



Messiah Messenger

August 2022

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.*

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“For among us masses are celebrated every Lord’s Day and on the other festivals, in which the Sacrament is offered to those who wish to use it, after they have been examined and absolved. And the usual public ceremonies are observed, the series of lessons, of prayers, vestments, and other like things.” This quotation from the Apology (defense) of the Augsburg Confession gives us a look into the worship life during the times of Martin Luther and Phillip Melancthon, who was the author of this quote. Now, don’t let the word “masses” scare you. Mass is simply another word for what we call the “divine service.” So it is that on every Sunday and on festivals (such as Christmas, Easter, Ascension, etc.) the first Lutherans continued to do what the church had been doing since the start: they worshipped and offered communion.

So, we must ask ourselves, why do we not do this? Well, here is where a bit of history is helpful. In North America, there were relatively few Lutherans to begin with, as a majority of the immigration was from countries that were not predominantly Lutheran. So it was that Lutherans have always been a minority on this continent. For however few Lutherans there were, though, there were even fewer Lutheran pastors. It became a common practice, therefore, for a Lutheran pastor to travel from place to place and serve multiple congregations. What this meant was that most congregations only would gather with a called and ordained pastor once a month or even less frequently. So it was that communion would only be celebrated when the pastor was in town. This practice remained common in much of the country even until the late 19th century.

Since that time though, Lutheran churches with a pastor in the chancel every Sunday have begun to return to our Biblical heritage by celebrating the Lord’s Supper every Lord’s Day. Weekly Communion, as it is sometimes referred to, is now a much more common practice in the LCMS. More importantly though, it is a Biblical practice. The Lord’s Supper is the pinnacle of the Divine Service, for it is then that we have a personal encounter with the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to redeem us from sin, death, and the devil. The absolution, the readings of the scriptures, and the preached sermon all lead us to Jesus. For us, Jesus is found in the Supper.

The Board of Elders and I have been spending time studying this topic in the Scriptures and learning about our heritage. Because of this, we are all in agreement that this would be a great thing to bring to

Messiah. So, in September, we will begin having the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day. It will be a wonderful joy to receive Jesus' body and blood with you every week and I pray that it is a joy for you as well.

Jesus Christ, in his body and blood, is our sure defense against the devil and all his ways. The world is continually pitted against us, so let us make Christ our foundation every week. As Luther once wrote, "If you could see how many daggers, spears, and arrows are aimed at you every moment, you would be glad to come to the sacrament as often as you can." Therefore, let us take refuge in Jesus, for though He comes to us in humble bread and wine, He comes to us with all authority in heaven and on earth to forgive our sins and defend us from all evil.

-Pastor Twietmeyer

Messiah Updates for August

OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE continues through **Sunday, September 4th** (Labor Day weekend) as follows:

- One Sunday worship service held at **10:00 am**, with Bible Class beforehand at **9:00 am** and a study of Luther's Large Catechism after worship, at about **11:15 am**. The Sunday morning service will be livestreamed as usual; Sunday School is in recess until September.
- Monday night services will also be held through **Monday, August 29th** at **7:00 pm**. Note that *there will be no Monday night service on September 5th* (Labor Day weekend).

Our fall schedule will resume on **Sunday, September 11th**: the Divine Service will be held at **8:30 and 11 am** on Sundays, with Sunday School and Bible Class at **9:45 am**.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE gifts to Messiah in memory of Georgia Carter from Larry & Sandy Goodlander, Rick & Deb Krueger, Don Cartery Family, Richard Jensen, Wardrop & Wardrop, Central State Property Mgt., Dwight & Marlene Anderson, Mike & Carol Mushong, Terry & Shirley Hoese, David & Janeen Chase and Gary & Sue Moody, Dale & Dody Reinke.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE gifts to Messiah in memory of Hulda Goecker from Dale & Sandi Robart, Bill & Barb Brinkman, Mary Ann Snell, Dale & Dody Reinke, and Dwight & Marlene Anderson.

ALTAR FLOWER UPDATE – Effective August 1st: Please disregard the previous flower announcements because we have received an offer from one of our members to make the arrangements each Sunday. The cost will be only \$25.00 to cover cost of the flowers and supplies for doing this wonderful service for our Sunday worship. She wants to give this a try for a month just to see if she can continue into the winter. We send Barbara Wilson a huge THANK YOU for this generous offer of her time and talent in service to our Lord.

Messiah Updates for August, continued:



ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 28TH, we're inviting people from our preschool, our Vacation Bible School and our neighborhood to join us for the return of our **Community Picnic at 12 noon**, after our Sunday service! Messiah's Board of Outreach and LIFT are sponsoring this event; picnic-style main dishes & beverages will be provided for all.

Thanks to those who have already volunteered to help; more volunteers are welcome! Please sign up at the Welcome Center or in Bible Class to:

- distribute flyers in the neighborhood during August
- set-up and/or clean-up for the event
- bring food (side dishes, desserts, fruit salads)
- help with games for all ages (ball toss, cornhole, disc golf)

Please be sure to mark your calendars *now* and plan to attend!

IMPORTANT UPDATE:



MENS RETREAT – Due to scheduling conflicts, the Messiah Men's Retreat scheduled for September 30th & October 1st is **cancelled for this year**.

LIFT MEETING: (Lutherans in Fellowship Together) will meet after service on **Sunday, August 7th at 11:15 am** in the upstairs north classroom. All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR PLANNING MEETING: Takes place **Thursday, August 11th at 10:30 am**. We welcome your ideas and suggestions to make this Messiah tradition a huge success! If you are interested in serving on the planning committee, please join us! Save the date for the bazaar, December 3, 2022.

SMALL GROUPS MEET AND EAT Let's bring this popular fellowship event back! This is an opportunity to meet with other Messiah members for food and fellowship on a small scale. Groups of six to ten arrange a date, time and place to gather. Sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested. See any LIFT member for more details.

From the Parish Assistant

CALLING ALL SINGERS!

"I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations."
(Psalm 108:3)

When we gather for worship, God lovingly serves us through His Holy Word and Sacraments. Responding to God's love, we use His gift of music to pray, praise, proclaim and recount the story of His grace in song! (See Colossians 3:12-17.)

Messiah's music makers lead and support our musical praises in worship – and our primary instrument is the human voice! As we gear up for the coming year of activity, you can help lead worship by participating in the *Senior Choir*.

From the Parish Assistant, continued:

The Senior Choir is active on two Sundays per month (usually once at 8:30 am and once at 11 am); the choir helps introduce new hymns, leads service music, and sings anthems that respond to the Scripture lessons. They also sing for festivals (Reformation, Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, the Transfiguration of our Lord, Easter, Pentecost) and other special services (such as our annual Ascension service with St. Peter-Rockford). Weekly choir practices resume **Wednesday, September 7th, lasting from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm.**

If participating in Senior Choir interests you, please contact Rick Krueger for more details!

WORSHIP IN AUGUST: as the Time of the Church continues, our readings from the Gospel of Luke tell of Jesus' continuing ministry, focusing on His "hard sayings" that are pre-echoed in our Old Testament readings. The Epistle readings zero in on chapters 11-13 of the letter to the Hebrews, tracking God's faithfulness to His Old Testament people all the way through to Jesus, "the founder and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). Our altar, pulpit and lectern paraments remain green, symbolizing the rich pastures of our Good Shepherd's Word and Sacraments.

During August, we will pray Divine Service, Setting One from *Lutheran Service Book* at communion services. Matins 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 August 15th Monday night service. With the Lord's Supper being offered every Sunday beginning in September (see Pastor's article elsewhere in this newsletter), we will be pursuing other opportunities to continue using these prayer services, as well as the services of Vespers and Evening Prayer, during the coming months.

Our new hymn for August & September will be "Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay," number 505 in *Lutheran Service Book*. Martin Luther adapted this medieval processional song, changing its original words (which invoked various saints) to a clear confession of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and publishing it in the first Lutheran hymnal of 1524. As Great Britain's interest in German culture peaked during the reign of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, English poet Richard Massie translated this and other Luther hymns into English, publishing a selection in 1854. We hope you enjoy learning and singing it, beginning on **Sunday, August 14th.**

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: Our next luncheon will be **Thursday, August 18th, at 11:30 am,** at **Russ'** on Plainfield Ave NE. Contact Judy Gerke at (616) 363-8412 so reservations can be made. Hope to see you there!

MESSIAH'S COOKIE AND CRAFT BAZAAR – Saturday, December 3: Save the date! If you are interested in serving on the planning committee or would like to help in any way, please contact Barb Brinkman or any Guild member. Watch for more details in the coming months.

CRAFTING GET-TOGETHER: Ladies, join us at church on **Tuesday, August 16 at 4:00 pm.** To make crafts to sell at the Christmas Bazaar. Instructions and supplies to make the crafts will be provided. See Sandy Hoffman for more details.

Other

AUGUST LWML MISSION HIGHLIGHT & NEW LWML MICHIGAN DISTRICT MITE GOAL

Deaconesses are continually pointing those they serve to the cross, sharing the Gospel with them. What is a deaconess? She is professional church worker trained to share the gospel of Christ. This month's LWML Mission Grant, "Caring for and Sharing Christ with Hurting People" provides scholarships to women studying on site at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis or Fort Wayne, or those studying remotely with Center for Hispanic Studies, Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology. or the newly offered online Deaconess Studies Program. Pick up an LWML Mite Box, put in your coins and dollars to help fund this mission grant, and pray for all our LC-MS women studying to serve God and our church as a deaconess.

Did you know that at the July 7th - 9th LWML Michigan District Convention we approved a 2022 - 2024 Mite Goal of \$386,000? That's right. ALL fourteen mission grants were approved! What were we thinking in our economy's current state of inflation? Only God knows and only He can bless the coins and dollars given to missions in our Mite boxes.

Why not pick up an LWML Mite box at the table in the narthex and place your loose change or dollars in it all year around? Occasionally, empty your Mite Box into the large one in Messiah's narthex and refill yours again. Last year, members of Messiah contributed \$1391.61 for mites. How will God bless our Mite giving this year?

The 2022 - 2024 LWML Michigan District Mission Grants, selected by Messiah delegates Sherry Garchow, Carol Mushong, and Linda Blain, along with 309 other Michigan delegates are:

1. **"I Was Naked and You Clothed Me"** - Orphan Grain Train - Michigan - \$18,000
2. **"Enriching Lives of Children and Families in Michigan's Urban Communities"** - Acts 2 Enterprise, Michigan District, LCMS - \$25,000
3. **"Scholarships for Deaf Students"** (St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf) - \$25,000
4. **"Financial Assistance for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, Food and Clothing Co-op"** to purchase food - \$10,000
5. **"God's Word for Teenagers Around the World"** - Lutheran Heritage Foundation - \$16,500
6. **"Clark Park Street Ministry"** - (Family of God, Lutheran Church, Detroit) - \$5,000
7. **"Scholarships for Female Students Studying to be a Deaconess or Professional Church Worker"** (Michigan women studying in Concordia University System - \$20,000
8. **"A Rising Need, a Spiritual Opportunity"** (Lutheran Special Education Ministries in Michigan) – \$20,000
9. **"Sharing the Light of Christ's Love"** (Lutheran Braille Workers) - \$25,000
10. **"Shepherding the Sheep"** (Congregational Grant MOST Ministries) - \$25,000
11. **"Gifts for All God's Children-Year Round Program Replication to Additional Churches"** (Detroit LCMS area) - \$25,000
12. **"Expanding Christ's Love with the Aging and Unchurched in Michigan through Weekly Television on Worship Anew"** - \$25,000
13. **"Multi-Ethnic and Multi-Generational Church, Cross Point Church, LCMS, Ministry and Missions Cost"** - \$25,000
14. **"15 Passenger Van Outreach for St. Paul Community Lutheran Church"** (St. Paul Community - Pontiac) - \$25,000

IN OUR PRAYERS



- ✦ Those with immediate prayer concerns: **(Ken Martin, Dale & Sandi Robart), Eric Martin**, son of Ken & Lori Martin; **Ariel Cunningham**, friend of Vic VanEtten; **Maureen Norton**, niece of Rita & Bill VanEtten; **Mike Brumley**, brother of Shirley Kremm; **Mike Buckley**, brother-in-law of Sandy & Larry Goodlander; **Nora Rotman & David Brock**, friends of Sandy & Larry Goodlander; **Jim Heidenga**, friend of Max and Barb Conner and **Larry Wilson**, brother of Dick Wilson.
- ✦ Those with ongoing prayer concerns: **(Bernie & Eileen Ottenjan, Glen Ottenjan, Mike Mull, MaryAnn Snell, Doris Kayser, Claudia London, Kathy Mueller and Dody Reinke); Rev. Ryan Beffre**, Epiphany Lutheran Church in Dorr; **Rev. Anthony (Tony) Sikora**; **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 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, Rosalynn our mayor, 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).

August 7, 2022 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

“Anxious Hearts” - Sermon Text: Luke 12:34 - Rev. Shayne Jonker

August 14, 2022 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Looking for Love” - Sermon Text: Hebrews 11:17-31; 12:1-3 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

August 21, 2022 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

“All or Nothing” - Sermon Text: Luke 13:22-30 - Rev. William Mueller

August 28, 2022 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

“I Am Content” - Sermon Text: Hebrews 13:5 - Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES - is available on these radio stations:

WTRV –100.5 FM Sundays at 7:00 am

WSRW –105.7 FM Sundays at 6:30 am

Visit lutheranhour.org to read about next Sunday’s message.

SERVING YOU

Staff:

Rev. Andrew Twietmeyer, Pastor
Richard Krueger, Parish Assistant
Noelle Kaminski, Office Manager
Tammy Ahrens, Office Assistant
Vonda Smestad, Pre-school Director



August 2022

Messiah Lutheran Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Worship/Communion 7:00 pm	2 Outreach 7:00 pm Trustees 7:00 pm	3	4 Confessions Study 10:00 am	5 Pastor's Day Off Rick's Day Off	6 Private event 2:00 pm
7 Bible Class 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:00 am Large Catechism 11:15 am	8 Education 7:00 pm Worship/Communion 7:00 pm	9	10	11 Christmas Bazaar Planning 10:30 am Service Guild 1:00 pm	12 Pastor's Day Off Rick's Day Off	13
14 Bible Class 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Large Catechism 11:15 am	15 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 am Council 7:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm	16 Rick on Vacation	17 Rick on Vacation	18 Rick on Vacation	19 Rick on Vacation Pastor's Day Off	20 Rick on Vacation
21 Rick on Vacation Bible Class 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:00 am Large Catechism 11:15 am	22 Rick on Vacation Worship/Communion 7:00 pm	23	24	25	26 Pastor's Day Off Rick's Day Off	27
28 Bible Class 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Large Catechism 11:15 am Community Picnic 12:00 pm	29 Worship 7:00 pm	30	31			

Messiah Service Calendar – August 2022

Sunday, July 31, 2022 10:00 am

Elders: Randy Gerke
Ushers: Team 3
Acolyte:
Altar Guild: **Team 2:** Shirley Hoese, Lori Kearney, Sandy Hoffman, Becky Buss

Monday, August 1, 2022 7:00 pm

Peter Garchow

Sunday, August 7, 2022 10:00 am

Elders: Steve Dengler
Ushers: Team 1
Acolyte: Callan Reickard
Altar Guild: **Team 3:** Judy Gerke, Deb Krueger, Diane Wheeler, Barbara Wilson

Monday, August 8, 2022 7:00 pm

Larry Goodlander

Sunday, August 14, 2022 10:00 am

Elders: Max Conner
Ushers: Team 2
Acolyte: Carter VanderTuig
Altar Guild: **Team 4:** Rita VanEtten, Joann Hilton, Sharon Hula

Monday, August 15, 2022 7:00 pm

Peter Garchow

Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:00 am

Elders: Steve Dengler
Ushers: Team 3
Acolyte: Lily Slagter
Altar Guild: **Team 1:** Carol Mushong, Laura Altemann, Marcie Merkle, Barb Brinkman

Monday, August 22, 2022 7:00 pm

Kevin Mueller

Sunday, August 28, 2022 10:00 am

Elders: Rich Griffis
Ushers: Team 4
Acolyte: Nick Mannor
Altar Guild: **Team 2:** Shirley Hoese, Lori Kearney, Sandy Hoffman, Becky Buss

Monday, August 29, 2022 7:00 pm

Max Conner