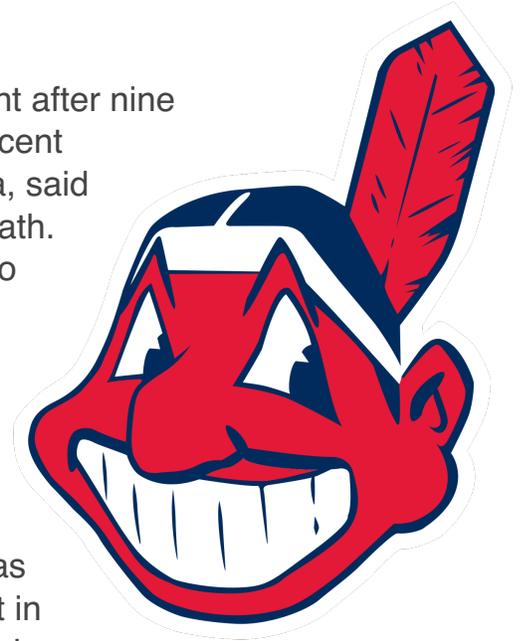


## Ice Bath

An aspirin and a nap! These are two things that I would want after nine long innings battling on the dirt of Progressive Field. In a recent interview, Cleveland Indian's first baseman, Carlos Santana, said the number one thing he needs after a ballgame is an ice bath. Achy joints and swollen limbs may call for an ice bath, but to me, that sounds like a jolt of unimaginable discomfort. The lines between what we want and what we need can easily become blurred. Dreadfully frigid, the ice bath heals the body and allows it to endure yet another ballgame soon to come.



It is my prayer that worship never becomes as unpleasant as an ice bath. However, an ice bath and the church have a lot in common. Many worshipers make the mistake in thinking that when it comes to one's relationship with God, worship is the ballgame. In actuality, worship is meant to be the ice bath. Worship heals us, feeds us, and restores us, so that we have the strength to be the best Christ-followers we can be Monday through Saturday. Worship is the body of Christ's time to recover from the hard work of revealing God's love in the world throughout the week.

The church is meant to be an ice bath. With restoration at our core, concerns about who is "in" and who is "out" take a back seat. When forgiveness and healing become our focus, then the idea that all are welcome becomes not so difficult to grasp. We should come to church expecting those around us to be battered and bruised. If we are honest with ourselves, we may even recognize that we are the one's broken most of all. We come to church, not to tout how strong our faith is, but to acknowledge how much we need God. Without God, without our ice bath, the grueling season trudges on. Without the respite of worship, our wounds cut deeper and our aches grow more intolerable.

Week-in and week-out, the cycle of ice bath and ballgame go round-and-round. As long as there is hurt in the world, we will need worship to refresh us. No matter how long it's been since you have worshiped with us, know that Messiah always welcomes you. If you feel unworthy, know that we all are. If you feel unloved, know that you most certainly are not. Where we fall short, God lifts us up. When darkness draws near, God provides a light. No matter how bad life beats us up, God will always bring healing. Let the worship of our great Lord be "your comfort, your shelter, your tower of refuge and strength" (Psalm 98).

See you in the tub,

Pastor Lucas McSurley

## Pentecost Picnic

Be sure that June 9 is marked on your calendar! Bring a Summer side-dish to share after worship as we celebrate another successful year of Sunday School. We'll have games, crafts, and ease into the long-anticipated warmth and fun of Summer together.

## Tim's Farewell

At our picnic, we will also wish our Youth Director a joyous Godspeed as he pursues other life-goals. Messiah has been so blessed by his ministry and leadership over the years. Please don't miss the opportunity to express your gratitude for his service and devotion to our youth.



## Local Mission

We're putting our faith into action this Summer! Take advantage of one or both of these opportunities during the week of June 16-22. If labor isn't in your wheelhouse, your presence and support is still needed and appreciated. Together, let's roll up our sleeves for Jesus.

On June 16, we will help serve dinner to the kids at Rotary Camp. On June 22, we will help pack and sort food.

Sign up in the narthex or email Pastor Lucas today!



Sunday, June 16  
6:00pm - 8:00pm



Saturday, June 22  
8:30am - 11:30am

## Vacation Bible School

Messiah Lutheran invites children to Explore where God's power can take you! Join us for an amazing space adventure July 15th - July 19th (2019). Vacation Bible School (VBS) is held each evening from 6:00pm-8:30pm with an optional kid-friendly dinner served at 5:30pm. Open to children from age 3 (potty trained) through 5th grade.

VBS includes exciting new music, fantastic science, creative crafts, fun recreation, and memorable Bible stories that will help children experience God's awesome power!

Have a child or children older than 5th grade? We love our tween and teen helpers! Have your older children register to be a VBS volunteer.



<https://tmab.cokesburyvbs.com/MessiahLutheranAkronOH>

# Synod Assembly



## Where Does our Synod Offering Go?

- 25% - Plant and support new congregations.
- 18% - The ELCA sends 84 missionaries to 48 countries.
- 16% - Church record keeping.
- 15% - Support future church leaders and ELCA seminaries/colleges.
- 8% - Technological outreach and evangelism.
- 5% - Bishop aid for clergy.
- 5% - Stewardship education for congregations.
- 4% - Social justice efforts.
- 2% - Research and strategic planning.
- 2% - Fostering of interfaith relationships.

## The Impact of MOPS



THIS IS MOTHERHOOD

### A Welcoming Place for Moms to Meet Jesus

- A gathering place for every mom, from every background.
- Offers moms a much-needed break to catch her breath and remind her who she is.

### Connects Young Families to Your Church

- Provides encouragement, community and support specifically for new moms.
- Promotes participation in the local church community.

### Encouragement and Hope Shared in Your Neighborhood

- Positions the church to invite moms who are looking for the type of connection that MOPS provides.
- Allows moms to become the best version of themselves, for their families and the people in their communities.

## MOPS Ministry

We are official! Mothers of Preschoolers is accepting registrations now. Moms can go to [www.mops.org](http://www.mops.org) and use the quick registration code OPR9 to find our group at Messiah. Our meeting dates will be the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month through the school calendar year. Our first meeting will be Monday September 9 from 9:30-11:30am in the Family Life Center. This years theme is *To The Full* John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life, and have it To The Full."

If you are interested in leadership, volunteering opportunities, or are simply curious about this new ministry please join the Leadership Team on June 10th at 9:30am at the Altrichter residence. Please contact Jennifer Altrichter at [330-818-1041](tel:330-818-1041) for more information.

*Over 200 moms are seeking a MOPS group in our area!*



## Rubber Ducks Game

On June 23, following worship, bring your family along for a fun day at the ballpark! Sign up in the narthex or shoot the church office an email expressing your interest so that we can try to get our tickets in advance, generally around \$11 each.



## Garden Ministry

Do you have skills and experience with gardening? Messiah could use your insight and helping hand. We are looking to put a garden on our property to provide all God's people with fresh produce. Keep watch for our first planning meeting!

## Men's Bible Study

The men of Messiah gather on Saturday mornings, from 8am-9:30am. Be on the lookout for which Saturday in June we plan to meet. We enjoy breakfast and fellowship with an engaging discussion around an interesting topic. The Bible Study men are also planning to expand what they do to include service and engaging the broader community. This year, we will plan on continuing to meet over the Summer months. Our June meeting marks the beginning of a new topic. So, now is the perfect time to join in and grow with us if you haven't before!

## Social Media

Church is becoming more and more an online community. Be sure to "like" Messiah Lutheran Church on Facebook. And if you like something, "share" it because that's how more people will see our page. Also, follow us on Twitter and Instagram.

## New Road Sign

We are selling pens and notepads following worship and throughout the week (\$8 a set, \$15 for two sets, \$21 for three sets). The proceeds will go toward our evangelistic ministry, especially a new road sign. Currently, the Church Council is collecting quotes and starting to put together an awesome design. We are shooting for construction to begin soon.

## Purpose Palooza

It's music festival time! On July 20, from 12pm-8pm, join Messiah as we head to Buckeye High School for an all-day event of awesome live Christian music. Bands such as Lost & Found, Rachel Kurtz, and AGAPE will be performing. Tickets are only \$15. Come to find purpose and leave ready to serve!

## Morning Bible Study

Every Tuesday, from 10am-11:30am, we gather in the Social hall and engage in life-giving discussions that cover a wide-variety of topics. Currently, we are sifting through the devotional resource "The Upper Room." Copies are available in the narthex. Join us!

## New Website!

Have a look at our new website! Go to [messiahlutheran.cc](http://messiahlutheran.cc) It's still a work in progress, but it looks fresh and new, which is so exciting! The potential for ministry via the website is endless. Soon, our website will be your one-stop-shop to get the information you need for life together. This will become an abundant source of information for newcomers. Whenever you are at a church event, be sure to take lots of pictures so that we can put them online.

## Green Good Neighbors

When we work together to do God's work, more of God's children are served. You can serve Green Good Neighbors Wednesday mornings from 8am-noon at Greensburg United Methodist. There is always an abundance to be sorted and plenty of new friends to meet. In the hallway leading to the Social Hall, Messiah has a bin where we collect lightly used, in-season, and folded clothing in trash bags. Together, we can make a difference in our community!

## Coffee Collection

Messiah continues to take coffee donations for Haven of Rest. There is a bin under the resource table in narthex to place your donated coffee.

## A Porter Thank You

God is so good! What a blessing to have the Porter's back with us in worship. Although Bob's road to recovery continues, they want to say "thank you" to the Messiah family for all the prayers and support!

## Planning Ahead

Recently, Pastor Lucas has been in conversation with a local Estate Planning Attorney. Things like writing a will, setting up a power of attorney, and getting financially stable can bring a lot of anxiety. The best thing we can do is be prepared, no matter where we are in life. If you share in this anxiety or feel lost in this process, please let pastor know and he will get you connected. If enough interest is generated, we'll set a time for an attorney to speak with a larger group. Being a part of a family like Messiah means you don't have to go through the difficulties of life alone.

## FreedomFest

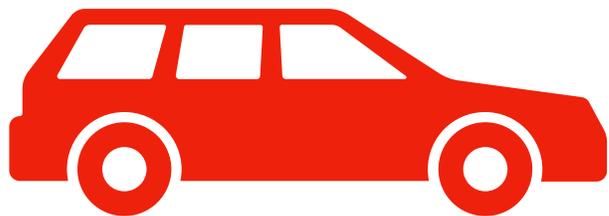
Come celebrate with Green at the community's festival held on June 29, from noon to 11pm, at Boettler Park. Admission is a school supply that will benefit Green Good Neighbors. Enjoy fun, food trucks, and fireworks at 10:15pm.

## Liturgical Art

It's important to keep worship at Messiah fresh and exciting. One simple way to make this happen is to use our creative juices to transform the sanctuary to parallel the given church season. If you have ideas and want to lend a hand, you can contact Jennifer Altrichter or Alex McSurley to get involved.

## Mobile Ministry

Has driving ever prevented you from attending worship or a church event? We have a number of people that would be more than happy to give you a ride. Odds are, someone's passing your house to get here. If you would benefit from this kind of shuttle ministry, please let pastor know and he will coordinate a ride for you. There is no greater feeling than helping a neighbor, especially on your way to church.



## Summer with Psalms

Over the Summer months, we will focus on the Psalms in worship, reading them responsively. When the Summer concludes, we will resume with the first and second Scripture reading.

# Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Messiah is in search for a Part-Time Director of Youth and Family Ministry. In Scripture, we hear countless examples of familial language when describing God's chosen people. The Director of Youth and Family Ministry is called to foster an environment where we seek to live into our God-given claim as sisters and brothers under Christ. With a family-approach toward ministry, this servant-leader will primarily focus on faith formation, spiritual growth, and the building of healthy relationships for Messiah's youth and families.

Qualities include:

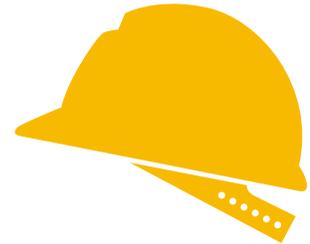
- Possess a deep-seeded love for God, yourself, and for all youth.
- Willingness to adapt, grow, and continue learning.
- Have basic biblical knowledge and an ability to articulate Lutheran theology.
- Share an enthusiasm for God's creation by celebrating our uniqueness.
- Appreciate the importance of collaboration and teamwork.
- Able to utilize technology for all communication.

To explore more about responsibilities and compensation, you can speak with the pastor or pick up a job description handout found in the narthex. Also, if you have interest in being a part of the search committee, please let pastor know.



## Mining for Mission

Six-week Summer Learning Series



### Concept

For many of our youth in school, the pressure to succeed can be crushing. Learning in the church ought to be an outlet and not look so similar to what they experience throughout the week. Forming life-long followers of Christ comes down to one thing, meaningful relationship. This Summer, join us as we harness a collaborative and inter-generational approach toward forming disciples. This is simply a trial period, so your feedback of the experience will be paramount.

### Topic

What does it mean to be mission-minded? By exploring our values as a worshiping community, we will seek to more fully understand how God is uniquely calling Messiah to participate in what God is up to in the world. As a congregation, where do we put biblical emphasis in defining our mission? What does Luther say about vocation? Together, we'll explore!

### Dates

Sunday, July 14th  
11am - 12:30pm

Sunday, July 21st  
11am - 12:30pm

Sunday, July 28th  
11am - 12:30pm

Sunday, August 4th  
11am - 12:30pm

Sunday, August 11th  
11am - 12:30pm

Sunday, August 18th  
11am - 12:30pm

## Birthdays

June  
 1 Jillian Sanders  
 4 Kathy Schrader  
 Heidi Skinner  
 5 Jenny Schlabach  
 Ted Arnold  
 6 Kathy Wagner  
 9 Sandra Wolter  
 12 Paige Burris  
 14 Steve McCloskey  
 Becky Hancock  
 15 Jessica Hancock  
 Barbra Carlson  
 16 Aaron Cain  
 18 Ian Bennett  
 19 Bill Keasling  
 22 Marjorie Robbins  
 Tom McDowell  
 23 Carl Saurman  
 Beth Haas  
 26 Emily Sanner  
 James Pellikan  
 27 Christian Lamielle  
 Cristy Ludrosky  
 28 Becky Pataki  
 30 Gladys Crane

## Worship Attendance

May  
 5 107  
 12 83  
 19 74  
 26 72

## Serving in Worship

June  
 Reader  
 2 Jim Ensminger  
 9 Becky Pataki  
 16 Bath Haas  
 23 Diane Feeman  
 30 Kim Sanner  
 Greeter  
 2 Brenden & Olivia Ensminger  
 9 Beth Haas  
 16  
 23 Lynda Seller & Diane Freeman  
 30  
 Usher  
 2 Steve McCloskey & Don Spear  
 9 Youth Group  
 16 Mike Unger & Bill Wagner  
 23 Kent Downing & Lori Koehler  
 30  
 Banker  
 2 Shandell Mooney  
 9 Joan Robbins  
 16 Betty Goodwin  
 23 Jim & Liz Six  
 30  
 Flowers  
 2  
 9  
 16 Irma Studer  
 23 Steve & Marlene McCloskey  
 30 Bob & Tammy Schrader

## In our Prayers

Vincent	Josie
The Birdie's	Connie
Beth	Keith
Larry	Delores
Karen	John
Arlene	Mike
Kathy	Robert
Lauren	Josie
Liam	Connie
Jim	Carole
Nancy	Barbra
Alex	
Linda	
Kay	
Jeanne	
Judy	
Terry	
The DJ's	

## Anniversaries

June  
 1 James & Donna Pellikan  
 3 Randy & Mellissa Reed  
 5 Carl & Charlene Saruman  
 8 Bob & Brenda Porter  
 12 Larry Donna Anderson  
 19 Donald & Barbra Carlson  
 Vic & Ernie Machmeier  
 22 Don & Sue Spear  
 25 Steve & Marlene McCloskey  
 Lucas & Alex McSurley  
 30 Karen & Bill Keasling  
 Kathy & Ken Schrader

## Congratulations Graduates

Jacob Ondecker, Ocala High School  
 McCoy Pizzute, University of Akron  
 Chad Sanner, Malone University  
 Darien Tait, Coventry High School  
 Kelly Ward, Kent State University  
 Drew Zager, Case Western University

## Youthers

Sunday, June 2, 11am-2pm  
 Regular Youthers Meeting  
 Sunday, June 9 - Pentecost Picnic  
 Sunday, June 16, 11am-2pm  
 Open Gym  
 Sunday, June 23, 1pm-5pm  
 Rubber Duck Game  
 Sunday, June 30 - No Youthers

# June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Sanner Graduation in Social Hall
2 Worship 10am Seminary Sunday  Last Sunday School  Youthers 11-2  AA 4pm&6pm	3 Warm Up Portage Lakes 10am	4 Bible Study 10am  Children of Alcoholics 7pm  Boy Scouts 7pm	5	6 Steps Beyond 6pm  Venturing Crew 7pm	7 Property Maintenance 9am	8
9 Worship 10am Pentecost Picnic  Teacher Appreciation Sunday  AA 4pm&6pm	10 Warm Up Portage Lakes 10am	11 Bible Study 10am  Children of Alcoholics 7pm  Boy Scouts 7pm	12 Not by Choice 11am	13 Steps Beyond 6pm  Church Council 7pm	14 Property Maintenance 9am  Synod Assembly	15 Synod Assembly
16 Worship 10am  VBS planning meeting 11am  Serving Rotary Camp 6-8pm  AA 4pm&6pm	17 Warm Up Portage Lakes 10am	18 Bible Study 10am  Children of Alcoholics 7pm  Boy Scouts 7pm	19	20 Steps Beyond 6pm  Venturing Crew 7pm	21 Property Maintenance 9am	22 Serving at Akron Food Bank 8:30-11:30am
23 Worship 10am  Rubber Duck Game 1-5pm  AA 4pm&6pm	24 Warm Up Portage Lakes 10am	25 Bible Study 10am  Children of Alcoholics 7pm  Boy Scouts 7pm	26	27 Steps Beyond 6pm	28 Property Maintenance 9am	29
30 Worship 10am  AA 4pm&6pm						