

Who we are

Our mission is to be a Spirit filled church following Jesus Christ. We will welcome all people into our fellowship so that we may all worship, praise, sing together and learn from one another. With Jesus as our example we will spread the Word of God.

At Messiah, we live out our faith in a way that is integrally connected with our community. Throughout the year we plan fun family-oriented events including trips to watch our local sports teams in action, an afternoon of roller skating, an ice-cream social and more. We've opened our building to a variety of outside groups, including a crafting group and three Girl Scout troops. We serve our neighbors in partnership with Schenectady Inner City Ministry, City Mission of Schenectady and other organizations.

From youth events to exercise classes to serving our neighbors in Rotterdam and the wider Schenectady area, there are all sorts of exciting ways we're building Spirit filled community here at Messiah. Please check out the links below to learn more about the guiding principles of our Christian faith. We'd love for you to join us! All are welcome!

Contact Us

Phone: 518-355-2311

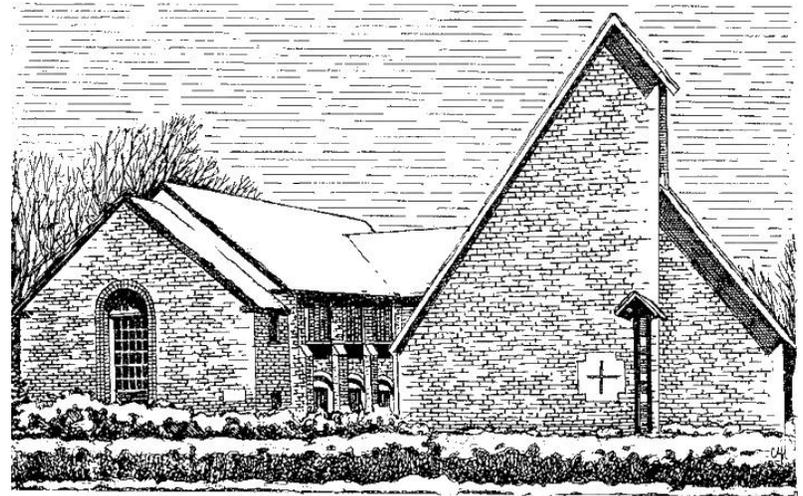
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Messiah Lutheran Church
2850 Guilderland Avenue
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Holy Week and Easter Schedule



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

We invite you to worship with us.

Holy Week is an ancient Christian tradition that goes back to at least the third or fourth century. We hold worship services every day of Holy Week at Messiah, beginning with our kid-friendly Palm Sunday Eucharist right up to when we begin celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord at our Saturday evening Easter Vigil. What follows is more detail about each of the services during Holy Week.

Palm Sunday - Sunday, March 29th - 10:15am



On this day we commemorate Christ's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem (Matthew 21: 1 - 9), where the crowds laid down a path of tree branches and cloaks for Jesus. After Pastor Dustin blesses palm branches for everyone to take home, our amazing Sunday School kids and confirmands will lead us in a similar procession before continuing with our regular Sunday Eucharist.

Meditative Prayer - Monday, March 30 - Wednesday, April 1st - 7pm



In addition to our regular Holy Week services this year, please join us on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening in the sanctuary for meditative prayer. These services are based off the ancient Christian liturgy of Compline, a tradition going back to at least the sixth century monastic Rule of Saint Benedict. We'll be using a slightly more modern version of the service however out of our "cranberry" colored hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship. In contrast to our typical Sunday liturgies, we'll gather in the round in front of the altar by candlelight. If you'd like to spend roughly a half hour each night in contemplative prayer and meditation as we journey together towards the Resurrection of Our Lord, please join us!

Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 2nd - 7pm



The name Maundy Thursday likely comes from *mandatum*, the first word of John 13:34 in Latin: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." Similarly, on this day we commemorate when Christ washed the feet of his disciples shortly before he was arrested. Although our service roughly takes the form of a regular Sunday Eucharist, we conclude with the stripping of altar, signifying the approaching sorrow of Christ's death on Good Friday.

Good Friday Tenebrae - Friday, April 3rd - 7pm



Good Friday is indeed the most sorrowful day of the entire Christian liturgical year. On this day we not only commemorate Jesus' crucifixion on death over two thousand years ago, but also how Christ continues to stand with all those suffering today as well. During our traditional Tenebrae service, between the reading of Bible passages about Christ's suffering, the sanctuary is increasingly darkened and ends with a time for silent meditation.

Great Vigil of Easter - Saturday, April 4th - 8pm



The earliest Christians celebrated the Resurrection of Our Lord with an all night vigil of special prayers, processions and readings. The Great Vigil of Easter also was the traditional time for baptizing new believers. At Messiah the Vigil begins with the Blessing of the New Fire outside our building, followed by a candlelight procession into our sanctuary. Stories of God's work throughout all of human history are read, leading up the good news of Christ's resurrection. After a remembrance of baptism and a traditional litany of prayers, the altar is censed and during the Eucharist, Christ again comes into our midst. Following the service, we break the Lenten fast together with good food and great fellowship!

Easter Breakfast - Sunday, April 5th - 8:30am



Bring your family and join us for Easter Breakfast! Our Kitchen Committee will be up early preparing their specialty of eggs, bacon, home fries and toast and it will be delicious!

Easter Sunday - Sunday, April 5th 10:15am



We once again gather to celebrate Christ's resurrection over the worst of human evil. Marking the specialness of this Sunday, a remembrance of baptism and gospel procession is conducted, while the altar is censed before the Eucharist is once again celebrated.