

The Messenger

Messiah Lutheran Church

a faithful, serving community, joyfully sharing Christ's love.

The Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund, Pastor

Church phone: 201-337-4900

Email: info@messiahoaklandnj.org

NUMBER 2

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service: 10:00am

In-person, live Streamed and on YouTube

March and April 2025

From the Pastor

God has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? – Micah 6:8

What does God ask of us as people of faith? To do justice. To love kindness. To walk humbly with God. This Bible verse, that's guided me for many years, is a call to action while also holding a note of comfort. It's so complicated and yet so simple. Do justice. Love mercy. Walk humbly.

This as a verse sticks with me this year as our 2025 congregation star word is Justice. Over the year we will learn together about justice and the ways we can continue to engage in justice ministry, as outlined in the article on page #5. Doing justice is just one part of this call to action from Micah. It's one of the most controversial things we do as followers of Jesus and yet it's the most akin to his ministry. Jesus' ministry was one of justice, of creating opportunities for those in need and doing what is right for all people, but especially for those who are marginalized and oppressed. Jesus fed those who were hungry, without asking questions about where they came from. He healed those who were sick without asking if they had money or health insurance. He welcomed the outsiders, foreigners, and those who did not fit into society's boxes. Jesus' ministry was focused on justice, and we can use that as a guide as we too engage in justice, just as God asks us to.

The second part of this call to action, love mercy, also translates to love kindness. Both are so important in the world we live in right now. If you've ever noticed on the back of my car I have a magnet that says "in a world where you can be anything, be kind." There is so much hatred and fear in the world that permeates our relationships and how we interact with each other. It contributes to society's self-centered nature and drives us away from one another. Just as Jesus gathered people from all walks of life to hear about God's radical and inclusive love, grace, and mercy – we too are called to love mercy and love kindness: to treat all people as God's children created in God's image. I wonder what the world would look like if we all treated each other with a little more mercy, love, and kindness.

The last piece of Micah's instructions are to walk humbly with God. This might be the hardest of tasks and the most countercultural to our nature, yet it is something we strive for each and every day. Walking with God requires us to let go of the ways of the world and embrace the ways of God. Where the world says "boast about your success," God says "do not let the left hand know what the right hand is doing (Matthew 6:3)." There are times when we need to speak out and use advocacy as a tool for large scale growth and change, and yet at the same time, when we walk humbly every day, we can make just as much of a difference on a smaller scale. I remember one instance in college when some friends and I were passing a group of Jesus people doing their thing praising God loud and proud in the middle of campus. I looked away and maybe said something not so kind when my friend said "Yeah but you're a Jesus person too, we all know it. You just don't do it like that, you walk humbly."

None of us are perfect. None of us succeed at doing justice, loving mercy/kindness, and walking humbly all the time. Yet this is what God asks of us. This is what we get to do every day knowing that no matter what, God's love, grace, and mercy for each of us is guaranteed forever. In return, we get to spread that love, grace, and mercy with the world.

God's Peace, Pastor Courtney

What's Happening at Messiah

Church Council Highlights

March 1st: Council Retreat

March 2nd: Council Installation during worship
Fellowship after Church

March 3rd: Community Table at Ponds, see page #4

March 5th: Ash Wednesday, see page #3

March 8th: NJ Synod Northern District Meeting
Property Work Day

March 9th: Water Kits Round 2, see page #4

Movie Night: Inside Out at 4:30 pm, see
page #4

March 13th: Executive Committee Meeting

March 16th: Garden Meeting, see page #4

March 18th: Church Council Meeting on Zoom

March 23rd: Congregational Meeting following worship

Movie Night at 4:30 pm The Thorn, see
page #4

March 31st: Book Discussion, see page #3

April 3rd: Executive Committee Meeting

April 5th: Property Work Day

April 7th: Community Table at Ponds, see page #4

April 8th: Church Council Meeting on Zoom

April 13th: Palm Sunday Worship

April 17th: Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:30pm

April 18th: Good Friday Worship at 7:30pm

April 20th: Easter Sunday Worship, egg hunt and
fellowship following worship

Iftar Dinner on March 25 at Ponds at 6:30 pm

Join Peace Islands, Barnert Temple, and Ponds for an Iftar dinner with presentations on the discipline of fasting within the different faith traditions. Please RSVP/Sign Up in the Narthex by March 20th so we can give an accurate headcount for the number of people who may be coming. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn from our interfaith siblings.

- On January 26, 2025, after the Annual meeting, the council reelected Eleanore Orman as Council President. Sue Boyce was reelected as Vice President. Alex Boyce was elected as Treasurer. Nancy Krause was reelected as Secretary.
- We continue to review the list of monthly tasks at church. If you know of any task that takes place annually and should be added please let a council member know.
- New annual Peacemaker Award to be presented by Messiah Lutheran Church to an Indian Hills graduate. \$500 scholarship for a student attending any post-high school education/training. It is based on what you have done to show compassion and peace in the community.
- The church will contract with Pfister to replace the existing skylight with the same skylight in late winter/early spring.
- We will be contracting with AMH to remediate the environmental growth in the nursery office.
- Anyone interested in the garden committee, we will be meeting after church on March 16.
- The Child Safety Policy was adopted at the February Council meeting. It will be available for anyone to see and will be reviewed annually.
- Valerie and Len Nicolosi will be attending the Synod Assembly in June as voting members.
- Perzin Funds: we established two committees, one to facilitate the disbursement of funds to charitable causes and one to cultivate a list of property and ministry needs/ideas. If anyone from the congregation is interested in serving on either of these committees, please speak to Pastor or Eleanore Orman.

Congregational Meeting March 23rd following worship

Please join us for a congregational meeting to discuss paying off the church mortgage! More information is coming soon.



Lent in a Bag: This year we are doing “Build Your Own” Lent in a Bag. In the spirit of our 2025 Star Word Justice, the bags this year are purple reusable shopping bags to help us lean into the NJ Synod Bishop’s Challenge to care for creation while engaging in eco-justice. All the offerings will be laid out on a table, and you are welcome to pick and choose the items you’d like to use to guide you through Lent. There are devotionals, candles, crafts, labyrinths, and so much more. Take some of it or take all of it – it’s yours to build!

This year’s Lent theme comes from A Sanctified Art and is titled “Everything in Between.” Using the Narrative Lectionary and the Gospel of Luke we will see how Jesus’ ministry was rooted in relationships that disrupted the established social, political, and religious divides of his time. Jesus intentionally highlighted the cultural and political polarities to emphasize the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God.

This series is an invitation to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. You will be invited to look beyond the binaries of black and white and easy answers. You are encouraged to notice the dichotomies that define our lives, and also imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. This Lenten theme will help us engage with the complexities of a faithful, spiritual life, instead of avoiding them.

There are two devotionals available for you to use during this season, one is in book form and the other is in card form. You can pick them up in the Narthex along with a variety of other Lenten materials. This year’s Lent in a Bag is “assemble yourself” so feel free to grab the resources that spark your interest and build your own bag!

Ash Wednesday: March 5, 2025

- 4-6 pm: Ashes to Go in the parking lot. Drive on by and receive the imposition of ashes. You don’t even have to get out of the car.
- 7:30 pm: Worship on-site and online with the imposition of ashes

Mid-Week Lenten Offerings:

- Wednesdays at 7:30 pm on Zoom – Worship
 - Join us for a deep dive into our Lenten theme “Everything in Between.” We will spend time together in reflection with scripture, artwork, poetry, and prayer. You are invited to use candles and create a meaningful worship space in your home. If you would like to join the service by dialing in from your phone, talk to Pastor and she can get you set up.
- Thursdays (3/6, 3/20, and 4/3) at 12:00 pm on-site and online
 - Join us to continue our Bible Study reflections using the book A is for Alabaster by Anna Carter Florence. Books are available in the Narthex if you would like to take one home.

Fellowship

HOLY HUDDLE

On Sunday, February 2nd, Messiah had its first ever Holy Huddle tailgating event after services, hosted by Valerie & Len Nicolosi. Congregants wore favorite team jerseys, sweatshirts or t-shirt to make the event festive and the narthex was decorated with everything football.... including tubs with lollipops and mints. Everyone pitched in (for this football event) to help....we had hot dogs, toppings for the dogs, homemade cole slaw, potato salad and two different macaroni salads. And homemade sauerkraut!! Chips and dips were enjoyed by all too! Football themed desserts and coffee rounded out this fantastic fellowship event!! We are hope to hold this each year the Sunday before Super Bowl!!

BOOK CLUB

The Messiah Book Club met again on Wednesday, February 12th, after the first gathering in late January was shortened due to many members being sick...we had lively discussions both nights talking about “The Red Tent” by Anita Diamant.

We have decided to try to have book club monthly and welcome anyone who wants to participate. Current members were polled, and it looks like Mondays work the best for most of us. We are going to hold meetings then on the 3rd Monday evening of each month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoon. Except this month....to give people a little longer to read the book, we will meet on Monday, March 31st. The book chosen was “Lula Dean’s Little Library of Banned Books” by Kirsten Miller. It is a quick read and very timely with current discussions about banned books from schools and libraries. All members are encouraged to choose a book of his/her liking so we can continue each month with Messiah’s book club. Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please don’t hesitate to speak to Valerie Nicolosi.

Outreach

THRIVENT WATER KITS

On Sunday, February 16th, after services, congregants (and Pastor Jonathan) grabbed some coffee and cookies and got to work “putting it together” ...those water kits members of Thrivent had ordered previously. Each kit had 3 filters.... we got 15 of them put together and packed away ready for shipping. Many more members indicated that their packages had not yet been delivered. Counting those water filter kits in, Messiah will have assembled close to 40-50 kits!! Congratulations! It is hoped that we, as a congregation, can participate in this service project on a yearly basis.

MOVIE NIGHTS

The movie will start at 4:30, pizza will be provided for March 9th. You're invited to bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner afterwards on March 23rd.

March 9th: Inside Out (Family Friendly): *Inside Out is a 2015 Disney Pixar film that explores the emotions of an 11-year-old girl named Riley as she moves from Minnesota to San Francisco. The movie takes place in Riley's mind, where her emotions live in Headquarters, the control center that guides her through life.*

March 23rd: The Thorn (PG-13): *The Thorn is a theatrical production that tells the story of Jesus Christ and the spiritual battle for humanity. The show combines dance, martial arts, acrobatics, and music to share the story of God's love for the world.*

THE COMMUNITY THRIFT SHOP

It's time for spring cleaning and that means closets. I'm sure we all have clothing that we no longer wear or doesn't fit. Well, then it's time to give it a new home. Please donate any spring, gently worn clothing to the Community Thrift Shop. They also accept, shoes, handbags, jewelry, belts, men's shirts but not men's suits, toys and bric-a-brac. Their shoppers give your items a new home, you make room in your closets and Messiah receives a small percentage of the selling price. It's a win, win situation. Donations can be placed in the left side of the coat closet or dropped off at the store in Midland Park early on Monday mornings. Please call the store first to make sure they are open for donations (201 652-7661) and attach #35 as that is Messiah's donation number. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn. Also SAVE THE DATE for volunteering at the store for a two-hour shift on Tuesday, April 29th and Thursday, May 1st. The shifts are 10:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00. We really need

volunteers and it's an enjoyable two hours. A sign-up sheet will go up as we get closer to the dates. Thank you for your support. Marilyn Rubner

GARDEN MEETING

Whether you have a green thumb or not, many talents are needed. Please join us after worship on March 16th to discuss and plan the 2025 garden

PONDS COMMUNITY TABLE

March 3rd and April 7th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Join the Ponds Food Pantry for a community dinner on the first Monday every month. This is a great opportunity to gather with our local community and share a free meal together. If you haven't seen the food pantry, be sure to check it out and bring your donations to share!
All are welcome, all are fed! Come out and join us.

To stay up to date on these events, follow @Ponds_Food_Pantry and @Ponds_Pantry_CommunityTable on Instagram

March Benevolence of the Month:

His Helping Hands
His Helping Hands serves weekly hot food and provides clothing to people experiencing homelessness and those who are less fortunate. Their motto is “Bringing God's hope and love to [God's] children one meal at a time in Paterson, NJ.”

April Benevolence of the Month:

ELCA World Hunger
ELCA World Hunger works to provide immediate relief to those who are hungry, as well as work to meet basic needs and recognize universal human rights to food. They seek to connect people with the resources they need to produce food and grain, access to clean water, education, health care, and sources of income, to create long-term sustainable change.

Part of ELCA World Hunger is the program Good Gifts where you can donate animals and tools that will directly benefit families in need around the world. An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market.



This year we are asking that you prayerfully consider making a commitment or donation. Please look for more information in the coming weeks. All donations and animals will be blessed at the Easter service.

Faith Formation

Luther Land Germany Tour 2026

Ever wanted to go on a Luther-Land tour of Germany? Want to see Luther's birthplace, the church to which he nailed the 95 theses, and where he translated the Bible? Pastors Courtney and Jonathan are trying to gauge if there is interest in a trip like this for June 2026. The rough details are a 10-day tour with hotels, airfare, tour guide, entrance fees, and some meals could be around \$4,500 per person. If you are interested in going or intrigued to learn more, please talk to Pastor Courtney!



The tour would be facilitated by Good Shepherd Travel, the same group Pastor Courtney uses for Holy

Land Tours. We hope someday we will be able to take a trip to the Holy Land, but in the meantime, Germany would be an awesome opportunity for faith formation and learning about Martin Luther and the Reformation.

Thrivent Members Action Teams

A new year means it is time to start tracking our Thrivent Action Teams! Thank you to the Boyce, Ludke, Angermueller, Axtell, Orman, and Rubner families for applying for action teams already. The \$250 seed money is invaluable to our ministry and work here at Messiah. The application is easy, and we can help you out. These Thrivent Action Teams are essential to helping making ministry at Messiah thrive! If you have an idea for a ministry project, please let Pastor know.

2025 Action Teams are supporting our ministry through:

- Outreach: Souper Bowl Collection, Ponds Food Pantry, Souls to Souls, Garden Seedling Project, Game Night(s)
- Faith Formation: Bible Study Materials, Lent Programming, Council Retreat, Movie Night(s)
- That's an extra \$2,000 helping the community and our congregation!

2025 Congregation Star Word: Justice

On Epiphany Sunday members of the congregation were invited to pick a Star Word to guide them through the year. This year's word for our congregation was randomly picked from the stack by

Scott Axtell and is an invitation for us as a congregation to be guided by the word: Justice. Justice is defined as maintenance or administration of what is just and right. There are a variety of different types of justice and in each of this year's Messenger Newsletters, I want to take a moment to highlight a different form of justice.

Ecological and Environmental Justice: involves the recognition that humans and all other species on Earth, are intricately interlinked – when one thrives, all can thrive. EcoJustice invites us to recognize the Earth has limits and that we are not the only special living on the earth – animals, plants, and humans need one another to survive and thrive.

The 2024-2025 Bishop's Challenge invites us to care for God's Good Creation by embodying ecological and environmental justice in our congregation and our lives. Engaging in ecological justice is an opportunity to care for God's creation and address issues like the climate crisis.

Participating in ecological justice can be as simple as:

- Using less paper – which in turn reduces the number of trees removed from the ecosystem
- Installing solar panels – using natural energy instead of harmful energy sources
- Planting a tree or pollinator garden, especially with local, native plants
- Reducing your waste – replace a bottle of soap with a bar of soap, or paper/plastic bags with reusable bags
- Advocating for better policies and practices in the government to reverse and reduce the effects of climate change

#NoPlasticsForLent: Each year ELCA Young Adults participate in a campaign to reduce the amount of single-use plastics in our garbage. Since 2020, it's been a way to spread awareness about ecojustice and encourage people to try something small.

- Is there one single-use plastic you can give up or swap? Try it out, here are some Pastor has eliminated because of this campaign:
 - Body wash in plastic bottles swapped for bars of soap
 - Single use soap dispenser swapped for reusable dispensers
 - Plastic bags for produce swapped for fabric bags (or usually just none at all)
 - Little things add up to make a big impact!
- Read about the initiative here: <https://blogs.elca.org/youngadults/104/>
- Follow @ELCAYoungAdults on social media for the updated program materials!

Below is a recap of church expenses as of January 2025. As you can see, we are running a deficit. Please prayerfully consider how you might help reduce our deficit. Thank you.

Budget Report

Month End: January 2025

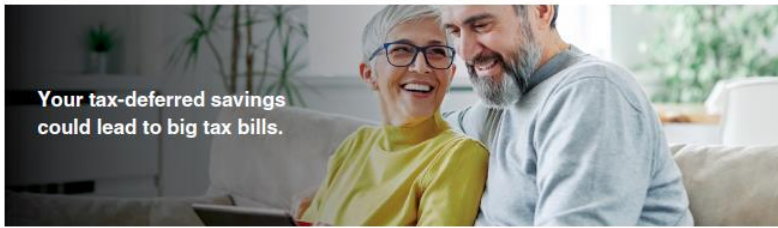
OPERATING INCOME & EXPENSES

	Monthly			YTD		
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance
INCOME (+)						
Ministry at Messiah	17,678.92	14,168.98	(3,509.94)	17,678.92	14,168.98	(3,509.94)
Mission Support	708.33	466.00	(242.33)	708.33	466.00	(242.33)
Total	18,387.25	14,634.98	(3,752.27)	18,387.25	14,634.98	(3,752.27)
EXPENSES (-)						
Ministry at Messiah	16,292.74	15,609.52	(683.22)	16,292.74	15,609.52	(683.22)
Mission Support	2,004.17	(50.00)	(2,054.17)	2,004.17	(50.00)	(2,054.17)
Total	18,296.91	15,559.52	(2,737.39)	18,296.91	15,559.52	(2,737.39)
TOTAL	90.34	(924.54)		90.34	(924.54)	

Regards,
Alex Boyce
Treasurer



Do you know the five phases of your retirement?



Attend this event if you're about to shift from saving and investing to spending your money in retirement – and paying taxes on it. It takes planning to grow, spend and give more of your wealth. At Five Phases of an IRA you will discover strategies for reducing the taxes you and your heirs could pay.

- How the 5 phases of an IRA relate to stages of your retirement.
- How time can have a great impact on tax-deferred retirement accounts.
- Strategies for reducing the taxes you and your heirs could pay.

These sessions are hosted by Peter R Manke, FIC, RICP® and William O'Doherty, ChFC®, FIC, CLTC®. The presentation, led by Christopher Canada, is tailored for attendees between the ages of 55 and 75.

Seating is limited. Reserve a spot for you and a guest today.

Please call Susan or Jen at 551-249-2857.
Lunch/Dinner will be served.

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Bellissimo Restaurant
12 S Kinderkamack Rd
Montvale, NJ

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

12:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Montvale Office (12-2) or (6:30 - 8:30)
221 W Grand Ave Ste. 202
Montvale, NJ

ALL ARE WELCOME

**FOR FOOD & FELLOWSHIP
AT OUR MONTHLY**

**COMMUNITY
TABLE**

Dinner

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2025

6 - 8 PM

**341 Ramapo Valley Road
Oakland NJ**

**NO CHARGE * PONDS FOOD PANTRY
WILL BE OPEN DURING THE DINNER**



ALONG WITH PASTOR KRISTIN

Pastor Kristin Engstrom, ELCA Global Missionary

February 2025

Catching Up on News from 2024: On the Move (Again)

I have been serving as an ELCA global missionary since 2016. It is hard to believe it has been nine years since I first packed three suitcases to begin a new life in Senegal, West Africa. As a pastor and global missionary, I have



Welcome reception by Malagasy church leaders and project leaders supported by the ELCA.

committed to go where God and the church call me. In 2023, God and the ELCA once again called me to a new country and to be in relationship with a new church. In February 2024, I arrived in Madagascar to begin a new call as the ELCA Country Representative. I will also be the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) Country Coordinator when the program resumes in Madagascar. In my nine years as an ELCA global missionary, I have served in Senegal, Zambia, and now Madagascar—all in the Africa region.

Over the past year, I have travelled throughout Madagascar to get to know the people and ministries of the Malagasy Church. I have been welcomed into Church Council meetings, witnessed leadership elections at the National Church Assembly, learned from seminaries, inclusive schools, and vocational training centers, visited healthcare, development, and gender justice projects, preached sermons, and ate many shared meals.

The Malagasy Lutheran Church has five million members and is one of the fastest growing Lutheran churches in the world. Madagascar is also one of the poorest countries in the world. So, the church is focused on their mission to share the gospel holistically. Over the past year, it has been wonderful to learn from the faithful leaders in Madagascar, as we walk together in the God's gospel mission.



Pastor Kristin Engstrom

I serve as the ELCA Country Representative with the Malagasy Lutheran Church, and will also be the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) Country Coordinator when the program resumes in Madagascar. I have been an ELCA global missionary since 2016, serving first in Senegal and then Zambia, before coming to Madagascar.

I'm originally from the midwestern United States, and served as a parish pastor in northern New Jersey for six years prior to beginning my call with ELCA Global Mission.



Accompanying Pastor Kristin

My work as an ELCA Global Missionary is possible thanks to the generosity of many congregations and individuals in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thank you! You can contact me at kristin.engstrom@elca.org. You are also invited to support me as an ELCA Global Missionary here.

I have a blog at <https://alongwithpastorkristin.blogspot.com>, where you can find previous newsletters and occasional updates from Madagascar.



ALONG WITH PASTOR KRISTIN

Pastor Kristin Engstrom, ELCA Global Missionary

February 2025

2024 Year in Review

I wasn't able to send a Newsletter in 2024 to share about my new call in Madagascar. I have included photos below that show some of the ministries of the Malagasy Lutheran Church.



Malagasy Lutheran Church = Fiangonana Loterana Malagasy Foibe = Head Office



MLC Communication Office & Radio Station: Rev. Yves, center, Communications Coordinator.



Welcomed in worship at Toliara synod in southern Madagascar. The boat is a welcome gift, symbolizing the journey missionaries take to arrive in Madagascar. ELCA missionaries have worked in southern Madagascar since 1888.



Visit to SEFAM, the MLC Nursing and Medical Tech Training School. The MLC Health System is the 2nd largest in Madagascar, after the government health system. L-R: Theologian Saholy, Rev. Kristin, Rev. Themba, Dr. Hanitra (SEFAM Director)



Professors at Betela Seminary on graduation day. There are 5 regional seminaries and 1 Masters level school of theology in MLC. ELCA supports 2 seminaries and the school of theology. Betela Director, Pastor Albert is 3rd from left. Mahjanga Synod Pres. Tsiri is in the center.

April 2025

April 2025							May 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/> Fifth Sunday in Lent <input type="checkbox"/> 9:00am Choir Practice <input type="checkbox"/> 10:00am Worship	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm Community Table (Pond's Reformed Church, 341 Ramapo Valley Rd., Oakland NJ 07436)	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:30pm AA Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> 7:30pm Council Meeting on Zoom	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:30pm Lenten Worship on Zoom	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:00pm Bible Study <input type="checkbox"/> 7:30pm Band Practice		<input type="checkbox"/> Property/Work Day
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> 9:00am Choir Practice <input type="checkbox"/> 10:00am Worship	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday in Holy Week	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday in Holy Week <input type="checkbox"/> 6:30pm AA Meeting	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday in Holy Week	<input type="checkbox"/> Maundy Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> 7:30pm Worship	<input type="checkbox"/> Good Friday <input type="checkbox"/> 7:30pm Worship	<input type="checkbox"/> Resurrection of Our Lord, Vigil of Easter
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<input type="checkbox"/> Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day <input type="checkbox"/> 9:00am Choir Practice <input type="checkbox"/> 10:00am Worship	<input type="checkbox"/> Easter Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Office Closed	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:30pm AA Meeting	23	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:30pm Band Practice	25	26
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<input type="checkbox"/> Second Sunday of Easter <input type="checkbox"/> 10:00am Worship	28	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:30pm AA Meeting	30	May 1	2	3

Reprinted from the NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER

Between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in invisible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A faithful, serving community
joyfully sharing Christ's love.*
228 Ramapo Valley Road
Oakland, New Jersey 07436

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SUNDAY WORSHIP
Worship Service 10:00am
in person, live streamed
and posted on YouTube

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES
Wednesdays at 7:30 pm
3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, and 4/9

MAUNDY THURSDAY
4/17 at 7:30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY
4/18 at 7:30 pm