

# THE MONITOR

## Dear Church,

Tuesday we have the national election...and local elections...and as I watched actual tv one night, I was really surprised at the focus, locally, on the race to elect Barbara Bollier. She's currently a state senator, a democrat, seeking to become a Senator for Kansas on the national level; a Democratic Senator, replacing retiring Senator Pat Roberts who has been the Kansas representative in the senate for more than 20 years. Running against Bollier is Roger Marshall, a man who has served one term as a state representative. He's a Republican along the lines of Senator Roberts.

What surprised me was the back-to-back ads these two people ran. The ones during prime time television were attacks from the Republicans on Barbara—her desire to vote for an agenda definitely opposed to the Republican agenda. Her ads were more along the lines of what she has done, agreeing with the accusatory actions of the Republicans, her ads reframed her actions as positives.

It was an interesting juxtaposition of truth. Both agree she stands for, votes for, creates legislation around the same actions. Their perception of those actions, the way the ads presented her work, however, was completely different. The republicans denounced her actions as "not the values we have as Kansans." The democrats uplifted her actions as the voice of the majority, the work people need on their behalf in Kansas. They both agreed she would continue the same work on a national level.

No matter how you will vote, the idea that a truth can be both positive and negative, the idea that your perception of the truth changes based on where you stand, is imperative to serving as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Truth in God is based on knowing that God is love.

Paul writes, "<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin." (Romans 3: 19-20) No matter your beliefs, you will not win your way into heaven, into God's kingdom or God's favor by following the laws and boundaries you put around people or ideas. God doesn't justify us because of who we are. God justifies us because of who God is...and God is love.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3: 21-26)

We are made right with God as God loves us. Period. No matter if you stand on the right side or the left, no matter if you are liberal or conservative, no matter if you vote one way or another.

As a person who claims faith in Jesus Christ, as a person who claims to be redeemed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, you are not responsible for your salvation. That is God's work alone. Paul says it this way, "<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law." (Romans 3: 27-28) Faith is a gift to us through the Holy Spirit (see the explanation of the third article of the Apostles' Creed). Disciples are called to respond in faith to share God in the world that others might come to salvation through Christ.

Jeremiah prophesied that we would know right and wrong in our hearts, that God has written the covenant of love on our hearts and we are called to live into that awareness in our actions, our thoughts, our concern for our neighbor. God gifts us with the ability to see a bigger picture than that which our ancestors teach even as their words gift us with ideas and perceptions. It is ours to claim the right to question and to wonder, to wrestle and to hear in our very beings the truth that God gifts to us, a truth found only in love of God, our self, and our neighbor.

The thing is, your vote does matter, your voice is important. As Christians, our first allegiance is to God, God who is love. With prayer and with deep awareness, I pray you listen to the voice in your being that offers you the peace that only comes from God and that you vote to allow that peace to continue through you into the world. Knowing that ONLY to God are you accountable, may you stand in Christ and act as God calls you to act, that the world might also know the unbounded love of God.

*God of justice, in the midst of this election season we pray for fair and just elections. We pray for the healing of divisions that cause violence, and repent of the times we fail to see Your face in our neighbor. Activate our love for all of your creation and our neighbors as we exercise our right to vote and make choices about our leaders. We also pray for those who cannot vote, but whose lives are impacted by the results. Help us to be the body of Christ, an identity that claims our lives regardless of political leadership. Especially over the next anxious week, we pray for your peace, a peace rooted in justice through your Holy Spirit we pray, Amen.*

~Yours In Christ, Pastor Amy

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jeanne Ahlers	11/2	Doris Carlson	11/5
Sharon Doughty	11/6	Bo Atkinson	11/7
Cayson Lindquist	11/7	Teddy Atkinson	11/9
Rylee Lawson	11/12	Marla Elmquist	11/14
Barb Malm	11/25	Gretchen Norland	11/29

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Matthew and Holly Toll	11/25
Warren and Lynnda Olson	11/28
Randy and Gretchen Norland	11/29

### CHURCH NEWS

Last Wednesday, Council met and talked about worship for our congregation. Having consulted on the exchange rate of the air in the sanctuary and looking at the continually rising cases of COVID-19 in our county and in adjacent Saline County, we are not opening worship up to everyone all at once as we had hoped to be able to do. However, we decided that the information Ida, our Office Administrator, gathered in the last weeks via emails and a few phone calls (having left many messages), we will send invitations by going through the list, top to bottom, and ask if you can come the week you are next on the list. We will have a limited number of people in the sanctuary on Sunday morning, around 10, to livestream the service. There will be no communion and we will sing with people placed (based on how many in their group) more safely (according to guidelines) around the lower portion of the sanctuary.

No one is obligated to come. Everyone is welcome to be in the rotation. This is not the "way things have always been." However, since we have been recording worship, we have had anywhere from 4 to 15 people in the sanctuary for recording so this does not seem out of character with how we have been doing things, we are simply expanding the pool of people who come to be the congregation for all of those who prefer to worship more safely at home.

Please watch for an invitation in your email. If you want to be included on the "interested in in-person worship" list, please let Ida know either by email or by phone. It is important that we continue to reach for the new normal in a way that allows us to continue be God's people in our community. We are stronger together, gathered into One by God who loves us and asks us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. I am always looking for suggestions and for creative ways to have worship reflect our mission of sharing the faith of our fathers in the words of our children.

Thank you, Pastor Amy

### REFORMATION SUNDAY LUNCH

A new way to celebrate Reformation Sunday is now in the history books. The cooks of Messiah once again held a drive by lunch for congregation and community members. Grilled brats, smashed potatoes, slaw and root beer floats. The temp hovered around 40 but the show must go on! We had fun working together as we always do and made some money to continue our good work in community. Food has been a focus for Messiah during the pandemic. Watch for information about the next idea! Any and everyone are welcome to join the fun. Thanks to all who made our day a fun one.

### KICK

KICK (Kids in Christ's Kingdom) for K-6th grade begins Wednesday, November 4. We will have 2 groups (a younger and older) that rotate each week. This semester we are meeting at Bethany Lutheran Church. Please contact Rachel Ann Atkinson (785) 212-0113 or Olivia Peterson (785) 769-6165 for more information on how to register or volunteer to help.

## **TACOL THANKSGIVING OFFERING**

Every year at the TACOL Thanksgiving service and offering is taken to fund the Community Christmas Basket ministry. This ministry provides extra food to families in the greatest need in the Smoky Valley. Because we are not able to have the TACOL Thanksgiving service this year, and will therefore be unable to take our annual offering. Messiah is taking a special offering for the Community Christmas Basket ministry.

If you would like to personally donate we ask that you designate it to the Christmas Basket fund and send it to:

Shirley Reissig  
PO Box 41  
Lindsborg, KS 67456

## **ADVENT AT BETHANY**

Advent at Bethany: Journey of the Magi

A Festival of Discovery through Hymns, Scripture, & Reflections

Sunday, Nov. 15, 2020, 4pm, Pearson Chapel

Due to COVID-19, this event will only be available through a livestream at [bethanylb.edu/live](http://bethanylb.edu/live)

A program will be available for download featuring:

Bethany College Handbell Ensemble

Dr. Hentus van Rooyen, organist

Campus Pastor Amy Truhe, reflections

## **MESSIAH CHURCH WOMEN**

Our MCW Bible Study for all women was scheduled to meet Wednesday November 25, which is the day before Thanksgiving. The previous week or the first week of December are possibilities. More details will be sent in a church bulletin or by e-mail, as plans are finalized.

As we were unable to have an Ingathering/Thankoffering service this fall, we are asking that anyone who wishes to give a Thankoffering to W/ELCA may bring it into the church office. You can also bring your monthly Messiah Church Women offering to the church if it is not received at one of the monthly Bible Studies or mail it to the church. Please show on your check where your donation is going.

## **DALA PANTRY**

The Dala Pantry will have a different holiday schedule. It will be open from 10 am - 12 pm on the Wednesdays of Thanksgiving week, Christmas week, and New Years week rather than on Thursdays of those weeks.

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](mailto: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

# Messiah Lutheran Congregation Council Minutes

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

October 21, 2020

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

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Amy

**Reports:**

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

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

**Pastor:** As written.

**TACOL:** **M/S/C** to donate \$250.00 for the Christmas Baskets this year.

**Old Business:**

**Youth Director:** In addition to Youth Director, Jeanne Lucas will be a Partner in Ministry under Pastor Amy's supervision. She and Pastor will share the visitation.

**Reformation Dinner:** Brats, buns, potatoes, root beer and ice cream will be purchased at White's. Kirsten is in charge of the coleslaw. "Carry out" is from 11:00 to 1:00.

**Grants:** A grant of \$2,500 was written to the Smoky Valley Foundation for upgrades in technology. The Nutt Foundation Grant is due November 3.

**Council Member(s) for 2021:** Waiting on responses.

**Budget:** Committee budgets will remain the same as last year.

**New Business:**

**Worship survey:** In person worship – 2/3 yes, 1/3 no. From those who said yes, we will rotate 10 per Sunday to be the congregation on Sunday mornings for videoing and recording. This will be live streamed at 9:30.

**Thanksgiving Dinner:** It was decided to have a "carry out" dessert from 1:00 to 2:00 on November 22. This will include Patty's Famous Bread Pudding.

**Christmas Eve Service:** Tabled until next meeting.

**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

Worship & Music – Lois Carlson

WELCA – Mary Lindgren

Youth – (Jeanne Lucas)

Memorial – (Dixie Mattas)

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:** November 10 at 3:30 p.m.

**Next MELC Council Meeting:** Wednesday November 18 at 6:30 p.m.

# Messiah Lutheran Church Calendar

# NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 3:35 - 5:45 KICK begins	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:45 - 10:15am Bethany College Alumni Fika Fridays  10:30am BC Chapel Break	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30am Service on Church Website	<b>9</b> 10:30am BC Chapel Break	<b>10</b> 3:30pm Executive Committee Meeting	<b>11</b> 10:30am BC Chapel Break  3:35 - 5:45 KICK	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:30am BC Chapel Break	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30am Service on Church Website  4:00pm Bethany Advent	<b>16</b> 10:30am BC Chapel Break	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:30am BC Chapel Break  3:35 - 5:45 KICK  6:30pm MELC Council Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 8:45 - 10:15am Bethany College Alumni Fika Fridays	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:30am Service on Church Website	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30am Service on Church Website	<b>30</b>					

# 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**  
**402 N First Street**  
**Lindsborg, KS 67456**