



The Messenger

August 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](#)
- [Church Workday Planned](#)
- [Worship Ministry Sessions](#)
- [Adult Choir Rehearsal Resumes](#)
- [August Calendar](#)
- [August Birthdays](#)



The Hope of the World

I am of two minds. I am nearly despondent over the news.

A couple of weeks ago our president publicly told four congresswomen of color to "Go back where they came from." Of course there has always been criticism back and forth between the two political parties. Reasonable people can and do disagree on policies, and it is certainly fair to hold the women accountable for statements that they have made in the past, but never before have I heard our political barbs get so personal, telling fellow Americans to 'Go home.' I doubt that this would have been said if the women were white. Then last weekend our president began criticizing Democratic congressman Elijah Cummings. Nothing unusual about that. Cummings has certainly criticized the president, but then President Trump began lambasting Cummings' district in Maryland as a "disgusting...rodent-infested mess" where "no human being would want to live." For sure there is some blight in Baltimore as there is in all big cities and many rural areas, but I cannot remember a politician talking about an American city as wholly other like this before. Then Sunday brought us another mass shooting where three were killed at an outdoor festival in Gilroy, California, and by Tuesday two more people were gunned down by a disgruntled employee at a Walmart in Southaven, Mississippi. Perhaps the saddest thing about these last incidents is that they have become so common that neither rated much coverage in our news. I fear that we are losing something essential in our society.

But as a Christian, I can't help but have hope.

From August 5th-9th Lutherans from all over the country will be gathering in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for our biennial ELCA Churchwide Assembly, and this fall Messiah will be sending a team of people to participate in our Synod's Transformational Ministry 2.0 Now, you may think that it's downright weird that I find encouragement in a couple of denominational meetings! After all, most of us have sat around plenty of conference tables in our lives, and it's hard to imagine the world changing much because of a couple more such gatherings, but I have given my professional life over to this thing called Jesus' church, and you give a noticeable chunk of your time and treasure over to the same. I do it because I honestly believe that God's church is the hope of the world, and I hope that you have the same conviction. Christians are by no means perfect, but when hundreds of them gather in Milwaukee for several days to discuss mission and ministry, I have to believe that they will nudge the needle a bit more toward God's justice and mercy.

Likewise, I am excited that Gene Klocke, Katrina Manzer, Kay Owens, and Chuck Wray are joining me for the Synod's TM 2.0. It's a two-year project where Messiah will join other Lutheran churches in Montgomery/Birmingham to explore ways that we can turn ourselves from being inward-focused churches to becoming outward-focused churches. Under the direction of the Southeastern Synod's Director of Evangelical Mission, we will look at best practices, what works and what doesn't, and we will NOT BE DOING THIS ALONE. The team will be bringing back spiritual practices, ideas, initiatives, and "homework" for the whole congregation of Messiah to consider. Messiah already does a good deal to support the kids of E.D. Nixon School and provide food for many hungry people in the area, but there is no doubt that we can change even more lives outside our church walls.

All this is to say that despite the real problems in the world, but I find hope in YOU. God gathered Christians together to address the hurts around us. God has a mission, and God's mission is the church. With God holding us and driving us, there is no telling what we can do in Jesus' name.

God Loves You, and So Do I!

Pastor Devin

President's Report to the Congregation

Dear Messiah Faithful,

The Gospel of Matthew ends with the Great Commission that Jesus tasked to the disciples. He sent them out to baptize and teach others all that He had taught them. We, too, should accept Jesus' commission and bring others to our worship and help them learn of Jesus and the disciples and, perhaps, some will be baptized for the first time into a life of faith.

At our July Church Council meeting we discussed creating a challenge for all the faithful at Messiah Lutheran Church. The task is a light one: the Great Commission Challenge of Messiah asks each family to bring another family to worship with us during this next church year, which ends on 30 May 2020. Who knows, we might gain new members in the effort to be as inviting as we are friendly.

There is Council news to share with you, too. Diane Davis volunteered, and Council approved her joining the Council to serve as the representative for Congregational Care. We are still in need of a Treasurer and if you are interested in helping the church in this capacity, then please see me or Paul Morton.

Yours in Faith,

Steve Wright
Council President

ATTENTION ALL MESSIAH BUSHWHACKERS!!

We will have a Building and Grounds workday on Saturday, Aug. 10th, starting at 8 a.m.

The primary focus of this workday will be to trim up the bushes surrounding the church and the church's sign, and to get rid of weeds from those bush-bedding areas. If we have enough workers, it should not take long and there may even be enough time to power wash the front sidewalk.



While we do have some tools, if you have a favorite trimming tool, it will be welcome, also! We are looking to wrap this up before the heat of the day becomes too much.

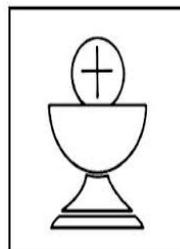
Thank you,
John Glendening,
Building and Grounds Council Coordinator

Attention Adult Choir!
Adult Choir Practice will resume
Wednesday, August 14th
at 7:00 pm.

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**

Lutheran Link to Lady Liberty *(Originally printed in the July 3, 1986 Rod & Staff issue)*

This week the centennial of the Statue of Liberty is observed amid much hoopla and fanfare. You'll undoubtedly hear much of the statue's creator, sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi (1834-1904), a Frenchman of artistic distinction.

What you may not hear, and what you need to know, is that Bartholdi was a Lutheran, born in the province of Alsace, on the French-German border.

Other Lutheran Links to Independence History include:

1. In 1776 it was a Lutheran boy who called out the Lutheran Sexton to ring the Liberty Bell.
2. In 1777, when it appeared to be in danger from the British, the Liberty Bell was moved from Philadelphia to Allentown by Lutheran layman, Frederick Leiser. Leiser got permission from Zion Lutheran Church in Allentown to hide the bell under the church's floor, where it stayed safely hidden until the Revolution was ended.
3. Maryland Delegate John Hanson was elected President of the Continental Congress, and served until George Washington was inaugurated as the President of the newly constituted United States of America. Hanson was a prominent Lutheran church leader.
4. Lutheran Pastor Frederick A. C. Muhlenberg, was the first Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.
5. Lutheran Pastor Peter Muhlenberg (Frederick's brother) was a driving force in the Virginia Legislature, who in 1785 secured passage of a bill establishing complete religious freedom in that State. Other states copied that legislation and, eventually the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution resulted from Muhlenberg's initiative.
6. Lutheran layman John Treutlen was the first Governor of the State of Georgia. He was from the Savannah area, a member of the Saltzburg Lutheran community that had settled near Savannah in 1734.



Worship Ministry Informational Sessions

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

Greeter
Usher
Altar Guild

Crucifer
Lector
Choir Member

Communion Assistant
Lay Assistant



If so, then **WE NEEED 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,

On the Schedule for .. August 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
	6:30 pm Pinks & Pearls				6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	
4 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 9:15 am Sunday School <u>August Birthdays</u> Celebration 9:00 am 1-3 pm Young WOK 3:30 pm WORG	5 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	6 9:00 am Quilters 11:30 am Loose Ladies @ Sinclairs, Vaughn Road	7 9:00 am Quilters	8	9 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	10 8:00 am Church Workday 9:00 am Art Club
11 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 9:15 am Sunday School; Worship Servant Training 1-3 pm Young WOK 3:30 pm LOCOP	12 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	13 9:00 am Quilters	14 9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm Adult Choir	15 6:30 pm Council Meeting	16 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	17 9:00 am Yarnovers 1-3:00 Girl Scouts
18 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 9:15 am Sunday School (Bishop-Elect Kevin Strickland Preaching) 1-3 pm Young WOK 3:30 pm WORG	19 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	20 9:00 am Quilters Messiah Messenger Submission Deadline	21 9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm Adult Choir	22	23 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	24
25 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 9:15 am Sunday School 1-3 pm Young WOK	26 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	27 9:00 am Quilters	28 9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm Adult Choir	29	30	31

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Charles Wray	18 Adam Strickland
5 Duane Brookhart	27 Diane Davis
6 Kathryn Willoughby	28 Anneliese Nelson
11 Iran Street, Jr.	29 Jeff Glendinging
16 LuAnn Marz	30 Cheryl Harris
17 James Wirshing	

