



Messiah Lutheran Church
816 Roy St.
Houston, TX 77007

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The Messiah Messenger

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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



Messiah Lutheran Church
develops disciples who are:



*United
with Christ*

*Transformed
by Christ*

*Obedient
to Christ*

We are in the business of
making disciples...
who make disciples.

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



Gabriel's Glad Tidings



Hey friends,

In case you didn't hear the news, I just celebrated my 8th birthday.

Yep, your boy Gabriel is getting older (but I'm still a pup at heart!)

At Lutheran North, Pastor Tim led chapel the day they celebrated my birthday.

He talked about what we really celebrate on our birthdays.

First, he said that **we celebrate that we made another trip around the sun.**

That's nothing to take for granted, either.

But then he said that **birthdays are times to remember how my Jesus has blessed us in the past year.**

I have been blessed with caregivers who take good care of me and handlers who take me on my outings.

I'm also blessed to have Dr. Kyle, my vet at Bayou City Veterinarian Hospital, who always keeps me healthy.

Pastor also said that **birthdays are when we can thank my Jesus for the ways that we have been a blessing to others.**

After all, that's why we are here!

I try to bless people with my smiles and my hugs, especially when they are sad or scared or lonely.

Birthdays are when we can celebrate how good my Jesus is to all of us.

Isn't that PAWSOME?

Your friend,
Gabriel



From the Pastor



On Galilee's High Mountain

*On Galilee's high mountain
Christ gave the great command
In words of strength and promise
Which all can understand:
"All pow'r to me is given
To do what I shall choose;
Therefore I send my children,
Their witness I will use."*

*His strength within my weakness
Will make me bold to say
How His redeeming power
Transforms my stubborn clay;
His touch of fire ignites me,
With courage I am sent,
My tongue-tied silence broken,
With grace made eloquent.*

*And not alone to nations
In faraway retreats,
But ev'rywhere I broadcast
His love through crowded streets:
The lives that my life touches,
However great or small—
Let them through me see Jesus,
Who served and saved us all.*

Henry L. Lettermann

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

Last month I joined other pastoral leaders of the Texas District for the Exponential 2024 conference on discipleship.

This three day conference opened my eyes to how important it is that Messiah become a church that intentionally holds **disciple-making** to be **Job #1**.

Making disciples, who themselves, make more disciples, is our business, because Jesus told us that it is our business.

He gave His eleven apostles their job description before His return to His throne at the Father's side.

In Matthew 28 we read, "Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

That job description has not changed in two thousand years.

What has changed is our understanding of that job description.

We have focused on the pastor as the disciple-maker rather than **every believer being a disciple-maker**.

That needs to change.

We need to return to the practice of the early church, in which lay people like Stephen and Philip (Acts 7 & 8) were equipped to teach God's Word and even baptize.

We need to restore the function of the priesthood of all believers, as described in 1 Peter 2:9.

Messiah needs to become a disciple-making congregation, which can happen as you and I work together to make it happen.

That's Job #1.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Engel

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