



Messiah Lutheran Church  
816 Roy St.  
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# *The Messiah Messenger*

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## Contact Us

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## Visit Us

www.mlhouston.org

## Worship with Us

Sunday service @ 9am  
In-Person and Facebook Live

**FB: *Messiah Houston***  
**IG: *messiah\_houston***

Off-street parking available



*have mercy  
on me, O God...*



**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 14, 7:00 pm**

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



## Gabriel's Glad Tidings



Hey friends,

You may not know this about me, but I share my home with FOUR CATS!!!

They didn't warn me about this when I went through Comfort Dog training.

In fact, I don't remember seeing a cat until I moved to Houston.

But Pastor Tim and Miss Kim had two cats when I moved in with them, and now they have two more! (I think that they are crazy cat people.)

In case you didn't know, cats are way different than dogs, but I don't have time to get into that right now.

But my Jesus teaches us to care about those who are different than us.

In fact, my Jesus says in my Bible verse, **"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers"** (Hebrews 13:2).

And trust me, there is nothing stranger than a cat!

So, I've learned to live with them, even though they are different than me, because that's what my Jesus wants me to do.

It's amazing how far a little love can bring you, even when it comes to cats!

Isn't that PAWSOME?

Your friend,  
Gabriel

No cat photos were found on Pastor Tim's phone. (Can't say that I'm surprised. He, he!)



# From the Pastor



## O Sacred Head

***O sacred Head, now wounded  
With grief and shame weighed  
down,***

***Now scornfully surrounded  
With thorns, Thine only crown.***

***O sacred Head, what glory,  
What bliss, till now, was Thine,  
Yet, though despised and gory,  
I joy to call Thee mine.***

***What language shall I borrow  
To thank Thee, dearest Friend  
For this Thy dying sorrow  
Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever!  
And should I fainting be  
Lord, let me never, never  
Outlive my love to Thee!***

Bernard of Clairvaux

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

February 14. Valentine's Day. Hearts and flowers and boxes of chocolate.

February 14, 2024. Ash Wednesday. Ashes and repentance and somber reflection. But also a flower.

On Ash Wednesday, as we gather to begin the holy season of Lent, we will place a rose in a vase on the altar.

This rose will remain on the altar throughout Lent, unwatered, uncared for.

Together we will watch it wither.  
Together we will watch it fade.

This rose, a symbol of love, in its dying will illustrate the words of Isaiah:

“All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass.

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.” (Isaiah 40:6-8)

We will also see in this rose a picture of our Lord Jesus, the very love of God embodied in flesh and blood, who willingly allowed the life to be drained from Him on the cross.

Yet He who joined us in our dying condition is also the true Word of our God who stands forever and shares His resurrection life with us.

After Lent comes Easter. After the dying comes the rising.

God be with you as we prepare to begin our Lenten journey together in anticipation of the Easter joy to follow.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Engel

