

The Monitor

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2021

Dear Church,

February is here...and the season of Epiphany continues until midway through the month. Epiphany, the revelation, and awareness of what is present right in front of you. This month also brings us Jesus' transfiguration, an amazing epiphany on top of the mountain, his appearance a gleaming, glowing white-brightness as God again names Jesus as God's son, and then begins Lent. That moment of transfiguration also falls on the day we celebrate in the world as Valentine's Day, a day created for romance and love.

Jesus came to share love. God said that God is love. We believe that the Spirit holds us in love that never ends. Love is greater than faith and hope, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 13. Love never ends.

So what is this love that God is, this love that is so great, this love that never lets us go? It is love that forgives first, love that sees the perfections in another before their flaws. It is an activity, not a thing. Love is a verb, not a noun. To love, in its very smallest form, is to be able to wish someone well. To love, in its most splendid and abundant form, is to commit completely to the wellbeing and health of another—not to do for, not to slavishly overdo or become lecherously needful to serve. This love is to contribute all to the health and wellbeing of another, which includes making sure you love yourself also. If the caregiver is unwell, the care is not able to be given in its highest form.

This is the love we as the Church strive to live into: love that honors God, self, and other, each being imperative to the relationship. God is primary because from God flows all that is possible, all that is good, all that is love. Self in relationship to God, then, practices self-love. Healthy living, care of body, mind, and soul. The self is created in the image of God. We are entrusted to honor and care for that image. From that self-love flows the ability to share out the love we have received from God and practiced on ourselves.

In Romans 19: 12, Paul writes this way about our practices of self-love and love for others, "9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all."

This practice, stated by Paul, offers us a way to care for ourselves and for others as we honor God through loving and intentional practices. This love accompanies and empowers without diminishing self even as this love honors God who teaches us this way of loving.

Living in Love is a transformational way to honor God's promises for us: responding, not expecting, intentionally pausing to act with grace and mercy born of love rather than the worldly ways that tell us to inspect and judge.

No one is worthy of this love, no one deserves to be so loved. God alone offers us the worth through the love God lavishes upon us. From that, we are empowered to see the loveable parts in everyone—because our own worthiness is affirmed in Christ, through resurrection, by forgiveness, in God's image.

May you this month be bold to love. Love God, love yourself, love others. In Jesus' name, by the Holy Spirit, I pray, let it be so, dear Church. The world needs this love through you. ☺

~Pastor Amy

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.

Passages:

-a way of exit or entrance

-the action or process of passing from one place, condition, or stage to another

-a usually brief portion of a written work or speech that is relevant

~Merriam-Webster online

For this year, 2021, Pastor has chosen a passage of scripture for each month. Please use this verse daily for the month. Simply read it, perhaps look at some of the questions with each passage to assist your reflection on its meaning in your life. May the Spirit lead you in the movement of the Word through the passage for each month.

Daily: What idea stands out to me in this passage?

Where does this idea connect to what is happening in my life today?

How might I incorporate this idea in my life today?

With whom could I share these thoughts and/or this idea?

February: Romans 12: 9-17

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.[a] 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;[b] do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

How do I define love?

With whom do I enjoy mutual affection? How is this different than genuine love?

Hope, suffering, and prayer are combined here. Do I find them connected in my own life?

Who persecutes me? What blessing would I offer them?

When have I accompanied someone in their joy or weeping?

What is wisdom?

How do I discern what is noble? Do I live nobly?

Vow Renewal

Transfiguration Sunday this year falls on Valentine's Day! If couples would like to participate in a renewal of vows on this special Sunday that signals Jesus' being, again, named as God's chosen person, PLEASE let the office know by Friday, February 5th. It would be great to include these special moments in our Sunday worship on the 14th. I am uncertain exactly how it would be done as that will depend on how many would like to participate. I look forward to hearing from any and all who are interested!

Messiah Church Women

Our Committee met with Pastor Amy to discuss possibilities and plans for Messiah women in this new year. Monthly Bible Studies are still on hold until things improve with the Pandemic.

We are working on getting the "Faithful Pals" project up and going. This would involve any members connecting with the younger ones, writing them at least twice a month, identifying themselves as Messiah members and sharing a return address. Along with the name, age, and address of a recipient, writers would receive prompts if desired. There would be no expectation that they would write back, but hopefully a relationship would develop from participating as a "Faithful Pal". If you are interested or have questions, or would like to be involved in the planning, please contact the church office or Pastor Amy at 785-452-0969.

Our Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits and School Kits project will continue this year, beginning in April for the collection of Personal Care Kits. More information will be coming later.

If you know of a graduating 2021 senior girl who would like to apply for the Central State Synod Women of the ELCA Education Scholarship, the application is due February 15. If you need the form call Sharon Hoffman at 620-712-9113.

A reminder that if you wish to add a request to Messiah's prayer chain, please call the church office, Kay Streufert, or Doris Carlson.

Bold Cafe (Boldcafe.org) is a monthly online magazine which offers articles about how faith relates to relevant issues for young adult women but have also been popular with all ages of women.

World Day of Prayer has been changed this year. In lieu of having the World Day of Prayer Service on the first Friday in March, the Bible Study from the WDP service will be offered on Thursday evening March 4, at 6:00 PM, on TV Channel 13. There will also be a forthcoming announcement on Facebook.

The Dala Pantry is starting the new year! January has been a busy one! We had a volunteer appreciation lunch and meeting, we are hosting a food drive, a large frozen food delivery, we went to meeting and presented about the Pantry, and we are making changes for February.

The 30th of January we are hosting the first ever Dala Pantry drive thru food drive. Participants are to drive through the north parking lot and have items in the trunk or the ready to hand outside the window. We are making this as Covid friendly as possible!

Our upcoming changes: hours and our point system, our new hours are:
Monday 3 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday 2 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Thursday 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.
Every 3rd Saturday of the month 12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Messiah Lutheran Church Council Minutes

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

January 13, 2021

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Amy Truhe

Reports:

Secretary: Approval of minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting. M/S/C with correction.

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

Pastor: see written report

Old Business:

Council member(s)

Council recommends a deficit Budget of -\$15,324.94 for the 2021 year to be approved at the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting: Jan. 24 at 11 a.m. via zoom and in-person by reservation.

New Business:

Council will appoint Marla Elmquist (with her consent) to a 3-year term on the Mission Outreach Committee. Sally Hefner will remain on through 2021 and Betty Russin's term is through 2022.

Council meets immediately following the annual meeting to vote on officers for the coming year.

February 7: Council installation. Council will decide on date to record installation for the service.

February 14: Drive-by Communion and Dinner...the Foretaste and the Feast. Roast Beef Dinner and Valentine cookies will be served.

Christmas Offering: MSC to designate the \$100 to the Choir fund.

Congregational Connections: Pastor Amy asked council to check who we have been in contact with Committees are asked to meet before the next council meeting

Question for committees: What will be your (COVID TIME) focus?

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

Committee Reports:

Christian Ed – Pari Ford

Fellowship – Gavin Doughty

Finance & Stewardship – Becky Anderson

Global Missions – Warren Olson

Outreach and Caring – Ingrid Pohl

Property – Rob Peterson

Staff Relations – Kirsten Bruce

TACOL – Linda Lewis

Worship & Music – Lois Carlson

Youth – (Jeanne Lucas)

WELCA – Mary Lindgren

Memorial – (Dixie Mattas)

Next Executive Committee Meeting: February 9 at 4:00

Next MELC Council Meeting: Wednesday February 17 at 6:30

On February 14, next Sunday, we will have a drive by **Foretaste and Feast** event at 11:30 a.m. This will be Holy Communion and a meal, offered by Council. Menu-Sunday pot roast with potatoes, carrots, onions, Cinnamon Apples, Grandmas Homemade rolls, and Valentine Heart Cookies. Call Messiah 785-227-3977 to reserve your meal. Home delivery will also be available! Donations will go to the Dala Pantry.

Keep in your prayers our Council and the work they will be led to in this next year. Our council members are: Ingrid Pohl, Council President, Kirsten Bruce, Council Vice President, Muriel Gentine, Secretary, Warren Olson, Pari Ford, Mary Lindgren, Robbie Peterson, Becky Anderson, Linda Lewis, Sharon Bruce. We give thanks for their willingness to serve.

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth

Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend
Denise	Pari Ford's mother
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah
Erin Erb	Friend of Sherry Peterson
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter
Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Orin Shogren	Har's brother
Danielle VanDeVyvere	Robbie Peterson's granddaughter
Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
Meghan Presley	John & Margaret Presley's daughter

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson
Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew
Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child

Serving the U.S.A. Overseas

Daniel & Miranda Norland	Randy/Gretchen's son & wife
Luke Hammontree	Daniel's grandson

Seminary

Kaylie Ines

Messiah Lutheran Church

1/31/2021

	Actual	Budget
	Jan-21	Jan-21
Revenue	\$8,807.75	\$12,096.63
Expenses	11,682.31	13,373.69
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$2,874.56	-\$1,277.06
Reserve Balance	\$77,792.07	

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Sunday Worship Online 9:30 am	8 BC Chapel Break 10:30 am	9 Executive Committee Meeting 4:00 pm	10 BC Chapel Break 10:30 am	11	12 BC Chapel Break 10:30 am	13
14 Sunday Worship Online 9:30 am	15 BC Chapel Break 10:30 am	16	17 BC Chapel Break 10:30 am	18 MELC Council Meeting 6:30pm	19 BC Chapel Break 10:30 am	20
20 Sunday Worship Online 9:30 am	22 BC Chapel Break 10:30 am	23	24 BC Chapel Break 10:30 am	25	26 BC Chapel Break 10:30 am	27
28 Sunday Worship Online 9:30 am						

Messiah Church Staff

Pastor
Office Manager
Custodian
Youth Director

Amy Truhe
Ida Rencher
Juan Redmon
Jeanne Lucas
Ericka Lysell, BLC
Steven Gustafson
Dr. Mark Lucas
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