



The Messenger

September 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](#)
- [God's Work, Our Hands](#)
- [King Williams Food Baskets](#)
- [Wonderful Wednesdays](#)
- [September Calendar](#)
- [September Birthdays](#)



The Larger Church – You are a part of it!

Sitting in the pews at Messiah on a hot September Sunday, it may be difficult to remember that “the church” is much bigger and broader than our congregation. Specifically, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is made up of nearly 5,000,000 members in nearly 10,000 congregations across the country. From August 5-10, 2019 more than 900 voting members from those congregations gathered for our triennial Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee. When faithful Christians gather, they can do powerful things Here is a list of some of the important actions that the Churchwide Assembly took:

- Reelected on the first ballot the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton to a six-year term as ELCA presiding bishop.
- Approved the social statement "*Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action*" and its implementing resolutions. The social statement, in part, names patriarchy and sexism as sins and calls the church to action on a range of issues, including gender-based violence, workplace discrimination and economic inequality.
- Adopted "A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment," which will serve as church policy for inter-religious relations. The policy statement was adopted with the witness of 39 ecumenical and inter-religious guests in attendance.
- Approved the triennium budget for 2020-2022, which includes a current fund spending authorization of \$68,378,325 for 2020, a current fund income proposal of \$68,442,034 for 2021 and \$68,507,018 for 2022; and an ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21.5 million 2020, and an income proposal of \$21.5 million for 2021 and for 2022.
- Adopted the "Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA," which consists of a report and recommendations on how the ELCA exhibits authentic diversity and formulates goals for racial diversity and inclusion.
- Adopted 26 memorials en bloc, ranging in topics from gun violence to engagement in the Holy Land and gender identity to seminary tuition.
- Adopted a memorial that affirms the ELCA's long-standing commitment to migrants and refugees and declares the ELCA a sanctuary church body. (To read more about what it means to be a “Sanctuary Church,” see these talking points from Presiding Bishop Eaton: https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA_SanctuaryDenomination_TalkingPoints.pdf)
- Adopted a memorial that calls for the development of a social statement and social

Continued on Page 2

President's Report to the Congregation

Continued from Page 1

Dear Messiah Faithful,

I hope most of you joined us for Family and Friends Sunday on August 18th. We enjoyed a powerful message from our synod's new Bishop-elect Kevin Strickland. The only thing better was his welcoming and friendly demeanor that *almost* matched those two key aspects of our congregational membership! So, here's a shout out to the Bishop-elect, but also to each of you for making the event such a memorable one.

During his visit, the Bishop-elect asked to meet with the Messiah Church Council and due to his tight schedule, we combined Sunday lunch with church business. I apologize for anyone disappointed that we did not have a potluck, but I hope the forum and the social time between services provided time for you to get to know Pastor Strickland a bit better. At the lunch he asked us what we felt were our congregational strengths and desired areas for improvement. We noted that *you all* are our strength with your compassionate caring and welcoming spirit. Things we'd like to improve include youth and community ministry. As you might expect, some of this discussion was in light of our Call efforts and you can expect more from our Call Committee as time goes by.

Speaking of memorable events, I hope many of you enjoyed the preaching of our very own Pastor Tiffany Chaney. She is holding down the "fort" for Pastor Strong while he and Chris enjoy a well-deserved vacation. However, I don't think she held "down" the fort – I think she raised it up and all of us with it. So, please say "thank you" when next you see Pastor Tiffany.

Please continue to pray for and support the Messiah family and especially those who are sick, shut in, or otherwise in need. And speaking of those in need, please contribute both your time and gifts to our 2019 God's Hands, Our Work day which we will celebrate on Sunday, September 8th, after the second service. We will be packing "purses" for women recently released from prison to help them transition to everyday life outside prison. Our point person is Madeline Burkhardt so please see her with questions or, we hope, a willing spirit to pitch in and help.

Thank you all for being...well, you all! You are without a doubt the friendliest church Liz and I have ever found within the ELCA and outside our synod. I pray we never lose this spirit.

Yours in faith,
Steve Wright, Council President

message on the relationship of church and state.

- Adopted a memorial to encourage all synods and congregations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women in 2020, the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color in the Lutheran tradition and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to remove barriers to ordination for people in same-gender relationships.
 - Adopted a memorial to support the vision and goals of the Poor People's Campaign that align with the ELCA's social teachings.
 - Adopted a resolution that committed the ELCA to support the World Council of Church's "Thursdays in Black" campaign toward a world without rape and violence.
 - Adopted a resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance in the ELCA for the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9—the nine people who were shot and killed June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.
 - Adopted a resolution to condemn white supremacy, calling all ELCA congregations to engage in a "study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God."
- I am proud to be a Lutheran when our church stands up for justice in many ways!
God Loves You, and So Do I!



**The Church Office will be closed
Monday, Sept. 2nd for Labor Day.**

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

Choir—7:00 pm

Office Hours:

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

Interim Pastor:

Rev. Devin Strong

Pastor's Email:

pastordevinstrong@gmail.com

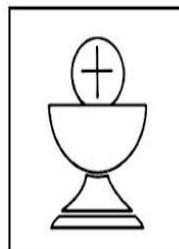
Office Staff:

Office Email

mlcoffice@messiahlutheranmgm.org

Website:

www.messiahlutheranmgm.org



**EUCCHARIST EVERY
SUNDAY
&
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

King Williams (formerly Jeff Davis) Food Basket Support



As a part of Messiah Lutheran Mission plan, the support of food baskets delivered to the residents of the Jeff Davis apartments (Now King Williams Housing) occurs four times a year. The King Williams food basket program has had generous contributions made in the past and we need to raise only \$300.00. for the September 17 food distribution. I anticipate spending approximately \$700.00 to purchase approximately 3200 pounds of food for approximately 72 residents.

The total \$700.00 will purchase 3200 lbs. of food. That equates to 35 lbs. of food for each resident with a retail value of approximately \$5,000.00. The Messiah service team will purchase food from the Montgomery Area Food Bank. The distribution of the food will be at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17, 2019. Your volunteer support to distribute the food will be appreciated.

Questions call or contact Jim Willoughby, Messiah Activity Coordinator;
334-300-2326 (C) jmsnwo@gmail.com.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

resume on **September 11th**
RSVP Supper 5:30 p.m.
Worship 6:15 p.m.
Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.

You can make reservations by contacting the church office, call 277-4213, e-mail

mlcoffice@messiahlutheranmngm.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.messiahlutheranmngm.org.

Sunday, September 8, 2019

Messiah will join ELCA Lutherans from across the country for this day of service! Join us after the late service. Lunch will be provided. And don't forget to wear your Messiah T-shirt!



When women are released from prison, they are only handed the belongings they came in with. Sometimes these clothes do not fit and many times, their living arrangements have changed. To help these mothers get back on their feet, Aid to Inmate Mothers has a program called Pack-a-Purse. With Pack-a-Purse volunteers pack and donate gently used purses, totes, or backpacks filled with full size toiletries, feminine hygiene products, gift cards, makeup, undergarments, and/or pajamas. These purses are handed to each mother as she leaves prison. On September 8, 2019 for God's Work Our Hands, we will be packing purses for AIM in the fellowship hall. Please bring in item donations from the list below or monetary donations. And talk to Madeline Burkhardt for more information. Messiah will provide the purses/bags. This effort will allow us to expand our outreach to a new ministry and help those who are so overlooked.

Items Needed:

- Toiletry Items — full size items (comb/brush, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, lotions, feminine products)
- New undergarments — Bras, panties, socks (please include plus sizes)
- Gift cards (Wal-Mart, Target, CVS, Walgreens)
- Pick-me-up Items (make-up, gift card to restaurant/movie theater)
- Pajamas (include women's plus sizes)

Sunday School Begins September 8th

- Kindergarten-high school
- 9:15-10:15 each week
- Sign up in the Narthex so we know how many to plan for
- Come sing with us and learn with us!

On the Schedule for .. September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 9:15 am Sunday School September Birthdays Celebration 9:00 am 1-3 pm Young WOK 3:30 pm WORG	2 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	3 9:00 am Quilters	4 7:00 pm Adult Choir	5	6 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	7
8 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 9:15 am Sunday School 1-3 pm Young WOK 3:30 pm LOCOP	9 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	10 9:00 am Quilters	11 9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm Adult Choir	12	13 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	14 9:00 am Art Club
15 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 9:15 am Sunday School 1-3 pm Young WOK 3:30 pm WORG	16 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	17 9:00 am Quilters	18 9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm Adult Choir	19 6:30 pm Council Meeting	20 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	21 9:00 am Yarnovers 1-3:00 Girl Scouts
22 Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 9:15 am Sunday School 1-3 pm Young WOK 3:30 pm WORG	23 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	24 9:00 am Quilters Messiah Messenger Submission Deadline	25 9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm Adult Choir	26	27 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls	28
25th Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am 9:15 am Sunday School 1-3 pm Young WOK	30 6:00 pm Pink & Pearls				30	31

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Judy McCune	Steven Robert Jones
6 Cathy Brow	23 Linda Henderson,
10 Haley Petrey	James Staples
15 Faye Bozeman	24 Jane Stambaugh
17 James Wirshing	
20 Abigail Strickland,	

