

THE MONITOR

December 2020

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Lindsborg, Kansas

Volume 114, Issue 14

Dear Church,

We have entered the season that this is Advent, the season of Arrival. Jesus has come, our first two weeks of the season share, having been prophesied and realized. The second two weeks celebrate that Jesus is to come, as a baby, as Messiah, overlapping the sense of God with us (already)/God coming to us (not yet). Like the circle of the snake swallowing its tail, the circle of seasons, of our celebration of the Christ story, is never-ending, life, death and resurrection until Christ comes again at the end of time.

This year, more than ever, the sense of already/not yet of God with us seems prominent. We have had numerous worldly, social challenges. As we prepare for Christ's coming, King of the Universe, we are called to be aware of the message we share with the world as believers in Jesus' reign. Our message of love, forgiveness, hope, and peace is the message of Jesus' good news for the world, calling us to live differently with old relationships, calling us to find within ourselves the movement of the Holy Spirit which empowers us to live in love, not in worldly divisions. As well, this year I sense a need for a awareness of the humility, the vulnerability with which Jesus came to earth. Dependent on caretakers, reliant on family and on religious leaders who affirmed the message of his arrival, needy in his child-like way of growing into a man who offered God's message to ALL people, clean and unclean, Gentile or Jew, slave or free, woman or man, Jesus walked with a confident vulnerability which can only be empowered by God.

We are at the season of Arrival. We have arrived at the end of the secular calendar year, we have come to the beginning of the Church year, two alternative measures of time and awareness which both compel us to look and to listen to the treasures of our hearts, for out of those, we speak.

God is with us, dear believers! We are called and sent to share the good news, even in our moments of frustration and suffering, especially in these times of separation and distancing. How do you do this? What is your way of offering God's grace to others? What gifts are you sharing with whom and how?

Were your answer to be, "I don't know," it is time for you to find a manner in which God might use your energy to honor and glorify God. Were your answer to have many venues in which you share and serve, remember that loving yourself is as important as loving your neighbor.

This season of Arrival has us looking at our traditions, figuring out which create meaning for us.

As a congregation, we are constantly looking for ways to share meaning in, among, and through our people and out, then, into the community, even through this time apart. We've had drive through events, we've hosted on line worship and Marla created a newsletter of people's thoughts. Ministry remains vital and vibrant through the Dala Pantry, Sprout House Mini Miracles, hospital classes, Bethany College classes, and our coffee and study groups.

We are God's people, arrived already and ready to arrive again as God comes to us over and over, empowering us to ever be created anew.

May you, this season, know the confidence in which you have arrived in faith. God has created you for this arrival, all the while growing you into whomever God is calling you to be next. Perhaps that means being alone, mailing cards, calling friends and fellow parishioners, making food to leave on porches, making music to share on social media, drawing a picture, or praying quietly for everyone you know. May the death and resurrection of Christ in this world empower you to die to who you have been and in all vulnerability and dependence on God, open you to becoming the newly gifted person God calls you to be.

Dear Church, may you celebrate today, with all its joy and sorrow, trusting God that you have arrived, a child in God's kingdom. ☺

~May Advent blessings be upon you,
Pastor Amy

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Rachel Ann Atkinson	12/1	Matthew Toll	12/8
Gary Butler	12/11	Matthew Brodin	12/13
Robert Saunders	12/17	Sally Hefner	12/19
Ellen Flynn	12/21	Elizabeth Mauch	12/23
Holly Toll	12/24	Kelsie Anderson	12/27

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Arnold and Chris Reinert	12/17
Andy and Kelly Carlson	12/18
Tom and Kathy Toll	12/27
Dave and Lois Carlson	12/28
Neal and Mary Jo Roch	12/31

CHURCH NEWS

We welcome Andrea Ring, Doctorate of Psychology from Bethany College, as our newest member.

Faithful Pals

As we move through this time of distancing, faith education of our younger members is very challenging. It would be really super if we could have some members who would commit to writing letters, as Pen Pals once wrote, to our younger members. It might also be an interesting idea to have couples who have been married more than 15 years write to couples married less than 15 years...?

The idea would look like this. Faithful Pals would offer to write at least twice a month, making sure to identify themselves as members of Messiah and sharing a return address. Along with the name, age, and address of a recipient, writers would receive prompts. Prompts would not need to be used but would be there as a way to direct letters in a vein of faith-sharing. Recipients would simply receive the letters. There would be no expectation that they would write back. Hopefully, parents and guardians would help younger recipients to respond as they are able.

If it is helpful, the office can supply envelopes and stamps. If you are interested, please email mlchurch@mlc.kscoxmail.com or call 785.227.3977 to receive your information.

Your commitment to writing would be really important. Please contact Pastor Amy at 785.452.0969 if you have any questions.

Christmas Eve Worship

Messiah's Council met on November 18. It was decided that, due to Health Department guidelines on safer practices, we would return to recording our worship. This poses some creative opportunities for our Christmas traditions.

The **Christmas by Candlelight** will be an online event, airing December 27th. Dr. Lucas is preparing a virtual 'Lessons and Carols' version of the concert.

Christmas Eve will offer several ways to worship. One will be a *shortened service that will be online* at 5:30 Christmas Eve. One will be a *booklet by which you can worship at home*. A *third option is awaiting approval* by the County Health Nurse. This option would have you and those with whom you want to worship signing up through the office for a time to come to the building. You would have a private, 15 minute, safer practices worship led by Pastor Amy, including communion. Watch your email for more information as this option is made available or not. It will most likely depend on the COVID cases in our area.

Address Changes:

This month, we had two households change their addresses. Gloria and Gene Holdsworth moved into Bethany Home. Their contact information is: **Eugene and Gloria Holdsworth, 785.227.7377**

**321 N Chestnut, Room #55
Lindsborg, Kansas 67456**

As well, Donna Forsberg moved into Bethany Villages (formerly Bethany Home) at the Sunflower Terrace. Her contact information is: **Donna Forsberg, 785.227-2715**

**821 E. Swensson,
Lindsborg KS 67456**

MESSIAH CHURCH WOMEN

Due to an abundance of caution, the December 2 meeting for Messiah Church Women has been postponed until further notice. We look forward to getting together with everyone after the first of the year, and will keep you posted.

DALA PANTRY

The Dala Pantry has been doing tremendously well, we have served over 60 families as of the middle of October. During that time we also made strides by purchasing a fridge and a freezer. With those purchases we have been able to order frozen meats and refrigerate our fresh produce. As of right now we have been able to stock frozen pork loins and plan to get more!

The Dala Pantry will have special holiday hours and be open the Wednesdays of Christmas week and New Years week from 10 am to noon and closed on the holidays.

We are always looking for volunteers, if you would want to volunteer please let me know at either 620-654-7193 or at logan.dawes.18@gmail.com. This is an easy way to volunteer and also counts for students that might need volunteer hours to graduate.

The Lindsborg Library is also hosting a food drive right now! A huge thanks to them and the rest of the community!

Sneak Peek:

Be on the look out for a frozen food drive here in the next month or two!

Thanks for all you have done to keep the Pantry going!

BETHANY HOME

The annual 2020 Christmas Party for Bethany Home will be done differently this year. Bethany Home is asking for your monetary donations only.

They will **NOT** be accepting gifts, or cookies at this time. Please mail in your offering to: Bethany Home – 321 N Chestnut Lindsborg Kansas, 67456.

When writing your check, please put *Christmas activities* on the memo line. Bethany Home staff will take your donations and purchase items for the residents.

Your generous donation **WILL** make a difference. Please consider spreading a little Christmas Cheer to our family and friends at Bethany Home.

Deadline for this event is Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

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.

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

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

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

November 18, 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, Linda Lewis, Ingrid Pohl.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Amy

Reports:

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

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

Pastor: As written.

Baptism and reception of Members is scheduled for Nov. 22. Advent begins on Nov. 29. The Youth under the direction of Jeanne and Ericka are compiling their reflections and devotions for a daily thought to share.

Old Business:

Salaries: Choir Director – Remain the same as 2020. **MSC to purchase 10 “singing” masks.**

Council Member(s) for the coming year: Will need at least 1 new member.

Budget review: Budget to remain the same as 2020. Checking with Chris in regards to the availability of the restricted funds.

Thanksgiving “Take Out Dessert”: Drive-by at 2:00 to pick up your Bread Pudding or Delivery available By request. Will ask Marla Elmquist to write an article about Patty Karstadt’s “Cajun Bread Pudding” to include with the dessert.

New Business:

Worship: Return to recording the service this week.

Sprout House: **MSC to use the PPP loan to cover the utilities for July through December 2020.**

2018 Lenten offering: Authorize Chris to disburse the offering of \$540.00 to Sprout House for Scholarships. These monies were designated for this purpose, but never disbursed.

Thrivent Choice Dollars: Current balance is \$922.

PCI compliance for website: No activity since August. Cost is \$23.95 a month for non-compliance.

Molly Carver (Bethany College) will look at the website and advise.

Christmas Cookies: Ingrid Pohl will organize a cookie drive to be held on December 20.

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: December 8 at 3:30 p.m.

Next MELC Council Meeting: Wednesday December 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Messiah Lutheran Church Calendar

DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Advent Reflections Online	3	4	5
6 9:30am Service Online	7	8 3:30pm Executive Committee Meeting	9 Advent Reflections Online	10	11	12
13 9:30am Service Online	14	15	16 6:30pm MELC Council Meeting Advent Reflectons Online	17	18	19
20 9:30am Service Online	21	22	23 Advent Reflections Online	24	25	26
27 9:30am Christmas by Candlelight: A Service of Blessings and Carols	28	29	30	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



A decorative border of holly leaves and red berries surrounds the central text. The leaves are green with pointed, serrated edges, and the berries are small and bright red. The border is set against a white background with faint, light-colored floral patterns.

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402 N First Street
Lindsborg, KS 67456