



Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

122 W. 7th St.
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308)382-3471

<http://www.messiahgi.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/messiahgi.org>



Messiah's Mission Statement

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church is a fellowship of baptized people, nurtured by the Holy Spirit, called to boldly share the message of God's saving grace through Jesus Christ. We joyfully welcome all into this family of Christ, where everyone can grow in faith, hope, and love. With Jesus as our guide, we will touch people with God's love by teaching, praying, enriching families, and ministering to our community.

Contact Information

Messiah Staff

Interim Ministry: Fr. Robert Lewis 308-850-2985
Pr. Jim Fruehling 402-499-4739

Family Life Ministry: Courtney Berg

Parish Administrator: Laura Gregory

Finances: Gary Phillips Bookkeeping Service

Custodian: Lorraine Jensen

Organist: Jared Hansen
Lorraine Kohtz

Accompanist: Mae Lenners

Wedding Coordinator: Lorraine Kohtz

Website / Social Media: Mindy Osterman

Council

President, Personnel, Endowment: Erich Fruehling 308-379-1634

VP, Outreach: Theresa Burson 308-390-5215

Secretary, Social Ministry: Brenda Kucera 308-390-8216

Worship & Music Rep., Memorial: Linell Schultz 308-379-2421

Property : Jim Fandry 308-382-0331

Scholarship: Jeff Koch 308-384-1983

Christian Education: Jim Elrod 308-379-4225

Memorial: Alice Elstermeier 308-384-7318

Congregational Information & Affiliations

Congregational ID# 03392

Synod 4A Nebraska

Nebraska Synod ELCA

Bishop: Brian Maas

4980 S. 118th St.

Omaha, NE 68137

(402)896-5311

website: www.nebraskasynod.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Presiding Bishop: Elizabeth Eaton

8765 W. Higgins Rd

Chicago, IL 60631

Phone: (800)638-3522

website: www.elca.org

Church History

On August 5th, 1883, seventeen German Families, assisted by Rev. H. Siekmann and Rev. J.N. Lenker, formed a group called St. Paul's German Evangelical Lutheran Church—which came to be known as Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church. The year 2018 marked the church's 135th anniversary.

The group purchased a small building for \$700.00, and in 1884 purchased land at 7th and Locust (current location), moved the church, and built a parsonage. Through good and hard times, with the generous help of members, volunteers and donations, Messiah thrived. It grew to the point that expansion was needed, and schools and committee worship groups were formed. Many current members come from families whose membership goes back a number of generations. Since the church's establishment, Messiah's members have been very active in the church and in the community. We are very blessed by youth who join us in our mission with enthusiasm and conviction, to help make the world a better place—a little bit at a time.

Ministries in the Community

If you cannot drive, Messiah can pay your cab fee to and from church. We encourage anyone who needs it to use this service—to come to worship or Saturday suppers, meet with a pastor, or meet with Narcotics Anonymous. If you cannot get to a doctor's appointment or the grocery store, some members provide rides as part of "God's Work Our Hands / Faith in Action".

Messiah's quilting ministry makes 100-200 quilts per year. Some quilts are used locally, others go to overseas missions. Once a year, a quilt is donated to the Carol Joy Holling Camp quilt auction. Our graduating high school seniors receive a quilt at a special worship service. Some of our craftsmen make comfort crosses that fit easily in the hand when praying. These crosses are distributed to people in the hospital or nursing homes; and are sent to ministers in the armed forces to be distributed to our country's service men and women. Confirmands receive a special cross at their confirmation.

Many of Messiah's members build homes for Habitat for Humanity. One member teaches a money management course to the families receiving homes. In 2017, Messiah donated the lot across the street from the church for a Habitat home, and held a neighborhood block party when the new homeowner was given keys to the house. In 2019, donations from Messiah made it possible to build two new homes.

About 20 Messiah members tutor children at Howard Elementary School. We contribute to "The Backpack Program" at two elementary schools, providing food for children over the weekend (when they are not fed by the school). Messiah has monthly collections for the local food pantry, and contributes to many volunteer drives. Around Thanksgiving, we distribute food baskets to the community. Each basket contains enough for a family's Thanksgiving meal. Messiah members give to the ELCA Good Gifts Program, and to Nebraska Disaster relief funds (Pilger tornado). This year, we have been active with Human Trafficking awareness and prevention efforts, raising funds and offering education seminars open to the public.



Chrysalis Lutheran Homes

Chrysalis is an apartment complex for the elderly and disabled, and was jointly established by Messiah Evangelical Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches. A non-profit corporation, Chrysalis is funded through the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and owned by Lutheran Homes, Inc. Five members of Messiah Lutheran serve on its board.



Saturday Suppers



The Saturday Suppers ministry started on January 1, 2005, when the Salvation Army stopped serving meals on the weekend.

Today, Messiah serves meals every week from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm, and the Men's Group delivers meals to homebound members and to other individuals and families in the community. Several teams work alternately, and food pick-up and prep. usually begins around 7:00 am.

Food is supplied by CHI St. Francis Medical Center, both Super Saver grocery stores, HyVee grocery, Panera Bread, The Food Bank, and Hiland Dairy, and Messiah members donate farm-fresh eggs. Most of the volunteers who help with Saturday Suppers are Messiah members, but individuals from other churches and organizations have stepped up: members of Third City Christian Church, St. Stephen's Episcopal, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, and the Army National Guard of Grand Island, to name just a few.

Over the past 14 years of service (and counting), we have served 85,000 to 90,000 meals. Many of the children we serve are part of the Grand Island Public School System, which has approximately 200 young people who are homeless, living in an unstable home situation, or moving around from friend to friend's house. The Saturday Suppers ministry allows us to serve a practical need, but it also helps us get to know people in our community and respond to their emotional and spiritual hunger.

The Coats and Clothes Closet, which started a few years ago, is available while Saturday Suppers are being served. In 2018, more than 160 coats were distributed.





Vacation Bible School

The year 2019 has brought a lot of changes to Messiah. Messiah, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (with whom Messiah shares joint fellowship), and St. Paul's Lutheran Church combined their resources for summer Vacation Bible School, held at Peace Lutheran Church, June 10-14 2019. The congregations worked together to make props and decorations for a program based on Jonah and the Whale. More than 150 children signed up this year, and everyone had a great time.









Worship Services

Sunday Worship Service is at 8:30 am with fellowship and adult bible study immediately after. Coffee and pastries are served for fellowship and for adult bible study held in the lounge. Youth conduct the services on the last Sunday of every third month.



Christmas Story—Youth Service 2018







Maundy Thursday 2019

Joint Service at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

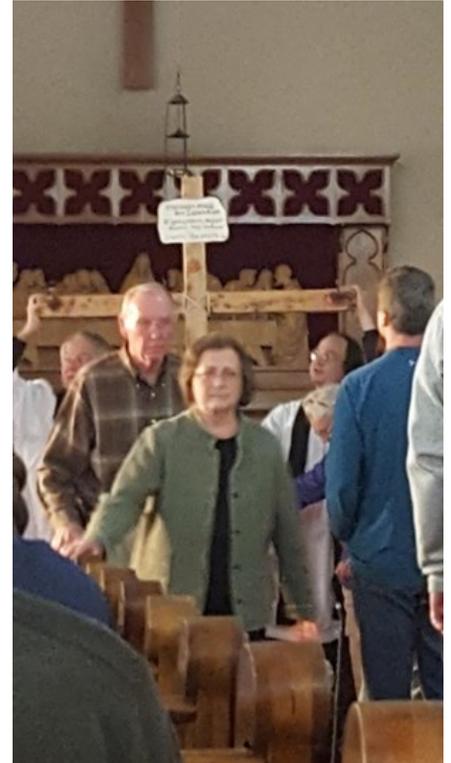
This was an amazing service – emotional and “waking”. It brought the meaning of Jesus’s “service out of love” to life, and the realization that his word is as relevant today as it was then.



Good Friday Service 2019

Messiah Lutheran & St. Stephen's Episcopal Joint Service

Pastor Jim and Father Robert's goal was to project what the disciples were feeling, and help everyone realize the significance and pain of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice in a "real" and palpable way. This was a heavy and somber service, and very effective.



Easter Sunday Service 2019

He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!





Easter Egg Hunt 2019

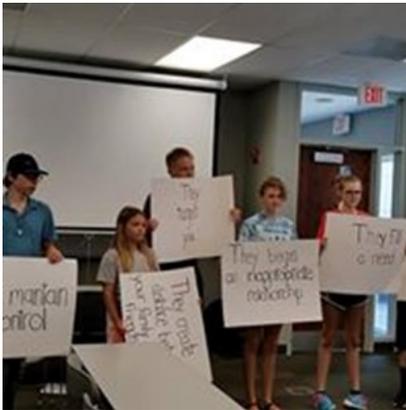
Messiah invited the neighborhood and local community, distributing flyers, and spreading word about the event via social media. This year, we had probably 100 more children attending



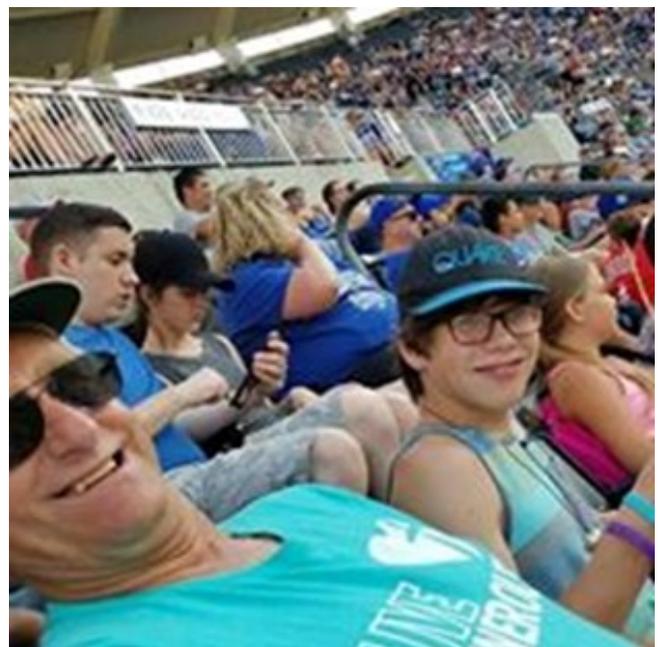
Messiah Youth Activities

Messiah's Youth Group continues to be active with community outreach, locally and widespread. They have traveled to Texas to help with tornado disaster relief, New Jersey for Hurricane Sandy disaster relief, Colorado for suicide prevention and food bank efforts, Kansas City and Omaha for food bank and property clean up efforts, and most recently, they went on a mission trip to Chicago. Locally, they volunteer at the Grand Theater (run by volunteers) and the Humane Society, visit retirement homes, and make health care kits.

Kansas City & Omaha Mission Trip 2018



Kansas City Royals Game!





**Joint Fundraiser for Messiah and St. Stephen's
Valentine Dinner with a German Theme**



Making May Day Baskets & Visiting Assisted Living Facilities



Loads of Love Give-Away



Confirmation

Messiah and St. Stephen's youth led the worship service at both churches, then hosted dinner at St Stephen's. Both bishops attended and gave blessings to the confirmands. Messiah and St. Stephen's have been helping each other with youth education and resources. The youth at Messiah and St Stephen's enjoy having a joint youth group, and have really stepped up to become more involved in each other's churches and the community.



Habitat for Humanity House-Build & Block Party





Messiah Women

Making Sleeping Mats



Visiting Assisted Living Facilities



Church Facilities



Sanctuary



Loft—overlooking altar



Fellowship Hall with large kitchen

Storage Space





Classrooms



Library

Parsonage

