Ministry Highlight

The following is an excerpt from the Lutheran Disaster Relief blog on July 9th 2026.
June 2026 offered a sobering reminder that humanitarian emergencies rarely occur in isolation. Around the world, armed conflict, climate-related disasters, economic instability, hunger and disease are converging to create unprecedented levels of human suffering. At the same time, humanitarian organizations are being forced to do more with less as global funding continues to decline.
Today, an estimated 266 million people face acute food insecurity, while 13 major hunger hotspots are at risk of further deterioration in the months ahead.
Yet humanitarian funding has fallen by roughly 59% compared with 2022 levels, forcing agencies to scale back critical programs including food assistance, health care and protection services. Millions of people are being left without the support they need to survive.
In the face of these compounding emergencies, Lutheran Disaster Response continues to walk alongside communities as they respond to immediate needs and rebuild with dignity and hope. Through trusted international partners, LDR supports emergency relief, recovery, and long-term resilience efforts, addressing food security, shelter, livelihoods, psychosocial support, and disaster preparedness.
Supporting Lutheran Disaster Response enables timely, locally led responses that prioritize the most vulnerable and strengthen communities against future crises. As climate impacts intensify and conflicts persist, sustained solidarity and partnership are essential. Together, we can help ensure affected communities are not only supported in times of crisis, but also empowered to recover, rebuild, and thrive.
To contribute or learn more about the important work being done by this ministry partner, please visit lwr.org.

Prayer Roll:

The Prayer Roll will consist of a handful of members randomly selected from Messiah's roster of community members. We may also include folks who would like to request additional prayers, but are not ready to share more broadly. Just because someone appears on this list, it does **NOT** necessarily mean anything is wrong. There is never a bad time to pray for someone.

This month, please pray for: Carol, Ray, Lanny Anderson, Debbie Ennis, Larry Johnson, Jennifer Carle, Keith Pearson, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton

St John's Vespers

Thank you to everyone who came out for evening prayer. I'm glad to report that no one was carried away on the strong lake breezes that joined us. We had a wonderful time singing together for Holden Evening Prayer, accompanied by Ed Schroeder.

Parish Register

In July, we officially welcomed Michael, Christine, and Adelle Adkins as members of Messiah!

Church Mouse Heard:

A woman told her pastor, "I'm so sorry my husband walked out of your sermon." "It did confuse me," the pastor replied. "He meant no disrespect," she said. "He's been sleepwalking ever since he was a child."

Please join us for an outdoor worship service at **Saybrook Township Park on Sunday August 30th at 11:00 am.** The service will be followed by a potluck meal. Please bring a dish to share. Disposable plates, utensils and beverages will be available.

August Altar Flowers

August 9th
First vase: Diane & Frank Maenpa in celebration of Ryan's birthday.
Second vase: Tina Tallbacka in memory of Lawrence & Ina Anderson.

August 16th
First vase: Diane & Frank Maenpa in celebration of their anniversary!
Second vase: Ed & Renee Spencer in celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary!

August 23rd
First vase: Rebecca Ollikainen in memory of Allan Ollikainen.

Outreach Stewardship Committee

submitted by: Dawn Grimm

Fellowship events coming up:

Lake Erie Captains game on August 16th. The game is at 1 pm. 30 tickets are available for $13.00. Last year we sold out. Contact the Kathleen Shaffer or the church office to reserve your tickets.

October 24th we will remember the Scandinavian roots of many of our families with a celebration including homemade korvu and nissua bread. We will ask the congregation to share a Scandinavian dish or custom that is important to them.

Our community garden is growing. We will have tomatoes, onions, carrots, potatoes and beans to share with the food pantry and our neighbors. All the cucumbers were eaten by wildlife. We may try to replant. Thank you to all those who weed and tend the garden. Renee and Ed Spencer, Emelia and Shyanna Lindberg, Robin Wells, Tina Ensman and Phyllis and Dawn Grimm.

We visited a local charity as we explore the best way to distribute the 10 baby layettes that were completed. Thank you for your generosity.

Several handmade blankets will be donated to the Ashtabula Area Child Advocacy Center. And at least 4 duffles/blankets will be going to Children's Services for children entering foster care.

Donations are being received for Hygiene products. Hygiene items include shampoo, toothpaste/brushes and deodorant. For women, we add menstrual products such as tampons and liners. The donations go to Messiah's food pantry, Catholic Charities, Afterschool Discovery, Homesafe and Lakeside Junior High.

Later in the fall we will be asking for gloves/hats and socks for those of limited means or unsheltered.

Would you prefer not to shop? We have shoppers who will find the best price and use your directed donation. Just indicate it on your offering envelope along with your regular contribution.

The Blessing Box continues to receive donations from the community. The doors will be reinstalled with upgraded hinges and a locking mechanism will be added. This work is being offered by the builder. Emelia will be applying polyurethane to the box as time and weather allows. Dawn will replace the shelf liner on the shelves. She tidies the box and removes empty cardboard cartons for recycling and unclaimed food cans for redistribution to food kitchens in the area.

August Vigil Candle:

Ed and Renee Spencer in celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary!

September Messenger Copy Deadline August 25 at Noon

Messiah Lutheran Church
615WestProspect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

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Welcome Home To Messiah

August 2026

Worship:
Sunday10:00 am

Sunday School:
On summer break

For The Members and Friends of Messiah Lutheran Church,
615 West Prospect Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004

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