



THE MONITOR

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2021

Hello, Church!

May is one of my favorite months. I know several great people who were born in May, school usually ends in May, there are flowers blooming, the sky is usually a brilliant Kansas blue, and life has always seemed to be easing up from the binding of winter and the cool of early spring. May is a delight to my senses and my sensibilities.

This May, however, we have some strong thinking to be doing about the congregation and the direction we want to travel. There is a creeping fear in our midst that we don't have "enough." Enough going on, enough in attendance at worship, enough money, enough people to do the ministry...the list goes on and on. In faithfulness to God, we are called to trust that all we need will be provided. This is a hard ask from God to us. We are to fear and trust God. Fear in that God's awesomeness will be present in our moments of weakness, fear that God's abiding grace might consume us and we will be unwittingly or unwillingly change. Fear that we will not be THE ONE to do the necessary work on God's behalf. Fear that God will not provide because

Rest assured, Friends in Christ, God is THAT big. God is THAT powerful. God is that AMAZING. We are not big enough, powerful enough, any enough to take God's desire for our best everything away. God does not work like that.

When I read about the interventions in the Bible, Abraham on behalf of Sodom (Gen 18: 16-33) or Esther on behalf of the Jews or Jesus on behalf of us, the times God seems to change God's mind is when the person making the request is asking on behalf of another. Jesus calms the stormy sea on behalf of the disciples. God opens prison doors for Paul, freeing all the captives in the jail, when Paul prays and sings on behalf of them all (Acts 16: 20-40). God asks us to look outward, to focus on the other in our hopes and our dreams for whatever is to come next.

When we focus on what is deficit, the consternation and the lack consumes us. When we focus on what is possible and strong, hope and joy consume us. There is never certainty where our world is concerned. The vagaries of a fallen creation continually challenge us, calling us like the snake in the garden to eat of the fruit that makes us have knowledge of good and evil. We begin to think we have ALL knowledge of good and evil. This is not so. Only God has the big picture, the grander understanding of what is possible, and probable, what most would honor God, what would be most loving and life-producing.

This is our challenge. What is next for this congregation? Do we have a monetary campaign to fix the sanctuary walls and all of the HVAC units (ours use obsolete freon and will need to be replaced very soon...five of seven still need to be replaced)? AS people use our building for a variety of programs and events, this is one place we can focus. Do we work on having better relationships internally so that our practice of being Christ to one another can be taken out into the world in new and creative ways? The Reconciling in Christ materials has a great plan for this—to grow relationships in order to have hard conversations. Do we focus on music or education or bikes for the community? What is our next calling as Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church? Your passion can be a catalyst for new ministries and ways to serve the community beyond our walls. Your ideas can be foundational in the direction we want to go. It is on each person to search their hearts for the ministry we can engage as a community of faith.

In this, then, is the beauty, the freedom of May. We have begun the path of in-person worship. We sing and commune together once more, buds of what we recall as normal are peeking through the fog of COVID-time reverie. We have blue skies that call us to adventure both spiritually and physically into the Lindsborg community and, through the MELC community, to reach out in one-by-one, using the individual gifts and talents we each have been given. We have the opportunity to share God's love in new and amazing ways, trusting God will provide "enough" of whatever we need to be God's hands and feet in the moment.

May you be at peace and may you discern and share God's love always,
Pastor Amy



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?

May: Psalm 28

1 To you, O Lord, I call; my rock, do not refuse to hear me, for if you are silent to me, I shall be like those who go down to the Pit. 2 Hear the voice of my supplication, as I cry to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.[a] 3 Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who are workers of evil, who speak peace with their neighbors, while mischief is in their hearts. 4 Repay them according to their work, and according to the evil of their deeds; repay them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward. 5 Because they do not regard the works of the Lord, or the work of his hands, he will break them down and build them up no more. 6 Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard the sound of my pleadings. 7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. 8 The Lord is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. 9 O save your people, and bless your heritage; be their shepherd, and carry them forever.

- When do I call on the Lord? Is prayer the only manner in which I call on God?
- Do I believe God actually listens to me?
- How do I discern a response from God?
- What makes me believe that I am not one of the wicked who ought to be dragged away?
- Who do I name as wicked?
- Verse 6 begins a shift that offers a blessing to God. Why do I need to bless God?
- How do I define blessings?
- In what manner do I think of God as a shield?
- Is this an “if-then” statement: “in him my trusts; so I am helped”?
- God does not respond based on my behaviors, either good or bad.
- Do I believe that simple trust in God helps me, regardless of knowing God has acted?
- When or how do you recognize that God is carrying you?

Pastor Amy is having a surgery on May 18th. During this time President Ingrid Pohl, along with Pastors Chris Deines and Phil Hett will cover pastoral needs. Please call the office or Ingrid to share what is needed. Pastor Rachael Pryor will lead worship on May 23rd and 30th. Please welcome her and come to hear the messages she shares! Please keep Pastor Amy in your prayers for her upcoming surgery and during her recovery time.

A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring a variety of colorful flowers (red, purple, white, pink) and butterflies in shades of orange, yellow, and purple. The border is dense and spans the top, bottom, and sides of the page.

We are collecting **Personal Care Kit items for Lutheran World Relief**. Anyone may donate to this worthwhile project, sponsored by Messiah Church Women. A tub will be available with lists of what is needed on the north Fellowship Hall table. We can also provide the items for you. Checks can be written to Messiah Church Women and dropped off in the office or sent to Chris Reinert. At present there is currently a great need for these kits, both in our country and abroad.

Bethany and Messiah Lutheran Churches will be having a modified **VBS on June 1-3** ages 3 years to 6th grade from 9 am to 11 am at Swensson Park. We will keep group size between 12-15 kids, everyone will wear masks, and kids will be asked to bring their own water bottles. You can sign up online on Messiah's facebook page, just follow the link to the form or pick up a form in the office and return them by May 28th. If you have any questions please call Joyce Peterson at 785-227-2201 or Pari Ford at 785-227-7114.

The **Church Treasure Sale** will be held on Sat. June 26th from 7:30am-12:30pm. If you are interested in helping please contact Andrea Ring. Donations can be brought to the church between now and the sale during office hours. We will also have a drop off time on Friday, June 25th from 5-7pm. If you have large items to donate you are encouraged to bring them on this date. We can not accept donations of TVs, microwaves, mattresses, large appliances, cribs or infant seats.

We give thanks for the congregation's continued monetary support of Messiah's ministries. Your generosity continues to empower the use of our building by a variety of community groups and to pay for staffing and programming that supports all of our efforts. As we are seeking to replace several HVAC units these next few months, it would be appreciated if extra funding for those needs could be received. Each unit costs about \$5500. The iZone ionizer to assist the cleanliness of the air sent out cost about \$600 each. Your donations to this upkeep are welcome! Giving can be in physical donations through worship or in the office, on line through our website and facebook page, by mail, or through direct deposit (see Chris Reinert to set this up). Thank you for your abundant generosity!

Reconciling in Christ is the name for the ELCA's ministries around intentional inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community in congregations. As Messiah begins to envision what is "next" for us in ministry, this might be a path we could converse about and seek to embrace. If you are interested in this conversation, please contact Pastor Amy. You can check out resources here: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/resources/ric/>

KICK will be hosting a family series this summer. June 13th there will be a family tailgate from 5 to 7:30 pm at Swensson Park with Bible lessons and camp songs, hotdogs, burgers and more, and tailgate games. July 11th is pool night at Riverside Park from 5:30 to 9:30 pm with lessons and camp songs, Stuga subs and more. Private swim for the first 100. August 15th is a back to school bash with inflatables at Swensson Park from 5 to 7:30 pm. There will be Bible lessons, camp songs, pulled pork bbq and more. Tailgate games are needed, if you have a tailgate game we could borrow for the June 13th gathering please let Rachel Ann know (785) 212-0113.

We celebrate the educational accomplishments and upcoming graduation of Ellise Peterson, Jake Lucas, and Cayson Lindquist. These **Smoky Valley seniors** have been active members of our congregation and their community. We applaud their endurance and service as well as their contributions. There is a basket outside of the office where you may leave a card or note wishing them well. Cards and notes will be sorted and given to each graduate after May 15th.

Senior Spotlight

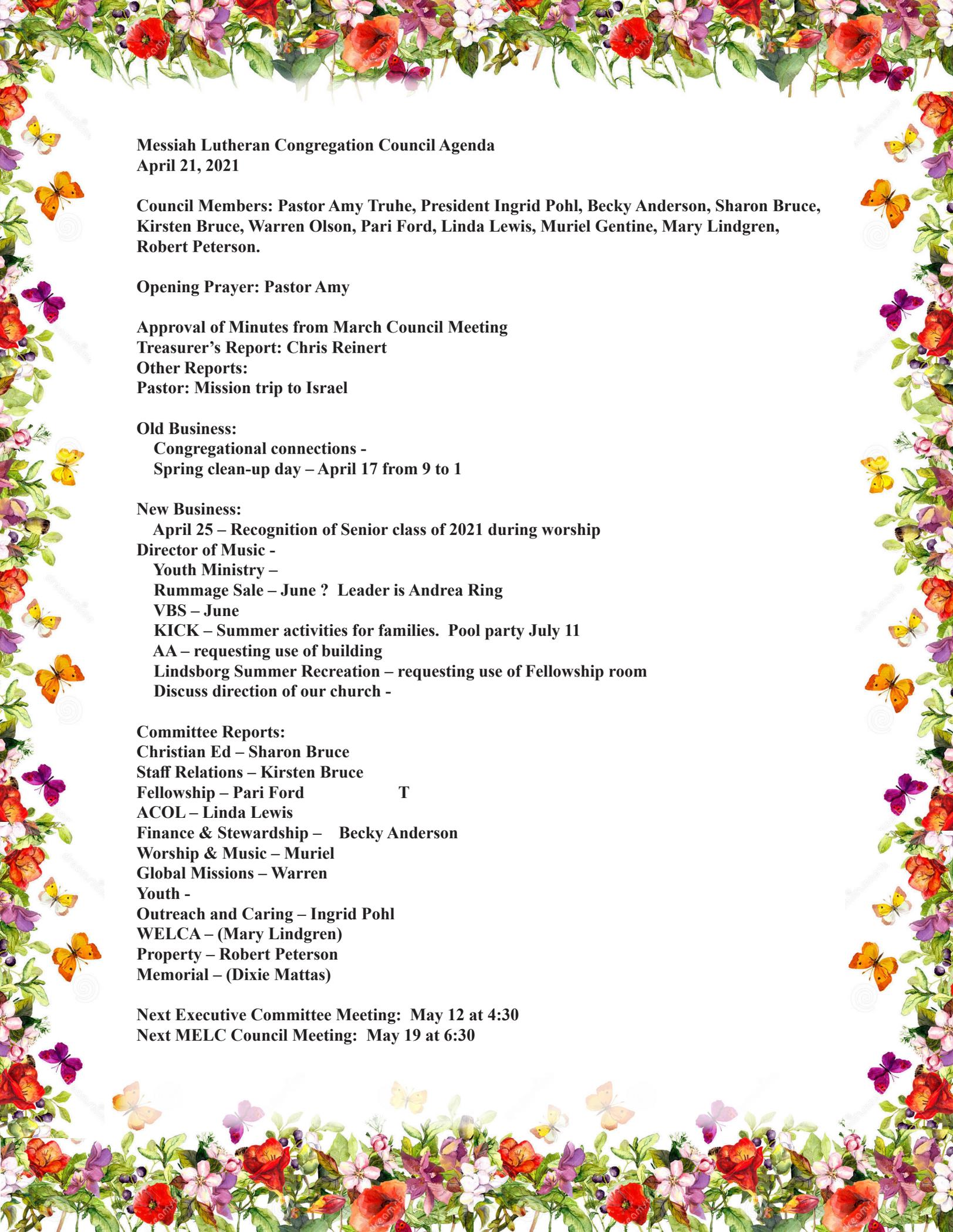


Cayson Lindquist will attend Fort Scott Community College where he will help with the rodeo team. Cayson served Messiah Lutheran Church as an acolyte, in the No Sunday School Band and participated in youth group. Cayson has also been an active 4-H participant. We wish Cayson the very best as he moves to his new community to continue his education.

Jake Lucas served Messiah Lutheran Church as an acolyte, in the No Sunday School Band and participated in youth group. Jake was involved in sports, music and other organizations during high school. We wish Jake the very best as he moves to his new community to continue his education.



Ellise Peterson served Messiah Lutheran Church as an acolyte, in the No Sunday School band, and participated in youth group. She works at Bethany Home and the Good Merchant. In high school Ellise participates in track, KAYS, cross country cheerleading, drama and band. During her free time, Ellise spends time with friends, crafting and to Braums and Sonic. Ellise will attend K-State in the fall majoring in Biology. James 1:2-4 “2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything” is Ellise’s favorite bible verse. We wish Ellise the very best as she continues her education in her new community.



Messiah Lutheran Congregation Council Agenda
April 21, 2021

Council Members: Pastor Amy Truhe, President Ingrid Pohl, Becky Anderson, Sharon Bruce, Kirsten Bruce, Warren Olson, Pari Ford, Linda Lewis, Muriel Gentine, Mary Lindgren, Robert Peterson.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Amy

Approval of Minutes from March Council Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Chris Reinert

Other Reports:

Pastor: Mission trip to Israel

Old Business:

Congregational connections -

Spring clean-up day – April 17 from 9 to 1

New Business:

April 25 – Recognition of Senior class of 2021 during worship

Director of Music -

Youth Ministry –

Rummage Sale – June ? Leader is Andrea Ring

VBS – June

KICK – Summer activities for families. Pool party July 11

AA – requesting use of building

Lindsborg Summer Recreation – requesting use of Fellowship room

Discuss direction of our church -

Committee Reports:

Christian Ed – Sharon Bruce

Staff Relations – Kirsten Bruce

Fellowship – Pari Ford T

ACOL – Linda Lewis

Finance & Stewardship – Becky Anderson

Worship & Music – Muriel

Global Missions – Warren

Youth -

Outreach and Caring – Ingrid Pohl

WELCA – (Mary Lindgren)

Property – Robert Peterson

Memorial – (Dixie Mattas)

Next Executive Committee Meeting: May 12 at 4:30

Next MELC Council Meeting: May 19 at 6:30



Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson,
and 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
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
Matt Forrester	Pastor Amy's brother
Robert Ahlstedt	Earl Ahlstedt's brother

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

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00 am Sunday Worship	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10:00 am Sunday Worship	10	11	12 4:30 pm Executive Com- mittee Meeting	13	14	15
16 10:00 am Sunday Worship	17	18	19 6:30 pm MELC Council Meeting	20	21	22
23 10:00 am Sunday Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Messiah Church Staff

Pastor
Office Manager
Custodian
Youth Director
Organist
Treasurer

Amy Truhe
Ida Rencher
Juan Redmon
Ericka Lysell, BLC
Steven Gustafson
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