

THE MONITOR

Greetings, Church!

It has been a long while since we put out a newsletter. With the weekly output of the bulletin, for a while, I wrote there. Then, as all things during Covid-time, that has waxed and waned.

As this time has afforded us many opportunities, and I may have written about this before, this bears repeating. Covid-time has moved us out of the sanctuary. Physically. We are not only about meeting there, in the comfort of our pews, with the known paintings and the melodies of the keyboards. We are not hemmed in by the colorful glass windows, keeping the world at bay and offering us stories and symbols to look at rather than seeing the starkness of the sky or the branches of the trees. We are not about only the altar, the candles, the hymnals and the paraments.

We are people who have moved into the fellowship hall.

Yup. Most of what happens in the church building these days happens in the fellowship hall. Coffee groups, student gatherings, book studies, hospital classes, Dala Pantry, high school graduation parties, VBS handouts, WELCA gatherings, council meetings are all taking place in the fellowship hall.

I kind of prefer this image, that the Church become a place of fellowship, of community engagement. It seems that perhaps this is the hope God offers to the world. The Trinity is the essence of relationship: messy, ever-in-need-of-balance, seeking to support through all things, loving, forgiving, welcoming into continual connection. This is the image of God the congregation, the Church, is to live into.

Our fellowship hall is a reflection of this. It is messy with tables in odd formation. The Dala Pantry has changed the shape of the room. There are empty boxes, ready for recycling. The floor has tape on it for socially distancing chairs when groups gather there. The space feels as if it is full of Spirit, even as it is not a place of worship, it is the place where the work of the Church is happening.

And our worship is outside. Out of the boundaries of normalcy, out of the solitude of the walls and the hiddenness of our space. I believe we need sanctuary. It also seems that the idea of sanctuary has cast us into a hidden way of worshipping, a sequestered, even segregated manner of being “this” congregation rather than “that” congregation.

Sanctuary is for respite, not identity.

The openness of the park, worshipping in nature, offers a way of being in community and praising God that moves our voices on the wind, into the trees, through the playground and across the sidewalks, a movement denied when we worship inside walls. God feels less constrained to me when I worship outside. God seems differently present as Pastor Chris and I walk through the people bearing the Body and Blood to meet people where they are.

Joining our worship with Bethany Lutheran has opened another manner of relationship. Pastor Chris and I have different leadership styles, different preaching voices, unique understandings of how to share the liturgy. No wonder congregations who share a call take years to meld their expectations and hopes: Pr. Chris and I must be intentional in our communications in order for there to be collegiality in our work. This is fellowship at its finest. This intentionality also creates sanctuary for us; a place wherein we can share our pastoral concerns, our hopes for our congregations, and our perceptions of the community as a whole.

This, Church, is our call as believers in Jesus Christ. We are called to be in fellowship beyond the sanctuary. In Ephesians 2, we read,

“you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.”

The Church is the fellowship of people, all people, connected as bearers of the image of God to all the world. As believers in Christ, we are the sanctuary for the world when people come into fellowship with us in a parking lot, on the trail, at the grocery store or at the coffee shop, even in our own backyard. We are the Church, bearing the fellowship and community of Christ in our very beings. We offer the sanctuary of love and forgiveness and respite for the weary through our identity in Christ. Blessings be yours, Church. May you continue to grow in fellowship as you remain healthfully distant, covered with a mask of care for your neighbors, and open to worshipping God in wide open, unusual spaces.

~Yours in Christ, Pastor Amy

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Vic Streufert	10/1	Brian Anderson	10/2
Louise Benson	10/6	Kenneth Swisher	10/8
Tyler Breneman	10/8	Ingrid Pohl	10/16
Anita Johnson	10/17	Jeanette Shogren	10/21
Gary Mattas	10/23	Scott Taylor	10/27
Walli Ellis	10/29		

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bill and Carolyn Brock	10/3
Bob and Diana Saunders	10/23
Bill and Sonja Taylor	10/24
Eugene and Gloria Holdsworth	10/25

CHURCH NEWS

Messiah has committed to following the county guidelines for in-person worship, citing the County Health Department's guidelines of avoiding gatherings of more than 45 persons. We submitted a plan for safer worship practices in the park to the County and to the City of Lindsborg and were granted approval of our design. We have been blessed to gather in the park through September (with the exception of Sept 27 when the wind and rain forced us to record worship in the sanctuary!). We have reserved the shelter house through the end of October with the hopes that the county will be on a downward trend in Covid cases which would change the guidelines, allowing us to worship inside with safer practices in November. We have enjoyed attendance of 77, 75, and 49 in the park (ambient temperatures make a large difference in attendance!) and anticipate being warm enough to continue until November. Watch for updates on worship practices in your email and on facebook.

DALA PANTRY

The Dala Pantry is excited to let you know that we have helped over 130 families and purchased a total of 8,112 pounds of food from the Food Bank of Kansas (not including donations or outside purchases) since being open! We are so grateful for all of you that have donated, volunteered, or prayed for this program to start up.

We will always take more volunteers, if you would like to volunteer please contact me, Logan Dawes, at either my cell or email: 620-654-7193 or logan.dawes.18@gmail.com

Items we need:

jam or jelly other than grape, canned chicken, vienna sausages, tuna, Ritz crackers, canned fruits, oatmeal, PopTarts

SPROUT HOUSE

Sprout House continues to be part of our ministry here at Messiah! Sally Johnson continues with infant care in the eastern portion of our building. Some of our parishioners worked on the ceiling and ventilation system above the childcare area. We are deeply grateful for their work! As well, the after school program is seeking to return to our basement after about a year's hiatus. The USD400 is not allowing any outside programming in their building (girl scouts, boy scouts, etc.) so the Sprout House after school program needs a home. In the last year there was a change in the fire inspector position and the new inspector interprets the laws a bit differently than the previous inspector so the program is awaiting a final determination about the usefulness and safety of our space. Meanwhile, Mike Dreier and Pastor Amy have been in conversation about the need for Covid safety measures should the program return to Messiah. We are looking forward to the inspector's determination and the ability for Messiah to support this program once again!

Hello from the Mini Miracles Sprouthouse! Fall is upon us now so our classroom is decorated with tiny pumpkins and colorful leaves. We currently are caring for five kiddos and are excited that two more will be joining us in a few short weeks. There is nothing better than a room full of smiling faces. Please feel free to stop by and say hello! Thank you again for allowing us to be housed in your church!

Sally Johnson, Director of infant/toddler room

MESSIAH CHURCH WOMEN

Messiah Church Women will meet Wednesday, October 28 at 7:00 PM in the church Fellowship Hall, with masks and social distancing. Flo Peterson will lead the Bible Study with Carolyn Brock hosting. If you feel comfortable attending please join us! All women are welcome.

We will be taking 10-15 Lutheran World Relief School Kits, along with Carolyn Brock's quilts, to Salina on October 8. Thank you to all who contributed to these kits, and to Carolyn for making the school bags. We know they will help to meet a great need in our country, and in the world.

Also, a big thank you to Marla Elmquist for spearheading the women's monthly newsletter--it has been and will continue to be a blessing to stay connected in this way.

Messiah Lutheran Congregation Council Minutes

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

September 16, 2020

Council Members present: Pastor Amy Truhe, President Kirsten Bruce, Becky Anderson, Lois Carlson, Gavin Doughty, Pari Ford, Muriel Gentine, Linda Lewis, Mary Lindgren, Rob Peterson, Ingrid Pohl. Absent: Warren Olson.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Amy

Reports:

Secretary: Approval of Minutes from August. **M/S/C.**

Treasurer: **M/S/C** to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

Pastor: As written.

Worship in the Park – Volunteers are needed to set-up and tear down.

Thank you to the Ford family for the new sign board for the Dala Pantry.

Council is asked to bring ideas to the October meeting on “Visioning for the Future” of MELC.

Old Business:

Organist: We are pleased to announce that Dr. Steve Gustafson has been accepted as organist here at MELC.

New Business:

Office Manager: We welcome Ida Rencher as our office manager.

Newsletter: Watch for the next edition of the newsletter as Ida gets it ready to print.

Budget Review: Council committee liaisons are asked to submit budget numbers by Sept. 30.

Council Members: Requesting names for next year's council.

Grants: Grant writers will be submitting to the Smoky Valley and the Nutt Foundation.

October 25: Reformation Sunday Dinner will be served as “carry out” from 11am to 1pm. Menu consists of Brats, Roasted potatoes, Coleslaw and Root Beer Floats.

Ben Fulton has proposed an Outdoor Christmas Market for the downtown area. We encourage you to submit suggestions for a Messiah booth.

Committee Reports:

Christian Ed – Pari Ford –

Fellowship – Gavin Doughty

Finance & Stewardship – Becky Anderson

Global Mission – Warren Olson

Outreach & Caring – Ingrid Pohl

Property – Rob Peterson – Removal of stage

Staff Relations – Kirsten Bruce

TACOL – Linda Lewis – written report

Worship & Music – Lois Carlson – written report

WELCA – LWR item are being collected

Youth – (Jeanne Lucas)

Memorial – (Dixie Mattas)

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: October 19 at 3:30 p.m.

Next MELC Council Meeting: Wednesday October 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Messiah Lutheran Church Calendar

OCTOBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 am Women's Coffee	2 8:45 – 10:15am Bethany College Alumni Fika Fridays 10:30am BC Chapel Break	3
4 9:30am Service in person at Swensson Park Shelter Youth Group 5:30 Middle school boys 6:15 Middle school girls	5 10:30am BC Chapel Break	6	7 10:30am BC Chapel Break	8 8:00 am Women's Coffee	9 10:30am BC Chapel Break	10
11 9:30am Service in person at Swensson Park Shelter Youth Group 5:30 Underclass HS boys 6:15 Underclass HS girls	12 10:30am BC Chapel Break	13	14 10:30am BC Chapel Break	15 8:00 am Women's Coffee	16 8:45 – 10:15am Bethany College Alumni Fika Fridays 10:30am BC Chapel Break	17
18 9:30am Service in person at Swensson Park Shelter	19 10:30am BC Chapel Break Youth Group 5:30 Upperclass HS boys 6:15 Upperclass HS girls	20	21 10:30am BC Chapel Break 6:30pm MELC Council Meeting	22 8:00 am Women's Coffee	23 10:30am BC Chapel Break	24
25 9:30am Service in person at Swensson Park Shelter	26 10:30am BC Chapel Break	27	28 10:30am BC Chapel Break 7:00pm Messiah Church Women Bible Study	29 8:00 am Women's Coffee	30 10:30am BC Chapel Break	31

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Messiah Church Staff

Pastor	Amy Truhe
Office Manager	Ida Rencher
Custodian	Juan Redmon
Youth Directors	Jeanne Lucas Ericka Lysell, Bethany Lutheran Church
Organist	Steven Gustafson
Sr. Choir Director	Dr. Mark Lucas
Treasurer	Christine Reinert

Contact Us

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

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