

THE MONITOR

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church – Lindsborg, Kansas

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April 2020

Dear Church,

There is, as you know, a challenge afoot. We are called to be apart and yet still to be Church, Christ's hands and feet in the world. It is a rather strange and trying call. How do we serve one another and remain physically apart?

Individualism in the USA, perhaps the world, has become a core value. We have made self-happiness, self-awareness, self-gratification part of our ethic in choosing pretty much everything. This is not the call of the Bible; it is not the gospel message.

The good news of Christ is about relationship. Trinity is about relationship, the perfect balance of Eternal, Carnal, and Ethereal. In Matthew 22, we hear Jesus say to the lawyer,

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

We are given the command to love interconnectedly.

For these days, I find it a deep challenge to determine who will be in my six-foot space. Everyone is to be outside of that range. Everyone is to be apart one from another. Gatherings are limited by space and number. It is prudent to be self-contained, to allow only your housemates inside that six foot bubble.

So perhaps, as we struggle with the limitations, we get to look more intently at the gifts and passions we each have been given. What talent have you neglected? What passion have you ignored in the busy-ness of your life? I chuckled the first time I went to the store and discovered yeast was not on the shelf! It made me smile to recognize that bias tape and fabrics were being purchased at a great rate as people decided to take up sewing projects. Puzzles are newly displayed on social media...a task that requires one to be calm and focused. For me, puzzling allows the thoughts percolating on my back burner to simmer and coalesce, offering new insights and a meditative calm.

What does loving yourself in this time mean to you?

It seems to me that we cannot love others without loving ourselves. We can only love ourselves as God gifts us an awareness that we are deeply and unconditionally loved. By God's grace, we receive God's love, forgiveness, and hope. We are then compelled to share that love, forgiveness, and hope out to the world.

As Messiah Lutheran, we are posting, daily, a Lenten devotional with two thoughtful questions. We are posting, daily, a hymn with a reflection and the lyrics. We are offering people worship as is typical, using shorter settings, sharing a gospel message. These are for you, individually. These are for the collective, our community. Call one another to talk about them. Zoom or Skype or video Messenger with each other in order to be together in safe ways.

As we look towards Holy Week, I have been both grieving and excited about the potential to try new things in video format. The ancient practices we have lived into for so long have given us constancy and familiarity. At Messiah, your traditions and consistent practices are different than other places I've served. The Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Triduum are for us the very heart of our belief in God's work in our world. Changing them to a format that works digitally, with only a few in the sanctuary (gathered in compliance with the restrictions we're under), is a challenge I both loathe and am trying to embrace. In my lifetime, there has been no time the palms were not waved in gathered community.

What does this mean? What can I learn about myself as these challenges come to me? What does this mean for you? What can you learn about yourself as today's challenges come to you?

Luther was challenged by the Bubonic plague in his lifetime. He wrote what he termed a "pamphlet" about how a Christian might respond to such rampant illness and resulting deaths. He asks people to "be cautious when no emergency exists, and if everyone would help ward off contagion as best he can, then the death toll would indeed be moderate." We are called to new ways to be faithful in this time of apartness. We are called to continue to worship individually as well as corporately, apart. We are called to hear what God offers to us in our unique selves, to receive the love God has for us personally so that when we gather anew, we can be confident in God's faithfulness to each of us and share that confidence with all we encounter. Today, we can practice this awareness digitally, by igniting our internal passions, and through awareness of God's presence in our lives even as we simultaneously grieve and rejoice in the new ways we are called to live for this time.

Church, may this Lent be a true time of repentance, of renewal, of reclaiming who God calls you to be, such that the Church might be invigorated to serve God in new and creative ways, claiming all the gifts of every person for the sake of the world.

God loves you. You are not alone. You are fearlessly and wonderfully created for such a time as this.
Christ's peace be with you, Pastor Amy

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

- Worship Services **157**
- Virtual connection
- Others in March **400**
- Daily (includes staff, daycare & coffee groups) **47**

April Birthdays

Breckin Rogers	4/01	Cindy Daniels	4/27
Muriel Gentine	4/01	Holden Hendricks	4/27
Julie Aeschliman	4/08	Keith Lindemann	4/27
Tyler Atkinson	4/11	Pari Ford	4/28
L'Jean Swisher	4/21	Rachel Norland	4/29
Jill Forsberg	4/22		
Chad Ellis	4/23		
Ione Toll	4/26		

 **Take note** *by Jeanne Ahlers*

As Robert Burns once put it, "The best laid plans o' mice and men gang aft agley." The coronavirus has upended everyone's life and immediate plans. There isn't any way to know when life will return to normal. And with church services suspended for the next several weeks, needless to say, the music program is at a standstill.

The Oratorio Society, to which a fair number of Messiah members belong, has postponed any presentation for the immediate future. The fact that gatherings have been restricted to ten or less has made that inevitable. There is a possibility that this year's performance might be given later in the year, perhaps at Midsummer's. Time will tell.

For the present, we'll have to bear with conditions as they are. "Even this will pass." The time will come when we'll be meeting again and "making a joyful noise unto the Lord."

Covid-19 Resources and Announcements

Covid -19 Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

<https://govstatus.egov.com/coronavirus>

Thrivent for Lutherans: "Make a big difference! Give generously to help others affected by COVID-19. Whether that's through illness, job loss, school closures and more, Thrivent is supporting those who want to [#LiveGenerously](#). We're offering a match of \$1 for every \$2 donated for the first \$1 million! Learn more at www.livegenerously.com."
www.facebook.com/justin.carlson.thrivent.

Thank you for continuing to send your offering to the church.

As prayers are needed please contact Pastor Amy or the church so we can add. Please do not hesitate to let us know of those in need of prayer!

Messiah Lutheran Congregation Council Minutes
(these minutes will be approved at the April council meeting)

March 7, 2020

(Council retreat and meeting were combined this month.)

Council Members present: Pastor Amy Truhe, President Kirsten Bruce, Becky Anderson, Lois Carlson, Gavin Doughty, Linda Lewis, Mary Lindgren, Muriel Gentine, Robert Peterson, Ingrid Pohl.

Absent: Warren Olson

Opening Prayer: Pastor Amy

Reports:

Secretary: Approval of Minutes from February **M/S/P**

Treasurer: No report. 2020 budget was discussed. Pastor Amy, Kirsten and Muriel will meet with treasurer Chris Reinert to make any changes. The budget will be brought to the congregation for a vote of approval on March 29.

Pastor:

President: No report

Old Business:

Approval for Mark Flynn to install a pump and timer on the hot water heater and a valve under the sink in the kitchen to have instant hot water. The estimated cost is around \$700.00.

New Business:

Council Installation – March 8

Church Survey – Read through the survey, Linda Lewis will summarize it to present to congregation.

Spring Clean-up – March 28 from 9 – 12, inside and outside

April 14 – Bethany College Campus Ministry Pancake feed # 2. The first one netted \$450.00.

May 2 – Garage Sale from 8 – 12.

May 26 – 29 – VBS at MELC

Food Bank Proposal – Motion for MELC to sponsor the Food Bank project. MSP. A grant for \$21,000 has been written for MELC to pilot the Food Bank project for the city of Lindsborg. A temporary space would be in a corner of the Fellowship Room.

Bread Ministry – Open to all ages to bake bread and give it away.

Other Business:

Approval for Mark Flynn to replace 5 light fixtures in the Sprout House Nursery with LED fixtures. Estimated cost is \$720.00.

Fundraisers – It is hoped to raise around \$5,000.00.

Property – Motion for Tim Jordan Masonry to repair exterior brick and mortar not to exceed \$8,000.00. MSP

Committee Reports:

Christian Ed – Pari Ford

Fellowship – Gavin Doughty

Finance & Stewardship – Becky Anderson

Global Mission – Warren Olson

Outreach & Caring – Ingrid Pohl

Property – Robert Peterson

Staff Relations – Kirsten Bruce

TACOL – Linda Lewis

Worship & Music – Lois Carlson

Youth – (Jeanne Lucas) Anya Pohl

Women of ELCA – Mary Lindgren

Memorial – (Dixie Mattas)

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Next MELC Council Meeting: Wednesday April 15 at 6:30 PM

Devotions:

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church



Contact Us

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www.melclindsborg.org
office hours: 8-10 M-F
Call for appointment with Pastor Amy

Messiah Church Staff

Pastor	Amy Truhe
Office Manager	Alisa Jones
Custodian	Juan Redmon
Youth Directors	Jeanne Lucas
	<i>Ericka Lysell, Bethany Lutheran Church</i>
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**
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Lindsborg, KS 67456