



The Messenger

February 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
- Shrove Tuesday
- Wonderful Wednesday
- Chili Cook-Off
- February Calendar
- February Birthdays
- LWR Personal Care Kits
- Advocacy Gathering



Hopes and Dreams

On Sunday, January 20th, we wrapped up the fifth Cottage Meeting, including one that was held at the church during Adult Sunday School hour. Special thanks to each one of the hosts who opened up their homes and provided generous hospitality on behalf of the congregation! The events were great fun and respectably well attended, involving a total of 45+ congregation members. In these gatherings I got to share a bit more of my story and got to know each of the participants a little better. We also spent a good deal of each gathering talking about people's hopes and dreams for Messiah's future and what kind of pastor might best lead the church into its next season. The following list emerged as "growing edges" for Messiah.

- A need to attract more visitors, especially young people (More Evangelism)
- A need for updated church policies and procedures
- A need for church committees to meet regularly and function well
- A desire for more congregational fellowship/learning activities (Movie Nights, Game Nights)
- A need for greater communication with the ownership of Children's Sunday School

Worship was the hottest topic across the Cottage Meetings without a clear consensus of where to go next. Several discussed a desire for a more contemporary or "jazzy" style of worship. Others want a "simpler" worship or fewer worship liturgies in the rotation, and at least one wants to see us make more use of the organ. Some argued for consolidating our two Sunday services into one, and others said that 8:00 am should be a different style of worship than 10:45, and almost everyone expressed concern about a shortage of Worship Servants.

In terms of a pastor, people yearn for a young, energetic, creative leader who is very much on board with Messiah's commitment to welcome everyone, regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socioeconomic status.

It is always easy to focus on the challenges rather than the successes. You and I do the same thing when we look at ourselves in the mirror! Part of my job in these gatherings was to lift up all of the wonderful things about the church. Among other things, Messiah reaches into the community to help those in need; we enjoy great fellowship, have a deep spirit of welcome, and have many generous givers of their dollars and their time. We do traditional worship well!

As we move ahead in this time of transition, I will take these needs and desires to heart and may start some short-term experiments to help us figure out what we like best. And your future Call Committee will keep all this in mind as they pray about the next pastor who is called to serve Messiah Lutheran Church.

Thank you all for being on this journey together!

God Loves You, and So Do I!

Pastor Devin

Letter from the Council President

Three months have passed since Pastor Randy's departure. Our council has followed the Synod's Pastoral Call process, and thus far has completed 9 of the 18 tasks in this effort. Our next step may be the most important:

The Call Committee is elected by the congregation or appointed by the congregation council.

Our Call Committee should be composed of six members who represent the diversities within our congregation. With the leadership of Pastor Devin, the Call Committee is tasked with examining Messiah's needs, strengths, opportunities and future aspirations; then clarify and communicating Messiah's pastoral opportunity to Synod.

Synod will review our request and communicate our opportunity to ELCA rostered clergy. Hopefully this process will produce several candidates who are interested in being considered by Messiah, and who Synod believe would meet Messiah's opportunity. The Call Committee will interview any candidate referred by the Call Committee for consideration, and decide whether the candidate should be referred to our congregation. A pastor is only called if they receive a vote of support by sixty percent of the voting congregation.

Council has decided that the Call Committee should be elected by the congregation. Council is actively contacting members to develop a pool of candidates who are willing and able to commit to this important task, which may require five hours of effort per week for more than six months.

Any member who would like to be considered for this responsibility should make their interest known to Council. The pool of candidates will be reviewed at our February 21, 2019 Council Meeting. The Council will nominate six of these candidates, who they believe able representative of the diversities within our congregation, for Call Committee membership. These nominees will be presented for a vote at a **called Congregational Meeting on February 24, 2019**: Additional nominations can be made from the floor at that meeting. The six persons receiving the most votes, from the congregation, will constitute our Call Committee.

As is apparent, the work of the Call Committee will have a significant impact upon the quality of our search process, the consideration of candidates, and ultimately the future of our congregation. The decisions that we make in selecting Call Committee members are extremely important, and I encourage all members to be present at our February 24, 2019 Congregational Meeting. And let us give all who are affected through this process-congregants, Pastor, Council, Call Committee, and Synod-our prayerful support.

Your brother in Christ

Duane Brookhart

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

resume on **February 6th**

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 place your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hall outside the office. You may also make reservations on the website at www.messiahlutheranmgm.org.

Messiah Lutheran Church Chili Cook - Off

Messiah Lutheran will once again host its Annual Chili Cook-off on Saturday, February 16th at 6:00 p.m. with some fun and games. Please have your chili here by 5:30 p.m. Prizes awarded for Best Overall, Hottest, and Most Unusual. All are welcome; you don't have to enter a chili to come. Sides and desserts are needed.



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

Pastor:

Rev. Randy Jones

Pastor's Email:

messiahlutheran@aol.com

Office Staff:

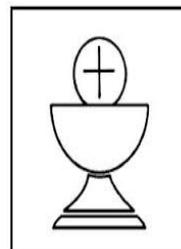
Elizabeth Strickland

Office Email

mlcoffice@messiahlutheranmgm.org

Website:

www.messiahlutheranmgm.org



EUCCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 6:00 pm Pinks & Pearls	2 9:00 am Yarnovers 1:00 pm Girl Scouts
3 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am February Birthdays Celebration 9:00 am 3:30 pm WORG	4 6:30 pm Pinks & Pearls	5 9:00 am Quilters 11:30 am Loose Ladies Lunch Café M Museum of Fine Art 7:00 pm Bell Choir Practice	6 Wonderful Wednesday Hosted by M & M 5:30 Supper 6:30 Worship 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Catechism Class	7 9:30 am Mary's & Martha's	8 6:00 pm Pinks & Pearls	9 9:00 am Art Club 5:00 pm Chili Cook-Off Have Chili here by 4:30 pm
10 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 3:30 L. O. C. O. P.	11 6:00 pm Pinks & Pearls	12 9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm Bell Choir Practice	13 Wonderful Wednesday Hosted by Council 5:30 Supper 6:30 Worship 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Catechism Class	14 Valentine's Day	15 6:00 pm Pinks & Pearls	16 9:00am Yarnovers 1:00 pm Girl Scouts 5:00 pm Chili Cook-Off Have Chili here by 5:30 pm
17 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 3:30 pm WORG	18 Church Office Closed For President's Day 	19 9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm Bell Choir Practice Messiah Messenger Submission Deadline	20 Wonderful Wednesday Hosted by The WTT 5:30 pm Supper 6:15 pm Worship 6:15 pm Kid's Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Catechism	21 6:30 pm Council Meeting	22 9:00 am Art Club Drop In 6:00 pm Pinks & Pearls	23 9:00 am Yarnovers
24 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 9:15 am Congregational Meeting	25	26 9:00 am Quilters 6:00 pm Pinks & Pearls	27 Wonderful Wednesday Hosted by SOMM & Choir 5:30 pm Supper 6:15 pm Worship 6:15 pm Kid's Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Catechism	28		

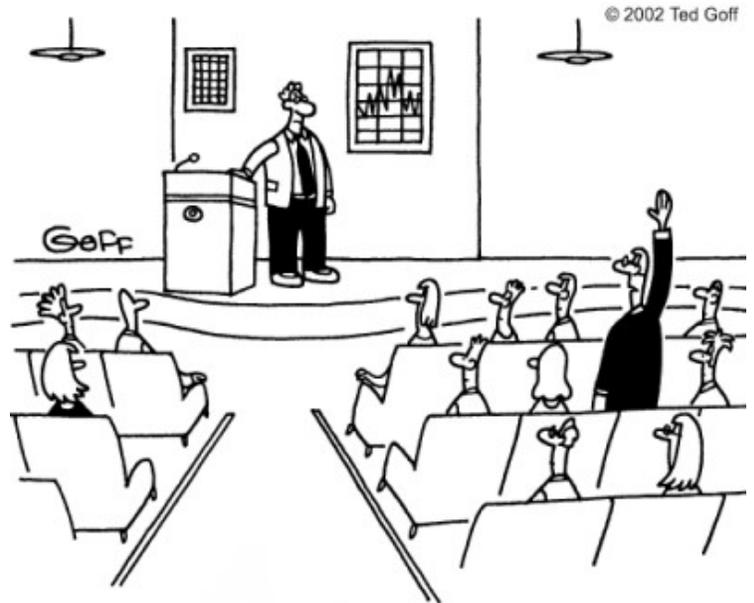
February BIRTHDAYS

1	Ryan Stevenson	16	Kenny Struve, Jr.	26	Ava-Marie King
6	Tara Severance	17	Jya Boykin		Adler King
6	Ben Severance	18	Beatrice		
8	Barbara Dorgan		Severance		
8	Charline Struve		Jim Lincoln		
9	Jim Willoughby	23	Robert Harris		





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"Could we extend the annual meeting? I still have a lot of complaining to do!"

Office will be closed February 18, 2019 in observance of President's Day

Remember your Valentine
February 14, 2019



Congregational Meeting

February 24, 2019
9:15 am

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.