



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.

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



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



Gabriel's Glad Tidings



Hey friends,

Over the years, I have made lots of friends at Fire Station 11. Pastor Tim takes me there as often as he can. You can tell that they like me because of the big smiles on their faces. (They think Pastor Tim is okay, too.)

Firefighters and paramedics are so important when there is an emergency. They help people who might be having their very worst day.

That's why I'm tail-wagging excited that we are bringing dinners to them this month. It's a way that we can show them how much we appreciate everything that they do for our neighborhood.

Firefighters remind me of my Jesus. They rescue people from death just like my Jesus did!

My Jesus had His worst day when He died for you on the cross. But He did that so that you could save you from having worst days forever.

Firefighters are called first responders, because they show up first to help people. My Jesus is your first and best responder, the only one you will ever need.

Isn't that PAWSOME?

Your friend,
Gabriel



From the Pastor



O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

O Lord, throughout these forty days

*You prayed and keep the fast
Inspire repentance for our sin
And free us from the past*

*Though parched and hungry,
yet You prayed*

*And fixed Your mind above
So teach us to deny ourselves
Since we have known God's
love*

Be with us through this season, Lord

*And all our earthly days
That when the final Easter
dawns*

We join in heaven's praise

Claudia F. Hernaman
Gilbert E. Doan

Dear friends in Christ,

The Lenten season will be upon us once again, beginning with **Ash Wednesday on February 18.**

As we have done in recent years, we will have both afternoon and evening services that day at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at both services as well.

* * *

The word "Lent" comes from Old English and German words that simply meant "spring." The religious use of the word indicates a time of spiritual renewal, just as nature is renewed in the springtime.

Lent is a forty day period of reflection and repentance as we prepare for the events of Holy Week and Easter. These forty days, however, do not include the Sundays, since every Sunday is viewed as a "little Easter" on which we celebrate our Lord's victory over sin, death, and Satan.

The forty days are modeled after the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness before beginning His public ministry. During those days He fasted, denying Himself both food and drink. Therefore, for many Lent is marked by fasting or "giving up something for Lent."

Martin Luther had this to say about fasting. Luther wrote, "Of fasting I say this: it is right to fast frequently in order to subdue and control the body.

For when the stomach is full, the body does not serve for preaching, for praying, for studying, or for doing anything else that is good. Under such circumstances God's Word cannot remain. But one should not fast with a view to meriting something by it as by a good work."

While fasting during Lent is not commanded in the Scriptures, it is also not a practice that should be dismissed out of hand. In the spirit of Luther it is safe to say that physical disciplines can be of spiritual benefit, when combined with the study of Scripture and the practice of prayer.

The Word of God, prayer, and fasting form a powerful trinity of spiritual disciplines that can strengthen us in our warfare against the Evil One and his demonic hordes.

I encourage you as we approach this Lententide to consider the benefit of adding a physical discipline such as fasting to your practice of Scripture study and prayer.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Engel

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