



Messiah Messenger

July 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. Andrew Twietmeyer, *Pastor*
Rick Krueger, *Parish Assistant*
Vonda Smestad, *Preschool Director*
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Dear friends in Christ Jesus,

The Holy Spirit reminds us to “Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established” (Proverbs 16:3). There are at least two reasons that we ought to ponder this heavenly wisdom everyday as we go about, doing the work that God has given us to do. First, it reminds us to be humble. All of our plans are dependent on God’s blessing, for it is “only God who gives the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:7). Second, it makes us think about our plans on a deeper level and consider whether or not our plans for life are in line with Holy Scripture.

Like any pastor, I have plans for Messiah and I’m sure that you have plans that you would like to see undertaken after such a lengthy vacancy. This is good, our Lord Jesus gives us work to do and invites us to grow in wisdom and stature, just as He did. All the time though, we must remind ourselves to run our plans through the scriptures and ask if they are compatible with God’s will. Better yet, the more we study The Word, the more we will be humbled and find out that God’s plans for our lives are much better for us than our own.

The chief thing which any pastor should plan to do is to preach and teach the Word of God in purity and love while joining believers to Christ in His blessed Sacraments. To help me do this, one thing I’d like to do over the next year is to arrange a time to simply meet and pray with every household in the congregation. This way I can better fulfill my ordination vows to “be constant in prayer for those under your pastoral care.” My hope is that this will be completely informal and at a time and place which is convenient for you. So keep an eye out for that.

One other note, before I wrap this up, I’m still learning about the various requirements and duties which are particular to Messiah and the circuit that we are in, so I’m setting “**tentative**” **office hours through July as follows: Monday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Wednesday and Thursday 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Certainly I will be around more hours than that, but during those hours you will be able to find me at Church if need be. These hours will allow me to schedule the various visits and appointments that are common to a pastor’s life. Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email if you have questions or concerns. Especially do not hesitate to contact me if you are in need of spiritual care.

My friends, “the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love” (Psalm 147:11). Let us set forth on our path together, making our plans in the fear and love of The Most High God, who sent His Son into our flesh to be our salvation.

Pastor Twietmeyer

Messiah Updates for July

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, July 5th, in observance of Independence Day.

WORSHIP AND BIBLE CLASS UPDATE: Please plan to join Pastor Twietmeyer as he leads Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday mornings at 9:00 am, resuming on July 11th**. We'll continue to explore the Old Testament book of *1 Samuel*, seeing how God works for the good of His people, even in troubled times for society, families and His Church! Bring your Bible and be ready to dig in to God's Word. (FYI, our technical team is working on livestreaming Adult Bible Class from the Fellowship Hall as soon as it's feasible.)

Worship services will continue on our summer schedule through Labor Day weekend, as follows:

- On **Sundays at 10:00 am**; this service will also be livestreamed as usual on our YouTube channel, our website and our Facebook page.
- On **Mondays at 7:00 pm** (except on July 5th and September 6th, when services will not be held).

At their June meeting Messiah's Board of Elders voted to restore all pre-pandemic worship practices beginning on Sunday, June 20th. This means that Messiah's special guidelines for in-person worship are no longer in force. In addition to changes already made in May, RSVPs are no longer required for services; there is no designated seating for social distance (the narthex and choir space continue to be available for those who wish to have distanced seating); offering plates will be passed; and the distribution of Holy Communion will return to pre-pandemic practices. Please contact any member of the Board of Elders if you have questions.

A MESSAGE FROM MESSIAH'S PRESIDENT: At their June meeting, the Church Council met to discuss the state of Michigan's lifting of capacity and mask requirements on June 22nd. In accordance with the state's action, we have decided to lift all the remaining restrictions that have been in place since 2020. We are thankful that we will be able to safely return to many of the things that we love to do together at Messiah.

That being said, many of the things we used to do require volunteer help. For example, right now we need volunteers to make coffee and offer our traditional continental breakfast during Sunday's Adult Bible Class. Other needs for volunteers will present themselves in the coming weeks. As you feel comfortable doing so, please consider volunteering so we can restart these activities as soon as possible. Please feel to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Yours in Christ, Dave Ahrens

JULY 4th IS COMING SOON....If you would like to replace your old American flag, Barb and Bill Brinkman will be happy to direct your used flag in accordance with the appropriate procedures. A box will be provided near the Welcome Center for your convenience. Thank you!

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST FOR JULY: Thank you! Dale & Dody Reinke and Richard & Ann Tank have volunteered for Continental Breakfast starting on July 11th, 18th and 25th.

A BIG THANK YOU comes from THRIVENT FINANCIAL to ALL of those who volunteered to help with the Ordination and Installation of Pastor Twietmeyer. We received an Action Team Grant from them to help with the costs of the meal and appreciate it very much. The volunteers made the installation and celebration a day to remember for everyone.

Messiah Updates for July, continued:



Thank you from Messiah's VBS staff, for your prayers, snack donations, to the volunteers who cut out items, the donations for frozen treats, registration helpers, and the manpower in setting up and taking down. You should have seen our VBS leaders and helpers in action. Amazing! Their hours of preparation to share Jesus with the 53 who attended was a blessing! Let's do it again next year!

"BRING A FRIEND" BONFIRE – SAVE THE DATE! Messiah's Board of Outreach will host a bonfire on our grounds on **Thursday, August 19th from 7 to 9 pm.** Plan to bring friends, food and chairs for time together, with devotions, singing and other activities! Watch for more details in the weeks to come.



MEN'S RETREAT - UPDATE

The Men's Retreat at Camp Concordia begins on **Friday, September 24th**, with a steak dinner at **6:00 pm. Registration starts at 5:00 pm.** After the steak dinner we will have a Bible Study Part 1, campfire with devotions, music, and smores, and close the evening with BUNCO & games.

We start on Saturday with a hot breakfast at 7:30 am, followed with a Bible Study Part 2, a work project at Camp Concordia, and close with a fish dinner at 12 noon. More information will be coming in August. If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Pete Garchow (616-364-8776) or Dwight Anderson (616-647-7549).

From the Parish Assistant

WORSHIP IN JULY: this month, we move further into the Time of the Church! The readings from the Gospel of Mark focus on the early days of Jesus' ministry, recounting events and teachings that are "pre-echoed" in our Old Testament readings. Beginning on July 11th, our Epistles come from Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Our altar, pulpit and lectern paraments continue to be green, symbolizing the rich pastures of our Good Shepherd's Word and Sacraments. On **Sunday, July 25th**, we praise God, reflecting in particular on His mercy to *St. James the Elder*. A member of Jesus' inner circle (along with Peter and his brother John), James was the first apostle to die a martyr's death, as recorded in Acts 12.

During July, we will pray Divine Service, Setting Three from *Lutheran Service Book* at communion services. A spoken service of Morning Prayer and the Service of Prayer and Preaching will be used on non-communion Sundays; we'll pray the spoken Prayer at the Close of the Day for our July 12th evening service. We also continue with our annual practice of *Praying the Catechism* in worship, working through the Apostles' Creed and starting on the Lord's Prayer during July.

We'll also introduce a new hymn for the summer Sundays after Pentecost, beginning on **July 11-12**. The text of "Evening and Morning" (*Lutheran Service Book* 726) is by the great German Lutheran pastor and hymnwriter Paul Gerhardt, who clung to the Lord's promises throughout a life of difficulties, including the Thirty Years' War of the 1600s. Gerhardt's hymn praises God at all times and in all circumstances, while praying for deliverance from the physical and spiritual dangers of this world. The melody, by Gerhardt's musical colleague Johan Georg Ebeling, rises and falls as if to depict the daily rising and setting of the sun, with a sprightly, dancing rhythm throughout.

From the Parish Assistant, continued:

In the month to come, we pray that your hearing of God's Word and partaking of the Lord's Supper at Messiah will strengthen your faith, empowering you to share Christ's love with the people in your life!

Women's Ministry

SANDY'S TRADITION: Are you single or widowed – plan now to meet for lunch at **Russ's on Plainfield, Thursday, July 22nd, at 11:30 am.** There will be a short meeting to decide the future of Sandy's Tradition. Contact Judy Gerke at (616) 363-8412 if you plan to attend so reservations can be made.



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

There are old items on the ping pong table that haven't been used in years. Please look them over to see if they are still needed. We need the space for the garage sale and will take care of them if they are no longer needed.

Other



MUSTANG GOLF CHALLENGE The Mustang Golf Challenge is **July 17th** this year with a **shotgun start at 9:00 am.** This is a 4-person scramble at Yankee Springs Golf Course and your \$80 ticket includes golf, cart, prizes, and lunch. A bloody mary and mimosa open bar will be available from 8 - 9 am. **RSVPs are due by July 8th.** Register by calling 455-2200 or emailing kangers@wmlhs.org.

EXCHANGE STUDENT HOST: WEST MICHIGAN LUTHERAN is looking for families to host exchange students for the 2021-22 school year. If you are interested in this joyful and rewarding opportunity, contact the WML office at (616) 455-2200 or email office@wmlhs.org.

IN OUR PRAYERS

- ✦ Those with immediate prayer concerns: **(Judy Spencer, Donna Nicol, Bernie & Eileen Ottenjan, Glen Ottenjan, Theona Gee, Roger Drehs, Elaine Jingles, Sharon Navarre); Paul Kayser**, brother of Doris Kayser; **Judy Seppamaki**, former member; **David Brock** and **Cheryl Phillips-Lemieux**, friends of Sandy & Larry Goodlander; **Theresa Michalak**, friend of Cheryl Potter & Barb Conner; **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: **(Mike Mull, MaryAnn Snell, Doris Kayser, Dody Reinke, Claudia London, Kathy Mueller); Steve Tillotson**, son of Norda Tillotson; **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**.
- ✦ 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



July 4, 2021 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

“Strong When Weak” - Sermon Text: Mark 6:1-6 - Rev. Dr. Walter Maier

July 11, 2021 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

“Straight Lines” - Sermon Text: Amos 7:7 - Rev. Thomas Eggold

July 18, 2021 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

“The Compassionate One” - Sermon Text: Mark 6:37a - Rev. Shayne Jonker

July 25, 2021 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

“When in A Storm” - Sermon Text: Mark 6:45-56 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

HAVE A HAPPY & SAFE JULY 4TH



SERVING YOU

Staff:

Rev. Andrew Twietmeyer, Pastor
Richard Krueger, Parish Assistant
Doris Kayser, Deaconess
Sandy Goodlander, Office Manager
Tammy Ahrens, Office Assistant
Vonda Smestad, Pre-school Director

Messiah Service Calendar – July 2021

Sunday, July 4, 2021 10:00 am

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

Monday, July 5, 2021 7:00 pm

Sunday, July 11, 2021 10:00 am

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

Monday July 12, 2021 7:00 pm

Larry Goodlander

Sunday, July 18, 2021 10:00 am

Elders: Dwight Anderson, Rich Griffis
Ushers: Team 3
Acolyte:
Altar Guild: Team 2: Shirley Hoese, Lori Kearney, Sandy Hoffman, Becky Buss

Monday, July 19, 2021 7:00 pm

Pete Garchow

Sunday, July 25, 2021 10:00 am

Elders: Randy Gerke
Ushers: Team 4
Acolyte:
Altar Guild: Team 3: Judy Gerke, Deb Krueger, Diane Wheeler, Barbara Wilson

Monday, July 26, 2021 7:00 pm

Max Conner



July 2021

Messiah Lutheran Church



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Confessions Study (at St. Peters) 10:00 am	2 Pastor's Day Off Rick's Day Off	3
4 NO CLASSES Worship/Communion 10:00 am	5 OFFICE CLOSED No Evening Worship	6 Sandy Off	7 Sandy Off Carpet Cleaning	8 Sandy Off Carpet Cleaning	9 Pastor's Day Off Rick's Day Off	10
11 Adult Bible Class 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	12 Elders 6:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm	13 Trustees 7:00 pm	14	15	16 Pastor's Day Off Rick's Day Off	17
18 Adult Bible Class 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:00 am	19 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 am Worship/Communion 7:00 pm	20 Rick on Vacation	21 Rick on Vacation	22 Rick on Vacation	23 Rick on Vacation Pastor's Day Off	24 Rick on Vacation Private Event
25 Rick on Vacation Adult Bible Class 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	26 Rick on Vacation Worship 7:00 pm	27	28	29	30 Pastor's Day Off Rick's Day Off	31 Private Event