

Messiah Lutheran Church
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The Messiah Messenger



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Visit Us
www.mlhouston.org

Worship with Us
Sunday service @ 9am

Off-street parking available

**Find us on Facebook at
*Messiah Houston***

Midweek Services Challenge the Conventional Wisdom

“Our culture persuades us that we need to achieve great things, follow our hearts, raise exceptional children, and find our true calling. The Bible turns all that on its head,” according to Pastor Tim Engel.

During Lent, Pastor Engel will preach a sermon series entitled “Upside-Down Spirituality: Essential Failures of a Faithful Life.”

This series is based on the book of the same title by Chad Bird.

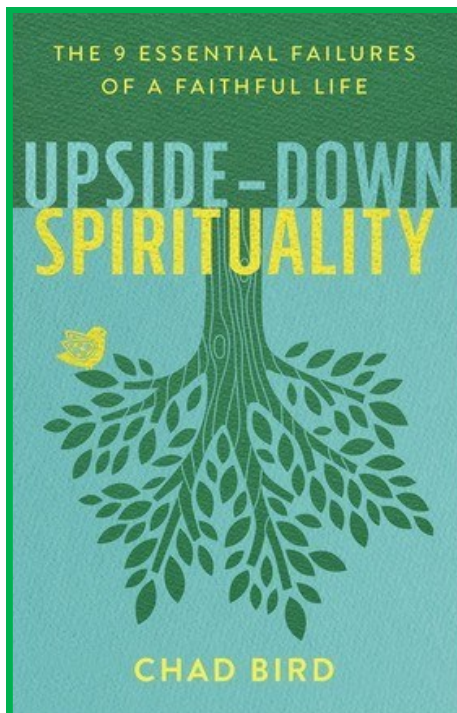
The back cover of the book reads:

Enter a world where failure is success, endings are beginnings, and freedom is found as we learn to submit.

It may sound counterintuitive, but the truth is that Christianity is not just a "nicer" version of the world we live in. It's a completely different, upside-down, backward faith. Somewhere along the way, we've forgotten that and instead accepted a boring, predictable, watered-down version of the life we were meant to live.

The Lenten midweek services will continue each week on Wednesdays at 7 pm through March 24.

Copies of the book “Upside-Down Spirituality” can be ordered on Amazon for \$10.99.



Daily — Doggedly — Daringly
Embracing Our Neighbors with Jesus' Unconditional Love

From the Pastor



My hope is built on
nothing less

Than Jesus' blood
and righteousness;

I dare not trust the
sweetest frame,

But wholly lean on
Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid
Rock, I stand;

All other ground is
sinking sand.

When darkness
veils His lovely face,

I rest on His un-
changing grace;

In every high and
stormy gale

My anchor holds
within the veil.

On Christ, the solid
Rock, I stand;

All other ground is
sinking sand.

— **Edward Mote**

Dear Friends in Christ,

This month marks the one year anniversary of our lives being turned upside-down by COVID-19.

It was a year ago that hugs and handshakes became suspect.

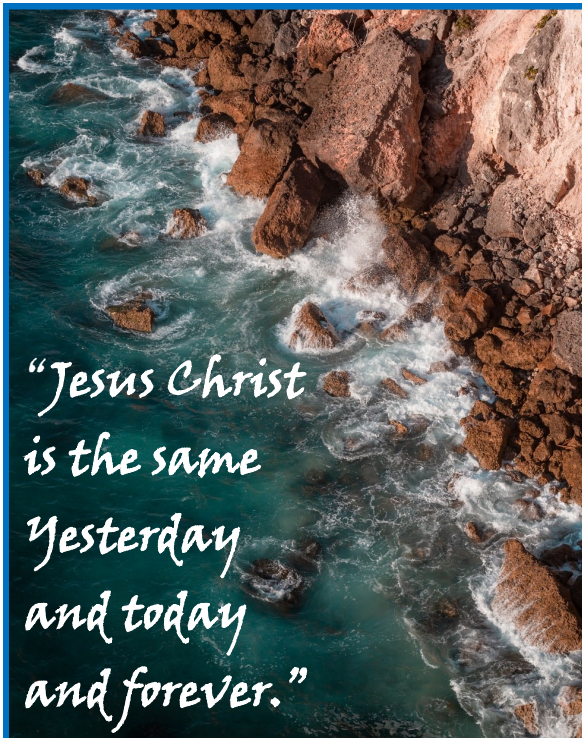
It was a year ago that education became virtual.

It was a year ago that household products like Lysol wipes and toilet paper became scarce.

It was a year ago that churches, including Messiah, cancelled their services.

Twelve months since the pandemic upended the world, and some things are returning to normal, some haven't yet, and some never will.

However, what always remains constant in times of upheaval is our Lord Jesus Christ. As the writer of Hebrews declares, ***"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever"*** (Hebrews 13:8).



In that same chapter we read this promise from God: "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

That promise elicits this response in the following verse: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear" (Hebrews 13:6).

COVID-19 is not the only source of upheaval in our lives. It is not the only source of sorrow. It is not the only source of uncertainty.

Nevertheless, whatever threatens to disrupt our lives, as followers of Jesus we can have full confidence in our unchanging Lord. His mer-

cy and compassion will not waver. His power and His promises will never fail.

In Christ,
Pastor Engel



Gabriel's Glad Tidings



Hey friends,

When most people see me, I'm wearing my vest and doing my job.

But when I'm off the clock, I get to exercise and play.

Going for a walk is my favorite thing!

Doing zoomies in the backyard is my favorite thing!

Playing fetch is my favorite thing!

Soaring over my high jump bar is my favorite thing!

(What can I say? I have lots of favorite things!)

Exercise and play are important for me to stay healthy and happy, just like physical exercise and training are important for you, too.

But my Jesus says, "Train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come" (1 Timothy 4:7-8).

I hope you take time to exercise your body so it can stay healthy.

But don't forget to train yourself for godliness while you're at it, because godliness is good for you now and forever.

And stay PAWSOME!

— Your friend Gabriel

