation, anticipation and anxiety, joy and fear. When change happens, we're never sure what to expect.

But the Lord promises us in Psalm 121:8 that He, “Will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.” No matter what changes come, no matter how big or how small, how joyous or how terrible, our God is with us and His protection is over us. We are never left alone, bereft of His guidance and having to navigate life's constant changes on our own. This has become clear to me over a lifetime of changes, that the one constant through them all has been God and His love and protection, just as it has been for all of us.

But, as usual, this is not all God offers us! In Jeremiah 29:11, He tells us that He has “plans to prosper you... plans to give you hope and a future.” We not only have God's protection and guidance and love, but we also

have the knowledge that God has His plan and purpose for us that will not fail.

We may not know what to expect when changes happen, but God does, and He will lead us through it all under His divine protection! I can see this in my own life, in all the blessings that you, the congregation of Messiah Lutheran, have heaped upon me even in the short time that I have been here!

Undoubtedly, God takes care of His children, of you and of me, and He takes care of His church through any and all changes that come. And whatever changes may come, good or bad, big or small, we face them together with our Father as the very Family of God.

*God's Blessings from your new Pastor,
Pastor Stephen Wareham*

THANK YOU, MESSIAH! **YOU'VE BLESSED US DEEPLY**

Dear Members of Messiah.

What a wonderful time we had when we learning, growing, and celebrating we had during our time with you. We have so much to be thankful for; in fact, it would be impossible to list everything and everyone. But we do wish to say, "Thank you!" for the wonderful farewell you gave us and many cards, gifts, and the generous gifts from the congregation! It was a joy serving you, and helping prepare you to build a bigger heaven. God bless and keep!

In Christ, Pastor Lohmeyer

SAVE THE DATE: **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

A brief Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, August 24**, immediately following the morning service.

All members are encouraged to attend.

IMPERFECT, TOGETHER: FAMILY, FORGIVENESS, AND FORWARD

Connie - President

Greetings Messiah Family,

The last few weeks have been a whirlwind of activity. Planning, purchasing, preparing, setting up the altar, the Fellowship Hall, and a myriad other things, for the blessed Ordination and Installation of our new pastor, Stephen Wareham. I think I speak for all of us when I say we're glad he's here as our new Shepherd and Leader.

While we continue our transition as a church, remember, our Pastor is experiencing his own challenges while shepherding us through ours!

Pastor Stephen said in his previous sermon that Jesus grants us grace, and we, too, should practice the same with one another. As the church progresses, with more changes and challenges, it is easy to become impatient, even frustrated. We are a church family. And like our own families, we make missteps, we don't communicate when we should, and we may even hold onto resentments. We are, in a word, imperfect.

As we continue to grow, let's remember our imperfections and offer grace to all people we may encounter in our daily lives. Including bestowing that grace to our Pastor and each other.

***In Christ,
Connie***

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Ken – Treasurer

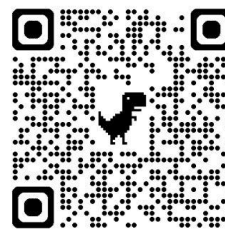
Our new fiscal year, 2025-2026, is rapidly approaching! September 1st is just around the corner! A congregational meeting to vote on the budget is tentatively set for August 24th, after our Sunday services. Please attend if possible!

If you are a fan of Zelle, our Zelle account can be found under

MessiahVLDtreasurer@gmail.com. For an easy giving method, I encourage you to take a look at the Thrivent Messiah Lutheran page at: <https://service.thrivent.com/apps/ThriventChoiceMemberWeb/public/orgDetails/100244343209>.

As a reminder, I am also a Georgia Notary Public. I do not charge for this service.

Thanks for your continued support!



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phone & follow
directions.

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**Scan the code and take a peek,
Support the mission that we seek.
Every dollar, every share,
ows our neighbors that we care.**

HOLY HELP WANTED: NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

Carol – Worship Chair

Hello Messiah family, **Are You Called to Serve... with a Smile (and Maybe a Bulletin)?** Do you enjoy friendly faces, helpful hands, and the occasional potluck? Have we got *just* the opportunity for you!

We are looking for joyful souls to help fill a few important roles on Sunday mornings. Whether you are an early riser or a “grin and coffee it” kind of person, there’s a place for you.

- **Greeters:** Be the first friendly face folks see when they enter the Narthex. Smiles are your superpower—no theological degree required.
- **Ushers:** Help guide our congregation to the altar during communion. You don’t need a GPS—just a heart for service and a willingness to walk and smile at the same time.
- **Live Stream Support:** Help us share the Good News with those joining us from home. No fancy AV booth here—just your phone, a tripod, and your steady hands (and maybe a few deep breaths if Wi-Fi acts up).

These roles are essential to our Sunday worship experience and a great way to meet

more members of our church family. You don't need to sign up for every week—just when you can. Training, encouragement, and high-fives will be provided.

Interested? Curious? Willing but mildly terrified? That's okay, we've all been there. Talk to Carol, and let's find the right fit for you. Together, we can make Sunday mornings a little brighter—for everyone.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. I Peter 4:10

**With joy and gratitude,
Worship Committee**

*Pleaching
your story
gives
=God glory=*

CHURCH COUNCIL CORNER: CHATTER THAT MATTERS

Submitted by Carol

Church Council Update – JULY 2025
The Messiah Lutheran Church Council met on July 14th, 2025.

From Our President: Connie

There's a proposal to form a new Event Committee to plan celebrations like Oktoberfest, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Fat Tuesday, etc, continuing the joyful legacy of Judy Lohmeyer. If party planning is your passion, we would love your help!

From Our Treasurer: Ken

Budget planning is underway! Council members are submitting their requests by August 1.

From Worship: Carol

Pastor Stephen and Carol will coordinate acolyte training after summer break. Acolytes and Parents: watch the bulletin and your inbox for details coming soon!

From Evangelism: Kathy

Planning is underway for the next round of Welcome Bags—with thoughtful touches to help new visitors feel at home.

From Stewardship: Marcia

The Stewardship team continues to meet biweekly at Moody AFB, building meaningful connections and interest in our church community.

From Property: Cindy

An A/C inspection is being scheduled. To help manage costs, please turn off the Fellowship Hall thermostat after events—a quick check on your way out helps! We also need volunteers to clean and restock Quiet Bags for our young worshipers. If you can help, please reach out to Cindy.

Next Council Meeting: August 11th at 6:00 PM. **All are welcome to attend!**

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

PULL UP A CHAIR AND JOIN OUR JOYFUL NOISE LUNCHEON!

Kathy

This month's **Joyful Noise Luncheon** is set for **Tuesday, August 19th at 11:45 AM**, and we're gathering at **Austin's Cattle Co.** (2101 W. Hill Ave.) to celebrate our Messiah Family with Joyful Noise.

It's a great chance to laugh, catch up, and spend some time together. Please let Kathy know if you'll be there. Can't wait to see you!

SURROUNDED BY LOVE & GRACE: THANK YOU

Susan – Member

Prayer Warriors! Cooks and Bakers! Comforters and Friends! We have all of these caring people at MLC. Sincere thanks from my family and me for your support, love, calls, and memorials. Thanks to Pastor Lohmeyer for his presence, prayers, and comfort, especially during those final days of Lee.

In His Name, Susan

FROM YOUR PANTRY TO THEIRS:

LET'S FEED THE NEED

Kathy – Evangelism

We serve over 50 families each month, some with 12+ members—and demand is growing. Just this month, we purchased nearly 3,000 pounds of food and logged over 55 hours!

CAN YOU HELP?

We need **donations** to keep shelves stocked **and muscles** to lift, sort, and serve—especially in those busy first 45 minutes. **Every dollar and every hand makes a difference.**

Thank you to all our current helpers!

*With gratitude,
The Loaves and Fishes Team*



LWML FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, BRAINSTORMING, AND A DASH OF GLUE

Kay – LWML

The LWML next meeting will be on August 5th at 3 pm. All women of the church are invited. We will have a short Bible study and a very short business meeting.

Please bring any ideas for craft projects that we can make for our Christmas bazaar.



BEHIND THE SCENES AT MESSIAH: PROPERTY COMFORT AND CARE

Cindy – Property Chair

This month it's all about the weather. It's hot out there, and our electric bill reflects this.

We had the thermostats checked out to be sure they were working properly, and the quarterly maintenance has been performed to ensure all units are working efficiently. All thermostats, except one in the fellowship hall and one in the nursery are programmed to maintain a designated temperature in an occupied and unoccupied mode. Between 8:00am and 8:30am on Sunday morning the thermostats are turned from unoccupied to occupied mode to cool the church down for service. When service is over the thermostats are turned back to unoccupied mode.

On days when activities are scheduled in the fellowship hall, one thermostat is turned from unoccupied to occupied mode and back to unoccupied when the activity has concluded. The other thermostat is switched off entirely since we don't need both units cooling the fellowship hall when unoccupied. It is turned on before the activities begin. Thanks to Raquel for checking to see that the thermostats are in the correct mode when she leaves for the day. We appreciate all members checking the thermostats when they are leaving the building, also.

As always, thanks for your support in taking care of the church property. We are blessed!

FAITHFULNESS:

THE STEWARDSHIP STANDARD

Jesus' transforming presence

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost'" (Luke 19:8-10 NIV).

Who knew, all those kids sitting in Sunday school were getting a lesson in stewardship! Generations of children have very often heard lessons based on the familiar account of Zacchaeus. The diminutive tax collector's curiosity surrounding the person and ministry of Jesus is what the Holy Spirit used to set him on a collision course for a total stewardship transformation. This transformation, according to the text of Luke 19, is not just about this life. This stewardship transformation is about eternity as well!

Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do not think of friendly neighborhood IRS agents. This was more like a toll booth operator, but the governing authorities did not set the toll. They would contract men to staff roadside booths and tax the commerce that was passing along the road. This was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector.

This is why the people had such disdain for Jewish tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors. They were crooks in that they extorted their compatriots and others in the toll process. But worse, they were seen as traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that short Zacchaeus could see Jesus.

For this reason, he runs ahead and climbs a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted

to see this Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display. This hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus — at Jesus' own request! Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house. This is where the transformation is about to take place!

Notice how Jesus does it. He does not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does He ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus' approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transforming force is the very presence of Jesus!

Direct time with Jesus takes a crooked, selfish, criminal and makes him the most faithful steward.

This new life of stewardship is marked by the promises made. First, he gives half of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. These are people whom he would not have defrauded at all! Yet, after spending time with Jesus, they are His first concern. Only after this does he double the requirement of the Levitical law on fraud. And what does Jesus say is the result? Salvation!

Doing the acts of stewardship does not save. Rather, the faith in Jesus that is created by the Holy Spirit is what saves! This is critical for us to confess. Failed stewardship can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus.

We do not need to run ahead and climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes Himself available to us every week in the Divine Service. He speaks His Word of invitation to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from owner to steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make Divine Service a weekly priority. Feast on Christ's body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God's House to yours!

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 Bible Study 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	4	5 10:00 "Tuesdays with the Pastor" Bible Study 3:00 LWML Meeting 6:00 Men's Potluck Bible Study	6	7 9:00 LWML Quilter's Group	8	9
10 9:00 Bible Study 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	11 6:00 Church Council Meeting	12 10:00 "Tuesdays with the Pastor" Bible Study 6:00 Men's Potluck Bible Study	13 11-3 Food Pantry	14 9:00 LWML Quilter's Group	15	16
17 9:00 Bible Study 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	18	19 10:00 "Tuesdays with the Pastor" Bible Study 11:45 Joyful Noise Lunch (Austin's on Hill) 5:30 Elder's Meeting 6:00 Men's Potluck Bible Study	20	21 9:00 LWML Quilter's Group 5:30 Long- Range Planning Comm. Meeting	22	23
24 9:00 Bible Study 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	25	26 10:00 "Tuesdays with the Pastor" Bible Study 6:00 Men's Potluck Bible Study	27 11-3 Food Pantry	28 9:00 LWML Quilter's Group	29	30
31 9:00 Bible Study 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship						