

The Messiah Messenger



Messiah Lutheran Church

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Visit Us
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Worship with Us
Sunday service @ 9am
In-Person and Facebook Live

Find us on Facebook at
Messiah Houston

Off-street parking available

The *Houston International Seafarers' Centers* are a "home away from home" for seafarers visiting the Port of Houston. Chartered in the late 1960's and early 1970's as a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of Texas, the two Centers have during their existence, served over a million visiting seafarers.



Houston International Seafarers Center, Inc.

Both Centers exist as the result of a deep desire and concern within the local maritime industry, followed by active support and involvement of the community and local churches, to provide a safe and welcoming recreational and spiritual environment on land for those who have chosen the sea as their livelihood.

This month Messiah will continue its support of the Centers' mission through the **Seafarers Christmas Box program**. The church will provide plastic shoebox sized containers for members to fill with items for the seafarers. These boxes will be distributed by the Center during the month of December.

A list of items will be included with each box, but one item not on the list that is greatly appreciated by the seafarers is **candy bars** and other chocolate candies such as **M & M's** and **Hershey's Kisses**.



Gabriel
Comfort Dog
delivering
Christmas
boxes

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

Gabriel's Glad Tidings



Hey friends,

I'm so glad that the weather is cooling down.

In case you haven't noticed, I'm built more for the cold than the heat.

My handlers and caregivers are always careful during the summer to keep me as cool as possible.

But there are times when I just need a big bowl of water to quench my thirst.

My Jesus talks about being thirsty, too.

He says, "**As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God**" (Psalm 42:1).

Maybe that's how you feel, like it's the dog days of summer and you need a big slurp of God's love.

If that's what you need, My Jesus also gives this invitation: "**If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water'**" (John 7:37-38).

Just like my water bowl is always waiting for me whenever I'm thirsty, My Jesus is always waiting to refresh you with His living water.

Isn't that PAWSOME?!?

Your friend Gabriel

"As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God."

Psalm 42:1



"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

John 7:37-38

From the Pastor



The King of Love

*The King of Love my Shepherd
is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.*

*Where streams of living water
flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures
grow,
With food celestial feedeth.*

*In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
With Thee, dear Lord, beside
me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort
still,
Thy cross before to guide me.*

*And so through all the length of
days
Thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy
praise
Within Thy house forever!*

Henry W. Baker

Dear Friends in Christ,

When God gives a vision, He also gives provision.

In the early 1920's God gave a vision to plant a church in Houston's West End. That church was Messiah. For going on a hundred years, God has provided for the ministry of Messiah.

In the early 1980's God gave a vision for Messiah to start an Early Childhood Center. For going on forty years, God has provided for our Early Childhood Center ministry.

When God gives a vision, He also gives provision.

There is no question that life and ministry in a post-COVID season is different than it was in 2019, and that can cause uncertainty and anxiety.

- Things cost more, which puts stress on a tight household and church budgets
- Service employees are harder to find, which puts stress on the staff of our Early Childhood Center

As a result, our church, like so many others, needs to adapt to a changing environment.

But even though it feels like we went to sleep one night and woke up to a completely changed world, one thing has remained steady and constant, and that is our God.

James tells us, "*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change*" (James 1:17).

In other words, God is the source of what we need and that will never change.

In many ways, being in a post-COVID world is like starting over. We feel like we've lost ground.

But even if we've lost ground, we need not lose faith.

We need not lose hope.

Our faithful and giving God has not changed.

When God gives a vision, He also gives provision.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Engel

**When God
gives a vision,
He also gives
provision.**