



**MESSIAH EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
"Celebrating the Messiah for 25 years"

25th Anniversary Sunday

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Messiah's Mission Statement

"We, the members of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, desire to praise our Lord, nurture the church and reach out to the unchurched in and around the Bellevue area, so that all may believe in Christ and receive the gift of eternal life."

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Response: **Amen.**

Pastor: We are in the presence of God, who has created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

Response: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

Pastor: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

Response: **Amen.**

Pastor: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Response: (spoken)

**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in Him.
Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.
Your faithfulness continues forever.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in Him.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You form the minds of Your faithful people in to a single will. Make us love what You command and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Acts 8:26–40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet.²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”³⁰ Then Philip ran up

to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.”³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”

³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?”³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Second Lesson: 1 John 3:18–24

¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.¹⁹ This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.²⁴ Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Verse of the Day

Gospel Lesson: John 15:1–8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Hymn: “Christ Is Our Cornerstone” CW 528

1. Christ is our cornerstone; On him alone we build.
With his true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled.
On his great love Our hopes we place Of present grace And joys above.
4. Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest To endless rest Are called away!

Today’s message: based on John 15:1-8

“REMEMBER WHERE THE FRUIT COMES FROM”

Confession of faith: Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer:

O Lord, we come before You today to thank and praise You for the 25 years of grace that You have showed to the congregation at Messiah Lutheran Church here in Green Bay. You have kept us safe as we listened to Your voice. You have blessed us overwhelmingly with peace, comfort and the news that all our sins have been forgiven. For all these blessings, as countless as the sands on the seashore, we praise You.

Dear Savior, all of these blessings are truly undeserved gifts from You. Move our hearts to fully rejoice in Your works. Move our hands to continue to reach out with the Gospel. Move our tongues to continue to tell others about You, our Savior and

our God. Keep us connected to You, the Vine that gives life, hope and peace to our hearts.

O Holy Spirit, renew in us the zeal to live for You. Open our eyes and hearts to the depths of Your Word. Give us courage. Give us compassion for the souls of others. Give us a Christ-like love, that wants what is best for others. Keep us close to You as we stay grounded in Your Word.

Bless us as we come to Your table to receive Your body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine. Strengthen our witness as we remember Your sacrifice for our sins. Wash us clean of sin and restore to us the joy of our salvation

Hear now our intensely personal prayers.

Silent prayer

In Jesus' name we join in the prayer He taught us - **“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.”**

Pastor:

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

By His saints and witnesses of the past He encourages us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us and to live in righteousness and peace.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ. To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Distribution:

(During the distribution, the following communion hymn will be played softly. Please read and ponder the words of the hymn as you wait to receive communion or after you have returned from the Lord's table.)

Communion Hymn:

“Built on the Rock ” CW 529

1. Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the soul distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.
2. Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth his temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,

Making our bodies his temple.

3. We are God's house of living stones,
Built for his own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of his wondrous salvation.
Were we but two his name to tell,
Yet he would deign with us to dwell
With all his grace and his favor.

4. Here stands the font before our eyes,
Telling how God did receive us.
Th' altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
And what the sacrament gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.

5. Grant then, O God, your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ his message is bringing:
"I know my own; my own know me.
You, not the world, my face shall see.
My peace I leave with you always."

Ending prayer:

Pastor: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in Your loving kindness You sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank You that through Him You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that You will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve You day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another, and serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Response: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ALTAR FLOWERS are placed in loving memory of Herman Baudhuin, grandfather of Greg & Marla Dessart. May God comfort us with the coming reunion on the Last Day.

THANK YOU! To Pastor David Karow for his message from God's Word today. It is a joy to hear from a co-worker who served the Lord here at Messiah 25 years ago, and is still serving Him today. Thank you for sharing your God-given gifts with us!

PRIVATE COMMUNION SCHEDULE If you're not comfortable taking communion in our service today, we are holding small (10 or less) communion groups on **Monday, November 16th**. Every half hour from 10:30 to 11:30, and then at 6:30, we'll host a short communion service. If you are interested, call the church office (465-6013) to schedule a slot for you and your family.

OUR SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY continues at 9:00am. Come join us in person or online. If you would like copies of the lessons emailed to you, please email to pastorsauer@messiahgb.org.

DAILY BIBLE READING JOURNAL for a three-year reading plan will be available to the congregation in mid-December. There is no cost to the journal. For more information and to sign up for a copy, visit the link on the home page of our website. Contact us if you have any questions. God bless your growth in God's Word!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Due to family circumstances and health, we are currently in need of volunteers to serve the Lord here at Messiah on our Elders committee, early service usher and communion set up teams. If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor at 465-6013 or pastorsauer@messiahgb.org. Thanks!

POINSETTIA SIGN UP We have ordered 15 plants to decorate our altar with for the Christmas. The cost of the plants is \$8.00 and you are able to take them home following the Christmas Day service. You may sign up either by stopping in the church office or by calling 465-6013.

VIDEO CAMERA OPERATORS NEEDED If you would like to volunteer to serve the Lord in this way, please contact one of your pastors. Training will be provided.

25 YEAR MEMENTOS In our activity hall we've set up a few displays for you. Check out the pictures and the documents that we've collected over the last 25 years. There are also copies of Pastor Karow's senior thesis detailing the beginning of our congregation and a booklet with a short history of our church. It also contains pictures of some of those who have served us, as well as messages from some of our former vicars and Pastor Albrecht. Take a look!

Activities next week:

Monday	10:30-11:30: Private Communion sessions
	6:30: Private Communion session
	6:45: Bible information class
Wednesday	5:30: Catechism class
	7:00: Online sermon-based Bible study
Thursday	6:30: Worship service
Sunday	7:45 & 10:15: Worship service
	9:00: Bible class - " <i>Church and State</i> "

Our Response to God's Gifts:

Attendance this past week:

Thursday	6:30 - 25	
Sunday	7:45 - 46	
	10:15 - 54	Total: 125

Offerings \$11,012.14

Serving today in the Lord's house:

Usher team: 7:45: Team #3 John Anderegg's team

10:15: Team #8 Steve Popke's team

Cleaning: Zellner, C. Larsen, R. Welsing, Ledvina, Leiteritz

Serving next week in the Lord's house:

Usher team: 7:45: Team #1 Pete Jindra's team

10:15: Team #10 Ken Rosenthal's team

Cleaning: Lindsley, S. Lawrence, Lemmens, J. Lorenz, Maggle