

Continue to write letters to, those who you know are struggling with relationship, financial, or other problems. Plans are underway to strengthen our use of intentional prayer.

Lent Challenge Offering

By: Candace Rodgers, Treasurer

It's hard to image spring flowers ever blooming when you buried under all this snow and ice. But spring will come and with all its splendor and beauty it will bring hope and renewal. Spring is a beautiful yearly reminder to reflect on our own personal renewal in faith and remember the ultimate symbol of hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

While many are considering what to give up during this time of Lent perhaps you could consider giving to something as an alternative. And why not your church? The annual Lent Challenge Offering Envelope is enclosed with this publication of our newsletter. The extra funds raised from this appeal goes to the current fund to cover our budgeted expenses for operations and outreach. It is only through your contributions that we're able to carry out our spiritual work within the church and beyond.

Thank you for your faithful and continued support of our Church and its ministry.

Blessings to you and your families this Easter.

March Vigil Candle

Dee Dee and Frank Maenpa in memory of Fred Johnson.

March Altar Flowers

March 22
1ste –The Olsen Family in memory of Gary & De-
lores Shearer.
2nd vase—The Olsen Family in memory of Larry
and Lorna Olsen.

March 29
1st vase The Riley Family in memory of Viola, Mi-
chael and Chuck Riley
2nd Vase– The Riley Family in memory of Viola,
Michael and Chuck Riley.

Kids Like The Super Bowl Party, Too

Brandi Neff's two daughters are all over the Super Bowl party.

They enjoyed their hot dogs and chili soup.,



DST Ends March 8

Day Light Savings Time ends March 8 at 2:00 am. We must all set our clocks ahead one hour at that time.

Forget to do that and you'll be one hour early for Church the next day.

Messiah Lutheran Church
615 West Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

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*Welcome
Home To
Messiah*



March 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@messiahastabula.com
Web: www.messiahastabula.com*

Pastor Sarah Moore, cell: 513-476-0161

Pastor's Column

Prayer Life

Throughout history, Christians have struggled with what it looks like to have a fulfilling prayer life. Is prayer simply a chore that we are meant to endure to avoid God's wrath? Is it how we put in our speedy delivery orders with God? Do we pray to sound particularly spiritual or well spoken? Is it alright to pray with the people we care about? Does everyone else know how to pray better than I do? The good news is that God just wants to hear from us and is not overly prescriptive in exactly *how* we get in touch. However, hearing that there are many ways to pray, does not provide much guidance. This month, I'd like to share a couple of people who have written on prayer. I will continue coming back to topic throughout the year with more authors and theologians with thoughts on prayer and its place in our lives.

Brother Lawrence: Around 1614, Nicolas Herman was born to a peasant couple in modern-day France. After suffering a life altering injury as a soldier in the Thirty Years' War, he worked as a servant until he entered into a Parisian monastery at 26 years old, where he took on the name Brother Lawrence. With little education, Brother Lawrence worked in the kitchen until it became too difficult, when he began repairing sandals. After his death, some of his letters and records of some of his conversations were collected into a book known as *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Brother Lawrence wrote about God's presence as being so ever-present and complete, that translators have struggled to convey the deep familiarity with God and peace that made Brother Lawrence so notable. Brother Lawrence saw every task as an opportunity to spend holy time with God, turning the task into its own reward, no matter how difficult or boring the work.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Popular Lutheran theologian, Rev. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, was born to a large German family in 1906. After earning his doctorate in theology at 21, Bonhoeffer came to the United States to continue his studies. He witnessed the disparities in American churches and their theological responses to segregation and integration. His time in New York also reshaped his understanding of Germany's role in World War I, laying the groundwork for his stance on Adolf Hitler in the following years. Upon his return to Germany in 1931, Bonhoeffer taught that Christians ought to keep their focus on Christ and warned against idolatrous devotion to Hitler and the Nazi party. Bonhoeffer continued to teach under increasing secrecy until his arrest in 1943 and execution in 1945. In 1940, Bonhoeffer published *Psalms: The Prayer Book of the Bible*. Taking inspiration from Jesus, who prayed psalms while on the cross, Bonhoeffer saw the Psalms as a rich resource that could surround us in the presence of God and carry us through the most difficult of times.

My hope is that, by expanding our understanding and experience of prayer, we will expand our understanding and experience of the God who loves us so dearly.

Peace
Pastor Sarah Moore



Church Mouse Heard:

Them teacher gathered her Sunday school group around her and explained, "well, class, all those, who want to, go to heaven raise your hands,," Everyone around the circle raised their hands except one boy. Don't you want to go to heaven asked the teacher.

"I can't mam, Henry replied, my mom want's me to come straight home "



Souper Bowl Party Was Popular

30 to 40 members participated in the Souper Bowl Party at Church. They enjoyed a chili and hot dog lunch prior to returning home to watch the game.

Pictured below members are seen going thru the buffet line.



Congregational Meeting March 8

Please plan to attend the Congregational meeting on March 8 after worship.

Two items of business we have to consider: first is our budget for 2026 and the second is an offer that we have on the old parsonage on Station Avenue.

Worship and Music Report

By: Rhana Wehn, Chair

My first official duty as Worship and Music Chair is this note.

Easter Sunday is April 5th. The tradition has been to bring flowers from individuals to share at church. On Saturday, April 4th, we will be here between 10am and noon to accept them and arrange the Easter Garden.

Mark your calendar!

Outreach/Stewardship Committee

By Dawn Grimm, CoChair

From Church Council

The Council recognizes the dedication and service to Messiah that Renee Spencer and Jill Carle have given during their terms on the Council. Through their time and talents they have led the council during the retirement of Pastor Miranda, the interim pastor, discernment to call a new pastor and the arrival of Pastor Sarah. Additional appreciation is given to Joan Malkie for service as President of Council for the 2025 term. Thank you all!

From the Outreach Stewardship Committee

In early February, mittens and hats were delivered to the Ashtabula Elementary School as a result of the generous donation from members of the congregation. The ongoing cold weather heightened the need to protect the children who may have outgrown their gear. Thank you for your generosity.

We have learned of a family from Austinburg devastated by a home fire with loss of life and all personal belongings. The father and a 13 month old daughter survived. Several businesses are collecting clothing and household items including Fairfield Inn in Austinburg. If you would like to donate cash or gift cards, leave them with the office. These donations will be given directly to the family.

The next meeting of the Outreach committee is March 1 at 11:15 am. We will be setting the date for the Tea and Talent event to be held in May.

**April Messenger Copy Deadline
March 31 at Noon**