

THE MONITOR

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church – Lindsborg, Kansas

Volume 111, Issue 12

December 2019

Dear Church,

The time of Advent is here...the awaiting, the preparation, the expectation that Jesus will come, again, anew.

The theme this year, from Sundays and Seasons, is “We Wait for what we Already Have.” It is a difficult concept to grasp, this waiting for what we already have: salvation, the promise of God that God loves us, forgives us, and abides us. We tend to want to put off our responses to God’s promises until we “feel” they have been fulfilled. We are taught socially to “not pay the price” until we have “received the goods.”

When do you know God has saved you, that salvation is yours, now?

What makes you know God loves you?

How do you understand that you are forgiven?

Can you know God’s presence in your life?

These are concepts we struggle to offer to others, either through God’s promises passed on or through our own way of living as people who have received these promises.

We are people who have these in our awareness and as such, we get to live into these promises, trusting they are real, they are complete, they are of God for us. As your pastor, I tell you these things over and over, hoping the Holy Spirit will bring them into your awareness, your daily mannerisms.

Sometimes, when I’m thinking of this idea of “waiting for what I already have,” I think of a rope lying atop a scummy bit of water. The rope is slowly pulling the scummy parts of the water into the shoreline, the water behind the rope is clean...we have the movement of the Holy Spirit present with us. God moves the Spirit through us to forgive and remove from us the sin we commit. We are forgiven and God forgets that sin—removing it from our beings as we repent and turn to new ways of being in the world. We continue to move through the sin of this world, ever collecting and adding to the pollution of our souls, all the while, God winds through us granting us salvation and love in spite of who we are. Jesus came to be present and to live among us as one of us in order that we might know God truly moves in our lives, our daily situations, and is one with us.

Emmanuel. God with us. We await his coming even as we already have God with us.

A woman I once knew would say, “I know Jesus is coming again. I really hope he comes before I die.” When I’d ask her why she wanted him to come in her lifetime, she’d say, “I don’t want to die and I really want to be able to greet him here! I love this world!”

To live with the expectation that bodily, Jesus will return to us today is to live in a faith that is vibrant and full of joy, a faith that leads us through difficulties, and a life that honors God in spite of the horrors sin brings into our lives.

Jesus came in vulnerability, an infant in a feeding trough, that we might know God does not need the grandest, mostest, greatest situations of this world to enact God’s blessings in our lives. Mary was an unwed mother. Joseph was planning to leave her when he heard she was pregnant. Their baby was born in the lowliest of places. These are situations we can see in our world today. This is a story we can share; that the God who loves us so very much has come and is coming to us over and over, and so we wait for what we already have.

Happy Waiting to you, dear Church!

~Pastor Amy

 *by Jeanne Ahlers*

Preparations are beginning for this year's Christmas Candlelight Service, "Candles & Carols" by Mark Hayes. It promises to be a great beginning to the Christmas season.

The tradition of the Candlelight Service at Messiah Lutheran Church is of long standing. It was begun in 1935 by Professor Arvid Wallin, who was the organist and choir director of the church. During this country's dark days, he felt that the gift of music would lift the spirits of all. It became an annual event, and continues to offer spiritual brightness despite the darkness which still prevails in much of the world and in many people's lives.

Participants include the Senior Choir, though anyone who would like to take part in the service is warmly welcomed. Rehearsals are at 8:15 a.m. on Sundays as part of the regular choir rehearsals.

**Approximate number of people who used
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church during
the month of November:**

- Worship Services **352**
- Others in October **580**
- Daily (includes staff, daycare & coffee groups) **47**

December Birthdays

Rachel Ann Atkinson	12/01
Bob Saunders	12/17
Sally Hefner	12/19
Ellie Flynn	12/21
Holly Toll	12/25
Kelsie Anderson	12/27

December Anniversaries

Laura & Mark Flynn	12/08
Chris & Arne Reinert	12/17
Kelly & Andy Carlson	12/18
Kathy & Tom Toll	12/27
Lois & David Carlson	12/28
Mary & Neal Roch	12/31

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET: The Sunday School children and Christian Ed committee ask you to please remember the less fortunate of Lindsborg this holiday season with the following: Paper towels, 4 pack pkgs. of toilet paper, Kleenex, children's tooth paste and brushes, shampoo, deodorant, peanut butter, cereal, and all sizes of children's socks. We will be collecting items in baskets in the sanctuary, as a kind of "cornucopia" of sorts. Please have all the items donated by **Monday, Dec. 9, 2019! Thank you for your support and participation in giving back to our community!**

Angel Tree: The local banks will have the **Angels** by Nov. 20, 2019. You may take an angel off the tree and buy a Christmas gift of about \$20.00, then return the wrapped gift to the bank where you received the angel. ALL gifts MUST be returned by **Friday, Dec. 6, 2019!**

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET: The Sunday School children and Christian Ed committee ask you to please remember the less fortunate of Lindsborg this holiday season with the following: Paper towels, 4 pack pkgs. of toilet paper, Kleenex, children's tooth paste and brushes, shampoo, deodorant, peanut butter, cereal, and all sizes of children's socks. We will be collecting items in baskets in the sanctuary, as a kind of "cornucopia" of sorts. Please have all the items donated by **Monday, Dec. 9, 2019! Thank you for your support and participation in giving back to our community!**

Help is needed to 'set out and clean up' **KICK** meal (approximately 5:15 to 6:45) on Dec. 4, and 11. We are also searching for people to **help with coordinating meals** in **January and February**. Please contact Rachel Ann Atkinson (785) 212-0113 or Joyce Peterson (785) 820-033



What's Up in December



- **Thursdays 9:00 at church - Women's Coffee** (Come as you are – relax, and visit.)
- **Thursdays 12:00-1:00 - Moms in Prayer** at Barbara's, 405 N. Chestnut, (when school is in session)
- **Thursday, December 5, 3:00pm - Visiting at Bethany Home Assisted Living.** We get together to enjoy time with residents and each other. Drop by and enjoy a cup of coffee with new and old friends. (Men & Women invited.)
- **Thursday, December 12 – Bethany Home Christmas Party**



A NOTE OF



Mission Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your huge Smorgasbord donation of all the rye bread. We received a ton of compliments! Thanks again for your generosity!

Jenell Hulse & Emily Howe

Candles & Carols

A service of
hope, peace,
joy, and love

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
401 N. Second Street, Lindsborg
85th Annual
CHOIR CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Featuring the Chancel Choir
Sunday, December 15, 2019 – 7:30p



BETHANY COLLEGE PRESENTS

Tultide at Bethany

Voices of the Faithful

Sunday, December 8, 2019
4PM, Presser Hall Auditorium

FEATURING:

Bethany College Choir	Mark Lucas DIRECTOR
Chamber Choir	
Bethany College/Lindsborg Community Orchestra	Lori McKinney DIRECTOR
Bethany College Handbell Ensemble	Hentus van Rooyen DIRECTOR

A free will offering will be taken.
This concert is free and open to the public.



Messiah Lutheran Church Council Minutes

(these minutes will be approved at the October Council meeting)

November 3, 2019

Council Members present: Pastor Amy Truhe, President Pari Ford, Becky Anderson, Kirsten Bruce, Lois Carlson, Gavin Doughty, Chock Hefner, Linda Lewis, Muriel Gentine, Warren Olson, Ingrid Pohl, Anya Pohl.
Absent: Ted Kessinger.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Amy Truhe

Reports:

Secretary: Approval of minutes of the October 6, 2019 meeting M/S/C.

Treasurer: Report M/S/C.

Pastor: Ask for support of Karol Carr as a PMA candidate. Bible study going well with 10 – 15 participants. Office manager still pending.

President's report: No report.

Old Business: An on-demand hot water heater for under the sink is still recommended. We will next check with the KDHE requirements for our needs.

2020 Council Members: Chock Hefner will not be returning in January. Names are being submitted for next year.

Pastor Amy, Becky Anderson and Kirsten Bruce will check the list of inactive members to receive a letter.

Smoky Valley Community Foundation and the David Nutt Foundation grants have been submitted.

New Business:

One HVAC unit will be purchased and installed by Mark Flynn

MELC's annual Thanksgiving dinner will be November 17 at 5:30.

A midweek Advent will begin the first week of December.

We are looking at a long term vision for interior and exterior repairs.

Committee Reports:

Property – Chock submitted a written report.

Devotions: Linda Lewis – Blessed to Follow, Chapter 6

Next MELC Council Meeting: Sunday, December 8 at 11:00 am.

Devotions for December: Becky Anderson

Messiah Worship Assistants – December 2019

Thank you for your time of serving. If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please trade with someone and call the church office at 227-3977 by noon on Wednesday.

December 1, 2019	Service of the Word First Sunday of Advent
Acolyte	Jake Lucas
Lector	Bob D'Andrea
Liturgist	Becky Anderson
Nursery Attendant	Anya Pohl
Ushers	Andy Carlson, capt; Bill Brock, Bill Lindholm, Larry Elmquist, Dixie Mattas
Altar Steward	Kristen Prater
Counters	Ingrid Pohl and Julie Aeschliman

December 8, 2019	Holy Communion
Acolyte	Olivia Ford
Lector	Gretchen Norland
Liturgist	Becky Anderson
Nursery Attendant	Macie Carlson
Ushers	Harvey Daniels, capt; Matt Toll, Julie Aeschliman, Dwight Ford
Communion Assistant	Linda Lewis
Altar Steward	Kristen Prater
Counters	Julie Aeschliman and Marc Anderson

December 15, 2019	Service of the Word	Choir Candlelight Service 7:30pm
Acolyte	Macie Carlson	Olivia Ford
Lector	Pari Ford	
Liturgist	Becky Anderson	
Nursery Attendant	Cayson Lindquist	
Ushers	Brian Anderson, capt; Don Anderson, Ken Peterson, Marc Anderson	Communion Asst. Ingrid Pohl
Altar Steward	Kristen Prater	Marla Elmquist
Counters	Julie Aeschliman and Marc Anderson	

December 22, 2019	Holy Communion	Dec 24, 2018 5:30 pm	10pm
Acolytes	Matt Lucas	Anya Pohl	Cayson Lindquist
Lector	Bryce Loder		
Liturgist	Becky Anderson		
Nursery Attendant	Olivia Ford		
Ushers	Dwight Swisher, capt; Arne Reinert, Ron/Carla Wilson, Aaron Yoder, Harvey Daniels	Ingrid Pohl, capt; Matt Toll, Chock Hefner, David Daire	
Communion Assistant	Linda Lewis		
Altar Steward	Kristen Prater		
Counters	Marc Anderson and Sharon Bruce		

December 29, 2019	Holy Communion
Acolytes	Jake Lucas
Lector	Linda Lewis
Liturgist	Becky Anderson
Nursery Attendant	Anya Pohl
Ushers	Ingrid Pohl, capt; Matt Toll, Chock Hefner, David Daire
Altar Steward	Kristen Prater
Counters	Marc Anderson and Sharon Bruce

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Service of the Word 10:45 am Fellowship 11:00 am Council 4:00 pm Bible Study - God's Promises/Heaven 8:00 pm Yoga - Pari Ford	2 10:30 am Chapel Break	3 6:00 am Yoga - Pari Ford	4 10:30 am Chapel Break 3:35 pm KICK @ BLC 6:30 pm Advent Worship 7:00 pm Fellowship Meeting	5 9:00 am Women's coffee at church 12:00 pm Mom's in Prayer at Barbara Peterson's 3:00 pm Coffee-visit @ assisted living 5:00 pm Yoga - Pari Ford	6 10:30 am Chapel Break	7 8:00 am Men-Bible Study
8 9:30 am Juletide at Bethany College 10:45 am Holy Communion 4:00 pm Fellowship 8:00 pm Bible Study - Pastor Amy Yoga - Pari Ford	9 3:30 pm Executive Board	10 6:00 am Yoga - Pari Ford	11 3:35 pm KICK @ BLC 6:30 pm Advent Worship 7:00 pm Worship and Music	12 9:00 am Bethany Home 12:00 pm Christmas Party 5:00 pm Women's coffee at church 12:00 pm Mom's in Prayer at Barbara Peterson's 5:00 pm Yoga - Pari Ford	13	14 8:00 am Men-Bible Study
15 9:30 am Newsletter Deadline 10:45 am Service of the Word 4:00 pm Fellowship 7:00 pm Bible Study - God's Promises/Heaven 8:00 pm Christmas by Candlelight Yoga - Pari Ford	16 9:30 am Sprout House Christmas Program	17 6:00 am Yoga - Pari Ford 9:30 am Sprout House 4:00 pm Christmas Program Sprout House	18 6:30 pm Advent Worship	19 9:00 am Women's coffee at church 12:00 pm Mom's in Prayer at Barbara Peterson's 5:00 pm Yoga - Pari Ford	20	21 8:00 am Men-Bible Study
22 9:30 am Holy Communion 10:45 am Fellowship 4:00 pm Bible Study - Pastor Amy 8:00 pm Yoga - Pari Ford	23 4:00 pm Anne Anderson (Anderson-Shogren Christmas)	24 6:00 am Yoga - Pari Ford 2:00 pm George/Wills family Christmas 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Services - Family Friendly 10:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Services	25 7:00 pm Christmas Day Messiah Church Women	26 9:00 am Youth Group Ski Trip 5:00 pm Women's coffee at church Yoga - Pari Ford	27 Youth Group Ski Trip	28 8:00 am Youth Group Ski Trip Men-Bible Study
29 10:45 am Youth Group Ski Trip 8:00 pm Fellowship Yoga - Pari Ford	30 Youth Group Ski Trip	31 6:00 am Youth Group Ski Trip Yoga - Pari Ford				

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church



Contact Us

Office: 785-227-3977
mlchurch@mlc.kscoxmail.com
www.melclindsborg.org
office hours: 9am-12:00pm
Call for appointment with Amy

Messiah Church Staff

Pastor Amy

Truhe

Office Manager Cindy Challans

Custodians Juan Redmon

Youth Directors Jeanne Lucas, *with Ericka Lysell of Bethany Lutheran Church*

Organist Tyler Breneman

Sr. Choir Director Dr. Mark Lucas

Treasurer Christine Reinert

MELC's Guiding Principles

Jesus is Lord ♦ Everyone is welcome ♦ Love changes people ♦
Everyone has gifts to offer ♦ God sends us as servants to the
world ♦ We commit to grow in faith

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

402 N. First Street
Lindsborg, KS 67456