MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Octo-
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Messenger
October 2026

10416 Bossi Lane
Cincinnati, OH 45218

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(513)-825-4768

We are a 21st century mission church "Living Jesus, Sharing Jesus" in our community and world.

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From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

September proved to be quite a busy month and it looks like October will be even busier. First of all, we have our church picnic and outdoor worship on Sunday, October 4. On the second weekend of October, we will have our Ministry Fair in the Narthex after each of our worship services. You will have an opportunity to see the many ministries that we have at Messiah. On Saturday, October 10, we will also have our annual Octoberfest. The third weekend we will have the opportunity to make our pledges for the upcoming ministry year. Finally on the fourth weekend we will celebrate the Reformation at all three of our worship services. There will be a special Cincinnati wide Reformation service hosted by Messiah at 4:00 p.m. followed by a meal in the fellowship hall. We will have a guest speaker at this afternoon event.

When we think about the stewardship of our Time, Treasures and Talents, we need to remember that God has been faithful to us and it is important for us to examine our faithfulness in response to God's love for us. Every year it seems to get more and more difficult to keep good balance in our lives. There are so many things that compete for our time and attention. I always encourage people to be involved in weekly worship, a Bible study, and at least one ministry within our congregation. The challenge is to do that in conjunction with all of the other activities that we have in our lives. How do I balance my children's lives, my personal life, and my church life? We get through each day and each week feeling totally exhausted. How do I live a balanced life? The answer may not always be clear. It is important for us take time to sit down and decide what are our priorities as children of God and, at the same time, honoring the relationships given us by God. We have relationships in the world that must be honored and we are members of a church that seeks to brings the love of Jesus to others. Once again - How do I maintain balance? While the answer may not be clear to us and the answer is different for each and everyone one of us, I do know that the First Commandment still applies to us - God must come first. Does God come first? Everyone must answer that question for themselves. We cannot judge others regarding that answer we can only judge for ourselves and our families.
When God comes first everything else will fall into place. We may not have ridden ourselves of hectic and chaotic lives, but we have the formula where we can place our stresses and worries into the hands of a loving God.

We truly do have a loving God that sees us through the chaos that the devil, the world, and our sinful selves place before us. It has become a cliché but it is truly relevant - Let Go and Let God.

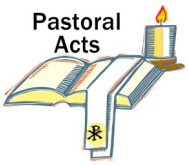
May God bless you and your family throughout the month of October and in the months and years to come.

In Jesus' name, **Pastor Allen Stuckwisch**

October 4, 2026
at 10:00am in Winton Woods park. We will use the **Sweetgum Slope Shelter** (same as last year) which is off Lakeridge Drive, south of the lake. As you go south on Winton Road, turn left on Lakeridge, take the first left and then the first right. Follow the sign to Sweetgum Slope

Upcoming Events

Sept 9 Prince of Peace Dinner
Oct 4 Church Service and Picnic in Winton Woods
Oct 6 Clifton Music Cllub
Oct 10 Messiah's Oktoberfest
Oct 10/11 Messiah's Ministry Fair
Oct 14 Prince of Peace dinner
Oct 17 Hands Against Hunger Packing Event
Oct 17/18 Stewardship Weekend
Oct 20 Owls
Oct 24 Greenhill's Harvest Fest
Oct 25 Federation Reformation Service at Messiah
Nov 3 General Election
Nov 7 Fall Work Day
Nov 15 One Service 10:00am Voters' Lunch and Meeting
Nov 18 Prince of Peace Dinner
Nov 25 Thanksgiving Eve Service
Nov 29 First Sunday of Advent



Our prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of **Bill Rieger**. A celebration of life service will be held at Messiah on October 3, 2026

From the Elders

Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in 1517. As he worked and struggled with his ideas, he wrote a book titled *The Freedom of a Christian.* That book is his statement of justification by faith alone.

The book has two propositions.

The first is "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none." This reflects an inner attitude. Luther defines freedom as being in a right relation to God. That freedom can only be accomplished by trusting in the Word of God. If one has faith, nothing can hurt him. If he lacks faith, nothing can help him. Luther says, "[T]he moment you begin to have faith, you learn that all things in you are altogether blameworthy, sinful and damnable…you will know that you need Christ…if you believe in him, you may, through faith become a new man…and you are justified by the merits of another, namely of Christ alone." Faith also gives God his proper glory by trusting him. If a person does not trust God's promise, he sets himself up as an idol in his heart. Then his unbelieving doing of good works is actually sinning.

The second proposition is, "A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." This shapes relationships with other people. Luther answers the objection that says, "now I am free from all works. I'll do nothing." No, we must do good works because we remain subject to sin in our bodies, our outward selves.

Luther warns against the notion that works serve as justifying righteousness. No, that is impossible. Works cannot make us righteous. But when we receive righteousness, we do good works out of faith, motivated by God's glory. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Good works do not make a man good, but a good man does good works. We do good works to serve others. Faith "finds expression through works of freest service, cheerfully and lovingly done, with which [one] willfully serves another without hope of reward…satisfied with the fullness and wealth of his faith."

Here is Luther's sum of the joyful service of the Christian, keeping in mind, "God has given us in Christ all the riches of righteousness and salvation without any merit on our part, out of pure, free mercy…we need nothing except faith which believes that this is true. Why should we not therefore, freely…do all things which we know are pleasing and acceptable to such a Father? …We will therefore give ourselves …to our neighbor…Behold, from faith thus flow forth love and joy in the Lord, and from love a joyful, willing, and free mind that serves one's neighbor willingly…For a man does not serve that he may put men under obligations. He does not distinguish between friends and enemies…he most freely spends himself and all that he has…As his Father does, distributing all things to all…making 'his sun rise on the evil and on the good'(Mt.5.45), so also the son does all things…freely bestowing joy which is his delight when through Christ he sees it in God, the dispenser of such great benefits.

Inspired by Luther, we conclude that believers live in Christ by faith, and in their neighbors by love. "Otherwise he is not a Christian. By faith he is caught up beyond himself into God. By love he descends beneath himself into his neighbor." This is faith working through love. Gal 5:3.

The Elders: Kevin Budke, Jean Floyd, Mark Gottula, Pat Magill, Joan Ramahi

From the Congregation President

October is a VERY busy month at Messiah. Besides the church picnic at Winton Woods, Octoberfest, Hands Against Hunger, and the City Wide Reformation Service, October is the month we set aside to focus on Biblical stewardship. Not only does this help Messiah's leadership plan the upcoming year's budget, it is an opportunity for each of us to reflect on all the ways God has blessed us this past year and in turn how we can use our time, talents and treasures to bless others. Please take the time to visit the various ministry tables at the Ministry Fair October 10/11. Pledges can be offered during worship October 17/18. If you did not receive a letter in the mail regarding this stewardship initiative, please let the office know. This letter is filled with information on how your time, talents and treasures were used in 2026 and looks forward to the exciting opportunities 2027 brings. Every act of giving strengthens our bonds and allows us to continue serving others both inside and outside our walls.

Diane Wolford Congregation President

The Featured Family

Lisa Mueller and her family started attending Messiah in 1979. Lisa and her brother would attend youth group and other activities with their friends Carol Beth and Mark Euken. They talked their mom and dad (Madge and Tom Mueller) into attending and have been members ever since.

Lisa attends the Saturday evening service mainly because that's the service her parents attend and she also likes the traditional worship service. Lisa mentioned appreciating the very strong and close knit group of people that attend the Saturday evening service but also likes when she sees some of the other members that usually attend Sunday morning.

Currently Lisa volunteers as a lay reader and does the sound board/streaming for the Saturday service. In the past she has worked with Messiah's Youth Group, sang in the choir, and was on a number of committees.

Lisa is a Social Worker and has been in Child Welfare for 36 years. She has worked for Hamilton County Children Services for the past 29 years. She spends her free time with her grandchildren attending their events and at times, helps transport them to and from their events. If Lisa is not out at a soccer, football, volleyball, basketball or baseball game, she at home with her dog, Oscar.

What an amazing story hearing how God used children to bring parents to worship! How blessed we are that Lisa and her parents continue to worship, serve and fellowship here all

HANDS AGAINST HUNGER™
a life saving ministry of A Child's Hope Int'l
www.TheChildrenAreWaiting.org

Join us for a meal packing event with Hands Against Hunger at 9:30 AM (please arrive 9:15 for check-in), Saturday, October 17th at 2430 E. Kemper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241. Hands Against Hunger is a program of Cincinnati-based Christian charity A Child's Hope Int'l, which "delivers high-protein, shelf-stable meals to children around the world." Monetary donations are also welcome.

Please sign up on the bulletin board poster, so we know how many to expect. You will also need to register online at thechildrenarewaiting.org (click on serve, scroll down to public packs, view calendar, click on Oc 17, and sign up). Reach out to **Alex Smith** (615-818-5694/acsmith818@gmail.com) or **Jim Worachek** (513-526-3540/worachekjames@gmail.com) with any questions."

Book Club will meet on October 11 at 2:30 p.m. at Messiah hosted by **Vicky Hess**. The book for the month is Queen Bee by **Dorothea Frank.** A hardwarming tale about family, friends and beekeeping set in the Low country on Sullivan's Island. Come join us for a lively discussion. Extra books will be in the church office.

OWLS will meet on Tuesday, October 20 at 12:30 p.m. for dessert and to hear from Ramy **Yousef** about POBLO . People of the Book Lutheran Outreach that supports immigrants and refugees. Come join us to hear about this important work!

Tri-County Soul Ministry (TCSM) will continue to collect paper goods this month - paper towels, toilet paper and paper napkins.

Clifton Music Club — Music at Messiah — meets on **October 6** at 100pm. The program will feature a vocalist, violinist, flutist, and a flute and violin duet. Come enjoy some music and fellowship after the program.

2026 Outreach Calendar

Oct 10	Messiah Oktoberfest Community Meal
Oct 14	Prince of Peace Oktoberfest Style Dinner
Oct 17	Hands Against Hunger Meal Packing Event
Oct 24	Greenhills HarvestFest
Nov 3	General Election - Snacks & Poll Worker Lunch
Nov 18	Prince of Peace Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner
Dec 4	Light-up Greenhills
Dec 9	Prince of Peace Christmas Ham Dinner

On September 9th Messiah served 110 Pulled Pork Meals at Prince of Peace. **Pastor Stuckwisch** delivered a short devotion before the meal. **Nick LaSalle** prepared the pulled pork. **Pastor Stuckwisch, Jim Worachek, Tina Burge, Holly Yeatts, Nick and Lydia LaSalle** served the meal. This was the largest attended meal this year! **Holly Yeatts** also took this opportunity to deliver two boxes of warm clothing she purchased with a Thrivent Action Team Card.

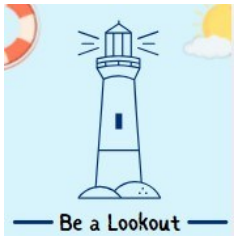
Publicity and preparation for the Oct 10th Oktoberfest Community Meal has begun. This year the entertainment will be provided by the **Donauschwaben Dancers and The Mason Mediocre Band featuring Bob Tanis**. See the full page Oktoberfest flyer later in this Messenger.

The updated Outreach Calendar is attached to this email. Messiah will not be participating in the rescheduled America 250 parade on October 24th due to conflicts with other October events already scheduled.

SEW & SUCH

Sew & Such - what you probably know is that the meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 as is stated in the church bulletins and newsletters. What you might not know - Sew & Such is not a secret society; it is not exclusive. There are no fees or dues to be paid when joining, and no need to go through torturous interviews or extensive application forms to complete. We don't take attendance; the only reason we care about you not showing up is that we might worry about you. We have not, nor will we ever elect a slate of officers; we have no plans for group fund raising projects or anything that takes time away from our projects of choice. You do NOT need to be an expert in whatever you choose to work on. You should never be afraid to ask for advice or help; because we are more than happy to help, advise, praise, or make suggestions. We will not weep or sob if you don't take the advice given or listen to any suggestions. It is your project; the final decision is yours. We are members of Messiah who gather to work on various art projects (mostly fiber arts - think quilts, crocheting, knitting, needlework, cross stitch, etc.), but some have worked on such things as friendship bracelets, a mirror decorated for a wedding, and other various projects. We have been meeting since January of this year and when we can't make a meeting, we miss it. We have fun, talk, laugh, encourage one another (I Thessalonians 5:11), and enjoy the company of other Christians while crafting beautiful things. Anyone interested is welcome to come and see what Sew & Such is all about. No down payment needed, no minimum commitment, no fuss, no muss - just friends who like to Sew & Such! Direct questions to: **Laura Smith or Carol Morison or anyone in the group.**

Stephen Ministry will be concluding the training of the Stephen Ministry Class of 2026 in November, and after they are commissioned on November 14 and 15, four new Stephen Ministers will be ready and willing to serve! That's where the congregation comes in - we need you as Lookouts!



What's a Lookout? Simply put, it's someone who is watching for people in distress. Whether it's someone you see every week, someone you miss seeing at church, a co-worker, friend or neighbor, if you see someone who is going through a hard time, you can throw them a lifeline in the form of a Stephen Minister.

Here are some helpful things to know -

Stephen Ministers are trained to care. They will listen, encourage and pray with a care receiver to help them identify, process and accept the feelings they are experiencing. The will not do dishes, vacuum, pack boxes, or make meals.

Care is highly confidential. Care receivers can trust that what they share with the Stephen Minister will not be repeated.

Stephen Ministers meet their care receiver in-person regularly, usually once a week, one-on-one, at a place and time that's convenient for both.

Stephen Ministers are highly skilled laypeople, not professionals. There are times when a Stephen Minister may work alongside a professional, but they do not collect a fee or offer professional services.

Care is gender specific. Male Stephen Ministers are paired with male care receivers, and female Stephen Ministers are paired with female care receivers.

Stephen Ministry is distinctively Christian, but care receivers do not need to be church members or even believers. Stephen Ministers will not force their beliefs on their care receivers, but rely on the Holy Spirit to guide and heal the care receiver.

If someone you love is struggling, talk to them about how Stephen Ministry can help, and then reach out to a Stephen Leader so we can follow up - **Vickie Hess, Laura Priebe, Pastor Stuckwisch, or Judy Stroeh**,

Reformation Celebration
October 25, 2026

Sponsored by the Federation of Lutheran Churches of Cincinnati and Vicinity
to be held at
Messiah Lutheran Church
10416 Bossi Lane
Cincinnati, OH 45218
Speaker: Rev. Robert Marshall
from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation
3:00 pm
Rev. Marshall will speak about the mission of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF).
A Free Will offering for LHF will be taken. You can find more information or donate to LHF online at https://lhfmissions.org/donate/
4:00 pm – Worship Service
General offering will support the Federation or you can donate to the Federation online at https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKDN/home

A light dinner wil be served after the 4pm service

Sunday School Pool Party

Serving at Prince of Peace

2 Amira Ramahi
2 Sarah (Mayer) Sowar
2 Zachary Edelstein
3 Michael Ditz
3 Eileen Tanis
4 Jay'elle Grant
4 Carol Dupps
4 Beth Hopper
8 Diane Magill
9 Silas Berndt
9 Emily Capal
10 Jason Farler
12 Anna Wilhelm
13 Lynn Hiler
14 Aryanna Horner
14 Jasmine Horner
17 Brad Stroeh
21 Lora Budke
21 David Krupp
24 Debbie Capal
26 Jason Kennedy

09 Jonathan and Rita Scheidt
11 Stan and Debbie Capal
14 Randy and Julie Gross
20 Steve and Chris Bow
20 Jeff and Chelsea Brinck
25 Randy and Karen Schuerman

Altar Flowers

The following families have signed up for October:
Altar Flower Families:
Staab, Schultz, Baldwin, Rice

Please remit your payment of **$30**
"MESSIAH ALTAR SOCIETY"
and place in the
Altar Society mailbox
in the church office.
Thank You!

The flowers must be paid for before the order is placed

FALL WORK DAY

We are planning a fall work day for November 7th. We have lots of projects that we would like to complete to make our building and grounds ready for the upcoming winter. "Many hands will make light work." Please come and bring any gardening tools you may have (rakes, shovels trimmers, etc.). We will start at 9 AM. Coffee and donuts will be available beforehand. In case of rain, we will schedule the work day for November 14th. Watch the web-site and Facebook page for cancellation information.

Messenger Deadline for the November issue is
October 15.
Send articles to clherron1@gmail.com

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00am Elders
4 10:am Church Service at Sweetgum Slope Shelter in Winton Woods and Picnic	5	6 1:00pm Clifton Music Club	7 10:30am Ladies' Bible Study	8	9	10 Ministry Fair 9:00am Leadership Board 5:30pm Traditional Communion Service 5-8 pm Oktoberfest
11 Ministry Fair 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service 2:30pm Book Club	12	13 6:30pm Sew & Such	14 10:30am Ladies' Bible Study 5:00pm Prince of Peace Dinner	15 11:00am Staff Meeting	16	17 Pledge Weekend 9:15am Hands Against Hunger 5:30pm Traditional Communion Service
18 Pledge Weekend 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service	19	20 12:30pm OWLS	21 10:30am Ladies' Bible Study	22	23	24 5:30pm Traditional Communion Service Greenhills Harvestfest
25 **Reformation Sunday** 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service 3:00pm LHF presentation in fellowship hall 4:00pm Federation City-Wide Reformation Service	26	27	28 10:30am Ladies' Bible Study	29	30	31 5:30pm Traditional Communion Service