



# MESSIAH MESSENGER

Messiah Lutheran Church, 415 S. 18th St., Aurora, NE 68818

### Office Hours:

8 am—2pm  
Monday - Friday

Pastor Karen Uden  
Tjarks:  
402-499-8240

### Contact Messiah:

402-694-2017  
Church Office

Email:  
messiah@  
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Find us on  
Facebook & Twitter!



@MessiahAuroraNE



## Consecration Sunday

On Sunday, October 4th we'll celebrate all the amazing gifts of the members here at Messiah! Discipleship calls us to give of ourselves in our church body and our community with our talents, our time, and our treasures. Join us for worship at 9:00am. We have much to celebrate!

Also, plan on bringing your Faithful Giving Worksheets with you to worship on the 4th as we'll bring those forward to be placed at the foot of the altar as we once again discern the ways that we will serve God in the coming year. Worksheets can be picked up at the church now and through the rest of September! **ALL should fill one out, each adult member and our children and youth too!**

### September Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### BIRTHDAYS

- 9/2 Dave Olson
- 9/4 Hadley Hudson
- 9/10 Charlene Coon
- 9/10 Liam Faller
- 9/11 Blaine Danielson
- 9/11 Devin Danielson
- 9/11 Dylan Danielson
- 9/11 Cameron Hudson
- 9/12 Blaike Arndt
- 9/13 Ethan Wert
- 9/14 Nancy Obermeier
- 9/14 Marilyn Vrana
- 9/15 Anna Crist
- 9/15 Megan Dam
- 9/15 Charly James
- 9/15 Jay Staehr
- 9/16 Nancy Arndt
- 9/16 Vanessa Wergin
- 9/18 Brekyn Papineau

- 9/20 Turner Voss
- 9/21 Sheila Hiebner
- 9/23 Troy Dvorak
- 9/24 John Rogers
- 9/27 Scott Johnson
- 9/28 Cooper Hudson

#### ANNIVERSARIES

- 9/6 Troy & Jennifer Dvorak
- 9/9 Ralph & Marsha Redman
- 9/21 Duane & Rita Katt
- 9/26 Jacob & Heidi Oswald
- 9/29 Rick & Carmen Goertzen

# Council Highlights

Messiah Lutheran Council Meeting  
July 12, 2020

**Present:** Diane Gowen, Troy McCain, Tammy Chaney, Megan Dam, Steve Vrana, Sarah Lyon, Cheryl Frickel, Mark Jobman, Rick Penner, and [Guest] Pr. Steve Meysing

**Prayer** –Steve Vrana opened the meeting with prayer.

**Call Meeting to Order** – The council meeting was called to order by Council President Steve Vrana at 10:50 am.

**Call Process** – Pr. Steve Meysing joined council to give an overview of what is involved in the call process. The booklet “Rostered Minister Transition: A Call to Mission for the Congregation”, provided by The Nebraska Synod, was the focus of discussion. Pr. Meysing will conduct a more in-depth training with the formed Call Committee when it is appropriate. Pr. Meysing gave an overview of the suggested timeline for the transition projects.

A Spiritual Director will be partnered with Messiah, and together will host a congregational prayer event.

This will be intergenerational and interactive.

Congregational “Telling Our Story” historical event for all ages, reflecting on Messiah’s history of events.

A community demographics snapshot will be developed at this time.

Community needs – Council to work in pairs to talk to community leaders.

Ministry Site Profile – Identify top 5-7 “wish list” for a new pastor, highlighting Messiah’s top priorities or preferences.

Form Call Committee –after the above items are complete.

Pr. Meysing has begun the search for the transitional pastor. Discussion followed. Thank you to Pr. Meysing for taking time from your busy schedule to meet with us.

**Minutes of previous meeting** - The minutes from the June council meeting was reviewed by church council. Rick Penner motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mark Jobman. All in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Diane Gowen presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month of June 2020.

Checking account balance \$50,015.97.

Current - \$38,890.43, Building \$9,367.10 with \$1,758.44 outstanding

Money market balance \$49,682.20

Mission Investment Balance \$30,112.67

Building loan balance as of 6-30-20 \$269,203.70

Youth Group checking balance is \$9,667.74

Tina Oswald reported approx. \$6,000 coming in from the fireworks sales. Commission check will be issued sometime in August. Tina will have a full report at that time.

Funds are being reimbursed back to the youth that had a deposit down for the mission trip.

Income short from budgeted amount by \$11,906.00 YTD.

Monthly Expense under budget by \$3,018.00, over budget for YTD \$3,633. With the PPD loan we

## *Financial Summaries*

are under budget by \$19,882.00.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented and is on file for the auditing committee to review.

### **Committee's Reports**

#### **Property** – Troy McCain

The front of the church was worked on by volunteers on Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Harley Fassnacht for the use of his tiller and to the members of the congregation that helped.

Thanks to the memorial committee for their work planting the new flowers and bushes in front of the church.

Three rooms at church had some walls repaired and painted due to tape being used on them. Carrie Swanson has done some extra cleaning in the church during the time when we were not holding services. Thank you, Carrie!

We are still trying to resolve the sprinkler issue at the parsonage.

The weeds were sprayed around the church and on the south end of the parking lot.

#### **Worship** – Megan Dam

Discussed the logistics of the sound booth for weddings.

Beginning to think about if we will follow the school schedule for possible closings.

Discussed adding information on spacing and the communion cups to power point slides before service.

Sarah and Megan to update website.

Securing pulpit supply through August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

July 19 & July 26 – Pr. Karen Tjarks from York Ne

August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Pr. Adam White from UNL Lutheran Center

The rate is \$175/Sunday plus mileage

Communion will be held at each of these services

Additional worship assistants are needed.

#### **Education** – Sarah Lyon

##### **Youth Group**

Huge thanks to our many volunteers for helping with fireworks stand. Around \$6,000 was raised for the YG.

Plan to meet in the next few weeks with Tina, Holly and Dara to start planning the HS calendar. Biggest need is an adult volunteer to lead devotions with the kids.

##### **Confirmation**

Met with Pastor Ricardo and Kiley to discuss coordination with Kronberg and Polk with Pastor Ricardo serving as the pastoral lead.

##### **Glow/Little Learners**

Looking to combine a VBS gathering/rally Sunday kick off into a family gathering on August 16<sup>th</sup> out at Gjerloff Prairie or Leadership Center for a socially distanced picnic and games.

Plan on continuing the same model this year, following the guideline set by school.

Needs: a teacher for Little Learners Sunday School, as well as parent/adults to volunteer to help with GLOW.

#### Adult Education

We are brainstorming a structure to have lay-led bible studies, most likely starting in the winter. Julie Jensen has a structure in mind we will continue to review.

#### Men's Breakfast

Will be contacting Todd Jensen for this item.

#### College Students

Will be reaching out to see if any students need support.

General information was shared with the congregation by email with an update.

#### **Stewardship –**

Nothing new to report this month.

#### **Fellowship – Cheryl Frickel**

Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the lunch for Pr. Steve Meysing and for Council members.

#### **Outreach – Mark Jobman**

Backpack Project – Marilyn Vrana and Laura Jobman have been working hard at this project.

Details were presented during today's service. We have been able to partner with other area churches for this project. Members are asked to take a backpack to finish filling it.

Or, if preferred, to donate money or individual items. A poster with a list of supplies needed is on display in the Narthex.

Pool Party – this has been cancelled for this year

God's Work Our Hands – Other projects will be considered following the completion of the backpack project.

Angel Tree – this will be revisited later when the new elementary school counselor begins August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Those on the prayer chain, as well as our shut-ins, have been divided among the committee, to be called on to check on their well-being.

#### **Unfinished Business – None reported**

#### **New Business**

Pam Tyma discussion on transition – Steve and Diane gave an update on some conversations with Pam on how things are going during our transition, and how we as a council can offer support. Discussion followed.

Thermostat settings at the church – discussion followed

Limit Church Access – Discussion on changing the access code to the building to increase security.

Reach out to members who have left/considering leaving – Discussion followed. Following service on Sundays, during this transition, Council will support an open forum for congregation to ask questions and to express concerns. This will happen after the announcements at the end of the service and will include a Q & A session.

Installation of new office computer – It has come to council's attention the computer purchased in January has not been installed. Troy and Diane to follow up on this project.

Replace Lynn James as Stewardship Chair – Lynn wishes to remain on the Stewardship Committee, but feels he needs to step down as Chair during his extended absence. Steve suggested to put a replacement on hold, but rather ask a committee member to attend council meetings as a proxy at this time. Discussion followed. Steve to follow up with Lynn.

Initiating the call process – What are our next steps? Discussion followed. Council to read the guidelines provided, and touch base with Pr. Meysing.

**Closing** – A motion was presented by Troy to adjourn the meeting, with Cheryl seconding the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Next Meeting** – Sunday, August 16 @ 6:30 pm

**Closing Prayer** – Steve closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tammy Chaney, Secretary

Messiah Lutheran Council Meeting Special Session  
August 2, 2020

**Present:** Steve Vrana, Troy McCain, Tammy Chaney, Diane Gowen, Cheryl Frickel, Mark Jobman, Rick Penner

Meeting was called to order at 10:11 am by Council President Steve Vrana. This meeting was called to put together a proposal to present to Pastor Karen Tjarks for the position of Part-time Transitional Minister.

Steve opened the meeting with prayer.

Topics of discussion:

Compensation – For a part time position, the guideline suggests the interim position should be paid at the rate of ½ of the previous full-time pastor, which calculates to \$1,738.47/mo.

Mileage – This is not included with the compensation. The current IRS rate is \$0.57 per mile. We currently have \$1,677 left in the budget YTD for mileage.

Length of contract – The length of the contract would initially be for 5 months through December 31,2020 with the option of extending the contract.

After discussion, the council determined the following recommendations for the proposal:

Part-time position for Interim Pastor for 5 months, through December 31, 2020 with the option of extending if both parties agree. Hours worked will be around 20-24 per week. Start date TBD between parties.

Salary should be \$1,738.47/month totaling \$8,692.35 through December 31, 2020, plus mileage at the current IRS rate.

Office hours TBD. Pastor to participate and offer guidance in Council Meetings.

Troy presented a motion to present this offer to Pastor Karen Tjarks. Rick seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Other Business:

Outreach to congregation members in need because of various health or other issues. Cheryl and Mark to

get together to discuss.

Steve closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tammy Chaney, Secretary

## From the pastor....

It's been wonderful to come out of retirement to again be in active ministry. I'm grateful for the trust Messiah has placed in me to guide you through this first phase of the Transition process.

Folks have asked about me -- so here goes. . .

I was raised on a farm at Anan, Nebraska, graduated from Sandy Creek High School and married Steve, December 28, 1969. We were blessed with two daughters - Amy and husband, Tom, live at Palm Harbor, Florida - Lisa and her husband, Mick, live on an acreage east of Lincoln. They are parents of Ethan (10th grade at Waverly High School) and Chloe (4th grade at Eagle Elementary).

My husband, Steve, is a retired pastor, having served 40+ years in the Nebraska Synod ELCA. Steve is a graduate of Hastings College and Wartburg Theological Seminary at Dubuque, Iowa. I was a non-traditional student: earning my BS degree in Business Administration from UNK in 1991 and attending seminary through the T.E.E.M. program at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary at Berkley, California. I was Ordained in 2005 and retired in December, 2016.

Prior to ministry, my work experience was primarily in the areas of Office Administration and Fund Raising. In retirement I spend my time in my flower garden in the summer and quilting in the winter and reading for fun whenever I can sneak it in.

I have agreed to serve Messiah through the end of December. I will be working 20-25 hours per week so my time to visit and greet face-to-face will be limited, but please feel free to stop by the church office



### **Goodwill Industries Donation Drive**

**Aurora United Methodist Church  
1104 A St  
Aurora, NE 68818**

**Tuesday, September 1 through Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

# Prayer Requests

Beginning in September, names on the Prayer List will remain for one month. At the end of the month, the list will be cleared unless a request has been received they remain longer. Only the person's name will be shared.

# Shut-Ins

As a result of Coronavirus concerns, many of our faithful members have been unable to attend Sunday morning worship. Pastor Karen would like the opportunity to call and greet these folks. If you know someone who would like to receive a call from the pastor, please write their name and phone number on a piece of paper and put it in the basket on Pam's desk.

# Adult Education

We would like to get an Adult Bible Study going (starting in October). If you would be interested and/or have an idea for a topic, please let Sarah Lyon or Pastor Karen know.

## **Cobalt Directions to watch our church services.**

Turn on the TV.

Aim the Cobalt remote at the channel box and press the "On Demand" button. It's an oblong button in the center of the remote in the middle third. You should see 2 icons on the TV screen. If the icons don't appear press the STB button in the upper right hand corner of the remote and press the "On Demand" button again.

Using the arrows around the OK button highlight the one that says "Church Services".

With the Church Services button highlighted press the OK button in the center of the remote.

Scroll to Messiah Lutheran using the arrows around the OK button. Press the OK button.

A list of the services available should appear. Depending on your channel box the services may appear as icons or a list. If they are icons, the date will be in the upper right hand corner of your screen rather than with the icon. The date goes along with the service that's highlighted.

Using the arrows around the OK button highlight the service you want to watch and press the OK button.

You will see 2 buttons at the bottom of the screen. Back and Watch. Use the arrows to highlight Watch and press OK again.

After it starts you can use the pause, play, fast forward and reverse to see the part of the service you want to.

When you are done with the service you can press the "Live" button in the upper right portion of the remote. If you are still seeing the list at that point also press the "exit" button.

If you have problems you can call Mark Jobman at 402-694-6282.

## Financial Summary - July 1 - 31, 2020

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Offering Income</u>	<u>Other Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Current	\$ 38,890.43	\$ 13,885.00	\$ 384.52	\$ 19,293.50	\$ 33,866.45
Building	\$ 9,637.10	\$ 2,270.00		\$ 3,091.00	\$ 8,816.10
Money Market	\$ 49,682.20	\$ 20.00	\$ 4.49		\$ 49,706.69
Mission Investment Fund	\$ 30,112.67		\$ 29.26		\$ 30,141.93
Total					\$ 122,531.17

## Building Loan Recap - July 31, 2020

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Building	\$ 269,203.70	968.02	2122.98	\$ 267,080.72

## Communication

Keeping everyone informed and up-to-date on what's happening at Messiah is a top priority. In the coming weeks we will be updating our various contact lists for newsletter, weekly announcements, text notifications and such. Please let the office know if there are any changes regarding the format you're receiving, which format you prefer, and which information you want to receive. It would be most helpful if you could put your request in writing, but a phone call or text to Pam will also work. Please be patient as we work to make these updates.

**August 30th** will be the last Sunday to make donations to **LWR - Lebanon Fund**.

Lutheran Disaster Relief is collecting funds to assist our neighbors in Iowa following the destructive derecho winds that hit there. Be sure to write: **For Iowa Relief** in the memo line of your check.



## **WELCA (Women of the ELCA) at Messiah News**

### **Pack em Back to School**

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our backpack program this year by filling a backpack, providing supplies or cash donations; as well as prayers for this outreach to students in need in our community. This year due to high need we invited other churches in the ministerial association to join us. So along with Messiah we had 7 other churches working together to provide a total of 93 backpacks to be distributed. With these increased numbers we were able to provide backpacks to the Middle School as well as the Elementary. We also had a donation of 20 smaller backpacks that were given the Aurora preschool program for their needs. These backpacks help students start the year with all the supplies they need while alleviating some financial burdens on these families in need.

### **Lutheran World Relief health and school kits**

We will be continuing to work on gathering supplies for both the health and school kits for LWR. These kits become our outreach to parts of the world in desperate need, now more than ever. Lists of supplies needed for these kits are available on the LWR table. If you don't wish to shop, a box is available for cash donations to purchase supplies. We have already assembled some kits and will have another work time in September to finish up and prepare our donations for shipping. Many thanks to all of those who have provided items or donations, as well as a big thank you to those who have helped in preparing the kits for shipment.

### **Updates from President Sandy Terry . . .**

- ◆ Churchwide Triennial Convention which h was to have been held this summer in Phoenix, Arizona, has been rescheduled for August 3-8, 2021.
- ◆ Spring Gatherings that were planned/cancelled this spring will use the same theme/location next year. Central Conference will meet at St. John Lutheran Church in Columbus, Nebraska, on April 17, 2021.
- ◆ The program planned for Winter Retreat 2020 will be utilized for Autumn Renewal. Depending on COVID status, this may be a virtual meeting on October 24, 2020. More information to follow.
- ◆ NSWO Biennial Convention will be held October 1-3, 2021 at Carol Joy Holling Camp, Ashland, Nebraska.

**WELCA (our group for women of Messiah) will plan on meeting on Sunday, September 20 after the church service. We will be following guidelines with social distancing and masks to keep everyone safe. Hope you can join us. We will also be scheduling a time to finish putting together health and school kits. We are hoping to have many ready to go for this fall's collection. Hope to see you on September 20th.**





## **Help Wanted. . .**

In the next few weeks, a transition Team of 5-11 people will be formed. This team will work closely with Pastor Karen and the Council to do the planning and legwork needed to prepare Messiah's Ministry Site Profile.

This team will meet 2-3 times per month for the next four months. The team will represent the various ages and interests of the Congregation so that every member of Messiah will find at least one person on the Transition Team they feel comfortable sharing with.

Some of the tasks to be accomplished by the Transition Team include:

- Planning a "Telling Our Story Event" for the congregation.

- Determining and compiling a report on the Demographics of this community

- Conducting a Community Needs Assessment

- And other duties as determined by the Team.

Team members should represent WELCA, Education, Worship, Outreach, Youth and Seniors, and any other areas I'm not aware of.

If you are interested or would like more information about this team, please contact Pastor Karen or a member of the Council.

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, Messiah resumed worship services in the sanctuary for the first time in nearly four months. Since that time in mid-July, the Church Council has continued to evaluate the current state of the COVID-19 Pandemic and with proper guidelines and recommendations, many gatherings have taken place at Messiah. Some of these exciting things include the office reopening, Quilt Guild, Lions Club and Moms in Prayer gathering again. Special celebrations have also taken place including a baptism and wedding. And, in the coming days and weeks, we look forward to welcoming our students during their Faith Formation classes such as Confirmation, GLOW, Little Learners and Youth Group.

With so many people getting together at Messiah again, it is important that we continue to follow recommendations and guidelines provided by the Central Nebraska Health District, The Aurora 4R School District and local health experts. We will continue to rely upon these resources as we navigate our ability to safely gather within the walls of Messiah over the coming months. The Church Council has plans to effectively communicate changes to our building operation plan as circumstances evolve.

While masks and social distancing continue to be required during worship services, we also encourage groups who congregate at Messiah to do the same. If you ever have questions, concerns or ideas on how we can improve operations during this unprecedented time, please contact anyone on Church Council or Pastor Karen. Thank you for your willingness to follow these guidelines as we continue to safely gather during the pandemic.

#### **FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**

**RALLY SUNDAY** is on the calendar **September 13th**, we are still figuring out an activity we could do after church to celebrate the kick-off to the year....

**GLOW!** will start **September 16th** and run from 6:00-7:15.

**LITTLE LEARNERS** will start the following Sunday worship on **September 20th** and run from 10:00- 11:00. Confirmation will also be running on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45.

# *Messiah Lutheran Church*

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MESSIAH  LUTHERAN

September 2020