

October 2021

# THE MONITOR

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

Greetings, Church!

“This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!” ~Psalm 118: 24

It is with joy in my heart that I write today. Things at Messiah are poppin’ and shakin’ in a great way!

This month we started the musical ministry of Leslie Mangrum! Singing together in chorus has been fun and filled with laughter and focus. Everyone is welcome to join us...we especially need lower voices, however, we sound pretty great as we are! Masking is required and we hope everyone is vaccinated! Thanks be to God for the gift of music!

This month also, we began to work with Lisa (Mooney) Simmelink, a former children’s choir director at Messiah. As she begins her journey through seminary, she is here to intern with us for a mere 5 hours a week. She is full of energy and enthusiasm as the Spirit has given her a heart to serve people, groups of people, through the church. I look forward to having her along side for this school year!

On Tuesday the 28th, we had the results of our Vitality Survey interpreted for us by Rev. Donna Simon of the Synod office. Rev. Simon shared many things with us about the survey and you are welcome to get a written copy of her report in the office. The main things, though, were no surprise. We are in the place where we need to come up with a written version of our purpose, our mission, as a congregation. This does not, she said several times, mean we need to spend three or four months in discernment and pondering. Just write what we do and who we are.

A second interpretation of the data tells us that we need to talk about leadership. This may be a sticky-wicket for us. When I first started as a pastoral leader, a wise person told me, “there are the elected leaders, the ones who take offices, and there are the true leaders. They sit on back porches and people run everything by them. If they don’t give the nod, the thing will never fly.” I learned very quickly that this was true. Perhaps the incredible mix of perceived leadership at Messiah is due to the many leaders we have had both named and unnamed. It is, perhaps, time to talk about what our mission leads us to look towards in the voices of our leaders. Who speaks about the good of the Church of Jesus Christ and who speaks of perpetuating the institution of Messiah Evangelical

Lutheran Church (MELC)? Listening for the distinction may make a great difference in our leadership and our mission as we go forward.

The third question Rev. Simon posed to us had to do with communication. The data was interesting on this one. In the Congregational Vitality Survey (CVS) report, the one not printed out for everyone but available in the office, there is a graph about leadership and under it the question was asked, “Leaders (lay & clergy) communicate with the congregation effectively.” Our answers showed that 36 respondents said “yes” and 20 said “no.” Yet we reflected that we do not handle disagreements in a healthy and respectful manner (Bar Chart p. 3). With a diverse leadership pool and the frustrations that brings, it is highly likely that this also is an area for growth throughout the congregation. On Tuesday night, someone also pointed out that the polarization that is currently a part of our national dialogue also affects us at MELC as our congregation is pretty representative of the nation in that we have 1/3 of us who are conservative, 1/3 who are more moderate, and 1/3 who are more progressive. It can make our heads swim, sometimes, as we attempt to be the Body of Christ and yet, we trust the Spirit to assist us as we practice being the Kingdom of God right here in our assembly!

All of this is to say that we are in a good place, overall. The fact that 58 people completed the survey, the fact that 34 people came on Tuesday to learn, the fact that respectful and thoughtful ideas and questions were advanced and discussed, the fact that people seemed hungry to continue the dialogue is all very positive and hopeful.

Church, we are in a wonderful place in our community, our world, as a ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ. Let us continue to feed the hungry, care for the children, open our doors to those in any kind of need. This is the ministry to which God calls us in our personal lives and as the Body of Christ. Thanks be to God for the many parts that make up our congregation! Thanks be to God for the desire to serve and to work together! Thanks be to God for a facility that allows us to be generous and open!

“This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!” ~Psalm 118: 24

~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.

## *Daily:*

*Where do you look for help when your spirit is off kilter?*

*How do you experience solid footing in your faith life? How often do you feel as if the path is unclear?*

*What does it mean that “the Lord is your keeper?”*

*Verse 8 voices God’s presence from going out to coming in. Is there a significance in leaving and returning rather than the more common “in and out” visual?*

## *Psalm 121*

*1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?*

*2 My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.*

*3 He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.*

*4 He who keeps Israel will neither  
slumber nor sleep.*

*5 The Lord is your keeper; the Lord  
is your shade at your right hand.*

*6 The sun shall not strike you by  
day, nor the moon by night.*

*7 The Lord will keep you from all  
evil; he will keep your life.*

*8 The Lord will keep your going out  
and your coming in from this time  
on and forevermore.*

# WELCOME TO LESLIE AND LISA!



Leslie Mangrum is currently Assistant Professor of Music at Bethany College, where she teaches applied voice, vocal pedagogy, diction, aural skills, and music history. Professor Mangrum is also the Music Director at Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lindsborg, KS, and has an active private voice studio.

Although teaching is Ms. Mangrum's first passion, she also enjoys performing around the United States in opera, concert, and recital. She has performed with Wichita Grand Opera, Music Academy of the West, Opera in the Ozarks, Music Académie de Villecroze, the Florida State Opera, as well as with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Salina Symphony and Hutchinson Symphony. Some favorite roles include Semele, Gretel, Nanetta in Falstaff, Sophie in Der Rosenkavalier, and Lauretta in Gianni Schicchi.

Leslie Mangrum has won numerous awards including the 2012 West Central Region National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Award, First Place Winner of regional NATS for 6 years, the Benton-Schmidt Award, and the Dame Eva Turner Award. Ms. Mangrum was First Alternate at the District Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She has been seen on PBS in Henry Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and her recording of Semele by John Eccles can be purchased from Regis Records.



Greetings! My name is Lisa Simmelink. I have just begun my first year at Luther Seminary and am thankful that Pastor Amy has agreed to be my mentor as I begin the journey to become a pastor. For the next few semesters, you will see me around as an intern with the goal to observe, learn and grow through experiences at Messiah and Bethany College, under the leadership of Pastor Amy.

Some of you may remember me as Lisa Mooney from when I directed the Messiah children's choirs during my college years from 2000 – 2002. I am excited to return to such a wonderful place.

I have been a public-school music teacher for 19 years, and for the last 10 years was director of choirs and handbells at Trinity Lutheran Church in McPherson. I am married to Brandon Simmelink, principal at McPherson Middle School, and we have two children Baylee, 15 and Bryant, 12.

# EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GODS WORK, OUR HANDS

Thank you to all who participated in God's Work, Our Hands day, Sept. 12. We helped clean out a woman's yard, moved shelving at TACOL to assist their renovations, put together Lutheran World Relief packets for health and school. The balcony was cleaned up as well. We are blessed to have had about 22 people serving on this Sunday!

A Thank you to the church from Sue Schlegel. The "God's Work, Our Hands" was a HUGE success at 505 North Second. Talk about a team effort . . . it was evident and the task accomplished! I thought the original premise was to cut back the pampas grass and pull the trees from what I know as the West Prairie next to the alley on Swensson. Yes, that was done.

And the "team" then moved to the area near the fence beside the sidewalk and took out armloads of vines and other plants. I am certain the ground cover and plants remaining breathed fresh air for the first time in a long time. All of the yard clippings were deposited into a truck and taken away. The recessed parking area was cleared and then off the team went to their next endeavor.

Please thank the "team members" especially Muriel for their energy, their time and commitment to Bethany.

Thank you for stopping by. As a result, I am the one with a delightfully looking area.

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## HERITAGE COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Bethany Lutheran Church will be hosting a the Heritage Community Worship service on October 7th at 7 pm. All are welcome!

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## HYLLNINGSFEST WORSHIP

Bethany Lutheran Church has invited Messiah to worship with them on Sunday, October 10. Their services are at 8 and 10:30 am. Bethany President, Dr. Beth Mauch, will speak at a forum between servicers. Messiah will host our regular worship at 10 am with the Children's Choir singing.

## CREATION CARE RETREAT

On Saturday, October 23, we'll gather at Camp Tomah Shinga (in person or by Zoom) to learn and share. Please consider attending along with others in your congregations. Please see the following flyer to give you more information and how to register. The cost is FREE, but we need to know if you are coming. If you have any questions, please contact [nonistrand@gmail.com](mailto:nonistrand@gmail.com).

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## ORGAN RECITALS

Three Lindsborg Organists to Present Mini Recitals as a part of Lindsborg's Hyllningsfest Celebration on Saturday, October 9, Genevieve Bishop, Steven Gustafson, and Hentus Van Rooyen will each present 30-minute mini recitals on the Jaeckel Tracker at Bethany Lutheran Church. Bishop plays at 11:30, Gustafson at 1:30, and Van Rooyen at 2:30. Messiah members are invited and encouraged to attend free of charge.

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## SPROUT HOUSE CLEAN UP

Join Sprout House Learning Center for our Fall clean-up! There are jobs for all skillsets. Help beautify the community and support local child care. October 17th at 3 pm at 308 N 3rd Street. For more information contact Alan English at [Englishae@bethanylboro.edu](mailto:Englishae@bethanylboro.edu).

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## MESSIAH WOMEN

Bethany Church Women's monthly meeting will be on Thursday, October 7, at 2:00 in their Fellowship Hall. A Bible Study will be given by Nancy Lundblad, and a special offering will be taken for Papua New Guinea. Messiah Church women are encouraged to meet each Thursday morning at 9:00 am for coffee and conversation. On the 4th Thursday, October 28, Marla Elmquist will lead our devotional time.

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## GUEST PASTOR DONNA SIMON

Sunday, October 24, Rev. Donna Simon will lead worship as Pastor will be in Maine for a wedding. Please welcome Pastor Donna!

# KICK - KIDS IN CHRIST'S KINGDOM

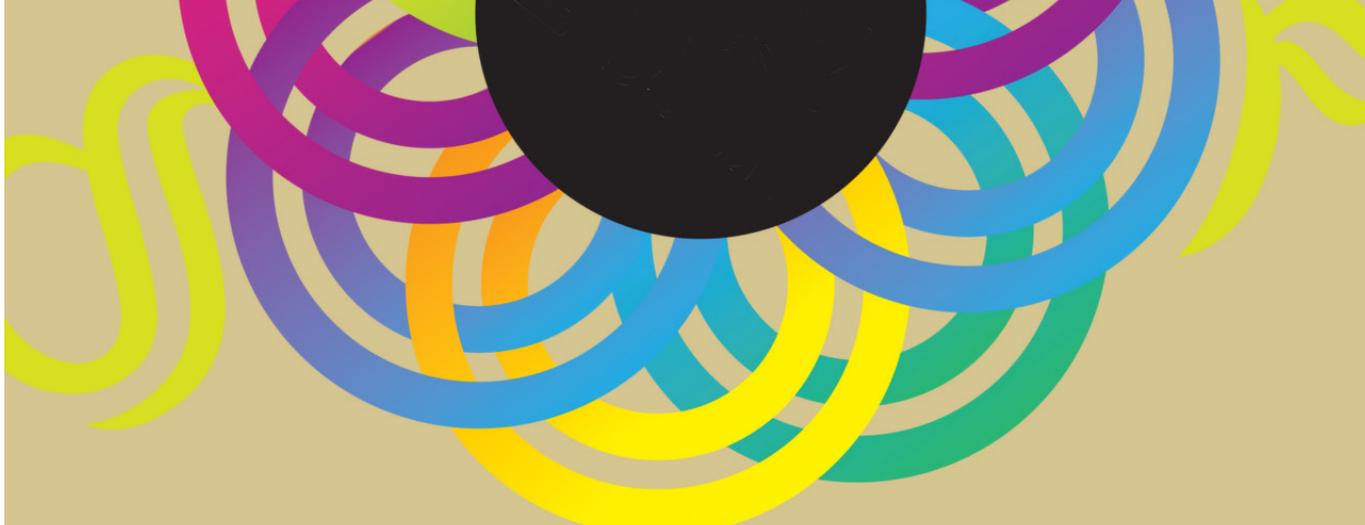
KICK is underway again! The year started with a “KICK-off” September 15 where students met teachers, played games, raced on the huge inflatable, learned songs, and shared a meal!

This semester, in addition to Bible classes, we are offering choir, ukulele, indoor games, outdoor recreation, cooking, finger crocheting, art, and a family meal to 46 Kindergarten through 6th graders! Thank you to Pastors Amy and Chris, Chelsea Deines, Jan Michael, Jane Anderson, Elly Anderson, Mary Parker, Mary Lindgren, Julie Janzen, Joyce Peterson, Kim Hett, Susan Johnson, Katherine Fowler, Kyle Peterson, Aaron Yoder/Bethany XC, Lori McKinney, Lan Nelson, Isaiah Fabrizius, and Mary Roraback for their help teaching kids and supervising activities! We could not do it without you all!



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are always looking for KICK helpers! Please let Rachel Ann or Olivia know if you would like to give your time and/or talent on Wednesdays. We are currently looking for: dishwashers at 6:00, people to bake desserts for dinner, prayers for this ministry, and plastic containers (e.g. Cool Whip, Country Crock) to send home leftovers with families and helpers. Are you a Thrivent member? Do you have Action Team Grants? Would you like to use towards this ministry? We can help! For any questions or to volunteer, email Rachel Ann Atkinson at [lindsborgkick@gmail.com](mailto:lindsborgkick@gmail.com)



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

# HERITAGE COMMUNITY WORSHIP

*Let us begin Svensk Hyllningsfest  
and join together in worship and praise!*

**OCTOBER 7, 2021 | 7 PM**  
**BETHANY CHURCH SANCTUARY**

All are welcome to join us after worship  
for a time of fellowship and treats!



**DIDN'T GET  
ENOUGH OF  
GOD'S  
WORK OUR  
HANDS?**

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**Join Sprout House  
Learning Center for our  
Fall clean-up!**

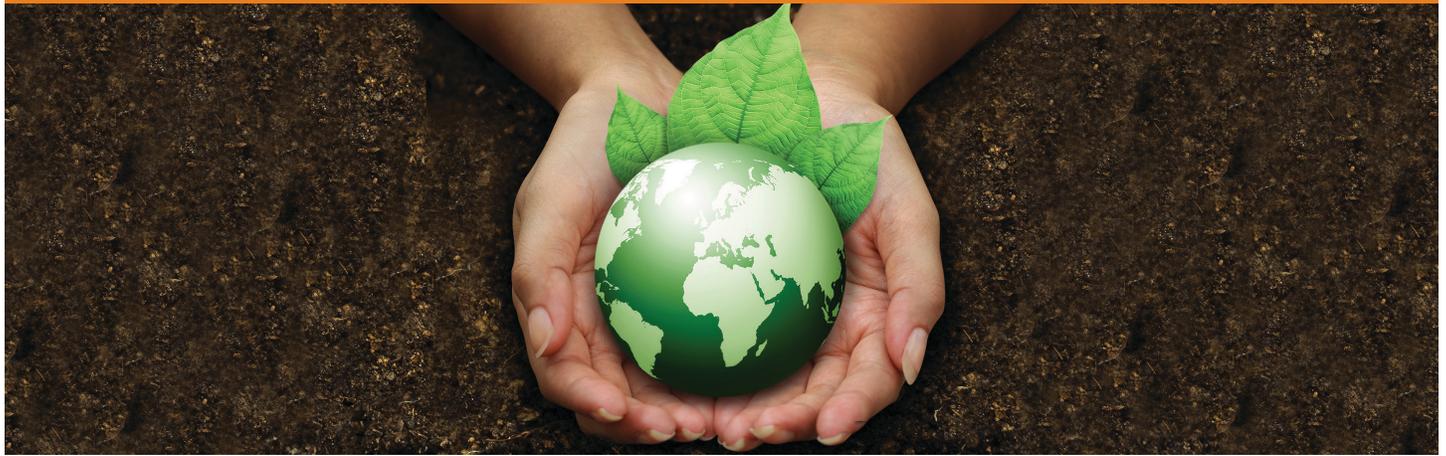
- Jobs for all skillsets
- Beautify the community
- Support local child care

**OCTOBER  
17TH**

**@ 3:00 PM**

**308 N 3RD ST,  
LINDSBORG KS 67456**

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CONTACT ALAN ENGLISH AT  
[ENGLISHAE@BETHANYLB.EDU](mailto:ENGLISHAE@BETHANYLB.EDU)



# Creation Care Retreat:

## Engaging Congregations and Ministry Sites in the Earth Charter and Lutherans Restoring Creation.

**Saturday, October 23, 2021 • 11 am to 5 pm**

Camp Tomah Shinga • 7821 E. Lyons Creek Road, Junction City, KS 66441

**Presentation at 11:00 am**

**followed by Lunch, Outdoor Time, and Resource Sharing**

*(A Zoom option for the presentation will be available for those unable to attend in person.)*

**To register for the retreat, please go to:**

**<https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/4203121>**

Make sure to choose ticket type: **In-Person** or **Online**, and use country code **"US"** when registering. A Zoom link will be sent closer to the event for those who are participating online.

The 2021 Central States Synod Assembly adopted a resolution to encourage congregations to learn more about the Earth Charter and consider joining the implementation effort as a part of the ELCA's endorsement in 2019.

Members of Central States Synod congregations and ministry sites are

invited to attend an information session on Saturday, October 23, led by members of the Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission Table and the CSS Earth Charter Implementation Team. Participants will learn more about the Earth Charter, what other congregations are doing, and how they can be more involved in the ministry of Creation Care.

Lunch will be provided for those on site, followed by time outdoors, hiking in the Camp, and other optional afternoon sessions on advocacy and resources.

Costs of the Retreat will be covered by LRC, but reservations for lunch are required for planning purposes.



For more information,  
contact Noni Strand,  
LRC Mission Table Chair, at  
[nonistrand@gmail.com](mailto:nonistrand@gmail.com).



# PRAYER LIST

## **Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray**

### **Members of Messiah:**

Rolland Christenson, Walli Ellis, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth, Merlyn Hilt, Kelly Carlson,  
Vic Streufert

### **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
Matt Forrester	Pastor's brother
Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Danielle VanDeVyvere	Robbie Peterson's granddaughter
Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Meghan Presley	John & Margaret Presley's daughter
Amy Wright	Don Anderson's friend
Sharon Texley	friend of Marla Elmquist, Linda Lewis and many others
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  
Lisa Simmelink

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Christian Ed committee met Sunday, August 29th following worship.  
Pastor Amy, Pari, Sally, Rachel Ann, Nancy K.

We will be encouraging our school age kids to attend Sunday School at Bethany Lutheran from 9-10, beginning Sept. 12. It was unanimously decided between our committee and those at Bethany that we should try this at least for a semester and see how it goes. I believe numbers at Bethany are lower than in the past, and ours continue to be low enough that planning for and structuring Sunday School time is very difficult. We are all excited about this opportunity!

In addition, we are excited to kick off Children's Music time with Leslie Mangrum following worship each week! (Beginning 9/12) Our kids have always enjoyed music time after worship and we are all excited to bring this back. Pastor Amy will continue her children's sermons each week, and we will encourage school-age kids to attend KICK on Wednesdays, as well.

KICK will begin Sept. 15 with the reschedule of the August inflatable event. It will be at Bethany this semester and Messiah 2nd semester.

Pastor Amy continues to stand in as "youth director" in our joint youth efforts with Bethany Lutheran.

An adult book study is planned beginning in September. Details have been included in the September newsletter and weekly bulletins.

Nancy Kessinger has resigned from the Christian Ed committee. We are very grateful for her time, effort and commitment to our kids at Messiah. Our committee would benefit greatly from additional members, particularly those who do not have young children!! I'm sure Pastor Amy would be grateful for an additional youth 'sponsor,' as well. :)

~Sally Hefner

# COUNCIL MINUTES

## **Messiah Lutheran Church Council Minutes**

**(these minutes will be approved at the October council meeting)**

**September 22, 2021**

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

**Opening Prayer & Devotions: Pastor Amy Truhe**

**Reports:**

**Secretary:** Motion to approve minutes of the August 18, 2021 council meeting. Correction: The Nutt Grant for a dishwasher has not been written – only discussed. M/S/C

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

**Pastor:** see written report – Visitations, Committee and Group meetings; looking for people to video the worship service; Oct. 17 – Forum on South Africa

**Old Business:**

**Thrivent Choice Dollars:** Motion was made to purchase 10 additional singing masks with these funds. M/S/C

**Multi Media account:** used for expenses related to filming

**Ramps:** Designated funds – will check with city for community service

**Stage:** nothing to report

**October 10:** MELC worship at 10:00. Invitation to attend BLC at 8:00 or 10:30 and forum at 9:00.

**New Business:**

**Choir:** Welcomed Director Leslie Mangrum on September 12.

**Budget Review:** Council committee liaisons send in budget numbers by Oct. 20.

**Congregation Vitality:** Congregation will meet September 28 at 6:30. Coffee and cookies will be served.

**Council member(s) for the coming year-** names have been submitted for nomination.

**October 8-9 Hyllningsfest:** Received donations for 60 loaves of rye bread.

**KICK:** Fall semester began September 15 at BLC

**Masks:** MELC follows McPherson County direction

**Memorial Committee:** a chairperson is needed for this committee

**October 30:** Decorate cookies for Reformation and/or Halloween

**October 31:** Reformation Sunday

**November 13:** cleaning Messiah church – come and go 9 to 12

**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**

**Memorial –**

**Next Executive Committee Meeting: October 19 @ 4:30**

**Next MELC Council Meeting: Wednesday October 20 @ 6:30**

# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30 am  10:00 am  10:30 am 	2
3 8:45-9:45  10:00 am Worship After Worship 	4 7:30 am  10:00 am  10:30 am 	5 7:30 am  10:00 am 	6 7:30 am  10:00 am  10:30 am 	7 7:30 am  10:00 am   7:00 pm Heritage Community Worship at Bethany Lutheran	8 7:30 am  10:00 am 	9 11:30 am Organ Recitals at Bethany Lutheran
10 8:45-9:45  8:00 am Worship at Bethany Lutheran 10:00 am Worship at Messiah Lutheran Performance 	11 7:30 am  10:00 am  10:30 am 	12 7:30 am  10:00 am 	13 7:30 am  10:00 am  10:30 am 	14 7:30 am  10:00 am  	15 7:30 am  10:00 am  10:30 am 	16
	Pastor to Fall Theological Conference, October 11 - 14					
17 8:45-9:45  10:00 am Worship 3:00 pm Sprout House Clean-up After Worship 	18 7:30 am  10:00 am  10:30 am 	19 7:30 am  10:00 am  4:30 Executive Committee Meeting	20 7:30 am  10:00 am  10:30 am  6:30 pm Council Meeting	21 7:30 am  10:00 am  	22 7:30 am  10:00 am 	23 11:00 am - 5 pm Creation Care Retreat
				Pastor to Wedding, October 20-24		
24 8:45-9:45  10:00 am Worship After Worship 	25 7:30 am  10:00 am  10:30 am 	26 7:30 am  10:00 am 	27 7:30 am  10:00 am  10:30 am 	28 7:30 am  10:00 am  	29 7:30 am  10:00 am  10:30 am 	30 Decorate cookies for Reformation Sunday
31 8:45-9:45  10:00 am Reformation Sunday Worship After Worship 						

 Men's Coffee

 Women's Coffee

 Children's Choir

 Choir Rehearsal

 Chapel Break

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Messiah Church is much more than just the building we worship in on Sundays. Our building is used throughout the week by many different groups in our community.

We are blessed to be able to share this building with Sprout House who cares for our little ones everyday.

The Dala Pantry is thriving and a much needed resource in our community. The month of August was a very good month for us. We served a total of 56 households totaling to 95 people that was an increase from July of 33 households. The pantry was doing so well that we ran out of food! Because of that we went out and purchased frozen meat from Krehbiels in Mcpherson right after the August shipment because it all went so quickly. A very big thank you to everyone that has helped by giving their time and/or by donating in whatever way they could!

- Logan Dawes, Director

We have men's and women's coffee meetings daily and weekly.

Our calendar and building was full all summer long with activities for children through Lindsborg Recreation with a total attendance of 239 children! We have the privilege to share the building with them again to provide more classes and activities for children in the coming months.

There are many other groups and organizations that are able to use our facilities including Bethany College, the Smoky Valley Historical Association, AA and many more.

We consider Messiah Church a vital resource in providing a community outreach. We thank you all for your continued support of this church so that we can continue to reach out to our community and share the love of God by welcoming our neighbors.

## Messiah Church Staff

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Amy Truhe</b>	<b>Contact Us</b>
<b>Office Manager</b>	<b>Ida Rencher</b>	<b>Office: 785-227-3977</b>
<b>Custodian</b>	<b>Juan Redmon</b>	<b>mlchurch@mlc.kscoxmail.com</b>
<b>Youth Director</b>	<b>Ericka Lysell, BLC</b>	<b>www.melclindsborg.org</b>
<b>Organist</b>	<b>Steven Gustafson</b>	<b>office hours: 9-12 M-F</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Christine Reinert</b>	<b>Call for appointment with Pastor Amy</b>

## 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**