



Messiah Lutheran Church
816 Roy St.
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Volume 11, Number 3
March 2026

The Messiah Messenger

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Visit Us

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Worship with Us

Sunday service @ 9am
In-Person and Facebook Live

FB: *Messiah Houston*
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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.

**HAPPY
10TH
BIRTHDAY
TO
GABRIEL
COMFORT
DOG**



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



Gabriel's Glad Tidings



Hey friends,

Can you believe that I will turn ten years old this month? Do you know how much that is in human years?

God has blessed me so much during these years. I have met wonderful people and made lots of friends along the way.

But this year has been a tough one. Maybe that's part of getting older.

Last month I hurt my back left leg and had to have an operation to make it better.

It will be a while until I fully recover. Until then, I am taking it easy and trusting in God to heal me.

My Jesus is a healer. He spent a lot of time healing people when He was here on the earth. He still heals people in their bodies and their souls.

The Bible says, "*Jesus* was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

My Jesus can heal broken bodies, broken spirits, and broken hearts.

Isn't that PAWSOME?

Your friend,
Gabriel



From the Pastor



A Comfort Dog's Prayer

*Lord, You've given me
Paws and fur and tail.
I train to be your servant;
I never want to fail.
But most of all You've given
A heart full of Your love
To share with all who need it
Comfort from above.
Thank You, Lord, for my
heart.
Thank You, Jesus, for Your
love.
Amen*

Dear friends in Christ,

January 24, 2016. January Voters Meeting. Voters approve applying for a Comfort Dog from Lutheran Church Charities.

Two months later. March 26, 2016. A puppy was born in Wisconsin. He would be purchased by Lutheran Church Charities to be trained as a Comfort Dog. He would be named Gabriel.

October 12, 2017. Messiah's Comfort Dog handlers begin their training in Chicago and meet Gabriel for the first time.

So the adventure began.

I can't tell you the number of hours that he has worked, the number of miles he has traveled, or the number of hearts he has touched.

What I can tell you is that Gabriel has given his handlers and ministry partners tremendous opportunities to bring the love of Jesus to people who were hurting and in need, whether in a community shattered by violence, in a hospital room, or in an aisle at Walmart.

Far from being a congregational mascot, Gabriel has served as an effective bridge for Gospel ministry in Houston and beyond.



His Bible verse is Hebrews 13:2, which reads, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." These words are a continual reminder for us to welcome those people that God brings into our lives, even as Abraham welcomed three strangers to his tent. Unknown to him at the time, two of those strangers were angels and one was the Lord Himself.

Gabriel embodies that verse, because he has never met a stranger, just friends he hasn't gotten to know yet.

Later this month we will celebrate Gabriel's tenth birthday, a very special milestone for him and our church. This will be on Sunday, March 29, following the Palm Sunday worship service. I hope that you can be there to share his special day with him.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Engel

**"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."
Hebrews 13:2**