



Messiah Lutheran Church  
816 Roy St.  
Houston, TX 77007

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# *The Messiah Messenger*

Pastor Timothy Engel  
messiahpastor@att.net

## **Contact Us**

messiahhouston@att.net  
713-861-3072

## **Visit Us**

www.mlhouston.org

## **Worship with Us**

Sunday service @ 9am  
In-Person and Facebook Live

**FB: *Messiah Houston***

**IG: *messiah\_houston***

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.

## Christmas Eve Worship at 5:00 pm



*Daily — Doggedly — Daringly*

**Embracing Our Neighbors with Jesus' Unconditional Love**





# Gabriel's Glad Tidings



Hey friends,

Have you heard about Kids Club?

If you haven't, you're missing out!

Kids Club is the most exciting thing to happen to Messiah since... well, since I arrived ten years ago!

Every Monday afternoon, I join almost twenty of my friends from Memorial Elementary School so they can learn about my Jesus.

Pastor Tim, Miss Marsha, Miss Gerri and Mr. Roger, along with three other volunteers, lead the kids in lessons from the Bible. So far they have learned about the days of creation and the fall into sin.

This month they are going to learn about the birth of my Jesus. It's going to be great!

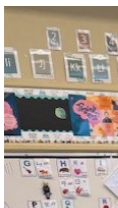
My Jesus told us, ***"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven"*** (Matthew 19:14).

Kids Club is one way that our church does what my Jesus told us to do, just like we do in our Early Childhood Center.

Like the song says, my Jesus loves the little children, and we can love them too.

Isn't that PAWSOME?

Your friend,  
Gabriel



# From the Pastor



## Rock of Ages

***Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which  
flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure:  
Cleanse me from its guilt and  
pow'r***

***Not the labors of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy Law's de-  
mands;  
Could my zeal no respite  
know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou  
alone***

***Nothing in my hand I bring;  
Simply to Thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to Thee for  
dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for  
grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly;  
Wash me, Savior, or I die!***

## Pointing to the Rock of Ages

Not the labor of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone. (LSB 761:2)

While the classic hymn "Rock of Ages" shows up in the Lutheran Service Book in the "Hope and Comfort" section, it can also teach us a valuable lesson about Christian stewardship. If that surprises you, stay with me on this one.

No Lutheran would ever dispute the fact that our work does not save us. Ephesians 2 makes it truly clear that we are dead in our trespasses and sins and would remain in that state until Christ raises us by grace. There is not a ladder on which we can climb out of the grave that our sins have dug for us. No blood, sweat nor tears will be able to rescue us. We all know this.

Our works do not save. Christ's work on the cross of Calvary does! He bore human flesh. He carried the burden of our sin to the cross. His body was beaten, bruised and bloodied for us. He has indeed atoned for us! This is more than enough reason for this hymn to be bouncing around in your head all day today!

But our work has a place. The place is in response to what the Father has done for us in Jesus. The Rock of Ages, who is Jesus, becomes the foundation on which our lives of faith are built. The Holy Spirit uses the means of grace to make us God's workmanship that Paul talks about in Ephesians 2:10.

Our workmanship does not display our power or prowess. Like the heavens declare the handiwork of the Creator, the works of a redeemed sinner point others to the salvation that is worked only by Jesus alone. Our work is a response to and reflection of a grace and glory that we ourselves could never accomplish or achieve.

We become stewards of the treasure that is the Gospel. When we faithfully support the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our financial support, we are doing the work which points to the One who alone atones. When we come alongside a struggling sister or brother for whom Christ died and we share the stewardship work of compassion and care, we enfold the treasure of God's love and redemption. When we make it a weekly priority to arrange our schedule to be in the Lord's House with other stewards of the Gospel to receive again and again the Gospel's

precious gift, we are stewards of the Body of Christ in the congregation that points even more people to Jesus.

We cannot do this. Jesus does it through us. We are simply stewards of this precious treasure!

*This stewardship article taken from the [www.lcms.org/stewardship](http://www.lcms.org/stewardship) website*