



# The Messenger

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church of Fargo

Volume 29, Issue 2

February 2025

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*"Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*      Philippians 2:9-11 (NRSV)



## 5th Annual Drive-Thru Winter Clothing Collection blesses our neighbor

Messiah's Mission Matters Team hosted our 5th Annual Drive-Thru Winter Clothing Collection on Saturday, January 11. A heartfelt thank you for your outpouring of donations!

It was a great opportunity to collect warm clothing and other items to help local people in need stay warm this winter. Your donations included these items: 104 pairs of socks; 95 hats/beanies/earmuffs; 81 coats/jackets; 56 long-sleeved shirts & t-shirts; 44 pairs of gloves/mittens; 39 kids misc. items; 36 hoodies/sweatshirts; 24 pairs of boots/shoes; 22 pairs of pants/snow pants; 21 adult misc. items; 15 scarves/gators; 13 blankets and 1 pajama set.

This collection of blessings was received and greatly appreciated by the following location organizations: Open Doors 65, New Life Center, and Cass County Jail. We would also like to thank KFGO radio for their free publicity of our clothing drive.

Many thanks to Dottie Stegman for sponsoring the January Messenger and to Carol Wright-Kenderdine for sponsoring the February Messenger.

### Can you hear me now? The Story continues...

Back in 2005, Verizon Wireless came up with one of the most iconic ad campaigns ever. Remember the guy wandering around with his crew of network engineers, constantly asking, "Can you hear me now?" The whole idea was to highlight how reliable their network was—and it worked. That simple catchphrase caught on like wildfire. Verizon's message was clear: they wanted to connect with their customers and help their customers connect with each other.

Here's the great thing: God's been doing the same thing—on a way bigger scale. That's what *The Story* is about. Even after his Kingdom split in two, God kept

reaching out, giving people chance after chance to "pick up." For 208 years, he sent messages through his "technicians," who we know as prophets, to remind people that he still loved them and wanted them to come back to him.

In *The Story*, we get to meet these prophets up close. And guess what? Their message hasn't changed. They're still saying what they said to Israel: "God loves you and wants you to come back home."

Just like with a call on your phone, you've got a choice. You can hit "accept" or "reject." You can send God straight to voicemail, or you can pick up and answer him today. The people of Israel had 208 years to decide, and they never picked up. But the network is clear, and the message is reliable.



### So, can you hear him now?



## Welcome to the Family! New Member Class at Messiah

**Sunday, February 16 ♥ 10-11 AM**

Are you thinking about making Messiah your church home? We're excited to invite you to our upcoming **New Member Class**, a welcoming and informative session designed to help you feel right at home. Joining a church isn't just about attending services; it's about finding a place where you can grow in your faith, build meaningful relationships, and use your gifts to serve others.

***We can't wait to welcome you into our family!***

**Sunday, February 16, 10-11 a.m. (between services)**

Please feel free to reach out the church office if you are planning to attend.

***We're excited to get to know you better and walk this journey together.***



## A Message From Pastor Laurie

### No King but King Jesus

In the early days of our nation, George Washington had the opportunity to become king of the fledgling country. However, given the colonies' experience with England and his deep commitment to prayer, Washington knew there was only one true King, and he declined the offer.

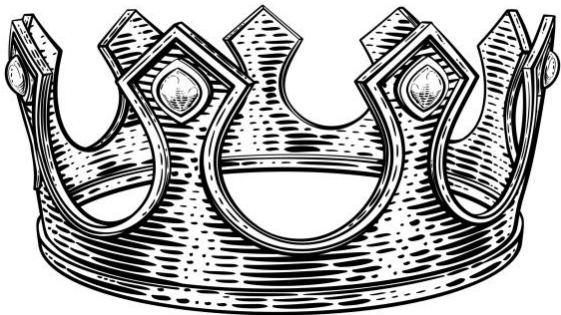
The people of the land seemed to share this conviction. In 1774, the Governor of Boston reported to King George: "If you ask an American who is his master, he will tell you he has none, nor any governor but Jesus Christ." This sentiment soon became the American motto among the pre-war Colonial Committees of Correspondence: "**No King but King Jesus.**"



In *The Story* for the month of February, we will have a front row seat in the implosion of the nation of Israel. It can be painful to watch, but there are lessons to be learned as well. They forgot who their true King was. Instead, they demanded a human king and over the course of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, there were 38 kings, but only five of them were faithful to God. The rest, as Scripture repeatedly notes, "did evil in the eyes of the Lord."

Despite their rebellion, God sent prophets to call his people back to him. Through the prophets, God warned Judah of coming exile in Babylon but also promised restoration: "*Then you will know that I am the Lord; those who hope in me will not be disappointed. Then the whole human race will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob*" (Isaiah 49:23).

In Isaiah 53, the prophet vividly describes the coming Messiah: "*He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain*" (Isaiah 53:2-3). God didn't want his people to miss their Savior, but many did—and still do.



No King  
but  
*King Jesus*

My prayer for Messiah is that we don't miss our Savior; that we don't forget to make him the main thing; that we remember to hold Jesus up and give him proper place in our heart.

Had Washington accepted the offer to be king, our nation's history would have been very different. But Washington seemed to understand a critical truth that when we displace God from his rightful place on the throne of our lives and our worship, the results can be disastrous. Conversely, when we place God at the center of our lives and our worship, we position ourselves for godly success.

Imagine what could change in our life and in our church if we adopted the motto: "**No King but King Jesus.**" Let him reign in our hearts, and see what transformations unfold—both personally and as Messiah Lutheran.

See you in church!  
Pr. Laurie



# Christian Education ♦ Messiah Youth

## From Our Youth Director > Bud:

Confirmation students continued to learn valuable life skills. They learned about healthy relationships and how to set boundaries. We talked about the different types of love: Philia (friendship), Storge (family) Eros (romantic), and Agape (God's love); and what the roles of each are in the different relationships in their lives and faith.

While studying this topic they gained skills to help form healthy relationships, such as proper communication, setting boundaries, and leading with compassion.

One big focus during these lessons was revisiting Pastor Laurie's guide to love based on 1st Corinthians Chapter 13 and thinking through common examples of how love should act using that model. We hope that by teaching these important lessons and skills our students will thrive and live lives full of love.

**AGAPE**  
*love*  
compassionate, caring, kind,  
faithful, patient,  
sacrificial, enduring,  
unconditional

## Messiah Confirmation

Wednesdays at 7 PM

♦ Youth Room, Grades 7+

♦ Youth Fellowship (directly following Confirmation, in the Youth Room)



**THE STORY > REWIND.** (What has happened so far?)

**SEE The Story.** (What does this chapter represent?)

**HEAR The Story.** (What was most meaningful?)

**JOIN The Story.** (What challenges or inspires you?)

*"God, we recognize through your Story that you are a God who is - and who always has been - in control of history. You are also in control of our lives, with all of the happiness and heartbreak that we experience. Please remind us that we can always lay our worries, our fears, and our problems before you, and that all of our joy and success belongs to you, as well.*

*Thank you for fighting for us and giving us hope. Amen."*

# THE STORY

**Bud's Email > [YouthDtr@MessiahFargo.com](mailto:YouthDtr@MessiahFargo.com)**

## Finding our story in God's Story.

Each week in THE STORY, students learn about the Upper Story (God's Story) with the rest of the church, but students also explore the Lower Story where we focus on a specific part of the week's chapter and dive into how it affects their lives.



This month we talked about how God judges people by their hearts. Students talked about how they thought the world saw them, how they judge themselves, how they judge others, and how God sees them.

One important part of this for some students was the idea that they cannot correctly judge themselves, as they may be overly harsh or confident.

Instead, they discovered that they needed to trust God's promise that they are beautifully imperfect and loved!



### Gallery on the Go No Skill Needed!

Join us for a delightful afternoon of creativity, connection, and fun! No painting skills?! No problem!! Our friendly instructor will guide us step-by-step - making it easy and enjoyable for everyone. This event is all about spending time together. So, come relax, paint and make some lasting memories.



- Secure your spot by contacting Lora Elfstrum. **Cost:** \$30
- All materials provided – bring your enthusiasm and be ready for some fun!
- We can't wait to see you there!

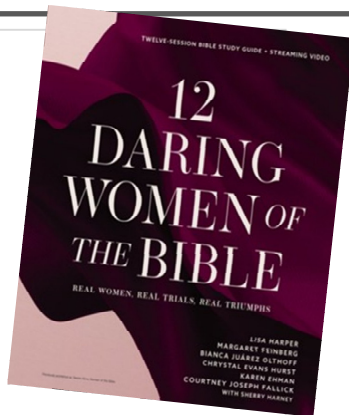
**When:** Sun. Feb 23rd at 2 pm  
**Where:** TouchMark Meeting Room  
1200 Harwood Dr. S, Fargo, ND

• **Registration is required.** Contact:  
Lora Elfstrum at 701-238-8585  
(Email > lora@sirspeedyfargo.com)

### Women's Circle Bible Studies

Tuesday, February 11  
(Every 2nd Tuesday)

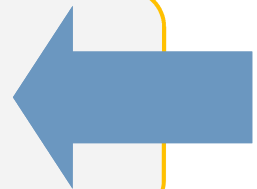
- Rachel Circle 9:30 AM
- Anna Circle 6:30 PM



Join us for a Bible Study called "12 Daring Women of the Bible." This Bible study helps participants learn to live through life's failures and successes, draw near to God in a world of trials, and find contentment in all circumstances.

### Next Meeting

Mon. March 10  
6:30 p.m.



Here's an opportunity to get involved:

- ♦ Auxiliary Representative for Bethany Retirement Living is needed.
- ♦ Historian is needed for Women's Ministry records.

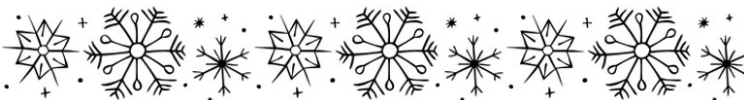
**And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

Colossians 3:17 (ESV)



### Women's Book Club · Tues. Feb. 25 · 7 pm

Host: Andrea Tweten-Steinmetz  
Book: Until the Street Cars Come Back  
by Stanley Gordon West



## A Note from your Council President

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As my term as Council President comes to a conclusion, I wish to thank my fellow Council Members and the Messiah Congregation for placing your trust and confidence in me. It has been a privilege to serve Messiah Lutheran Church.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to consider serving at Messiah in any capacity. What are your interests? What are your talents? How can you share them while serving and participating as a Messenger of God's Grace at Messiah? There is a place for everyone to participate and lift up Christ while we reach out to our neighbor. Believe me, as you put your talents into action, you will also be blessed beyond measure.

I would also like to thank the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee. They have been working together for months to give both young and seasoned members opportunities to look back at Messiah's rich history. As we remember all of our visionary leadership and pay tribute to generations of faithful members and staff, my hope and prayer is that we are challenged to keep the mission of Messiah Lutheran moving forward for future generations.

I will leave you with a reminder of Messiah's first mission: to establish a Sunday School Outreach in north Fargo. This mission was visionary and faithful to Jesus who taught his disciples to welcome children, treat them well, and teach them about the love of Jesus.

MARK 9:36-37 (NLT)

*"Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me.'"*

And, all of God's Children said, "AMEN!!"

Your Brother in Christ,  
Doug Nasset  
Council President

## How is God Working Through You?





## God’s Abundance in your life and at Messiah

We have begun a new year. Think of the abundance of possibilities and opportunities God offers us for service to His kingdom in the minutes and hours that make up the days of the coming weeks, months and year.

Abundance is a characteristic of God. He gave His only Son Who declared to us, “I came that [you] may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). Through Him and because of the abundance of His love for us, we “believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of [our] faith, the salvation of [our] souls” (1 Peter 1:8- 9). Our Lord is also “abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression” (Numbers 14:18).

As we have read through THE STORY, we have seen that God gives the gifts of His creation to his children. Can any of us count the stars in the sky, the birds in the air, or the fish in the sea? As we have seen through the stories of Abraham, Jacob, King David—throughout time God continues to pour out on His people gifts in abundance.


According to God’s grace, He has given us different gifts (Romans 12:6). God has equipped and enabled us with His abundant gifts to seek out the lost, to lead and serve on committees and boards that do the work of ministry, to provide financial support for our church workers at home and in missions, and to teach and preach His Word for the salvation of souls and the edification of believers.

Perhaps you do not know where you fit into this picture. You even think you are not part of the picture. Not so! Just like every character in THE STORY, God has a plan and a purpose for each of us. The Apostle Peter wrote, “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10). By this we know that each of us has at least one gift and that God holds each of us responsible for using that gift.

Ask God to show you what your place is in His story, and where He wants to use you.

*Thank you God for the abundance that you pour into our lives. As we journey through THE STORY, we thank you for revealing your special purpose to each of us. We commit ourselves to lift up Christ and share His Gospel of love and grace everywhere. Open doors for us to share your blessings and our gifts with our church and our neighbors. Amen.*

**Messiah’s QR Code for Electronic Giving**  
 Scan this QR Code to give with the Simply Giving App through Vanco.



When it opens, choose the fund to which you wish to give and follow the prompts. Messiah will be charged processing fee when you give by card. *Please consider giving a little extra to cover these fees.*

**You can TEXT TO GIVE at Messiah!**

**Seriously?! Is that safe?**

**Yes—it’s both safe and easy. Give it a try and follow the prompts.**

**Messiah Fargo Text-to-Give Number: 833-766-0122**  
 Through GivePlus with Vanco





## Bethany Retirement Living Did You Know...

...that Bethany Retirement Living has been selected by Dakota Medical Foundation and the Impact Institute to participate in this year's Giving Hearts Day? This 24-hour online giving opportunity enables donors from anywhere to make an online contribution to Bethany Retirement Living and have their gift multiplied through matching funds made available by DMF and other generous donors. Contributions of \$10 or more made to Bethany on Thursday, February 13 at [givingheartsday.org](http://givingheartsday.org) will be matched. It's easy. It's fast. AND, your gift is matched. Support Bethany on Giving Hearts Day - Thursday, February 13. Call 701.478.8910 for more information.



# Bethany

retirement living



## New Life Center

### In-Kind Donations are Lifesavers

1902—3rd Ave. N. Fargo, ND (701) 235-4453

### New Life Thrift Stores

221 - 19th St N Fargo  
5556 - 51st Ave S Fargo  
Donations always  
Welcome!



Current Needs: cold weather hats/gloves, men's t-shirts & boxers, allergy meds. Basic Mission needs: twin XL, full or queen sheet sets; full-size bath white towels; laundry pods; alcohol-free mouth wash, melatonin, Q-tips. [See full list at their web site: fargonlc.org/currentneeds](http://fargonlc.org/currentneeds)

### Churches United: "Here for Every Neighbor"

**Current Needs:** Hygiene items, medical supplies, towels, bedding (twin & queen size), quilts, sleeping bags, new pillows. Soaps & Shampoo, New Underwear, plain white T-shirts. Baby Supplies, diapers, wipes, formula, teething gels & diaper rash creams. Food items. Please make sure products are new and unopened.

Complete Listing of Current Needs: [www.churches-united.org](http://www.churches-united.org)



**Donations can be dropped off at Micah's Mission 1901 1st Ave N, Moorhead 8 am—7 pm Daily**  
**Mail Financial Donations to: Churches United, 1901 - 1st Ave. N., Moorhead, MN 56560 Ph. 218/656-7495**

From Pastor Laurie: "Bishop William Temple said, 'The Church is the only organization that does not exist for itself, but for those who live outside of it.' What an extraordinary privilege! We are invited to be a part of a dynamic organism, not a static institution - an organism that is alive and working in the world to make it a better place.

As we embark on a new year, let's reflect on how each of us can contribute to, and become a part of, the Messiah family.

***How is God calling you  
to bring Christ's love to others?"***



# 2/2/2025 Annual Meeting

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,  
the new creation has come:*

*The old has gone, the new is here!*

*2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)*



## Christian Education ♦ THE STORY

### THE STORY Study Groups

Sundays at 10 AM with Pastor Jeff

Mondays at 1 PM with Vicki Peterson

Wednesdays at 9 AM with Men's Bible Study

Thursdays at Noon & 6:30 PM with Pastor Laurie



### ***We are finding our story in God's Story...think about:***

❖ *"Even when things seem hopeless, prayer still makes a difference. Try it."* ❖ *"How has Jesus been the One who brings your life hope and meaning?"* ❖ *"Ask God to use your life as a signpost to declare his might, presence, love, and sovereignty."* ❖ *"Pray for power to stand strong in your faith even when culture and people around you pressure you to compromise."* ❖ *"Every morning when you wake up - make this simple statement before you get out of bed: 'No King but Jesus!' Then, seek to live out this truth every day."*

***If you haven't joined a group...the invitation is always open. Come when you are able. Invite a friend or neighbor to join us. See you in church!***

## FREE Winter Classes at Messiah Lutheran Fit & Strong and Tai Chi Chih Flow Classes.



☞ **Fit & Strong:** an exercise program for older adults - especially those with osteoarthritis.

☞ **Tai Chi Chih:** a movement practice for anyone wishing for better balance & mobility.

(T'ai Chi Chih focuses on circulating, developing, and balancing.)

**Fit & Strong: Contact > Jan.Nelson7777@gmail.com ☞ Phone 701-261-3142**

**T'ai Chi Chih: Contact > Barbara ☞ lisabedin143@gmail.com**

## What is Giving Hearts Day?

Giving Hearts Day is a 24-hour giving event for more than 600 charities across North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. (Giving is open now at the web site listed below.)

Giving Hearts Day encourages the public to find a charity to love, and the excitement of this annual event helps charities elevate awareness and cultivate donor relationships. Giving Hearts Day is co-hosted by Dakota Medical, Impact, and the Alex Stern Family Foundations.



# Giving Hearts Day

**Give Online at: <https://app.givingheartsday.org>**



## Noisy Change Offering: Sunday, February 9 for HOPE Blooms

Hope Blooms is a non-profit that repurposes donated flowers by re-arranging them into bouquets and then handing them out to the community. Small acts of kindness can change lives. These repurposed bouquets are a blessing to people with long-term illnesses; people in hospice care, nursing homes, and assisted living; as well as homebound seniors or families facing a sudden loss or medical emergency.

Hope Blooms works to “spread hope, happiness and emotional healing to those facing difficult times. Even in dark times - hope blooms.”

They accept donations of flowers, supplies, and financial donations. Financial donations are used to cover the cost of jars, twine, tags, shop supplies and fuel for pickup and delivery.



*Thank you for supporting HOPE Blooms with your generous Noisy (and not so noisy) Change!*

## Pray for our Kids!! Pray with our Kids!

*When? All the time. Any time....Anywhere and...Everywhere.*

### ***This month, we pray:***

*God, in times when we feel lost, abandoned, and spiritually “dead,” we thank you for breathing life into us again.*

*For those of us who are struggling in our relationship with you or with others, we pray that you would continue to show your life and love to us.*



*And, we ask that you would use all of us to speak words of hope and grace to our family, our friends, and those we come in contact with every day.*










*Thank you for the fresh, life-changing ways you show yourself to us through your Story. Amen.*





# February 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 am Coffee Hour Men's Choir  2 pm Girl Scouts 3:30 pm Just for Kix	6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm Came to Believe  Just for Kix	1 pm Staff Meeting  1 pm Fit-N-Strong  Just for Kix	8:30 am Messiah Quilters 9 am Men's Bible Study 7 pm Festival Choir 8 pm Joy Ringers	1 pm Fit-N-Strong  Just for Kix	Office Closes at Noon  	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					January 31  Pinewood Derby Setup Night	1  Cub Scout Pack 233 Pinewood Derby
<b>Messiah's Annual Meeting</b> Sun. February 2 at 10 AM						
2 <b>Annual Meeting</b> 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School & Club 56 Adult Bible Study 11 am > Elm @ 11  <b>Scout Sunday</b>	3  1 pm The Story Study Group	4  6 pm Exec.	5  5:15 Meal 6 pm W.O.W. 7 pm Confirmation 8 pm Youth Group	6  The Story Bible Study w/Pr. Laurie Noon & 6:30 pm  1 pm Game Time	7  	8  
9 <b>Noisy Change</b> 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School & Club 56 Adult Bible Study 11am > Elm @ 11	10  1 pm The Story Study Group	11 Circles: 9:30 am Rachel 6:30 pm Anna	12  5:15 Meal 6 pm W.O.W. 7 pm Confirmation 8 pm Youth Group	13  The Story Bible Study w/Pr. Laurie Noon & 6:30 pm  1 pm Game Time	14 * <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>  	15
16 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School & Club 56 Adult Bible Study <b>New Member Class</b> 11am > Elm @ 11	17  1 pm The Story Study Group  6:30 pm Messiah Women's Ministry	18  7 pm Council	19  5:15 Meal 6 pm W.O.W. 7 pm Confirmation 8 pm Youth Group	20  The Story Bible Study w/Pr. Laurie Noon & 6:30 pm  1 pm Game Time	21  	22  
23 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School & Club 56 Adult Bible Study 11am > Elm @ 11 <b>2 pm Gallery to Go</b>	24  1 pm The Story Study Group  	25  7 pm Women's Book Club Host: Andrea Tweten-Steinmetz	26  5:15 Meal 6 pm W.O.W. 7 pm Confirmation 8 pm Youth Group	27  The Story Bible Study w/Pr. Laurie Noon & 6:30 pm  1 pm Game Time	28  <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Wed. March 5	



# February Birthdays

**2**  
Troy Rudnick  
Cailleigh Stevenson

**5**  
Linda Monge  
Jeron Sheldon

**8**  
Susan Bring  
Don Krenelka  
Bonita Ramsholm

**10**  
Roberta Dahlen  
Sanjay Rajamohan  
Paxton Wanzek

**11**  
Maggie Benson  
Noel Nadeau

**12**  
Claire Lyche

**13**  
Lucas Herrick  
Kip Kaler  
Robert Roman

**14**  
Elaine Beitelspacher  
Bentley Froseth  
Dan Kerestes  
Grant Richardson  
Suzanne Sheldon

**15**  
Mary Bjerke  
Javana Steinmetz  
Nick VanderBush

**16**  
Steve Adamek

**18**  
Elizabeth Bolin  
Thomas Lee

**19**  
Jonah Andrist

**20**  
Doug Benson  
Thomas Johnson  
Janel Swenson

**21**  
Mary Hartje

**24**  
Kay Holm

**25**  
Sarah Griffin  
Kim Groszhans  
Adam Hanson  
Carol Labernik  
Diane Purdy

**26**  
John Eickman  
Arlette Mhlbauer

**27**  
Emily Gullickson

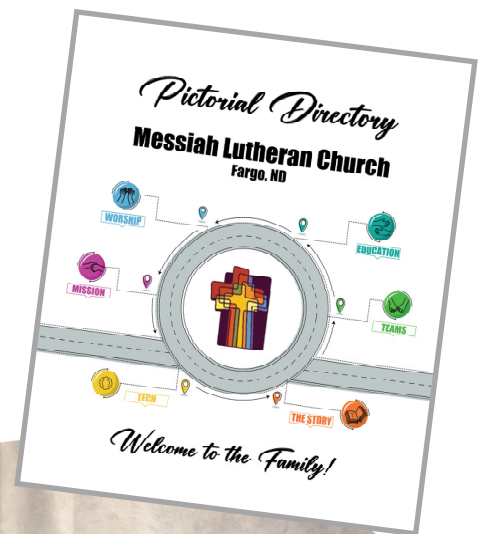
**28**  
Tim Satrom  
Ben Corwin



## Messiah Lutheran's Instant Church Directory

When you get together with friends and family, don't forget to snap a photo of the family, or have someone take a picture of you for the online directory! Or maybe you took a new photo for this year's holiday cards? If so, please email your photo to the church office at: ParishAdmin@MessiahFargo.com.

We will add your photo to your listing in Messiah's digital directory.



### Instant Directory

### Set up your personal login...

Go to:

[members.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com)

👉 Click on "First time signing in?  
Create Login"

Follow the instructions.

NOTE: only one email was transferred from Messiah's database. If you have trouble, feel free to call Sharon at the office....it's easy.

You will catch on quickly.





# *“for the sake of our neighbor”* Messiah’s Clothing Drive 2025



*“And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.”*

Colossians 3:15



## New Life Center

During Advent, we turned our focus outward by supporting our neighbors at the New Life Center in Fargo. We set a goal to raise \$3000 in addition to in-kind gifts of items such as hats, gloves, socks, shirts and long underwear.

**\$ 5602.03**

***Raised by Messiah Messengers  
for New Life Center***

*Thank you Messiah for all your prayers and well wishes for me while I was hospitalized, your continued prayers are deeply appreciated! God is good.*  
*Dwight Rodcliffe*



## Messiah Lutheran Church 2000 Addition and Remodeling

*"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. <sup>25</sup>The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock."* Matthew 7:24-25 (NRSV)



*This is looking from the north doors by the office toward the coffee area and wall of stained glass windows.*



## *Journey of the Stones: Lenten Lessons for 2025*

### Ash Wednesday: Written in Stone ✦ Exodus 32:1-9

Lent offers us a chance to reflect, to let go of the “stones” of our failures, and to place them at the foot of the cross. It’s a time to ask God for grace and to embrace the Savior who redeems us, even when we fall short.

### Wed. March 12: Rejected Stones ✦ Mark 12:1-12

Rejection is a painful experience, whether it’s being turned down by a college, a job, or a relationship. It can shape us in one of two ways - either by building resilience and compassion or by fostering bitterness and anger.

### Wed. March 19: Sticks and Stones ✦ John 8:2-12

This story in John of the adulterous woman asks us to examine ourselves. Are we casting stones or acting out of compassion?

### Wed. March 26: Hearts of Stone ✦ Luke 11:37-47

In Luke 11, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees and scribes for their hypocrisy, self-righteousness and legalism. Jesus accused them of being “walking grave-stones,” spiritually dead and misleading others.

### Wed. April 2: Upon This Rock ✦ Matthew 16:13-20

This story in Matthew 16 begins with the disciples reflecting on who people think Jesus is, but Jesus shifts the question to something deeply personal:

*“Who do you say that I am?”*

### Wed. April 9: Crying Stones ✦ Luke 19:29-40

This passage in Luke 19 reflects on Jesus’ triumphant yet paradoxical entry into Jerusalem, where the joyous crowd celebrated Him as King while being unaware of the Pharisee’s plot to end His ministry.

### Maundy Thurs.: Stones to Bread ✦ Matthew 4:1-11

In Matthew 4, we see the central message of love, as emphasized by the Apostle John and Jesus’ new commandment. It underscores the transformative power of Holy Communion.

### Good Friday: The Stone in Shadows ✦ Matthew 27:59-60

The word ‘Tenebrae’ is a Latin word meaning ‘shadow.’ A shadow has been cast over Jesus, the cornerstone of our faith. This Tenebrae Cantata meditates on Christ’s darkest hour. Thankfully, we do not grieve as those who have no hope.



Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church of Fargo

February 2025

2010 Elm ST N  
Fargo, ND 58102

Phone: 701-237-6770  
www.messiahfargo.com

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Permit No. 799

### CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## Mission Statement:

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church is a Messenger of God's Grace.

## Vision Statement:

...to nurture a deep spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ inspiring all people to Christ-like maturity, equipping them to do His work, and to celebrate and experience His love.



### Staff

**Senior Pastor:**

Rev. Laurie Neill

Email: SeniorPastor@messiahfargo.com

**Parish Administrator:**

Sharon Syrdal

Email: ParishAdmin@messiahfargo.com

**Youth Director:** Bud Schenk

Email: YouthDtr@messiahfargo.com

**Administrative Assistant:** Karen McCloud

Email: AdminAssist@messiahfargo.com

**Bookkeeper:** Trudy Eide

Email: Bookkeeper@messiahfargo.com

**Organist/Director & Coordinator of Music:**

Jim Gurney

mail: jimgurney@messiahfargo.com

**W.O.W. Worship Leader &**

**Joy Ringers Director:** Trudy Eide

Email: teide01@aol.com

**Children's Music Director:** Lindsey Thorstad

**Media Technician:** Erik Eide

**Custodian:** Kelvin Fisher

**Wedding Coordinators:**

Amanda Leichtenberg & Kimberly Groszhans

### Council

**President:**

Doug Nasset

**Vice President:**

Susan Langerud

**Secretary:**

Katelynn Norman

**Treasurer:**

Jan Lundgren

**Council Members:**

Suzanne Sheldon

Dan Oberholtzer

Melissa Mocol

Jon Steinmetz

Melody Holen

Stan Andrist

### Information

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

9:00 a.m. Hour of Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:00 a.m. Elm@11

**W.O.W. - Worship On Wed.**

5:15 p.m. Meal

6:00 p.m. W.O.W.

**Office Hours**

Mon/Tues/Thurs 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wednesday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m.—Noon

**The Hour of Worship TV Schedule**

**& Online Options**

Messiah's The Hour of Worship can

be seen on WDAY-TV, Channel 6 at 11

a.m. on Sundays. It will also be avail-

able on Vimeo®

and by links on Facebook®.

**The Messenger Deadline**

5 p.m. on the 15th of Feb. for the

March Edition. No copy for the

Newsletter will be accepted

after this time.



Find us on  and   
as Messiah Lutheran Fargo