



Online Community Guidelines and Privacy Policy

What is Messiah Connect?

Messiah Connect is the name of the online community for Messiah Lutheran Church. It is an internet based software application designed to promote communication and connection within our church family. It also provides the church staff with efficient tools and systems to use in effective ministry.

As an engaged participant at Messiah, you are welcome to use and become part of Messiah Connect. When you log in, you will be able to see your own profile information, the groups you are participating in, the positions you hold, your own giving record, events you might be interested in, and easily communicate with other members of the Messiah family. You can update your profile information to make sure our records are correct. You can also choose to fill in some of the "fun" information like adding a family and/or individual picture, sharing your passions, linking to your Facebook page, adding friends to your friends list, and more. We hope you enjoy the online community!

Is my information secure and private in Messiah Connect?

Messiah Connect has the highest industry standards of security. While our website is public, the Messiah Connect online community is private. Only those who have approved login and passwords assigned to them can obtain access to the Messiah Connect community. Users must be age 12 or older, and only authorized church staff can see information for children under the age of 12. None of the data contained in Messiah Connect will show up in any internet search engine. Additionally, individual members have the ability to set and manage their own "privacy settings" in order to personalize whatever level of privacy they feel most comfortable with.

While our database contains anyone who is on our mailing lists and our website is public, our online community is private in that only those who have login and passwords assigned to them can join in. After your request has been accepted, you will be given login and password information. You can decide whether to participate and whether your information will be "listed" to other online members or "unlisted". Unlisted information is not seen by anyone beyond our staff with "administrative privileges."

How do I use the online community?

The best way to see what Messiah Connect is about is to try it out! Our hope is that our partners in ministry maintain a current profile with valid contact information and a fantastic picture to connect with other Messiah family members. We also desire for Messiah Connect to be a place to get up to date information on what is happening at Messiah, connect with open groups for growth and service, register for upcoming events, and give online.

What are the Messiah Connect guidelines for use?

Please protect the privacy of fellow Messiah members! Violating any of the online community guidelines will result in blocked access and revocation of privileges. By becoming a member of Messiah Connect you agree to the following rules of use:

- The online community is intended for personal and ministry use. It is not for solicitation of any kind. Do not use it for political agendas, business purposes or for ministry, groups, etc. outside of Messiah's approved community.
- Protect the privacy of members by not giving their phone number etc., to others outside of the online community. If you would like someone's number and they are "unlisted," please ask them directly. Staff, leaders, and volunteers at Messiah cannot give out this information without prior consent and our team is dedicated to handling private information with proper care and confidentiality.
- Do not send unnecessary or unrequested emails (e.g. jokes, stories, petitions, etc.). Use Messiah Connect with appropriate care and courtesy for personal and friendly communication. Even if it's interesting, funny or important, do not send unsolicited information. Do not add members to email lists outside Messiah Connect without their prior consent.
- Members who engage in discussions are not to "slam" other groups, churches or organizations or attempt to solicit members for outside groups or organizations. Keep discussions and emails personal, positive and profitable and refrain from any negative communication that does not edify you, the church body, and its members. Discussions will be monitored and edited by appropriate group leaders and church staff.
- Members of Messiah Connect who become inactive at Messiah Lutheran Church, or who do not follow these guidelines and/or abuse Messiah Connect, will have their login access blocked. We ask members to inform the Messiah Connect Team of any problems or concerns encountered so they can be addressed quickly and properly.