

A decorative border of watercolor flowers and leaves surrounds the text. The flowers include purple and pink lilies, orange and yellow gerberas, and various green leaves in shades of blue, green, and yellow.

THE MONITOR

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 2021

Dear Church

These past few weeks, as I have been recovering from surgery, there have been several things that have drawn my attention in regards to Messiah's Congregation. You are a congregation that has very caring people. So many people asked if I could use a meal and several brought them without asking! ☺ So many people sent cards, texts, emails, brought flowers, and generally let me know you are thinking of me in this recovery. It is a blessing and a gift to be the recipient of such kindness and love. Thank you so very much.

From this awareness, then, I thought about summer and the plans upcoming for me and for the congregation. For several months now, it has been in the works that I take a mission trip through the Mennonite Mission Network (MMN). Initially, I was excited about serving as a chaplain at Nazareth Hospital in Israel. Due to political and viral circumstances, that position was closed off and the MMN invited me to look at sharing mediation skills in South Africa. The mission, initially, was described as a 10 week opportunity. Through conversation and discernment, it will be a 4 week opportunity, beginning June 18th and ending July 14th. It is an exciting and daunting opportunity.

For me, this will be a time to wipe clean the stress of a year that seems to have exhausted me spiritually and (from my body's response) physically. Doing something totally outside of my normal box has always rejuvenated me and helped clarity and focus to rebalance. I am praying this will be so from this trip. I'll have more details about the day-to-day activities in which I'll be involved later this week and I regret that I cannot share more specifics until then. Please pray for this venture.

For the congregation this summer, it is my hope that we will be able to begin the painstaking steps of working on becoming an intentionally inclusive congregation. I do not think that anyone at MELC would say we exclude people. I do believe that we have times when we forget to contact someone or exclude people by way of only thinking inside the box of our own circle of friendship and fellowship. This congregation has many people who gather with us only occasionally. If you look around the sanctuary since we have returned to in-person worship, you'll see that we have many who now are attending once every few weeks rather than every week as was once the practice for most. I've sent personal letters and notes to many who have not come back yet. It does not seem wise to press people for a statement of "leaving or staying" when to force an ultimate response backs people into a corner. It is always my intent to keep the door open for everyone. However, it is also the call of our community to talk with and reach out to everyone, even those with whom it might be uncomfortable to say "hello, I have missed your presence in our fellowship."

The bulk of the intentional work will be in building one-on-one connections. Relationship is the key to all religions, even Christianity! On Trinity Sunday, Pastor Rachael articulated so well the nature of creeds and what we profess to believe. "What is your creed?" she challenged us to discern. What is it that you say you believe and that your life confesses with your words and deeds? If the Trinity is the nature of the God we confess, the God in whom we believe, then we are called to aspire to balancing and dynamic relationships with everyone, just as Trinity balances and dynamically interacts with Trinity and the world. One of the reasons I am an adult Christian is that the image of the Trinity, balancing relationship between the three persons while constantly on the move, speaks to me on a profound level. This is the challenge before the congregation. How do we initiate and act in relationship with every person in our portion of the Church? From there, how do the gifts we discern here interact inside and outside the building with each other and the world?

This is a tall order for a summer's beginning, these two...a mission trip and an inception of something that has great potential to strengthen our congregation or to really divide us as we decide we truly may not want to intentionally include everyone. Many churches make this decision without ever having spoken about their intent. Covert operational practices guide every entity. It is my hope that we will expose some of our covert patterns and decide to embrace them openly, intentionally let them go, or find a way to embrace who we are and love each other even so.



Which brings me to my last thoughts for this message. Our brother-in-Christ, Pastor Phil Hett, and his daughter Abby, died this week in a horrific accident. Jill, Phil's older daughter, remains in the hospital, full of hope that all will heal and she'll return to Lindsborg in the upcoming months. Kim Hett, Phil's ex-wife, is my friend. Her partner, Loren Mai, is my friend. Phil's parents, Warren and Maryanne Hett I know through the TACOL board. These people are hurting as are all the numerous friends of the girls, parishioners and friends and colleagues and workmates of Phil as are many of you. I wonder what it would look like to apply your creed, your way of living your faith in the world, into this situation. To love them with activity (they're requesting Visa Gift cards to support the family, a bank account will be set up, Venmo and PayPal donation sites are available; we will publish these avenues in upcoming bulletins)...who could mow Phil's yard while there are decisions being made or who could walk his dog or offer an ear to Kim or Loren or Warren or Maryanne? Could Pastor Chris benefit from receiving a card or a note? Where can you put your faith into action?

We are called to notice ways the world does not meet the needs of love and hope in people's lives. This is our call as Christians, to love ourselves, love God, love people, love creation. It is my hope that we renew ourselves in Christ, this summer, gathering, praying, singing (with masks—still!), worshipping, and fellowshiping together as we discern where our relationships internally and externally lead us as God's people in Lindsborg, KS, through Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In my convalescence, I watched a movie. It was pretty heretical by Church standards, yet the question they put forth (in not so many words) was this: if every person is made in the image of God, ought I to be treating every person as if they were God? Humble, honest, loving, forgiving, present. This is our God. This is our call.

Peace be with you all,
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?

June: Jeremiah 29: 11-14a (NIV)

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will restore your fortunes.

Why would a God who offers me freewill make plans for me? Can I alter these plans?

God speaks through Jeremiah that God only wants good for me. Do I believe this?

In what ways do I respond to God? Am I consistent in this relationship or am I inconsistent?

What does it mean to seek God with all my heart?

When have I experienced "finding" God? If I have not, can I say I have tried?



The **Church Treasure Sale** will be held on Sat. June 26th from 7:30am-12:30pm. We are needing volunteers to set up on Friday evening, to help with the sale on Saturday morning and for clean up on Saturday afternoon. 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.

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, we will meet after worship on June 13th. 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.

Thank you to all who provided donations and financial support for **Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits**--we will be able to send 30 kits! Our school kit collections will not begin until sometime in July, as Lindsborg Recreation will be using our facilities. Some of the money already received will be applied to school kits. Monetary gifts can still be sent to Chris Reinert. More information on plans for Messiah Church Women will appear in next month's newsletter. As always, we welcome ideas and input from all women.

Thrivent is hosting an online event. **Thrivent presents: Being resolute with Vince Miller.** Celebrate the men in our lives with this series led by Vince Miller, author & speaker to men worldwide on topics such as mentorship, fatherhood, and leadership.

June 8 – The importance and Impact of Mentorship

June 15 – Fatherhood Demystified: 2 Actions for Every Dad.

June 22 – The Desires of Real Men.

For more information and registration please visit connect.thrivent.com/justin-carlson/events. More information on plans for Messiah Church Women will appear in next month's newsletter. As always, we welcome ideas and input from all women.

Ice Cream Social

Sunday, June 13 2:30 p.m.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
402 N. 1st Street, Lindsborg, KS

Freewill offering
to support
Pastor Amy on Mission Trip with
Mennonite Mission Network



Learn about the Mission,
Eat Ice Cream!



Messiah Lutheran Church Council Minutes

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

May 16, 2021

Council Members present: Pastor Amy Truhe, Kirsten Bruce, Linda Lewis, Mary Lindgren, Muriel Gentine, Robert Peterson, Ingrid Pohl, Sharon Bruce, Warren Olson.

Opening Prayer & Devotions: Pastor Amy Truhe

Reports:

Secretary: Motion to approve minutes of the April 21, 2021 council meeting. M/S/C.

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

Pastor: see written report – While Pastor is recovering from surgery, Pastor Rachael Pryor will cover Sundays and Pastors Chris Deines and Phil Hett will cover pastoral emergencies.

President Ingrid Pohl will cover other issues. Mission Trip is awaiting final details.

Masks – recommending that we continue to wear masks to worship. Meeting with BC and MELC on June 16; representatives are Ingrid Pohl, Kirsten Bruce and Linda Lewis.

Old Business:

Congregational connections: Connecting with parents of young children to clean and organize the Nursery.

New Business:

Director of Music: This position has been filled and is scheduled to begin mid to late August.

Youth Ministry: Pastor Amy is working with Erika.

VBS: June 1 – 3 at the park. No Sunday service with BLC.

Treasure's (rummage) Sale: Save the Date – June 26 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

KICK: Summer activities for families. Pool party scheduled for July 11.

AA: This group will be using the basement of the church on Wednesday evenings.

Lindsborg Summer Recreation: This program begins on June 1st and will be using the upstairs classrooms and occasionally the Fellowship room.

Direction of MELC: Stewardship – looking for ideas on how to serve the church and community. This is open to all parishioners who are interested in this project.

Grants: Received a grant for one iWAVE in the amount of \$390. Received an unrestricted grant in the amount of \$2,725 from the Smoky Valley Community Foundation. Motion to use these funds toward purchasing two HVAC units for the Fellowship Room. M/S/C.

Warren Olson would like the church to use a portion of the Olson Estate fund that is designated to repair the stained glass windows to help with the cost of the HVAC units. Motion to pay the difference between the grant and any donations for the two HVAC units will come from the Olson Estate. M/S/C.

June 12: Wedding reception in Fellowship Room

June 13: RIC meeting following worship. Please see Pastor Amy if you are interested in attending.

July 17: Annie Reinert wedding

Dala Pantry: Logan is looking for someone to mentor for the management of the Dala Pantry.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

Committee Reports:

Christian Ed – Pari Ford

Fellowship – Sharon Bruce

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 – Muriel Gentine

Youth –

WELCA – Mary Lindgren- LWR personal care kits

Memorial – (Dixie Mattas)

Next Executive Committee Meeting: June 8 @ 5:30

Next MELC Council Meeting: Wednesday June 16 @ 6:30



Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson and Gloria and Gene Holdsworth, Merl Hilt, the family of Donna Forsberg

Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejksal

Denise

Bill Stephenson

Dawn

Dorothy Carmichael

Stephani White

Karla Goewert

Orin Shogren

Danielle VanDeVyvere

Krista Bahler

Betty Finney

Meghan Presley

Matt Forrester

Robert Ahlstedt

Kim and Jill Hett

Daniels' friend

Pari Ford's mother

Joy Janis's brother

Sharon Hoffman's Daughter

Friend of Messiah

Betty Holcombe's daughter

Friend of Kirsten Bruce

Har's brother

Robbie Peterson's granddaughter

Betty Peterson's Niece

Sharon Hoffman's friend

John & Margaret Presley's daughter

Pastor Amy's brother

Earl Ahlstedt's brother

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp

Vicki Charboneau

Ben Youngquist

Jeremy Guy

T.J. Paulsen

Betty Russin's grandson

Elaine Eller's granddaughter

S Hoffman's nephew

Hensley's son-in-law

Barb Malm's child

Serving the U.S.A. Overseas

Daniel & Miranda Norland

Luke Hammontree

Randy/Gretchen's son & wife

Daniel's grandson

Seminary

Kaylie Ines



JUNE

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

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