



September 13, 2026 • Better Together Sunday

WELCOME! We're glad you're here!

At Messiah Church, we covenant to *become love* in word, action, and deed. **We welcome and affirm the full inclusion of all people** — all ages, all races and ethnicities, all LGBTQIA+, all political affiliations, all economic statuses, and all abilities — into the life and ministry of the church. Moving forward in bold hope, we renew our commitment to follow the inclusive example and teachings of Jesus. We choose to *become love*.

This bulletin can also be accessed online on our website and church app. To view the online version, visit MessiahChurch.org/Resources. The online bulletin includes web links for any gray, underlined text.



Let us know you worshipped with us by using our printed or online [Connect Card](#). You can also include a prayer request which will be shared with our Pastors and Prayer Team.

First time here? We'd like to thank you with a donation in your honor to one of our community partners. Select the organization of your choice on your [Connect Card](#).



Thank you for financially supporting Messiah Church! There are many ways to give: an offering box is just outside the sanctuary; online at MessiahChurch.org/Give; through our app; by scanning the QR code; or by mailing your offering to Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447.

TRADITIONS WORSHIP

8:45 AM

Prelude *Jesus the Very Thought of Thee* (Johnson)
MGN - Messiah's Good News
Welcome / Attendance
* Call to Worship
* Hymn #158 *Come, Christians Join to Sing*
Greetings from Bloom Early Learning & Child Care
Children's Prayer and Sunday School Release
Prayer Hymn #462 *Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
Anthem *The Call of Jesus* (Larkin)
* Scripture: [1 Samuel 3:1-14](#) Shirley Buehler
Message *I'm Really Listening*
* Hymn #593 *Here I Am, Lord*
Offering / Offering Prayer
* Benediction *Aaron's Blessing* (Ortega)
° Postlude *Ancient of Days* (Wilson)

JOURNEY WORSHIP

10:30 AM

Gathering Song *Don't Stop Believin'* (Perry)
MGN - Messiah's Good News
Welcome / Attendance
* Praise Songs *Christ Be Magnified* (Carnes)
I Will Follow (Tomlin)
Greetings from Bloom Early Learning & Child Care
Children's Prayer and Sunday School Release
Prayer Song *Run to the Father* (Carnes)
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
Scripture: [1 Samuel 3:1-14](#) Linda Brown
Message *I'm Really Listening*
Anthem *Promise Keeper* (Darst)
Offering / Offering Prayer
* Benediction *Aaron's Blessing* (Ortega)
° Postlude

* Please stand as you are able.

° You are invited to be seated and enjoy the postlude or to leave the sanctuary quietly.

LOVING GOD. LOVING EACH OTHER. LOVING THE WORLD.

GROW PRAY STUDY (GPS)

A Daily Devotional

Monday 9/14	<u>1 Samuel 3:1-14</u>
Tuesday 9/15	<u>1 Samuel 17:24-27</u>
Wednesday 9/16	<u>1 Samuel 17:28-30</u>
Thursday 9/17	<u>1 Samuel 17:31-37</u>
Friday 9/18	<u>Matthew 21:14-17</u>
Saturday 9/19	<u>Jeremiah 1:4-8</u>

Find the weekly GPS online at MessiahChurch.org/Resources. To receive the daily GPS by email, contact Carolyn Loeffler in the church office at cloeffler@messiahchurch.org.

PRAYER

Lift Up Our Church Family in Prayer

Prayers for Health and Healing for:
Carol B, Chuck E,
Johnna H, Dennis L,
Ed P, Barb W

Prayers for Those Serving in the Military:
Grant C, Jin J, Tim M,
Tyler W, Elisabeth W

At Messiah, we love walking with children and youth on their journeys to follow Jesus. To do that, we offer several Sunday morning classes: Children in **pre-K through 5th grade** gather for KID Street Sunday School during worship. Kids begin in worship, are released to Sunday School mid-service, and can be picked up downstairs after the service is ended. **Youth in grades 6-8** gather in the Youth Room for Sunday School during both the 8:45 and 10:30 am worship services. Youth begin in worship and are dismissed with the kids mid-service. **Nursery care** is available during worship for infants and toddlers (through age 3). Children can be dropped off downstairs in the KID Street HQ before worship begins. *All children and youth are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary if your family prefers to worship together.* Prefer to keep your little one with you? We're not bothered by wiggles or noise! If it's helpful, **"busy bags"** are available at the back of the sanctuary, and worship is streaming in the atrium and Heritage Hall. Ushers are happy to help guide you.

An **induction hearing loop** is available in our sanctuary for those with t-coil hearing aids or cochlear implants. **Large print bulletins** are available from an usher. **Fragrance-Free** pews are located in the

far-right section as you enter the sanctuary (nearest to the lake and County Road 6) for those who are sensitive to fragrances.

COMING UP @ MESSIAH

Stay connected to all things Messiah during the week at MessiahChurch.org, "Messiah United Methodist Church" on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#) and the "Coming Up @ Messiah" weekly email. To receive our weekly emails, contact Carolyn Loeffler at cloeffler@messiahchurch.org, and she will place you on the email list.

Today is Better Together Sunday! As we continue our sermon series *Better Together*, we'll celebrate the start of an exciting new season at Messiah. After worship, stop downstairs and see the newly refreshed Youth Room, Fireside Room & KID Street Headquarters, made possible through our Together for Tomorrow Capital Campaign. Stay to have your photo taken for our new printed directory, enjoy special Coffee Hour treats, and receive a free giveaway to mark the occasion! If you purchased a Messiah Better Together t-shirt or sweatshirt, be sure to pick it up in the office.

This fall, **we're creating a printed directory** to help our Messiah family stay connected, and we'd love for you to be part of it! Stop by the directory table in the atrium this morning or on Sundays, September 20, 27, or October 4 to review and update your household information.

We'll also be taking casual head-and-shoulders photos to complete your directory listing. *Only those who choose to opt-in will be included in the printed directory.* Whether you'd like to be included or prefer to opt-out, please take a moment to stop by the table so we can make sure our records are accurate and up to date. All who call Messiah their church home are invited to participate!

The group that was formed last year to watch and study *The Chosen* will reconvene this fall. This show presents Jesus's story through the experiences of people who met and followed Him. The group, co-led by Buck M and Mark G, will meet weekly on Monday nights (starting tomorrow, September 14) from 6:30-8 pm in the Fireside Room (lower level). Each week they'll watch an episode of the show together, followed by time for discussion and fellowship. Whether you're new to the TV series or already a fan, all are welcome to join! Please contact Buck at buckmanning@comcast.net for more details and to reserve a spot in the group.

What does it mean to follow Jesus in today's world? Join us for a transformative discipleship journey that equips individuals to put faith into action through love, justice, and meaningful community

— continued

engagement. This training experience, led by Messiah members Mark and Laurie G, will prepare you to deepen your relationship with Christ, build stronger connections within our congregation, and boldly live out the Gospel through public witness and service. We will meet Tuesdays through September 29 from 6:30-8 pm in Heritage Hall. It's not too late to join. To reserve a spot, please contact Heather at hfelt@messiahchurch.org.

Attention Messiah Men! Looking for an evening out with some great camaraderie and conversation? Come to **"What's on Tap?"**

Wednesday nights at Luce Line Brewing (12901 16th Ave N, Plymouth). A great group of Messiah men meet from 5-7 pm the first and third Wednesday of each month (except holidays) for fun and fellowship. ALL men are welcome (over 21, of course). No need to RSVP. Luce Line Brewing has an extensive craft beer list, plenty of non-alcoholic drink choices, and a different food truck each week. The next gatherings will be Wednesdays, September 16 and October 7. Contact Chuck S at charles.lawrence.stern@gmail.com with any questions, or to let him know you are coming.

KID Street Wednesday Nights launched this week and it's not too late to join the fun. Children pre-K through 5th grade can join us from 6:30-8 pm for dinner, a faith lesson, friendship, and an opportunity to worship through art or service. KID Street Wednesday Nights begin in the KID Street Headquarters (the Sunday School room downstairs). Care for children under age 4 may be available — contact Kari Stern, Director of Children and Family Ministry, at kstern@messiahchurch.org, at least 2 days in advance to check on availability. Beginning today, **KID**

Street Sunday School will meet every Sunday morning at 8:45 and 10:30 am. Each year, **we ask that families register their child(ren) for KID Street** so that we can update our records. Visit tinyurl.com/2026MessiahKIDStreet to register. (Please register all children in your family — birth through 5th grade.) Parents and families are welcome to attend any or all parts of programming and we are always looking for adult volunteers to pour into our children at Messiah! For more information on the KID Street programs, contact Kari Stern, Director of Children and Family Ministry, at kstern@messiahchurch.org.

Students in grades 6-12 have opportunities to connect with peers and grow in their faith at Messiah Church with several **youth programs every week!** Wednesday Night programming meets from 6:30-7 pm to have dinner together and hang out. From 7-8 pm Middle School Youth Group will meet in Lakeside East and High School Youth Group will meet in the Youth Room. **Middle School youth in grades 6-8 will gather again for Sunday School beginning today.** Sunday School meets in the Youth Room and offers age-appropriate teaching that uses creative storytelling and thoughtful approaches to engaging with Scripture. The first Sunday of each month, instead of Sunday School, youth are invited to stay in worship with their families. **Confirmation** for Youth in High School (grades 9+) begins with a parent/Confirmant meeting on Sunday, October 11 at 9:45 am and classes in November. Stay tuned for more information, coming soon. Each year, **we ask that families register their youth** so that we have the best contact information for youth and families and the necessary permissions for programming. Visit tinyurl.com/2026MessiahYouth to

register. (Please register all youth in your family — 6th-12th grade.) We're always looking for adults to join us and come alongside youth in their faith journeys. We'd welcome new adult leaders in all program areas, but specifically have a desperate need for Wednesday night Middle School Youth Group (1-4 times a month) and Sunday School (1-2 times a month). Serve weekly, or just once or twice a month. For more information on the Youth programs, contact Sami Tierney, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, at stierney@messiahchurch.org.

Faith Groups at Messiah are a key part of the fabric of our church and a great way to connect. In a Faith Group, you will find a circle of friends who enjoy doing life together. Many will say that they felt connected in a meaningful way to Messiah the day they joined a Faith Group. Consider trying one out this fall! We have groups for everyone: men's and women's groups, couples groups, Bible studies, in-person and online groups, groups that meet on Wednesday night when children's programming is offered, and MORE! Visit messiahchurch.org/small-groups to find a group that meets your needs and schedule, or contact Heather Felt at hfelt@messiahchurch.org for suggestions.

 **Last chance to order Your "Better Together" Messiah Tees & Hoodies!** *Better Together* is our new four-week message series, celebrating the strength of our multi-generational church community. To help share the message, we're offering limited-edition t-shirts and hoodies through 11:59 pm on Thursday, September 17. Available in black or heather dark gray, these shirts and sweatshirts feature the Better Together design and Messiah logo.

— continued

Orders will be delivered to Messiah in early October. Visit messiahchurch.org/better-together for details, sizing information, and to place your order today!

Coping with the death of a loved one is one of life's most difficult experiences, but the **West Suburban Grief Coalition** provides a safe environment and support for those experiencing grief and loss. Messiah is a partner of the West Suburban Grief Coalition, along with 15 other neighboring churches. Weekly meetings of this support group gather on Thursdays at various churches on a rotating basis. Through November 12, Grief Coalition meetings are here at Messiah Church from 4:30-6 pm. For more information, visit westsuburgriefmn.org.

Messiah's Congregational Care Ministry Team also provides confidential, caring concern through personal contact with members of the Messiah family who have a special need for spiritual or emotional support. If this is the care you need, contact Pastor Brian Hacklander, Messiah's Pastor of Congregational Care, at bhacklander@messiahchurch.org or call the church office at (763) 473-6968 ext. 123.

Every generation has stories to tell, and when it comes to faith, some of the most meaningful stories are the ones we share with one another. Join us on Sunday, September 27

from 6 -7:30 pm for our first -ever storytelling night, *The Stories We Carry: Faith Across the Generations*. To make this a memorable night, we're looking for storytellers of all ages to share an 8-minute story from their faith journey. What shaped your faith? When did your understanding of God change? What have you learned along the way that you hope another generation will carry forward? You don't need to be a polished speaker or to memorize your story — simply share an authentic experience that has shaped your relationship with God. All storytellers must sign up in advance — visit tinyurl.com/MessiahStories to reserve a time slot. Come ready to listen. Come ready to share. Come ready to discover the stories we carry — and the faith we pass on.

MAKE AN IMPACT

Messiah is a church of compassion and outreach. We serve through mission, locally and internationally. For a complete list of opportunities visit MessiahChurch.org/Make-an-Impact.

Our September & October Second Mile Offering supports Massie's Mobile Mission, an organization that provides emergency aid to people experiencing homelessness in the Twin Cities. Their mission is to extend a compassionate hand to those facing adversity by providing essential supplies and fostering human connection, fostering a community where everyone feels

supported and valued. For more information, visit

massiesmobilemission.com.

You can support Massie's Mobile Mission through the end of October with a monetary donation or by donating needed supplies.

Give online at messiahchurch.org/give (select "Second Mile Offering,") or by mailing a check (indicate "Massie's Mobile Mission" in the memo) to: Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447. **Donate** these specific items: new or very gently used blankets, new or very gently used sleeping bags, new pillows, new hoodies, and new hats & gloves. Donations will be collected through Sunday, October 25 and can be dropped off in the marked bin in the atrium at Messiah on Sundays or during church office hours (Monday-Thursday 9 am - 4 pm).

You are invited to the Bloom Early Learning & Child Care "Bloom Bash" fundraiser this Friday, September 18 from 6-10 pm in the Grand Ballroom at Medina Entertainment Center ([500 Hwy 55, Medina](http://500Hwy55Medina)). Enjoy a celebration and fundraiser for Bloom Early Learning. Visit tinyurl.com/BloomBash2026 for all the event details and to purchase tickets. To learn more about Bloom, visit bloomearlylearning.org.

New items in the bulletin this week. Submit bulletin items by Tuesday at 3 pm to office@messiahchurch.org.

CONNECT WITH US

Senior Pastor

Tami Luckhardt

tluckhardt@messiahchurch.org

Associate Pastor

Bethany Nelson

bnelson@messiahchurch.org

Pastor of Congregational Care

Brian Hacklander

bhacklander@messiahchurch.org

Director of Finance and

Director of Children &

Family Ministry

Kari Stern

kstern@messiahchurch.org

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Sami Tierney

stierney@messiahchurch.org

17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447 | (763) 473-6968 | MessiahChurch.org

Director of Community Engagement

Heather Felt

hfelt@messiahchurch.org