



MESSIAH MESSENGER
The Newsletter of
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
185 W. 5th Street
Constantine MI 49042

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.



Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Office: 269.435.9785
E-mail: messiahconstantine@gmail.com
Website: messiah-constantine.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Messiah.Constantine



**HOW WELL DO YOU
KNOW YOUR BIBLE?**

Q: Which brave young boy had
a fight with a giant called
Goliath?

A: David

WORSHIP

Worship Service, 10:30am

OFFICE & SECRETARY HOURS

Monday – Thursday, 10:00-1:00pm

PASTOR

Pr. Chris Laughlin

CHURCH STAFF

Mindy VanScoik, Church Secretary

Dr. Thom Britton, Organist

Keith Geiman, Choir Director

Sue Outman, Food Pantry

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Glen Carlson, President

Sally Stuby, Vice President

Mary Laura Jones, Secretary

Yvonne Kline, Treasurer

MINISTRY CHAIRPERSONS

Sue Outman, Congregational Care

Deb Hart, Christian Education

David DeMeyer, Facilities Management

*Open, Resource Management

Greg Bojanich, Gospel/Mission

Andy Rockwell, Invest Fund

Theresa Chrisman, Financial Secretary

Joetta Blough, Altar Guild

Joyce Shidaker, Memorial Management

FOOD PANTRY

Thursdays, 9:00-11:00am

SOUP KITCHEN

Mondays, 4:30-6:00pm @ Constantine UMC

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS



Office remains open

**Monday-Thursday
10:00-1:00pm**

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, May 9th after service.

Council Minutes April 2021

- Revenues for the month ending 03/31/21 were \$18,110.32 with expenses of \$10,025.00 and a net of \$8,085.32. Revenues for the year are \$30,451.39 and expenses for the year are \$31,990.21 with a net for the year of (\$1,538.82). Our approved budget for the year requires revenue of approximately \$11,000. per month.
- Covid-19 protocols will continue until further notice. Council voted to allow “outdoor funeral lunches hosted by Congregation members; outdoor funeral activities may be permitted as of June 1, 2021. Anyone entering the Church must wear a mask.
- The forms used by weekly counters have been revised.
- Next Council meeting will be held after worship service on Sunday, May 9, 2021.

Worship

All worship documents are available on our website: <https://www.messiah-constantine.org/>. You can print them OR use another device to follow them whether or not you watch the worship online (in real-time or later). We are mailing them to everyone without a computer or internet access.

Faith IS NOT KNOWING
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,
BUT KNOWING
who holds the future.

Pastor's Page May 2021

After [Jesus'] suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ... So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Acts 1:3, 6-11, NRSV

Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox; that time was fixed by the First Council of Nicea (AD 325). In the New Testament, Easter coincided with Passover. Fifty days after Passover is the Jewish festival of Shavuot, which, in the New Testament, is called Pentecost. Thus, the Season of Easter is 50 days long; it's a "week of weeks" (49 days) plus the Day of Pentecost.

But, as recorded by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus ascended into heaven after he stayed among his disciples, teaching, for 40 days (see above reference). Since Easter is always on a Sunday, forty days after Easter is always a Thursday. For that reason, most congregations either skip celebrating Ascension Day (or move it to the following Sunday).

This year, Ascension Day falls on Thursday, 13 May. Pastor James Smith invites Messiah to join St. John Lutheran Church and Trinity Episcopal Church (both Three Rivers) and Lutheran Church of the Savior (Kalamazoo), at 7pm in Lafayette Park (400 N Main St, Three Rivers) for Ascension worship. He invites us to bring our own lawn chairs (I'll have a few extra), and there will be communion.

If you would rather not worship in the park, you are welcome to join us on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 825 8743 7057

Passcode: 218674

If you join us online, you are welcome to let us know and swing by for communion after worship.

Pray for good weather as we gather to celebrate Jesus' Ascension!

SDG,

Pr. Chris



Birthdays of the Month

Terry Jacobs	05/05
Tegan Stuby-Hekter	05/13
Madisyn Tulley	05/16
Bill Arnold	05/23
Juno Blough	05/29



JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please email the secretary at messiahconstantine@gmail.com or drop items/notes/info off at the church office no later than: May 24th 2021

Electronic giving

Just a reminder that we offer Tithe.ly electronic giving. You can find it on our website, and you can set up automatic/recurring giving. Please remember that there is a fee to give this way.

Readers For May

2nd- Glen Carlson
9th- Katie Papke
16th- Deb Hart
23rd- Glen Carlson
30th- Katie Papke

Council Meeting

Next council meeting will be May 9th

Weekly Mailings

If you receive the weekly worship mailing but would like to be removed from the mailing list because you are in worship, please let Pastor Chris or Mindy know. If you would like to continue receiving the mailing but would only like certain parts of it (for example, just the sermon), please let Pastor Chris or Mindy know.

Ascension Day

Ascension Day Worship in the Park!
with St. John Lutheran Church, Three Rives
Thursday, 13 May 2021 7pm
Lafayette Park, Three Rivers

From Pastor James:
Springtime is here: Rise up and celebrate the Ascension with us! Grab a lawn chair and join us outdoors at Lafayette Park, or grab a computer and a favorite beverage and join us on Zoom.

Zoom Meeting:
Meeting ID: 825 8743 7057
Passcode: 218674

Pastor News

“My June class has been moved to May! I will be instructing 10-21 May. The class will again be virtual, so I will not miss worship on the Sundays around my class, but I will be unavailable during those weeks.
– Pastor Chris”

Holy Communion

“My plan is to celebrate Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of May.

Soup Kitchen

All service will be curb-side, and volunteers will bring the food out. Mondays from 4:30pm-6:00pm.

Choir


“Due to Michigan’s recent increase in COVID-19 cases, choir will not start until the first Sunday of June.”

Soup Kitchen


Messiah’s turn at soup kitchen will be May 17th.

News

“We will use PowerPoint as long as we’re inside and in-person”.




- May 05: Cinco De Mayo
- May 09: Council Meeting/Mother's Day
- May 13: Ascension Day
- May 10-21: Pastor Teaching Army Online
- May 15: Synod Assembly
- May 17: Messiah's turn at soup kitchen
- May 31: Memorial Day



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBERING & HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



Outside Worship

As long as the weather cooperates, we will move outside for worship next Sunday.
This year, I do not expect to be outside all summer.

Synod Assembly

This year's synod assembly will be Saturday, 15 May 2021. It will be "virtual" – entirely online; just one day long, it will focus only on business. Special thanks to Deb Hart and Greg Bojanich for being the voting members from Messiah.

Offering Counters

"Now that we have returned to in-person worship, I would like to ask that those who used to count the offering on Sunday mornings to please return to counting the offerings on Sunday morning. If you have not counted the offering in the past and are interested in counting, please let Pastor Chris know asap. This is a *vital* function. Thank you very much."

Food Pantry

Every Thursday from 9am-11am.

"Others sin on the right hand. They are much too rash and reckless, tempting God and disregarding everything which might counteract death and the plague. They disdain the use of medicines; they do not avoid places and persons infected by the plague, but instead lightheartedly make sport of it and wish to prove how independent they are. They say that it is God's punishment; if he wants to protect them he can do so without medicines or our carefulness. This is not trusting God, but rather tempting him. God has created medicines and provided us with intelligence to guard and take good care of the body so that we can live in good health."

Martin Luther, "Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague," (1527) in Pastoral Writings, vol. 4, The Annotated Luther, p403.


3/23/21 Vaccine Update

BHSJCHA has now opened up vaccinations for COVID-19 to anyone who resides in Branch, Hillsdale, or St. Joseph County ages 16 and older. Appointments can be scheduled at bhsj.org/events/341.

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Karen, John Alwine, Mason, Sue Hartman, Mike Allen Jr, Sharlyn C, Kim H, Lisa Deleo, Izen Tsitsos, Lisa, Chris, Matthew Thormeyer, Murph, Mesha Gottesman, Don Mercer, Tara, Steve, Janis Jones, Carol Deller, Vicki DeMeyer and Avery Smith.

Watch, dear LORD, with those who wake or watch or weep. Tend the sick, rest the weary, bless the dying, and soothe the suffering. Shine your light of love on them and walk with them, that they may know the peace and comfort of your presence. **Amen.**



Prayer Requests

The Lord's Prayer

T A R D S Y D K H D
E E O E R I I X A K
V T M O H N M E L R
I E L P G T R S L E
L G J D T B A X O W
B Q O O Y A V F W O
R M Q L Q I T M E P
E V I G R O F I D Q
X A X W I L L K O G
D L J G F H B A J N

FATHER
HALLOWED
KINGDOM
WILL

DAILY BREAD
FORGIVE
SINS
TEMPTATION

EVIL
GLORY
POWER

Climate Change: A Matter of Faith?

The connection between Jesus and climate change is not as obvious to some as it is to others. Growing up, I learned more about conservation and the environment from the Boy Scouts than from the Church. Jesus saved souls, not plants and animals. In fact, God said humankind is to “subdue” the earth and “have dominion” over its creatures (Genesis 1:28). The twenty-first century is a time of unparalleled ecological crisis as the very survival of complex forms of life and beauty, including humankind, are threatened by the decisions and actions of human beings. The ecological damage that modern humanity has inflicted on the planet have reinforced our awareness that the survival and flourishing of humanity are intimately linked with the well-being of the planet. Responding to this concern is a divisive and pressing issue for individuals, communities, companies, and governments. While addressing climate change is certainly a matter of survival, why is climate change a matter of faith and a concern of the Church? The answer is that the story of salvation in Jesus Christ includes not only the human history of salvation, but also grace bestowed on the cosmos. We show our respect for the Creator and participate in Jesus’ saving work by our stewardship of the creation. Created in God’s image, we “have dominion” over the earth and its creatures by caring for them as God does (Genesis 1:26). Jesus embraces all creation in the saving work of his life, death, and resurrection. In Jesus’ incarnation, God became one with and transformed, not only human nature, but also material creation, so the divine is made present and available to us in and through creation. Traces of the mystery of God, definitively disclosed in Jesus Christ, can be discovered throughout the universe. From this perspective, “the term *2* *sarx* in John 1:14 connotes not just human flesh but all that is finite and perishable, the matter that extends throughout the universe.” God became flesh to so connect God and the world that the “stuff” of *3* the cosmos is granted both dignity; such that matter mediates God’s presence to humanity, and a future for a creation marked by decomposition and suffering becomes possible by the redeeming grace of Christ. The “earthly” nature of Jesus’ public ministry reveals God’s concern for the entire cosmos. Jesus attended to people’s bodily needs by feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and welcoming the outcast at table. In his preaching of the Reign of God, Jesus often turned to what early and Medieval Christians termed the “Book of Nature” as the starting point for his parables. Jesus directed his disciples to “read the signs of the times” in the signs of nature. “He used images of seeds randomly sown, dying fig trees, untended vineyards, and wandering sheep as entry points for speaking about God’s providence, fidelity, justice, and compassion.” Jesus’ concern *4* for physical needs and use of nature images to reveal God indicate that God’s Reign encompasses the entire planet with all of its ecosystems and, in fact, the entire cosmos. Moreover, God’s word is disclosed not only through the Scriptures, but also through the “Book of Nature,” a genuine source of revelation. As two expressions of the word of God, the Bible and the Book of Nature need to be interpreted in light of each other. Turning to the cross, when Jesus says that, lifted up from the earth, he will draw all people to himself (John 12:32), we might hear creation or the cosmos. On the cross, Jesus draws all creation to God. Jesus’ solidarity on the cross extends beyond humanity to all creatures. Paul observes, “We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now” (Romans 8:22.). Theologians understand creation’s “groaning” as the suffering and death that are intrinsic to evolutionary development. They press us to consider how the groaning of all of creation is intertwined with the cries of the human poor. Jesus *5* embraces creation’s agony in his agonizing death. While the cross itself is an unjust act perpetrated by human beings, the divine solidarity revealed in Jesus’ participation in death makes the bold claim that no creature, human or nonhuman, is ever alone in its suffering. God is always present in divine compassion. *6* The Church’s proclamation of Jesus’ resurrection has always included the bodily or corporeal dimension. Jesus has been raised by the Father in every aspect of his personhood. Those who *7* proclaimed Jesus as risen from the dead envisioned his destiny as the hope for all creation. The author of Colossians names Christ “the firstborn of creation” and “the firstborn from the dead” (1:15, 18). Ambrose of Milan asserted that “The universe rose again in Him, the heaven rose again in Him, the earth rose again in Him.” Ambrose even suggested that at the end of time all creation will join human beings in the *8* beatific vision. The risen Christ is the crown of God’s new creation. *9* If you are not quite ready to put a solar panel on your church, I invite you to spend the Easter season and this summer praying for creation as you would for a sick friend. As you have occasion to be in creation, whether sitting in the sunshine in your home or walking through the woods or along the lake, consider what God may be revealing to you through the Book of Nature. When your congregation is ready to learn or do more, please contact our Synod’s Environmental Stewardship Task Force.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

May 2021



WWW.MESSIAH-CONSTANTINE.ORG

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship 10:30am	Soup Kitchen 4:30pm-6pm		Cinco De Mayo	Food Pantry 9am-11am		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 10:30am Council Meeting Mother's Day	Soup Kitchen 4:30pm-6pm Pastor Teaching Army Class Online @ Home	Pastor Teaching Online Class @ Home	Pastor Teaching Online Class @ Home	Ascension Day Food Pantry 9am-11am Pastor Teaching Online Class @ Home	Pastor Teaching Online Class @ Home	Synod Assembly Pastor Teaching Online Class @ Home
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship 10:30am Pastor Teaching Online Class @ Home	Soup Kitchen 4:30pm-6pm Messiah's turn at soup kitchen Pastor Teaching Online Class @ Home	Pastor Teaching Online Class @ Home	Pastor Teaching Online Class @ Home	Food Pantry 9am-11am Pastor Teaching Online Class @ Home	Pastor Teaching Online Class @ Home	
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 10:30am	Soup Kitchen 4:30pm- 6pm	Memorial Day No soup kitchen		Food Pantry 9am-11am		