

THE MONITOR

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church – Lindsborg, Kansas

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January 2020

Greetings Church!

As we enter a new decade, a new year, I'm pondering what we will be focusing on during this new year. The words from our brochure, our 'mission' or 'identity' statement come to mind: "sharing the faith of our fathers in the words of our children." What does this really mean?

For some, this would mean keeping the same things happening year after year. Would not that most likely align with "the faith of our fathers," to simply do the same things over and over? If it these events, these ways of doing things conveyed the faith of Christ to our forebears, would those same things happening also not convey that faith to our children?

For some, the focus would be on "the words of our children." To speak in a common vernacular that embodies all that our children know and understand would be the manner in which we ought to teach them, in the words they understand from today's world. Programming would look different than it might have been twenty or ten or even five years ago. The visuals and the music would sound differently than that which we heard in the past.

There must be, I think, a melding, a bridging of what has *been* and what *is* in order to come into what will *be*.

We are on the precipice of a new age...in fact, I think our world has been broaching this unknown "next" for a decade or so. The rise of nationalism, the rise of justice workers, the angst that sits between our political parties, the anger that comes from being dismissed and feeling unheard by another, the spiritual schism between compassion and corporate indifference...these call us as God's Church, as people of Christ, to look away from the world and live into the commandment to love God, love ourselves, and love our neighbor fueled by a passion that comes from the faith we have learned throughout our lives. "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen" (Heb 11:1) and yet even in today's world, we want to hear that God is doing X, Y, and Z so that we can offer proof and cling to a legalism of faith that says when I do X, then God will do Y. This is not the faith of the settlers to the Smoky Valley. They took on a venture that had no certainty of outcome. You and I get to embrace that same uncertainty as we face a daunting budget for our congregation, as we look to God for guidance on how to go about outreach to the community by sharing what we have with those we do not know. You and I get to live into the uncertainty of God's preferred future for us even as we rely on the faith we have been taught by those who came before us, teaching and modelling and living their faith in the best manner possible.

On the ski trip, I was really grateful to ride with my son, a mixed group of youths, and Ericka Lysell. Ericka has a very eclectic play list of songs that she listens to frequently. She can sing along with rappers and top 40 hits, she likes Elvis and Ice-T equally and sings with gusto. This is the way I envision our faith lives being lived and passed along...that we find the words and the music, the talents and gifts that are so varied that folks look at our lives and say, "wow! That is an eclectic group of folks at Messiah. I bet even *I* could fit in with them." Our welcome to the world will not come through the events we offer, although those provide introductions and openings for people to participate. Our welcome to the world comes through our daily lives and the integrity and Christian focus we offer through every interaction we have with the world, in a language that can be understood by everyone...a language of love, of hope, of forgiveness, of humility and grace. It comes through rappers, through operatic arias, through humming and through the simple rhythms of life lived in faith.

Here are three translations of Colossians 3: 12-15:

“¹²As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord^a has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ^b dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.” (NRSV)

“¹²⁻¹⁴ So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It’s your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. ¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God!” (The Message)

“¹² So, as God’s own chosen people, who are holy [set apart, sanctified for His purpose] and well-beloved [by God Himself], put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience [which has the power to endure whatever injustice or unpleasantness comes, with good temper]; ¹³ bearing graciously with one another, and willingly forgiving each other if one has a cause for complaint against another; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so should you forgive. ¹⁴ Beyond all these things put on and wrap yourselves in [unselfish] love, which is the perfect bond of unity [for everything is bound together in agreement when each one seeks the best for others]. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ [the inner calm of one who walks daily with Him] be the controlling factor in your hearts [deciding and settling questions that arise]. To this peace indeed you were called as members in one body [of believers]. And be thankful [to God always].” (The Amplified Bible)

Each of these translations has merit and offers the same message with different expressions that allow readers and hearers to understand the Word in new ways. Each of us speaks our faith differently, pointing people to the one Lord and Savior who loves and forgives us all.

Let us, this new year, strive to express our faith in ways that the world can hear us, in the words of our children, so to speak, that what we do in our community as a congregation who believes in Jesus Christ, might resound and reverberate throughout this place, opening God’s message to all in new and amazing ways.

Peace be with you in 2020, dear Church. ~Pastor Amy



by Jeanne Ahlers

Winter is now upon us, and we are in the darkest season of the year. Now that the brightness and cheer of the Christmas season is behind us, it would seem that we are faced with a long gloomy stretch of time before the first signs of spring point to a warmer, more vital time. But is that the whole story?

January begins with Epiphany. That's the time to think of the brilliant star that led the Magi to Bethlehem. It's the start of a new year, with its special gifts of possibilities. It's also, here, time to consider the Messiah Festival. The chorus, led by our own choir director, Mark Lucas, experiences the story of how light came into a darkened world. And of course, it points toward Easter and spring.

Weather has affected our church's music program already, with the postponement of the traditional Christmas Candlelight Service. It's now scheduled for January 5 ... the day before Epiphany! Candles will fill the sanctuary with a growing light. Won't that be a wonderful symbol for the coming days?

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

- Worship Services **504**
- **Others in December** **580**
- Daily (includes staff, daycare & coffee groups) **47**

January Anniversaries

Brad & Christa Lawson 1/13

January Birthdays

Verne Hubalek	1/01	DeAnn Brodin	1/13	Alan Pohl	1/25
Larry Elmquist	1/02	Matt Lucas	1/13	Mary Roch	1/26
Harlan Shogren	1/05	Ted Kessinger	1/15	Ellise Peterson	1/30
Marc Anderson	1/12	Rolland Christenson	1/17	Kenneth Peterson	1/31
Rosa Brock	1/12	Cheryl Peterson	1/20		
Stephanie McCormick	1/12	Adrienne Pohl	1/25		

Women's Ministry

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

What's Up in January



- Thursdays 9:00 Women's Coffee at church
- Thursdays 12:00-1:00 – Moms in Prayer at Barbara Peterson's
- Thursday, January 7, 3:00 pm - Visiting at Bethany Home Assisted Living
- Wednesday, January 22, 10:00 am Messiah Church Women Bible Study at church

Messiah Lutheran Church Council Minutes

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

December 8, 2019

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Amy Truhe

Reports:

Treasurer Chris Reinert reviewed the proposed 2020 Budget. Discussion followed regarding the (\$40,000) budget. Becky Anderson volunteered to chair a fundraiser in January or February.

Motion for Chris Reinert to move \$50,000.00 to a higher interest rate than the current .01%. MSC.

Secretary: Approval of minutes of the November 3, 2019 meeting M/S/C.

Treasurer: Report M/S/C.

Pastor: see written report. Pastor Amy will be joining the Youth on their ski trip to Colorado so will not be here on Dec. 29. That Sunday's worship will consist of Lessons and Carols. Kirsten Bruce and Chock Hefner volunteered to help organize the service.

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.

New Business:

Candidates nominated for Church Council to date: Mary Lindgren

Delegates nominated for Synod Assembly are Lois Carlson and Linda Lewis

Memorial candidate nominated is Ted Kessinger

Appointed members to Mission Outreach are Pastor Amy, Sally Hefner, Betty Russin and Carla Wilson

Annual Meeting is January 19, 2020 following worship.

Council members will host the reception following the Choir Candlelight service on Dec. 15 at 7:30.

Chock and Sally Hefner volunteered to co-ordinate the Thrivent Choice Dollars.

Motion to endorse Pastor Amy's plan to move the pastoral call to Bethany College. MSC

Messiah Ev. Lutheran Church/Bethany College Task Force members Bill Gusenius, Becky Anderson, Lois Carlson and Ted Kessinger will schedule a meeting to revisit the joint Pastor/Chaplain position.

Committee Reports: written report from TACOL.

Devotions: Becky Anderson – Blessed to Follow, Chapter ?

Next MELC Council Meeting: Wednesday January 8 at 6:30.

Devotions for December: Gavin Doughty

Messiah Worship Assistants – January 2020

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.

January 5, 2020	Epiphany of Our Lord – Holy Communion
Acolyte	Ellis Peterson
Lector	Holly Toll
Liturgist	Pari Ford
Nursery Attendant	Macie Carlson
Ushers	Andy Carlson, capt; Bill Brock, Bill Lindholm, Larry Elmquist, Dixie Mattas
Altar Steward	Becky Anderson – Pari Ford
Counters	Brian Anderson and Harvey Daniels

January 12, 2020	Holy Communion
Acolyte	Olivia Ford
Lector	Lois Carlson
Liturgist	Pari Ford
Nursery Attendant	Jake Lucas
Ushers	Harvey Daniels, capt; Matt Toll, Julie Aeschliman, Dwight Ford
Communion Assistant	Barb Malm
Altar Steward	Becky Anderson – Pari Ford
Counters	Brian Anderson and Harvey Daniels

January 19, 2020	Service of the Word
Acolyte	
Lector	Larry Elmquist
Liturgist	Pari Ford
Nursery Attendant	Cayson Lindquist
Ushers	Brian Anderson, capt; Don Anderson, Ken Peterson, Marc Anderson
Altar Steward	Becky Anderson – Pari Ford
Counters	Harvey Daniels and Arne Reinert

January 26, 2020	Holy Communion
Acolytes	Matt Lucas
Lector	Joy Janis
Liturgist	Pari Ford
Nursery Attendant	Ellise Peterson
Ushers	Dwight Swisher, capt; Arne Reinert, Ron/Carla Wilson, Aaron Yoder, Harvey Daniels
Communion Assistant	Barb Malm
Altar Steward	Becky Anderson – Pari Ford
Counters	Harvey Daniels and Arne Reinert

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 pm Fellowship Meeting	2 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	3	4 8:00 am Men-Bible Study
5 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	6 11:45 am Chapel Break	7 6:00 am Yoga - Pari Ford	8 11:45 am Chapel Break 7:00 pm Worship and Music	9 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	10 11:45 am Chapel Break	11 8:00 am Men-Bible Study
12 9:30 am Holy Communion 10:45 am Fellowship 4:00 pm Bible Study - Pastor Amy 8:00 pm Yoga - Pari Ford	13 11:45 am Chapel Break 3:30 pm Executive Board	14 6:00 am Yoga - Pari Ford	15 Newsletter Deadline 11:45 am Chapel Break	16 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	17 11:45 am Chapel Break	18 8:00 am Men-Bible Study
19 9:30 am Service of the Word 10:45 am Fellowship 4:00 pm Bible Study - God's Promises/Heaven 8:00 pm Yoga - Pari Ford	20 11:45 am Chapel Break	21 6:00 am Yoga - Pari Ford	22 11:45 am Chapel Break 7:00 pm Messiah Church Women	23 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	24	25 8:00 am Men-Bible Study
26 9:30 am Holy Communion 10:45 am Fellowship 4:00 pm Bible Study - Pastor Amy 8:00 pm Yoga - Pari Ford	27 10:00 am Red Cross Blood Drive	28 6:00 am Yoga - Pari Ford	29 10:30 am Chapel Break	30 9:00 am Women's coffee at church 9:30 am Real Men Sing 12:00 pm Mom's in Prayer at Barbara Peterson's 5:00 pm Yoga - Pari Ford	31 10:30 am Chapel Break	

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church



Contact Us

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www.melclindsborg.org
office hours: gam-12:00pm
Call for appointment with Amy

Messiah Church Staff

Pastor Amy

Truhe

Office Manager Alisa Jones

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