

August 2021

THE MONITOR

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

Dear Church!

Greetings!

Last month I wrote as I was embarking on mission trip to South Africa. As you know, that was cut short by 2/3rds due to Covid cases there escalating rapidly and the government putting a halt to meetings and gatherings of any kind.

While I was there, it was my delight to get to experience some of the Kruger National Park. The wild animals there are completely in their native state and absolutely unphased by cars and cameras. It was really enjoyable and delightful to see them up close, in their element, as I imagine Creator hoped they could live.

In Cape Town, then, I was inundated with history that included the apartheid stories around the creation of the townships, places where people of color were made to live, to check in and out of using a passport that told where they had been all day. These settlements have thousands of shacks. Homes made of corrugated tin on wooden frames. Perhaps a home would have an electrical cord, run from a central pole and free to use, which would power cell phones, a light bulb, maybe even a hot plate. Without refrigeration or running water, these homes shelter thousands upon thousands of people. Families, generations even, live in these small homes. People hop on busses and, in professional attire, they arrive at offices and schools to lead professional lives, returning home in the evening on the bus to walk the narrow, muddy pathways between the shacks to their own.

It's a daunting thing, to see people live in such a manner, to accept living in such a manner, and to know that in my purse is more money than many of them will see in a year (one US dollar = 14 of their dollars (Rand). They don't make minimum wages, they make what their employer offers. It is a system that continues to need major overhauling.

Systems are funny things. We become entrenched in the systems in which we participate without much thought...until something challenges that system and forces us to acknowledge our comfort with 'the way things have always been.' Moving to a new town or

into a new job causes us to find patterns similar to our old system while integrating into the new dynamic.

And so it is with the Church. We are called to continually examine our systems. Coming out of the pandemic (and maybe returning to some of the more isolated practices---GET VACCINATED!) we return to a system that seems limp and lifeless because we have not injected our energy into the system in awhile. Envisioning change requires us to examine ourselves and, often, we don't really like what we see, causing us to force challenges and anxieties on those around us. The system in the Church is built on mutual love and respect, the disciplines of forgiveness and grace. In the Church, God calls us to love, to accompany, to discern mission in community. We cannot jump from yesterday to tomorrow without going through today.

This present moment, Messiah is discerning what our 'next' might be. We have returned to worship. We are beginning to serve with a new choir director. We are encountering new ways of being Church through the challenges of an ever-changing fellowship. Your engagement in the work of the Church is really important. YOU are the body of Christ. YOU are the hands, the feet, the mouth of God. YOUR messages of love, hope, and forgiveness carry weight. Negative messages about the work of the congregation, I believe, grieve the Holy Spirit, cutting off the blessings of relationship and community.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, let us live in the Hope of God, not in the destruction of the world. Let us live in the joy of the Lord, not in the anxiety of discord.

Messiah is on an adventure, there may be wild moments as we await the Congregational Vitality survey and, once it arrives, we might find even more concerns than we anticipated. This system in which we live might need to shift, or grown, or a bit of both. Let us lift one another up, that God might be honored through our work, even as we come face to face with truths unknown.

Blessings on your days, Church! May you continue to abide and live into the goodness of the Lord!

~Yours in Christ, Pastor Amy

MONTHLY PASSAGES

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.

1 Corinthians 13: 1-3

¹ If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith,

so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

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?

God created through the use of words.

- How important is the way in which you use language?
- When you speak, to whom does it matter?
- When do you know your speaking is simply noise or clanging?
- Why is love greater than faith?
- Does faith lead me to love?
- Why is love greater than my possessions or my body?
- Do I believe this?
- God asks us to love God, love ourselves, love our neighbor in this order.
- Where do I put most of my loving energy today?
- Does my passion reflect my love for God, myself, and my neighbor?

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to our **New Music Director!** Dr. Leslie Mangrum will be leading our choir and some special events through the year. While her official start date is not until September, Dr. Mangrum is excited to meet with and begin working with our congregation to provide musical opportunities! Please welcome Leslie and her family!

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

Bethany Village & Lindsborg Community Hospital invite you to a **Back to School Event** Friday, August 6 at Riverside Park from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. There will be school supplies, hot dogs to the first 100 students and haircuts for students. There will be a free community swim afterwards from 8:00 to 10:00 pm sponsored by the Lindsborg Community Hospital.

KICK EVENT

The next KICK event on 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.

HYLLNINGSFEST

For **Hyllningsfest** Messiah has been asked to donate 60 loaves of rye bread. We will have a sign-up sheet available mid August in the Fellowship Hall.

STEPMC

STEPMC is looking for caring people who want to make a difference! Right now, we are in need of meal providers in Smoky Valley, and we could use your help! Visit stepmc.org for more information.

STUFF A MICROWAVE!

Stuff a Microwave! Bethany College Student Development is asking for microwaveable foods to “stuff a microwave.” Three microwaves will be given out in a drawing of names from those who come to campus vaccinated for COVID-19. This incentive is part of keeping campus and our community safe! When you bring your microwaveable donations, please put them in the basket by Pastor’s office. Thank you!

MESSIAH WOMEN

Bethany Church Women have extended an open invitation to our Messiah women to attend their monthly programs held on the first Thursday of each month. On Thursday, August 5, 6:30 PM,, they will host their annual Salad Supper in the Bethany Church Fellowship Hall. Please bring a salad to share, a friend, and your own table service. All Bethany and Messiah women are invited.

On Thursday, September 2, at 2:00, Chet and Jeannette Peterson will present a Show and Tell Archive program in Bethany’s Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to all who have donated to our Lutheran World Relief School Kits. On the table in the Fellowship Hall is a list of what is still needed to fill our School Bags. Any extra school supplies will be given to our local schools.

We are not currently planning on monthly Women’s Bible Studies, but will experiment with a short devotional study at our Women’s Coffee on the 4th Thursday of each month, starting in September. Our weekly Women’s Coffee will continue to meet 9:00-10:00. All are welcome!

PRAYER LIST

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Walli Ellis, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth, Merl Hilt

Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend
Denise	Pari Ford's mother
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter
Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
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
Robert Ahlstedt	Earl Ahlstedt's brother
Amy Wright	Don Anderson's friend
Marilyn Youngquist	Sharon Hoffman's sister
Kim and Jill Hett	

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

Seminary

Kaylie Ines

CALENDAR AND CONTACT

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship	2 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee	3 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee	4 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee	5 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's and Women's coffee 6:30 Women's salad supper	6 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee 6:30 - 8 pm Back to School event	7
8 10:00 am Worship	9 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee	10 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee	11 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee	12 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's and Women's coffee	13 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee	14
15 10:00 am Worship 5-7:30 KICK event	16 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee	17 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee	18 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee 6:30 pm Council Meeting	19 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's and Women's coffee	20 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee	21
22 10:00 am Worship	23 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee	24 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee	25 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee	26 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Women's coffee and devotional	27 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Opening Convocations	28
29 10:00 am Worship	30 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee 10:30 am Chapel Break	31 7:30 am Men's coffee 10:00 am Men's coffee				

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