



The Messenger

July 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

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Stewardship – *in the summer?!*

Our parents told us not to talk about politics, sex, or money in polite conversation, and at Messiah, I think we are probably least comfortable with the topic of money! Some of us are frustrated because we don't have enough of it; others of us may be slightly embarrassed because we have plenty of it, and some of us just don't want to talk about it because how much we have and how we use the resources entrusted to us is deeply private business!

But we know that the church has to talk about money, a little. At the Annual Meeting of our congregation in May, **we approved a budget for 2019-2020 of \$192,000, based on confirmed pledges of \$148,400.** It's an ambitious plan, but with your generosity, the addition of non-pledged offerings, and other modest sources of income, we can meet—or even exceed—this financial plan.

Living into this budget will surely be a group effort. It takes a mature Christian to think about, much less act on, a lifestyle of stewardship. Years ago, a young family joined my congregation. Both the husband and the wife were bright and enthusiastic, so after they had been members about a year, I asked the wife if she would consider being a part of the church's Finance Team. Since she worked with numbers in her job, it seemed an obvious fit, and this young mom agreed, but it didn't last because it turned out that she was just too new in her faith. Talking about money and tough decisions regarding the allocation of resources was more than she could handle at her house of worship. I remember her saying to me, "It never dawned on me that churches had to deal with this stuff. I always assumed that things just happened."

Lots of us are like that. We'd prefer to toss our 'dues' in the plate and not think about it. But stewardship is much more than a tally of income and expenses. It is a concrete representation of a congregation's commitment to God's mission. Because of your financial giving through Messiah, children and adults learn about God's grace, sick and shut-in members of our community are visited, young people have a chance to hang out and learn together, hungry people in Montgomery are fed, and every Sunday (plus Wednesdays during the school year) people are prayed for and share the Lord's Supper together. Because of our sharing of our resources with the larger Lutheran church, missionaries are supported, pastors are trained, and when a natural disaster hits, Lutherans are there. Financial giving makes God's love tangible.

But I don't give only because the church and the people it serves need my dollars. **I give because I need to give.** All of faith is an exercise in letting go of myself and trusting the Lord of Love, and that is especially true of my wallet! I need to put more and more of my life in God's hands, worrying less and serving more. As my faith, grows, so does my financial offering. And sometimes I just have to write a check and wait for my mind and my heart to catch up!

Faith and financial giving are deeply personal acts with global reach. As you think about your own stewardship, **I want to encourage you to consider how you can help Messiah demonstrate God's love in this community as well as your own need to let go and let God.** Stewardship is not a once a year sermon; it's a year-round way of life, even during vacation season!

God Loves You, and So Do I!

Pastor Devin

President's Report to the Congregation

Dear Messiah Faithful,

Once again you are stuck with me as your Council President. You suffered so kindly with me during my first time in this roll and I hope you will patient with me during this next period of service.

I am happy to report that the current council is a mixture of the experienced and the new. Those with previous council experience you know and I am grateful to have each of them and that we can leverage their skills for our Congregation. I am excited to welcome "new blood" to the council with the election of Madeline Burkhardt. I know she will bring new and creative ideas to council and to you all.

I also wish to take a moment to say "thank you" to two people leaving the council this year. First, to our outgoing President, Duane Burkhardt, I give thanks for you and send our thanks to you. You led us through the tremendous challenges of pastoral transition and did so with much grace and terrific leadership. I hope your "emeritus" status is short and we get you back on council.

The second person deserves a "big thank you" from each one of us. Peg Walker is hanging up her Treasurer's shingle and passing on these duties after over 20 years. After nearly 42 years of marriage, I'm still not allowed to touch the checkbook, yet Peg has done so much more than manage our checkbook as she handled all the salary computation and execution duties and each month provided a comprehensive budget report to the council. Most of you know that each year the council directs an audit of our "books" and I am not aware of there ever being a discrepancy with our Treasurer's management in all the years Peg served our church. I hope all of you will find a way to say, "Well done good and faithful servant!" when next you see her. She says

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2019-2020 Church Council

	Office/Position	Ministry Team
Steve Wright	President	Mission Planning
Paul Morton	Vice President	Financial Operations
John Glendening	Council Member	Building & Grounds
Madeline Burkhardt	Council Member	Community Outreach
Melissa Hataway	Council Member	Youth
Chris Sellers	Council Member	Worship & Music
Pr. Devin Strong (Interim)	Council Member	Memorials
OPEN	Council Member	Congregational Care
Doris Underwood	Council Member	Parish Administration, Learning
Linda Jones*	Financial Secretary	
OPEN*	Treasurer	
Jim Willoughby*	Recording Secty.	

* Non-voting members, appointed by Council

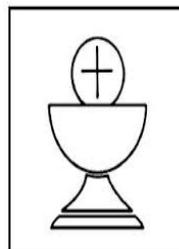
Calling All Musicians

If you've been wanting to sing or dust off an old instrument, now is your chance. We are looking for soloists, small groups, and instrumentalists to share their God given talents with us this summer. If you are interested, please call Tara Severance at 261-1735 (H), call or text 201-3160 (C), or email tarelharmel@knology.net.

Messiah Lutheran Worship & Contact Information

SUNDAYS
Worship - 8:00 & 10:45 am
Sunday School
Adults - 9:15 am
Children - 9:15 am
NO WONDERFUL
WEDNESDAYS UNTIL
THE FALL

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Interim Pastor: Rev. Devin Strong
Pastor's Email: pastordevinstrong@gmail.com
Office Staff: Donna Sparks
Office Email: mlcoffice@messiahlutheranmgm.org
Website: www.messiahlutheranmgm.org



EUCCHARIST EVERY
SUNDAY
&
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

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she has travel plans for most of July and August, so catch her when you can!

Peg's departure does leave us short a Treasurer. If you are interested in this service to our Congregation, then please contact me or Paul Morton, Vice President and Financial Representative on the council. Also, do take note that this position is an appointed one that the council approves each year in accordance to our constitution.

Two final things for your consideration. First, the Call Committee continues its work to find our next pastor and I hope you all take every opportunity to thank this team. Second, please mark your calendars for Sunday, August 18 as we have the privilege to host our new Synod Bishop-elect, Kevin Strickland, to preach for us and spend the Sunday School hour answering our questions from our perspective as a small church with concerns for the future-- both in terms of a new pastor and the ELCA. It would be a wonderful opportunity for us to provide him feedback and insights as he prepares to take on the leadership of the Synod. I hope everyone will make the time to attend this important event in our church life.

Yours in Christ,
Steve Wright

Many Thanks for Jeff Davis Food Baskets



The King Williams Food Distribution was conducted on June 18. We purchased 1,602 pounds of food for \$437.85, with a commercial value of \$2,691.36 for 72 residents. While there are 92 living in the residence, not all participate.

A special thanks to Bill and Jeff Glendening who hauled food and supervised the unloading at King Williams in the rain.

A special thanks to Linda Jones, Eliana Hataway, Grayson Hataway, Katy Duvall, and Kathryn Wiloughby.

As always, thanks to those who faithfully contribute your financial support.

The next food distribution will be on Tuesday, September 18, 2019 at 3:00 PM.

Worship Ministry Informational Sessions

Have you ever thought, "Hey, I can do that!" when considering the following areas of service?

**Greeter
Lector**

**Crucifer
Lay Assistant**

**Communion Assistant
Altar Guild**

**Usher
Choir Member**

If so, then **WE NEEDED YOOOU** and we are here to help! There are many ways that you can share your time and talents with others, and we want to show you how! We will have two informational sessions on Sunday, August 4 and Sunday, August 11 during the Sunday School hour, 9:15a-10:15a.

Please note that these sessions are open to all members--those who are serving, those who are thinking about serving, and those who just want to see how it all works. We promise we won't ask you to sign on the dotted line. For those who have served, please attend for refreshers and to reassure new volunteers that they can do it!

Please contact Tara Severance at 334-261-1735 (H), 334-201-3160 (C), tarelharmel@knology.net or the church office if you are interested.

Your Sister in Christ,
Tara Severance



On the Schedule for .. July 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	2 11:30 am Loose Ladies @ Mr. G's	3	4	5 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	6
7 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 9:15 am Sunday School July Birthdays Celebration 9:00 am 1-3 pm Young WOK 3:30 pm WORG	8 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	9 9:00 am Quilters 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	10 9:00 am Quilters 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	11 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	12 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	13 9:00 am Art Club
14 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 9:15 am Sunday School 1-3 pm Young WOK 3:30 pm LOCOP	15 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	16 9:00 am Quilters 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	17 9:00 am Quilters 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	18 6:30 pm Council Meeting	19 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	20 9:00 am Yarnovers
21 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 9:15 am Sunday School 1-3 pm Young WOK 3:30 pm WORG	22 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	23 9:00 am Quilters Messiah Messenger Submission Deadline	24 9:00 am Quilters	25	26 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	27
28 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 9:15 am Sunday School 1-3 pm Young WOK	29 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	30 9:00 am Quilters	31 9:00 am Quilters			

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Katrina Matzer
5 Tyler Jackson
9 Eliana Hataway
11 Kenneth Collier,
Robyn Stoner,
Liz Wright
20 Iola Williams
22 Mark Schreiber
23 Leif Garrison
31 Lillie Bivins





*The Church Office
will be closed on
July 4th*

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.