



Messiah Lutheran Church  
816 Roy St.  
Houston, TX 77007

Volume 11, Number 1  
January 2026

# The Messiah Messenger

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[www.mlhouston.org](http://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.

## Coming in February

### FIREFIGHTER DINNERS

February 3,  
10, 17 and 24  
at 5:30 pm

Station 11 on  
TC Jester  
north of I-10

*To donate salad, a side dish or a  
bread, contact Pastor Engel at  
[messiahpastor@att.net](mailto:messiahpastor@att.net)*



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

# Gabriel's Glad Tidings

Hey friends,

I had what you might call a December to Remember!

In addition to my usual outings to Memorial Elementary School, the Fire Station, and the 911 Call Center, I had some very special events.

First, I helped deliver the Christmas boxes that you put together for the International Seafarers. You contributed 29 boxes for this project and I was so happy to be like one of Santa's elves, bringing Christmas joy to the seafarers.

Then I was a special guest at the Texas Orthopedic Hospital Christmas Party. I got pets and snuggles from little kids as well as grown-ups. It was a great day!

Finally, Comfort Dog Joy and I were at the Duke Family Christmas Light Show. Parents brought their children to see the lights, hear the music, and visit Santa. They were excited that Joy and I were there, too.

The most important thing to remember in December is that my Jesus was born to be our Savior. Without my Jesus, none of these other projects or parties matter.

My Jesus is really the reason for the season!

Isn't that PAWSOME?

Your friend,  
Gabriel



# From the Pastor



## O God, Our Help in Ages Past

***O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy  
blast,  
and our eternal home:***

***Under the shadow of Thy  
throne***

***Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.***

***O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life  
shall last***

***And our eternal home!***

Isaac Watts

Dear friends in Christ,

This month marks my tenth anniversary at Messiah.

Many of you were members of the congregation when I was installed. Over the years, however, we have lost some very faithful members and have gained others.

In other words, some things have changed during the past decade.

Some of those changes were beyond our control, COVID being the most impactful. Hardest hit was our Early Childhood Center ministry. We have had to rebuild the staff as well as the enrollment. Our Director, Stacey Viviano, has worked very hard to do that and all indications are that we have turned the corner and are moving forward.

Other changes have been intentional. A week after my installation, the congregation voted to apply for a Comfort Dog. In the fall of 2017, Gabriel was placed with us and has opened up many doors for caring and outreach ministries in our community and beyond.

God has provided other ministry opportunities for us during these past ten years. We have connected with our local firefighters and veterans by providing meals at Fire Station 11 and Camp Hope. We have also become a very welcome presence at Memorial Elementary School. Most recently, we have begun the after school Crossroads Kids Club, through which we can teach students about Jesus every Monday afternoon.

We have also launched a new disciple-making emphasis called “Followers Made” that meets weekly online. My hope is that I can lead this six month discipleship experience on an annual basis.

We have even remodeled two of our buildings to make them more useful, the Parish Hall that houses our Early Childhood Center and the Sunday School Building, which is now our much more functional Fellowship Center.

What does our Lord have in mind for Messiah in the coming ten years? Only He knows the answer to that question.

What He asks of us is that we have the **eyes** to see the opportunities He will present to us and the **faith** to seize those opportunities.

I look forward to discovering what God has in store for us at Messiah and the changes that He will bring about as we enter this new year.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Engel