



The Messenger

April 2019

Our Mission Statement

Saved by the redeeming grace of God, we proclaim Christ crucified through worship, service and love of neighbor

Our Vision Statement

We have been saved by the grace of God, redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and moved by the Holy Spirit to respond to God's love. We will proclaim to all God's saving Gospel of Christ crucified. We will worship God through Word and Sacrament, serve all in need in our communities and nurture fellow members in Christ.

Our Guiding Principles

Everything we do should incorporate at least three of the following Guiding Principles in support of the Mission and Vision of this Church:

- Pray
- Study
- Worship
- Invite
- Encourage
- Serve
- Give

Inside this Issue:

- Pastor's Message
- President's Message
- April Birthdays
- Wonderful Wednesday
- April Calendar
- Capital/Building Fund
- ELCA SE Synod
- Montgomery Pilgrimage



This Changes Everything!

Easter, like the arrival of Spring weather, is late this year. It doesn't show up on our calendar until April 21, 2019. Why is that? In fact, why does the celebration of Easter "move" at all? Why is the date not fixed like Christmas or Halloween? I don't have a good answer, except to say that our Easter celebration is tied to the lunar calendar. Christian celebrations came after the development of the Gregorian calendar. We Christians added our observances, like Christmas and Easter, on top of existing cultural observances, as a way of bringing our theology into the ordinary days of life. Here's the rule: Easter is set as the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after March 21st. Thus, Easter can be as early as March 23rd and as late as April 30th, depending on the waxing and waning of the moon. Strange, right? Now if you ever get asked about it in a trivia contest, you'll know the answer!

But far more important than the date is what Easter means for Jesus-followers. Of course, it is the day of Jesus' resurrection, his being raised from the dead, but Easter is far more than the resuscitation of one man. In fact, Christians believe that it is not a resuscitation at all. That happened to Lazarus, and he died again. Jesus was raised once and for all time, and not just Jesus. The Apostle Paul writes that because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too will have a new life. Great! We and our loved ones will also be resurrected. That is the best pie in the sky, ever!

But Easter is even more than future hope; it is present joy. Because Jesus broke out of the grave, the deepest, most final of the world's rules is cancelled. We've all heard people say, "The only things certain in life are death and taxes." As people of faith, we know that death does not have the last word; Jesus does. Our Lord took the worst that the world had and conquered it for all of us.

If Jesus beat the rule of death, then maybe a lot of the world's other "rules" aren't true, either. Maybe we don't have to look out for number one, climb the corporate ladder, or worry so much about what others say about us. Because of Easter the whole way that we look at ourselves and the world is turned upside down.

As one of my mentors, Pastor Rick Barger says, "The tomb is empty!" And this changes everything.

God Loves You, and So Do I!

Pastor Devin

Letter from the Council President

Dear Members of Messiah,

The Pastoral Call process train has departed the station!

Messiah elected its Call Committee on February 24, 2019, and there have already been two meetings at the time of this message. We should expect the Call Committee to have about three months of 'heavy lifting' as they gather information and evaluate our needs. All of this work will support the Call Committee's communication to Synod regarding our needs and our capabilities. Pastoral candidates will be evaluated by the Call Committee, and by the Council, but the final decision will be made by a vote of our Messiah membership.

This year has been a 'dynamic time' – maybe a euphemism from my administrative perspective – but I believe a true dynamic time for Messiah in God's perspective. In spite of uncertainty and change, we have proceeded forward: We have continued to hear the Message, confess our shortcomings, care for others, and followed the example of Jesus' teachings. Messiah will soon move through this year of transition and emerge as a re-affirmed, collective, body of Christ! I believe we are undergoing a small, modern miracle of transformation!

Your servant at Messiah,

Duane Brookhart

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

RSVP Supper 5:30 p.m.
Worship 6:15 p.m.
Kid's Bible Study 6:15 p.m.
Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
Catechism 7:00 p.m.

You can make reservations by contacting the church office, call 277-4213, e-mail mlcoffice@messiahlutheranmgm.org or

Thanks for Spring Cleanup Assistance

Submitted by Jim Willoughby

First a special thanks to Alice McMullan who, prior to the cleanup day, washed all the inside windows in the Nave, Narthex and front entrance windows. Also special thanks to Bob Harris and Heath Garrison for power washing the Narthex landings, Fellowship entrance door stoops, and sidewalk.

David Hataway, Grayson and Ethan Hataway were super mulch and pine straw spreaders. Grayson also used the outside window washer and washed all the outside windows of the church.

Paul Morton attempted carpet cleaning, but the carpet cleaner suction quit, so Paul became another super pine straw spreader.

David Hataway, a tree climbing expert, trimmed a bunch of dead wood in the Chesnutt Oak and then the tree in the prayer garden so the branches would not damage the roof.

Jeff Bohman trimmed up all the shrubs and he and Duane loaded the trailer up about 4 feet. I took the trash removed to Dannelly School.

Messiah Lutheran Worship & Contact Information

SUNDAYS

Worship - 8:00 & 10:45 am

Sunday School

Adults - 9:15 am

Children - 9:15 am

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Meal - 5:30 pm

Worship - 6:15 pm

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

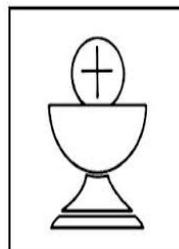
Interim Pastor: Rev. Devin Strong

Pastor's Email: pastordevinstrong@gmail.com

Office Staff:

Office Email mlcoffice@messiahlutheranmgm.org

Website: www.messiahlutheranmgm.org



**EUCHARIST EVERY
SUNDAY
&
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

On the Schedule for ..

April 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:00 pm Pinks & Pearls	2 9:00 am Quilters 11:30 am Loose Ladies Lunch Mr. G's Restaurant 5:00 pm Gathered by Grace Dinner and Meeting	3 9:00 am Quilters Wonderful Wednesday Mary's & Martha's 5:30 pm Supper 6:15 pm Worship 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Catechism	4 9:30 am Mary's & Martha's	5 6:00 pm Pinks & Pearls	6 1:00 pm Girl Scouts 4:00 Jesus at the Movies Mary Magdalene
7 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am April Birthdays Celebration 9:00 am 1-3 pm Young WOK 3:30 pm WORG	8 6:00 pm Pinks & Pearls	9 9:00 am Quilters	10 9:00 am Quilters Wonderful Wednesday Hosted by the Council 5:30 pm Supper 6:15 pm Worship 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Catechism	11 9:30 am Mary's & Martha's 6:30 pm Council Meeting	12 6:00 pm Pinks & Pearls	13 9:00 am Art Club
14 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am PALM SUNDAY 1-3 pm Young WOK 3:30 PM L.O.C.O.P.	15 6:00 pm Pinks & Pearls	16 9:00 am Quilters	17 9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Catechism	18 5:30 PM Mauudy	19  6:00 pm Good Friday	20 1:00 pm Girl Scouts
21 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am EASTER 9:15 am Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt 1-3 pm Young WOK	22 6:00 pm Pinks & Pearls	23 9:00 am Quilters Messiah Messenger Submission Deadline	24 9:00 am Quilters Wonderful Wednesday Hosted by the WTT 5:30 pm Supper 6:15 pm Worship 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Catechism	25	26 6:00 pm Pinks & Pearls	27
28 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 1-3 pm Young WOK 3:30 pm WORG	29 6:00 pm Pinks & Pearls	30 9:00 am Quilters				

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



1	Bill Glendening	18	Alice McMullan
2	Melody Jackson	20	William Pugh, II
6	Jamie McKune	23	Annajoy Causey
7	Elizabeth Strickland	25	Travis Broughton
11	Kelly Cunningham		Gus Dennig
17	Cynthia Riggins	28	Will Breland



Spring Capital Building Fundraising Goal

Many of you may know that we needed to replace one of our air conditioning units late last fall at a cost of \$6,871. This Capital Building Fund expenditure reduced the balance in that account to \$3,263.19, which would not be sufficient to cover any similar, necessary building expenditure that we should incur.

Messiah asked members to consider 2018 year-end, charitable contributions to our Capital Building Fund, and members generously contributed \$1,885 towards this purpose before the end of the year. Therefore, Messiah has set a goal of \$4,986 as a **Spring Capital Building Fundraising Goal**, which would cover the costs of last fall's air conditioner expenditure.

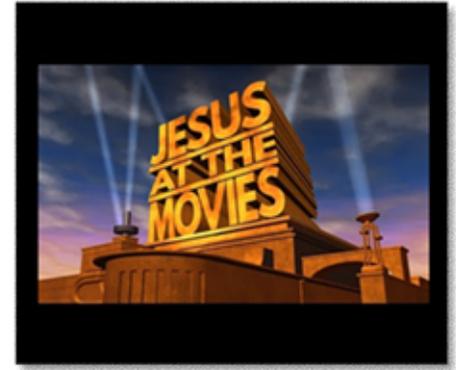
We have received additional contributions however the Council asks that you keep our **Spring Capital Building Fundraising Goal** in mind as you consider your Messiah giving and support, and help us to prepare for our next unexpected capital expenditure.

Yours in Christ,

Messiah Lutheran Church Council

JESUS AT THE MOVIES

This year for Lent we going to take a modern look at the ancient story. Together, we'll watch a couple of movies and see how Jesus is portrayed in film, and of course, because this is Messiah, we will break bread together, and talk about the movies.



There was good attendance and participation at the first movie.

On Saturday, April 6th, we will watch the new 2018 film *Mary Magdalene*, which tells the story of Jesus through the well-known female follower.

We'll watch the movies on a big screen in the sanctuary. Then we'll adjourn to the fellowship hall, where we'll enjoy a simple meal prepared by Pastor Devin's wife Chris, and Pastor Devin will lead a conversation about each film.

Mark your calendars for April 6th and come out and enjoy Jesus at the Movies! Please sign-up in the narthex, so Chris knows how much food to make.

Messiah Lutheran Church
Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Pledge Form
Its Pledge time again!!

In advance of a new Church fiscal year, the Council invites you to consider your financial gifts to Messiah beginning June 1st. Each contributor is asked to consider making a pledge as it provides a foundation on which the church can build the FY financial plan on.

Your pledge is only known by the Financial Secretary and this information **WILL NOT** be shared with anyone. You are encouraged to complete and return this form to the undersigned as soon as possible, but please NLT April 15. This will allow your Financial Ministry Team and the Church Council time to prepare a viable FY 2019-2020 Budget.

I/We, _____ pledge to contribute the following amount regularly to the General Operating Expenses of Messiah Lutheran Church during Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 [June 1, 2019 thru May 31, 2020].

\$ _____ X 52 Weekly contributions = _____ Or \$ _____ X 12 Monthly contributions = _____

Env # _____

Thank you in advance for your support,

Linda Jones
Financial Secretary
Messiah Lutheran Church

Pledge forms may be turned in by placing in Offering Plate, in person, in the Financial Secretary Cubbyhole by the Office



Montgomery Pilgrimage

February 25, 2019

Join Bishop H. Julian Gordy, and fellow Lutherans and friends from across the synod on a pilgrimage to Montgomery, Alabama, Saturday, April 27, 2019. Our purpose is to experience *The Legacy Museum*, and *The National Memorial for Peace and Justice* followed by a period of reflection and conversation with Bishop Gordy and members of the Equal Justice Initiative.

The agenda for the day is as follows:

- Tour *The Legacy Museum* in the morning.
- Break for lunch at a nearby eatery of your choice.
- Tour *The National Memorial for Peace and Justice* in the afternoon.
- Gather at 4:00 p.m. across the street at the *Peace and Justice Memorial Center* for reflection and conversation.

Are you interested? Here's what you need to do.

- Follow the link below to register your participation with the Synod Office. You may register multiple people at one time. <https://se-reg.brtaapp.com/MontgomeryPilgrimage>
- Purchase your ticket(s) from the museum at the link following. <https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/visit>
- Peruse the attached [Montgomery Pilgrimage Location Guide](#) for important information about the Montgomery area, to include places to stay, worship, eat and visit. This guide is especially helpful if you plan to make the pilgrimage a weekend event. (*The Montgomery Pilgrimage Location Guide is created and provided courtesy of the Rev. Tiffany Chaney, pastor developer, Gathered by Grace, Montgomery, AL.*)

Should you have questions, please contact Ms. Carolyn Nottingham Davis, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, cdavis@elca-ses.org or 404-589-1977.

We hope to see you in Montgomery! All are welcome!

Don't Forget the "Other Stuff"

Various groups/individuals at Messiah collect the following items that benefit the local community. Drop-off stations for these items are located by the church office.

- Magazines - taken to area hospitals (please make sure all addresses are removed)
- Catalogs - also taken to area hospitals (please make sure all addresses are removed)
- Soup labels - taken to Morningview Elementary School
- Greeting card fronts
- Old and new calendars - taken to Morningview Elementary School
- Box Tops for Education - collected by Jeannie Graetz for E.D. Nixon Elementary School
- Soda pop tabs - donated to the Ronald McDonald House charities
- Old and unused reading and prescription glasses - donated to the Lions Club.