



Messiah Messenger

June 2021

Messiah's Mission: *To know Christ and to make Christ known through the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all through a Word and Sacrament ministry of worship, Christian Education, fellowship, outreach and service.*

Rev. Jason Peterson, Vacancy Pastor

Rick Krueger, Parish Assistant

Vonda Smestad, Preschool Director

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Often tragic events or difficult times leave us wondering, "Why would God allow this?" "Did God cause this?" "Is God really a loving Father?"

We are told that God is good, and we know that He is all-powerful, because that's part of the definition of being God. We also observe that there is substantial suffering in the world. Tragedies and other events occur which cause pain and suffering for people.

We cannot deny the existence of suffering, so we wonder if God is really good or if God is really all-powerful. It seems to us that if God is good, then He would certainly use His power to prevent these things from happening, and if He is all-powerful, His goodness would certainly move Him to intervene. This leaves us to wonder how we can reconcile our experience of suffering with the fact of God's power and goodness.

The trouble is that we do not know all things, but only know as much about God as He has chosen to reveal. We know that trouble is the fault of sin's general effect on the world that things no longer work as they should. Although we see incidents of God's miraculous intervention to relieve suffering recorded in Scripture, and perhaps anecdotal reports in present days, we also have no promise that He will always do so, and we observe that He ordinarily does not (thus the times He does being noteworthy).

More importantly, though, we know that He has revealed Himself to humanity through the life of Jesus and the other events of the Bible foretelling and proclaiming His life, death, and resurrection. Even though He has not revealed the inner workings of His mind or the reasoning behind His ways, He has demonstrated His goodness to us in Jesus.

This is where we look for Hope. He chose not to immediately inflict upon humanity the well-deserved punishment for our sin, but He Himself came down to be our substitute in suffering death and condemnation. By this, He demonstrates His goodness to us, and if He has intervened in this self-sacrificing way on our behalf, we can certainly trust that He will do all things for our good. While we may not understand events in the moment, we know that He is for us and not against us because of what we have witnessed in Jesus.

We know that the suffering of this world is only for a time but that He and His promises are eternal, so we look forward with anticipation for the day when He will put an end to the suffering of this world by making all things new in a creation that will forever be free from sin and the suffering it brings.

Pastor Peterson

Messiah Updates for June

WORSHIP UPDATE: Our summer schedule has begun!

- From **Sunday, May 30th** (Memorial Day weekend) through **Sunday, September 5th** (Labor Day weekend), there will be one worship service held at **10:00 am**. This service will also be livestreamed at
 - www.tinyurl.com/messiahgryoutube (our YouTube channel)
 - www.messiahgr.org (our church website)
 - www.facebook.com/messiahgr (our Facebook page)
- Adult Bible Class will be held at **9:00 am** from **Sunday, June 6th through Sunday, August 29th**; Sunday School and LifeLight will be in recess for the summer. We are working on arrangements to have Adult Bible Class livestreamed as well.
- Monday night services will also be held from **Monday, June 7th through Monday, August 30th at 7:00 pm**. (One exception: there will be no evening service on **Monday, July 5th**.)

At their May meetings, Messiah's Board of Elders and Church Council approved the following changes to our *In-Person Worship Guidelines*:

- The Council approved the exemption of those who are fully vaccinated from wearing face coverings, effective immediately. (Those who are not medically able to tolerate a face covering are also exempt.)
- The Elders approved the following changes, effective **Sunday, May 30th**:
 - Resuming the use of hymnals and fellowship pads.
 - Hymns will no longer be printed in the regular service folder; printing of all other worship elements in the service folder will continue.
 - Extra copies of the large print service folder will be printed for those who prefer not to use hymnals at this time. (We will also resume printing an insert with weekly prayer requests, announcements and upcoming events.)
 - Congregants should take service folders with them for reference, then recycle or discard them at home.
- When Holy Communion is offered, revised distribution protocols will be in use:
 - The Pastor and Elders involved in distribution will continue to wear masks and gloves.
 - 4-6 individuals (2-3 households) will be ushered forward to each half of the communion rail at a time, in order to maintain social distancing.
 - Communicants may kneel or stand.
 - Communicants will receive the Body of Christ in their open hand from the Elder.
 - Communicants will take an individual cup from the tray held by the Pastor to receive the Blood of Christ.
 - Communicants will place the empty cup in the slot on the communion rail.

Messiah Updates for June, continued:

- Communicants who prefer to receive the Sacrament in the pews will be asked to notify the Elder or Ushers before the service begins.

You can find the complete revised *Worship Guidelines* on the front page of www.messiahgr.org. We anticipate that the Elders and Council will take up the State of Michigan's scheduled lifting of COVID-19 restrictions at their June meetings.

BUILDING USE UPDATE: Please note that Messiah's staff will return to regular onsite office hours on **Tuesday, June 1st**. We ask that those who are not fully vaccinated continue to wear face coverings while interacting with others in the building, and that everyone would continue to observe indoor gathering size limits and social distancing during the coming month, unless otherwise noted.

A MESSAGE FROM MESSIAH'S PRESIDENT

Dear faithful Members of Messiah,

Our pastoral vacancy began over 2 years ago. We have placed 8 calls and had 8 calls returned. God was preparing our hearts for the man he had already chosen. The wait is nearly over. Our assigned seminarian Andrew Twietmeyer graduated on May 21; Synod will officially approve him for ministry at our congregation in the near future.

In anticipation of Pastor-Elect Twietmeyer's arrival, we as the Council are preparing for his ordination service. We ask you to save the date of **Saturday, June 19th** as the likely date we will hold this service. We want to warmly receive him and hold a social gathering (outdoors if weather permits) after the service.

Ordination of a pastor into the ministry is a sacred event and many of Pastor Twietmeyer's family as well as local pastors will want to be in attendance. We also want as many of our congregation to be able to attend as possible. In light of these circumstances we are planning for a high attendance at this service.

The guidelines set out by the State of Michigan have exempted churches from gathering size limits for some time now; Messiah's Elders and Church Council had chosen to be more safety conscious than these guidelines have required. For this special service we will modify the seating arrangements to accommodate the larger expected crowd size. We want to do this while still providing areas for those who are continuing to wear masks and socially distance.

The sanctuary seating will not be socially distanced and all of the pews will be open. There will be areas in the narthex that will have seating that will be distanced as well as a live stream broadcast that will be shown in the fellowship hall and on the internet.

So we can plan well for all of the above, we will be asking you to RSVP for the ordination service and the social gathering. We will share fuller details once the date and time of the service have been confirmed.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions. Praise God that he has brought us through this time and now we are joyfully looking forward to receiving our new shepherd.

Yours in Christ, David Ahrens, President, Messiah Lutheran Church

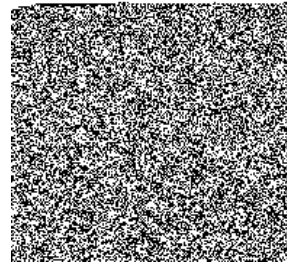
Messiah Updates for June, continued:

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE gifts to Messiah in memory of **Sam Hilton** from Theodatta Shattuck, William Bailey, Robert Gritter, Larry & Sandy Goodlander, Rick & Deb Krueger, Gary & Nancy Buss, Diane Wheeler, Marcie Merkle, Elaine Jingles, Dale & Dody Reinke, Mark & Laura Altemann, Mary Ann Snell, Dwight & Marlene Anderson, Mike & Carol Mushong, Dan & Sabrasue Miller, Rev & Mrs. Terry Hoese, Dan & Sharon Hula, Alan & Jolyn Stockwell and Eunice Floriup.

RECOGNIZING OUR GRADUATES: Messiah will recognize our 2021 high school and college graduates as part of our Sunday worship this coming month! We are happy to celebrate with these young brothers & sisters in Christ on **Sunday, June 6th**.

Keegan Martens, Forest Hills Eastern High School
Nicole Ottenjan, Northview High School

Andrew Ahrens, Cornerstone University
Logan Bohlinger, Albion College (2020)
Spencer Bohlinger, Hillsdale College
Megan Khodl, Northern Michigan University
Brandyn Kirchhoff, Carthage College
Kendra Veitengruber, Grand Valley State University



Congratulations, graduates! May God continue to bless you and guide you.

MESSIAH'S 2021 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is scheduled for **Monday-Friday, June 14th – 18th from 9:00 - 11:45 a.m.** The theme, "God's Wonder Lab", will enable children to learn how Jesus does the impossible, giving us eternal life with Him! Bible School is for preschoolers through students entering sixth grade.



Kids will learn that:

- Jesus is God and cares about me! (*Jesus' First Miracle*, John 2:1-12)
- Jesus is with me all the time! (*Jesus Walks on Water*, Matthew 14:22-33)
- Jesus heals me! (*Jesus Gives Life*, Mark 5:21-43)
- Jesus saves me and gives me life (*Jesus Appears to His Followers*, Luke 24:36-49))
- Jesus calls me to tell about Him! (*Jesus Sends Paul*, Acts 9:1-19)

VBS is a team effort! Volunteers are needed. See the VBS Signup sheets at the information desk or contact Linda Blain at 616 288-5594. Please pray. Then find a way you can help and sign up!

We also encourage you to let others know about our VBS. They (and you) can sign up children and grandchildren online at <https://vbsmate.com/events/messiah2021/19888>

Messiah Updates for June, continued:

FINAL PROOF - New Church Directory: I have placed a copy of the information pages at the welcome center (along with a red ink pen), I would appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to do one last proof of the information I have for you and your family. Feel free to make any corrections or changes right on these pages and if everything looks okay, if you could place a check mark by the family. If I don't have any of the information needed for someone, please contact me in the office or write it on the back page of this printout. Thank you so much for all your help and patience. Sandy Goodlander

From the Parish Assistant

As others have said elsewhere in the newsletter, our wait is nearly over; the Lord is sending us a pastor soon! I've already been working with Pastor-Elect Twietmeyer via cell phone and email, looking forward to his arrival among us at Messiah. I definitely look forward to serving you alongside this young man whom God has undoubtedly called (through us, the Michigan District-LCMS and Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne) to the ministry of Word and Sacrament here in Plainfield Township.

As we head into the home stretch of our pastoral vacancy, I want to thank the many, many people who have contributed to the ongoing life of Messiah during 2 ½ years that were even more challenging and unpredictable than any of us might have expected!

Thanks to our vacancy pastors, who provided spiritual care throughout both our vacancy and the COVID-19 pandemic: Rev. James Blain and Rev. Jason Peterson. Thanks to the other pastors who brought God's Word to us as supply preachers: Rev. William Cate; Rev. Frank Graves; Rev. Thomas Hackett; Rev. Dieter Haupt; Rev. Terry Hoese; Rev. Dennis Lassanske; Rev. Roger Mackie; and Rev. North Sherrill.

Thanks to Messiah's staff, Office Manager Sandy Goodlander and Custodian Chris Jost, for their unwavering commitment and dedication. Thanks to our past and present preschool staff, led by director Vonda Smestad, as well as the parents and caregivers who entrusted their children to us.

Thanks to everyone involved with Messiah's leadership on boards, committees and auxiliaries for their faithfulness and their hard work in constantly changing circumstances. And thanks to all of you – my brothers and sisters in Christ here in this congregation – for your prayers, support, Christian care and fellowship!

As we prepare for Pastor Twietmeyer's ordination and installation, we can confidently say with the Psalmist, "This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:23-24 ESV). May we welcome, sustain and care for our new undershepherd as he leads in following the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, through the green pastures of His saving Word to eternal life!

Rick Krueger, Parish Assistant

Women's Ministry

2022 GARAGE SALE: We are once again accepting your donations for another garage sale for the **spring of 2022**. There is a new drop off location near the back of the basement so we don't interfere with preschool space. Thanks for your help. Sandy, Lori and Becky

Other

INTERESTED IN REACHING OUT WITH INTEREST?

Phil. 2:4: "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." You can help fulfill this passage by reaching out with your interest in providing facilities for ministry. Want to find out how your investment in Church Extension Fund earns interest but also builds for Christ? For more information, contact Richard Tank at (616) 690-4525, call 800-242-3944, or visit the website at cef@mi-cef.org.

(The information provided here is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy CEF securities. The offering of CEF securities is made solely by our Offering Circular. CEF will offer and sell our securities only in states where authorized. The securities are subject to certain risk factors as described in our Offering Circular. CEF investments are not insured by the FDIC, SIPC, or any other governmental agency.)

West Michigan Lutheran School News:

WEST MICHIGAN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL is now enrolling for the 2021-2022 school year. An affordable and exemplary Christ-centered education that is within your reach. Contact the WML office at (616) 455-2200 or email office@wmlhs.org to get the simple and easy enrollment paperwork. WML Looks forward to teaching your child!

WEST MICHIGAN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL is in the process of calling a new full-time teacher in the subject areas of Math and Science OR Math and English. If you are interested in applying, please call the school office at 616-455-2200 or email principal Kristine Angers at kangers@wmlhs.org. WMLHS desires teachers who can help prepare students for the rigors of college courses, but who also strive to serve students in these transitional high school years to rely on their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as they become productive members of society. Non-called workers who are interested in becoming called workers may also apply.

WEST MICHIGAN LUTHERAN is seeking to fill an administrative assistant position. Candidate needs to have good communication skills, computer proficiency especially Excel/Google Sheets, and QuickBooks experience. This is a 25 hour a week position. Please contact Kristine Angers for more information at kangers@wmlhs.org or call 616-455-2200.



MUSTANG GOLF CHALLENGE The annual Mustang Golf Challenge at Yankee Springs Golf Course (12300 Bowens Mill Rd. Wayland) is on **July 17th**. This event is a four-person scramble with a **9:00 am shotgun start**. Ticket prices are the same as last year's event at \$80.00 per player with a \$5.00 discount for WML Alumni. Along with purchased ticket, players will receive use of a golf cart, win prizes, participate in a lunch. For those 21years or older, there will be a bloody Mary/mimosa open bar from 8-9am. All players must be **registered by July 8th**. Contact Kristine Angers at kangers@wmlhs.org or call (616)455-2200 to register. All proceeds for the Mustang Golf Challenge go towards WML tuition assistance. Sponsorship opportunities are also available so contact the WML school office or email kangers@wmlhs.org for more details.

IN OUR PRAYERS



- ✦ Those with immediate prayer concerns: **(Bernie & Eileen Ottenjan, Glen Ottenjan, Theona Gee, Mike Mull, Roger Drehs, Elaine Jingles, Sharon Navarre); Cheryl Phillips-Lemieux**, friend of Sandy & Larry Goodlander; **Theresa Michalak**, friend of Cherryl Potter & Barb Conner; **Steve Tillotson**, son of Norda Tillotson; **Randy Lawrence**, friend of Max and Barb Conner; **David Gleisner**, cousin of Bill & Barb Brinkman; **Ken Harrington**, friend of Bill & Rita VanEtten; **Larry Wilson**, brother of Dick Wilson; **Debby King Lang**, stepdaughter of Shirley Lang; and **Alexis White**, granddaughter of Rev. & Rosy Masih.
- ✦ Those with ongoing prayer concerns: **(MaryAnn Snell, Doris Kayser, Dody Reinke, Claudia London, Kathy Mueller); David Brock**, friend of Sandy & Larry Goodlander; **Sharry Milner**, daughter in-law of Shirley Lang; **Tina Eikenroth**, friend of Matt VanEtten.
- ✦ Those serving in the military: **Eric Gerke**, grandson of Judy Gerke; **Andrew Feigel**, nephew of Al & Renee Davis and **Nicholas Jackson**, grandson of Sharon Fahling.
- ✦ Our Missionaries: **Pastor Masih and Pastor Mahlburg**.
- ✦ For our pastor-elect, **Andrew Twietmeyer** and his family as they prepare to join us at Messiah
- ✦ All who have suffered physically, emotionally, financially, mentally and spiritually during the worldwide outbreak of coronavirus, including all those currently ill with COVID-19 and all health care providers who treat them.
- ✦ All those in authority, especially Joseph our president, Gretchen our governor, and all those who make, administer and judge our laws.
- ✦ Peace in our world, our nation and our community.

“Worship Anew” is a Lutheran television, 30-minute worship service with no commercials or repeats. It is not a tape of a Sunday morning service, but a special taping done just for the viewer at home. Worship for Shut-Ins airs locally **Sunday mornings at 11:30 am** on Comcast (channel 21), Charter (channel 2), AT&T (channel 24), Dish Network (channel 54) and DirecTV (channel 377). Services



June 6, 2021 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

“Crazy or Faithful?” - Sermon Text: Mark 3:21 - Rev. Shayne Jonker

June 13, 2021 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

“Our Forever Home” - Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

June 20, 2021 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

“Fear Knot!” - Sermon Text: Mark 4:35-41 - Rev. William Mueller

June 27, 2021 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

“Praise and Adoration” - Sermon Text: Psalm 30 - Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

SERVING YOU

Staff:

Rev. Jason Peterson, Vacancy Pastor

(734) 645-4353

Richard Krueger, Parish Assistant

Doris Kayser, Deaconess

Sandy Goodlander, Office Manager

Mildred Rathbun, Office Assistant

Vonda Smestad, Pre-school Director



June 2021

Messiah Lutheran Church



MessiahGR
.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Trustees 7:00 pm	2	3 Confessions Study (at St. Peters) 10:00 am	4 Rick's Day Off	5
6 Classes 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:00 am	7 Elders 6:00 pm Worship/Communion 7:00 pm	8 Education 7:00 pm	9	10	11 Rick's Day Off	12
13 Classes 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	14 VBS 9:00 am Worship 7:00 pm	15 VBS 9:00 am Outreach 7:00 pm	16 VBS 9:00 am	17 VBS 9:00 am	18 VBS 9:00 am	19
20 Classes 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:00 am	21 Newsletter Deadline Council 6:00 pm Worship/Communion 7:00 pm	22	23	24	25 Pastor's Day Off Rick's Day Off	26
27 Classes 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	28 Worship 7:00 pm	29	30			

Messiah Service Calendar – June 2021

Sunday, June 6, 2021 10:00 am

Elders: Randy Gerke, Max Conner
Ushers: Team 1
Acolyte:
Altar Guild: Team 1: Carol Mushong, Laura Altemann, Marcie Merkle, Barb Brinkman

Monday, June 7, 2021 7:00 pm

Pete Garchow

Sunday, June 13, 2021 10:00 am

Elders: Larry Goodlander
Ushers: Team 2
Acolyte:
Altar Guild: Team 1: Carol Mushong, Laura Altemann, Marcie Merkle, Barb Brinkman

Monday June 14, 2021 7:00 pm

Rich Griffis

Sunday, June 20, 2021 10:00 am

Elders: Steve Kaminski, Kevin Mueller
Ushers: Team 3
Acolyte:
Altar Guild: Team 2: Shirley Hoese, Lori Kearney, Sandy Hoffman, Becky Buss

Monday, June 21, 2021 7:00 pm

Max Conner

Sunday, June 27, 2021 10:00 am

Elders: Max Conner
Ushers: Team 4
Acolyte:
Altar Guild: Team 2: Shirley Hoese, Lori Kearney, Sandy Hoffman, Becky Buss

Monday, June 28, 2021 7:00 pm

Pete Garchow