



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B**

Our Vision: Messiah seeks to grow as a congregation of the ELCA called by Christ, gathered by the gospel, and sent by the Holy Spirit into our communities to share and celebrate God's compassion and love.

TODAY'S HYMNS

***GATHERING HYMN**

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW #264

***HYMN OF THE DAY:**

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sound"

ELW #246

***SENDING HYMN:**

"Come Now, Prince of Peace"


ELW #247

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday (12/06)	10:30am	Worship
Thursday (12/10)	9:00am-11am	Food Pantry
Sunday (12/13)	10:30am	Worship

We welcome all friends and visitors in the name of Jesus Christ. Each Sunday we celebrate Holy Communion. We believe that Christ is truly present in the sacrament, and that all baptized Christians are welcome to commune.

PRAYER REQUESTS



We pray for God’s comfort, strength and healing in the lives of the following people: Chris Otto, Glenn Burgener, Linda and Dale Feece, Marge Baima, Anita Giltner, Malea and Jason J, Fran Launstein, Justin, Michael Carlson, Gayle Kern, Deb & Jean Hart, Deb Best, Steve, Janis Jones, Carol Deller, Vicki DeMeyer, Charlie Miller, Avery Smith, Residents of Warm Friends senior living facility, Matthew Carlson and his family, and the friends and family of Jim Kleckner, Jack Goes, Sharron Foran, Clifford “smitty” Smith, Jean Dimmick, Debra Walker and Don and Debbie Painter. Receive our prayer, good Lord.

Council Capsule October-November 2020

- Revenues for the month ending 10/31/20 were \$7,866.12 with expenses of \$8,314.43 and a net of (\$448.31). Revenues for the year are \$99,688.79 and expenses for the year are \$100,948.49 with a net for the year of **(\$1,259.70)**. It should be noted that this deficit in current net does **not** reflect the on-going revenues or expenses for the parsonage renovation. As of 10/31/20 the parsonage renovation has expended \$39,270.76 with a final payment to the contractor still outstanding.
- Sunday, December 27, 2020 worship service will be on-line only. No in-person service will be available.**
- The date of the Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, January 24, 2021 with a “snow date” of Sunday, February 14, 2021.
- All committee and organizational reports are due in church office by January 10, 2021.
- There will be 3 open Council positions due to term limits at the Annual Congregation Meeting: Vice President, Secretary, and Resource Management. Also, 4 positions are up for re-election. Please consider where you might serve.
- Pr. Chris will be seeking bids for a new integrated audio system for the church.
- The next Council meeting will be after worship service on Sunday, December 13, 2020.

Soup Kitchen

All service will be curb-side, and volunteers will bring the food out to people who wish to eat.

Council Meeting


December 13th after service

CONTACT THE PASTOR

In case of emergency, you may reach Pr. Chris Laughlin at the following:
Cell: (989) 225-9443

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Carol Prater	12/08
Hunter Ambrosen	12/09



~ Happy Anniversary!

Bill and Ann Arnold	12/27
Sharlyn and Robert Craig	12/31

Hymnals

In an attempt to use less paper in our weekly mailings, we are willing to issue out hymnals instead of including the hymns each week. If you are interested, please let Mindy or Pastor Chris and we will figure out how to get you a hymnal.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

No Sunday school until further notice

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Worship service will be on-line only. No in-person service will be available.

The offering envelopes

are laid out on two tables in the back of the sanctuary. Please come pick yours up before the end of the year.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday, 24 January, following worship; the rain date will be 14 February. We ask that all reports be in to the office by Sunday, 10 January.

Holiday Project 2020

Our holiday project will be different this year. We requested names from the Department of Human Services for a childless couple & two single seniors from the Constantine area. The Women of ELCA will provide a food box at Christmas. We will not provide clothing or other gift items. The only items we are asking church members to provide are 3 each of the following: Toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, Dish soap, napkins, paper plates, laundry soap, and shampoo. In addition we are asking for 3 \$20 gift cards to Walmart. If you wish to support this project, call Sue Outman @ 269-251-0071 or sign up in fellowship hall.

SAVE THE DATE

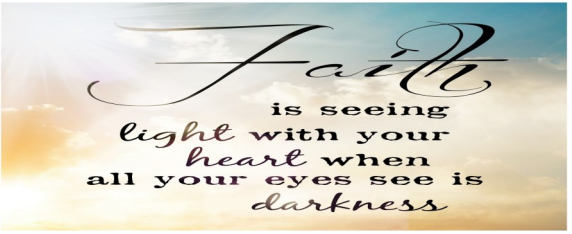
COMING UP

December 24: Christmas Eve/Christmas Celebration 5pm & 8pm

December 25: Christmas Day

December 27: Worship On-Line Only

December 31: New Year’s Eve



Christmas Celebration

Please read all of what comes next: Because planning and production take time, because we don’t want to slap something together, and because we don’t see things getting any better (probably worse, unfortunately), Thom and Keith and I have decided that we will record the main portion of the Christmas Eve celebration in advance. Because we’ll have more time to produce it, it will post to YouTube and Facebook sound-balanced so you won’t have to worry about the terrible sound our livestream music makes. Also, this will allow us to make CDs or DVDs for anyone who doesn’t have internet access.

Because part of the evening’s plans included singing together outside around a fire (because Thom and Keith are both awesome and creative), we plan to offer more opportunities to do so. At 5pm, 6pm, and 7pm, we invite anyone who is interested to sing about 4 of Thom and Keith’s favorite Christmas carols together around fires that they set up in our alleyway (we have long since received permission from the town, and the alley will be blocked to traffic). There will be a brass trio.

We are very sad that the main part of the evening will not be live, but we hope that you will join us for some Christmas cheer and celebrating Jesus’ birth in song together around a fire outside of Messiah at 5pm, 6pm, or 7pm on Christmas Eve.

Dear Members of Messiah Lutheran Church,

I believe that there is on earth a holy little flock and community of pure saints under one head, Christ. ... It possesses a variety of gifts, and yet is united in love Of this community I also am a part and member, a participant and co-partner in all the blessings it possesses. I was brought into it by the Holy Spirit and incorporated into it through the fact that I have heard and still hear God’s Word, which is the beginning point for entering it. ... The Holy Spirit will remain with the holy community or Christian people until the Last Day. Through it he gathers us, using it to teach and preach the Word. By it he creates and increases holiness, causing it daily to grow and become strong in the faith and in its fruits, which the Spirit produces.

Luther’s explanation of the Third Article of the Creed.

It’s been a rough year, hasn’t it?

As the bishop said “I used to know *of* people who have COVID-19; now I know people who have COVID-19. I don’t know to be a person who has COVID-19.”

Whereas it was “over there” back in March, now, it’s here.

So, council voted electronically on Monday, and the vote was unanimous – we’re moving worship to online only for at least the next three weeks.

I know that some of you will be very disappointed or upset. I’ve received your admonitions, many of which were variations of “we should return to normal!”

Still, I believe that we are acting in the best interest of the congregation.

At our meeting on 8 November, council voted to get quotes on updating the sound system so that the music sounds better. The “Geek Squad” representative will be on Tuesday, November 24th. In the meantime, I’m going to try one or two more things to try to improve sound quality.

I will again expand the mailing list to include those people who do not have internet access. If you would like to take home a hymnal until the pandemic is over, you are certainly welcome.

Back in March, we said that this won’t last forever; I still think that’s accurate, and while Easter was messed up, and Christmas might be as well, I live in hope that we’ll return to something much more like normal some time next year.

We might be in for a rough winter. But regardless of what else happens, I still believe that Jesus Christ is the light that shines in the darkness. I still trust in Christ’s promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age. I still believe that the Church, as Luther understood it, is not the building but is formed by the Holy Spirit in knowing God’s Word, which we will continue to do.

SDG,

Pr. Chris

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