

### Memorial Fund Contributions

In memory of Cory Heiser by David and Joanna Pretz Anderson.

In the picture below L to R Herb Watts, Norma Williams, and Fred Leitert are visiting during a coffee hour.



In the picture below part of the crowd at the church picnic in August is going through the buffet line. The picnic was at Saybrook Township Park on the shores of our beautiful Lake Erie.



**Congregation meeting on January 25 to approve the budget**

**Messiah Lutheran Church**  
615 West Prospect Road  
Ashtabula, OH 44004

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004  
Permit No. 313

### Community Pasta Dinner

Messiah will be hosting a community meal on January 23rd from 5 to 7pm.

The meal has been graciously donated by Beckers. We need volunteers to bring dessert, help wash dishes, and to enjoy fellowship with our neighbors.



In the picture above, Athena Pantoja selects a dessert during the Thanksgiving dinner. Joan Malkie looks on and Joanne Duva is in the background.

### Time To Resupply:

Our Feminine Hygiene closet. We donate to Homesafe, Samaritan House, Catholic Charities, Lake side Jr. High School and Dragon Empowerment Center to name a few.

Tampons and liners are the most popular supplies.

Place them in the bin outside Pastor's office.



*Welcome Home To Messiah*



**January 2026**

**Worship:**  
Sunday 10:00 am

**Sunday School**  
Sunday 10:00 am

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

*Phone 440-992-9392  
Fax 440-992-1348  
Email: office@messiahashtabula.com  
Web: www.messiahashtabula.com*

*Pastor Sarah Moore, cell: 513-476-0161*

## Pastor's Column

### Old Things Becoming New

It has become all too popular these days for January 1 to be the sign to start again from scratch. "New Year, New Me" has been a popular phrase on social media for years that tells us to forget what has happened before and to start fresh at the start of a new calendar.

In truth, I love the burst of inspiration that can often come from the New Year's rush. However, I think "out with the old and in with the new", leaves something to be desired. Luckily for us, God does not follow this policy. God continues to choose to love this broken creation. Not just that, God continues to create in the midst of all our brokenness and allows us to be a part of that new creation!

How often do we say something is "old" when, really, we've just become bored? Sure, my phone still works but look at how much cooler the new one is. I guess I was fine last year but look at how much happier/richer/stronger/better this completely different person online is, they don't have any of the problems that I have.

Thankfully, God does not become bored so easily. Feel free to create and re-create with everything you have brought with you into the new year. As we all move through 2026 with or without resolutions, remember that God loved you last year, still loves you this year, and will continue to love you forever and ever. Amen.

### Thanksgiving for Leadership

About five years ago, Pastor Meranda asked Joanna Pretz-Anderson to chair the Worship & Music committee here at Messiah. Looking toward his future retirement, he knew that having someone with knowledge of and experience in worship planning would be imperative during the transition between pastors (not to mention a global pandemic and two-year interim period).

Through all of this, Joanna has coordinated volunteers, kept up with worship supplies, and faithfully worked to make worship at Messiah a meaningful experience for all. I am also grateful for her detailed notes, which have been a tremendous help to me in becoming more familiar with the ins and outs of worship here at Messiah.

This year, Joanna will be stepping down from the chair position to give others the opportunity to explore this leadership role. This year, Rhana Wehn has agreed to take up the role. Please join me in thanking Joanna for her years of faithful volunteer work, as well as all of the work she does in addition to her role as chair.

*Rev. Sarah Moore*

Rev. Sarah Moore



## Pledge For 2026

*By: Candace Rodgers, Church Treasurer*

As January begins the coming new year it's a good time to look back at all God has blessed us with and look forward to all the opportunities that await us.

One of the many blessings of our congregation is the financial support from our members for the operation and ministry of our church. Thank you to all who give of their time, talent and treasure.

Enclosed in the newsletter is a pledge form for 2026 for those of you who wish to complete one. Pledge forms give the finance committee a guide as to what we can expect in the coming year. They are kept private and I tally them and report only the total amount to the finance committee. The form lists the many ways that you can make your gift to the church as well as the different funds that might interest you.

The current fund covers the operations and budgeted amounts. But there are other funds that you can contribute to that you may be passionate about. Once completed you can place it in the offering plate, turn it in to the church office or mail it in to my attention. If you have any questions about the church finances, way to give or the different funds to contribute to please contact me anytime. Thank you all for all the different ways you contribute to God's work in our church. You are a blessing in this place.



**February Messenger  
Copy Deadline  
January 27 at noon**

## We Had A Meeting

Jill Carle called the meeting to order. Purpose of the meeting was to elect members to the Church Council.

Tricia Grosskopf and John Warner were elected to three year terms.



## January Altar Flowers

January 18 —Both Vases by the Shaffer family in celebration of Mike's birthday.

January 25—Both vases in memory of Fred's parents Hilmar and Martha Grimm.

## January Vigil Candle

Donated by Faythe Jerome in memory of Rollin Jerome.

## Church Mouse Heard:

About the just-out-of-seminary —pastor who practiced what he preached?

He didn't stand at the door and shake hands with the worshipers after the service.

He went out to the curb and shook hands with the red faced parents waiting for their children to come out of Sunday school.

