



MESSIAH MESSENGER

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

Office Hours:

8 am—2pm
Monday - Friday

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Find us on
Facebook & Twitter!



@MessiahAuroraNE

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

11/02 Jean Peters
11/03 Regina Farris
11/03 Jack Wergin
11/04 Evan Dam
11/04 Jeff Griffith
11/04 Kim Schaffert
11/05 JoAnn Landenberger
11/06 Herb Peters
11/06 Del Steinwart
11/07 Kevin Henderson
11/08 Kerragen Jensen
11/08 Troy McCain
11/09 Glenn Obermeier
11/10 Rebecca Bicknase
11/10 Keegan Chaney
11/10 Jack Lyon
11/11 Brady Papineau
11/13 Dara Schuster
11/14 Brody Werner
11/15 Mike Reimers
11/16 Jane VanderTuig

11/17 Connor Smith
11/18 Breann Sweeney
11/19 Scott Cerveny
11/20 Carsen Staehr
11/21 Jerry Ekhoﬀ
11/30 Shelby Staehr

Anniversaries

11/04 Jay & Tina Oswald
11/05 Scott & Lisa Werner
11/27 James & Anna Wert
11/28 Tim & Pam Tyma

Messiah Ministries

From the pastor....

How are you feeling today? Are you doing OK?

I subscribe to an online motivational site by Maria Shriver called Sunday Mornings. A recent article really resonated with me and I hope some of the things she shared will be meaningful to you also. Below are excerpts from Maria's newsletter...

There's a lot going on in our country and in the world. The news is coming at us at such a dizzying pace that its really challenging to keep up with it all, much less know what to make of it. At least that's how I'm feeling! So, my thought for this Sunday is, "Let's take a break from it all."

People are tired and exhausted. Tired from trying to keep it all together. Exhausted from trying to figure out how to pivot, how to redirect, how to home school, how to shift a business model, how to care for everyone and act like its no big deal.

We all know the election is around the corner. In fact, millions of people have already voted. We know the importance of voting. We know that elections are often decided by the smallest of numbers. We know that regardless of the noise out there, that mail-in voting is dependable and accurate. We know. We know. We know.

So let's take a beat and think about what may not be as clear to us on this day: the level of our own internal noise. When we are exhausted and exasperated, we aren't helping lower the temperature of the world. When we're yelling and judging and shaming, we aren't moving any ball forward, much less moving humanity forward.

Before we talk about resetting the country and resetting our politics, perhaps we could all take a moment and reset our own personal temperatures. Right after the first presidential debate, I heard a well-known Republican commentator say that the president came in too hot. He said its hard for people to hear hot. That's the truth. Hot begets hot, and people are tired. We're tired of trying to speak up and being interrupted. Tired of trying to make a logical point and getting misinterpreted. Its so hot out there that its hard to hear what we need to hear.

In therapy, I learned a term that stuck with me: flooded. When someone is yelling and attacking you or misinterpreting you, you are allowed to say "Stop, I'm flooded. I can't hear you anymore. Your words aren't landing." It means "I need a break." It means "I'll come back to this conversation when things are calmer, when I've gathered myself and when you've gathered yourself."

I think we are all "flooded" and we all need a break to be with our own being. To be in silence. To be with our own thoughts. To grieve, if necessary. To gather ourselves. To rest. Really rest. We need a break from the noise, and from people telling us what to do or how to think.

A friend once said something about me that really landed. He said, "Every time I tell you I'm tired or I tell you all I've done, you just suggest one more thing I can do. I feel like you don't hear me. Instead of giving me more to do, what I want you to say is 'I see all you've done. I see that you're tired. I hope you rest. You deserve rest.'"

Ouch. I've thought a lot about that piece of "constructive criticism" and have tried to adjust so that I don't get it again from anyone else. So on this Sunday, instead of giving you an assignment, I want to say, "I see all you've done. I see all that you're trying to do to stay afloat. I bet you're so tired. I

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am too.”

So today, please rest. You deserve to rest. We all do. Today, I hope you take a moment and acknowledge all that you've been doing. I bet you are flooded. Breathe. I'm sorry about all the chaos, all the work, all the anxiety, apprehension, and fear. I'm not going to suggest you do anything more today except... Rest. Breathe. Be.

[from Maria Shriver's SUNDAY PAPER, Oct.11, 2020]

Messiah Lutheran Council Meeting August 16, 2020

Present: Diane Gowen, Troy McCain, Tammy Chaney, Megan Dam, Steve Vrana, Sarah Lyon, Cheryl Frickel, Mark Jobman, and Interim Pr. Karen Tjarks

Prayer – Pr. Karen Tjarks opened the meeting with prayer.

Call Meeting to Order – The council meeting was called to order by Council President Steve Vrana at 6:33 pm.

Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes from both the July regular council meeting and the August special session was reviewed by church council. Troy McCain motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Cheryl Frickel. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Diane Gowen presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2020.

Checking account balance \$44,828.30.

Current - \$33,866.45, Building \$8,816.10 with \$2,145.75 outstanding

Money market balance \$49,706.69

Mission Investment Balance \$30,141.93

Building loan balance as of 7-31-20 \$267,080.72

Youth Group checking balance is \$4,111.21

Income short from budgeted amount by \$29,890.00 YTD.

Monthly Expense under budget by \$5,668.00, over budget for YTD \$19,740.03. With the PPD loan we are under budget by \$3,775.

Items to be aware of:

Giving has decreased overall, including on-line giving.

SYNOD Mission Share – last contribution was in March. Do we want to start? Budgeted at \$2083 per month. Discussed during new business.

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

Pastor Report – Pr. Karen will be having office hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10-3 for now. Please let her know if we need to adjust. Pr. Karen to send out communication with contact information.

Committee's Reports

Property – Troy McCain

Adding additional rock to the landscaping was discussed.

The sprinkler issue continues at the parsonage.

Worship – Megan Dam

Worship assistants and worship volunteers have been serving at weekly services to make sure worship runs smoothly. THANK YOU to all who have volunteered.

Please let Pr. Karen and Megan know any thoughts or concerns you might have with the current changes to worship. All ideas are encouraged!

Pam creates the initial ProPresenter presentation for the weekly service, with Megan reviewing editing and making final additions. If you have something to be included in the ProPresenter, please contact Pam before the end of the day Wednesdays.

August 23rd will be the baptism for Quinnley Jensen (daughter of Nate and Chelsey Jensen). It is a private baptism at 11:30 that morning with Pastor Karen presiding. Council members Cheryl, Diane, Sarah, Mark, and Megan have volunteered to attend to represent Messiah.

September 27th will be a lay-led service. Timothy Siborg, NE Synod Staff, will be our guest preacher.

October 4th will be Celebration Sunday.

Education – Sarah Lyon

Youth Group

2021 National Youth Gathering has been postponed to 2022. An event is being planned for the YG the summer of 2021 in place of the postponed event, possibly to CO.

Michell Lyon, and possibly Eric Dam, are planning to teach monthly devotions, while the parent group plans a calendar of events.

Confirmation

Meeting planned with Pastor Ricardo on August 19th. Set to kick-off August 26th. Confirmation Sunday will be in October.

Glow/Little Learners

Plan to start September 16th, with slightly shorter evenings. Initial plan is to not serve meals. Parents expressed desire to see how things were going at the school before starting GLOW.

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

Adult Education

Nothing to report. A meeting is planned with Pr. Karen

Men's Breakfast

Nothing to report.

College Students

Nothing to report.

Rally Sunday is planned for September 13th. Bibles are ordered. Plan to paint rocks again to create "milestones".

General Communication – "Remind" texting is working again!

Stewardship –

Nothing new to report. (Lynn absent)

Fellowship – Cheryl Frickel

Meals – visited w/Mark Jobman (Outreach) about offering homebound members assistance, targeting those newly released from the hospital, and are home recovering.

Outreach – Mark Jobman

Backpack Project – This was a success this year. Messiah plus 7 other churches were able to fill 93 backpacks and were delivered to needy students.

God's Work Our Hands – looking for suggestions

Unfinished Business –

Installation of new office computer – Diane has received quotes for installation of updates, set-up, and transfer of data, estimating \$500 - \$750. Discussion followed. Mark made a motion to

hire Ray Maul to install the new computer at a rate of \$75 per hour. Megan seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Building security/keypad code – Council discussed the need to change the code to the doors, to increase security. Troy to write a guideline to present at the next council meeting for approval. Discussion followed. To be tabled until next meeting.

Continuing Resolution #1 – Sarah, Troy, and Pr. Karen visited with Synod's Attorney, Bill Biggs. Mr. Biggs said the resolution is invalid. It is an oversight of why it is still there. The resolution is in violation with the content of our Constitution. Council's action to correct this, is by removing the resolution. The resolution must be removed because it is invalid and has nothing to do with the call process. Troy made the motion to remove continuing resolution #1, with Mark seconding the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Steve to announce this action and to answer any questions following Sunday's service on August 23rd.

The Call Process [pgs. 11-18 in the call process manual] – Item #1 "Congregational Prayer Event" – Spiritual director, Kathy Miller, has been assigned to Messiah by the Synod. Steve has been in contact with Kathy, to choose a date for the event. This Prayer Event will be held following service on August 30th. This event will take around an hour and is a multi-generational event.

New Business

Pam is taking vacation days on August 28th and 31st. Pam's desk drawer lock is broken. Discussion followed.

WELCA's Annual Soup and Pie Day – Cheryl asked for council's recommendation for this year's soup and pie day. Surrounding churches were contacted to ask what their plans are for their fall events. All contacted stated their events are either cancelled or modified. Discussion followed. Mark made a motion to recommend cancelling this year, with Diane seconding the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Thrivent funds – Messiah will soon be receiving \$1,200, as happened in years past. Each year, \$400 is designated to the building fund, as requested by a member. Discussion followed. Mark made a motion to direct the remaining \$800 to the campership fund, with Troy seconding the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Synod Mission Support – Messiah's contribution to the Synod Mission Support was suspended while we did not have in person worship. Jan-March has been paid, but nothing since. The question – Do we start again? How much? Discussion followed. This item is budgeted at 10% of the prior year's offerings, or \$2,083 per month. A suggestion of beginning with \$1,500 per month, beginning in August, and to be revisited in a couple of months. Troy made the motion to begin with \$1,500 per month, with Sarah seconding the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

On-going worship plans – Megan has reported she has received a lot of questions regarding on-going plans. She is working on a guideline like the schools, following Central Nebraska Health Department COVID-19 risk dial. Discussion followed. This item will be revisited. A more permanent solution is needed to provide a live worship option for those worshipping from home. Mitchell Lyon has been assisting in researching a decent camera that will work for our needs. Discussion followed. The approximate cost for a new camera is \$600. Mark Jobman gave permission to use Jobman Memorial funds to purchase this equipment. An update will be provided at the next council meeting.

Closing – A motion was presented by Sarah to adjourn the meeting, with Megan seconding the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Next Meeting – Sunday, September 20 @ 6:30 pm

Closing Prayer – Pastor Karen closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tammy Chaney, Secretary

Monthly Financials

September 2020

	Beginning	Offering Income	Other Income	Expense	Ending
Current	\$ 27,196.18	\$ 18,691.00	\$ 333.00	\$ 23,893.50	\$ 22,326.68
Building	\$ 8,532.60	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 3,091.00	\$ 7,941.60
Money Market	\$ 48,272.04		\$ 3.97		\$ 48,276.01
Helping Hands	\$ 1,914.56				\$ 1,914.56
Mission Investment Fund	\$ 30,171.21		28.37		\$ 30,199.58
Total					\$ 110,658.43
	Beginning		Interest	Principal	Ending
Building Loan	\$ 264,982.13		\$ 984.36	\$ 2,106.64	\$ 262,875.49

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The traditional candlelight service will be held this year – BUT – it will look slightly different because of COVID restrictions.

There will be two services to choose from at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Because social distancing will be observed, each service will be limited to the first 60 persons that sign up. Be watching for when sign-up opens.

Christmas Program

The GLOW kids and Little Learners are working on a “Special Edition” of the Christmas story to be presented during worship on December 13. Be watching for more information about practice times and how you can be involved.

Messiah Ministries

Thanks to Harley Fassnacht, Ross Carstensen, and David Frickel for the use of their equipment for our work day on October 17th. It was a beautiful day to take down the lifeless tree and add more rock to the landscape. Inside the stain glass windows were cleaned in the sanctuary. Thanks to Harley, Eric Dam, Todd Jensen, Julie Jensen, and Kim McCain for all their hard work. If there are property concerns, please visit with me. Troy McCain

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

There will be no Thanksgiving Eve worship this year.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Thursday, December 24th
5:00pm and 7:00pm

Each service will be limited to the first 60 persons who sign up. Masks & social distancing will be enforced.



Join us in worship on
Sunday, December 13th
for our Children's
Christmas Program!

The Angel Tree is an annual ministry of Messiah. Each angel hanging on the tree represents a student here in Aurora whose family needs some help providing Christmas presents for their children.

Please take one or two (or three) Angels! There will be a clipboard next to the tree where you are asked to write down your name next to the Angel's number. Please remember to do this! The Angel will list the student's clothing size, shoe size, and any specific likes or dislikes they have. Please purchase the clothing and shoes listed. A small toy/craft/other present would be nice as well. When you are done with your shopping, please wrap the presents and deliver to the church with the Angel attached to the top by **December 13th** so that the gifts can be delivered to the school in time for the holidays!

Remember, you can partner up with another member and work together to prepare your gifts!

The Angel Tree will be set up in the Narthex at the end of November.

Thanks so much for your generous giving to these children in need!

God's Blessings!
Cami Knust



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CONGREGATIONAL FORUM – November 15 – following worship

What is the status of our transition process?

How long will we continue enforcing COVID protocols?

When will we actually begin the Call process for another pastor?

Will we have one or two pastors going forward?

What happens when Pr. Karen's contract is completed?

Join us for a time of discussion of these and any other questions you might have following worship on November 15. Coffee will be served – but bring your masks!

Packin' on the Pounds

Last year Messiah's youth collected over 2,000 pounds of food for the Hamilton County Food Pantry. This year the need is as great or greater than ever.

In an attempt to surpass last year's collection, the Women's Organization (W/ELCA) have issued a challenge to the Confirmation Kids to see who can "Pack on More Pounds".

Collection boxes will be in the entry — show your support by placing donations of hygiene products and monetary donations in your team's box. Items donated will be weighed every Wednesday with Pastor Karen and Pastor Ricardo serving as Referees. (Each dollar donated equals 2 lbs. of food.) Results will be posted each week.

The challenge will begin Sunday, November 1st through Sunday, November 15th. All items collected will be delivered to the pantry in time for Thanksgiving.



Messiah Ministries

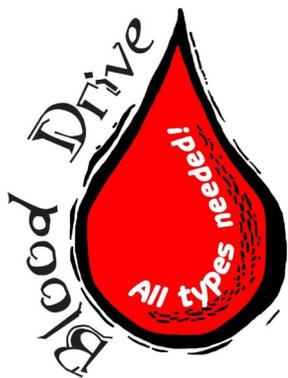
\$ FINANCIAL UPDATE \$

At our October Council Meeting Treasurer Diane Gowen shared that we are currently \$43,263 behind where we should be at this point in the budget year – even though our expenditures are almost \$3,000 under what was budgeted.

Part of this shortfall is the result of lower than normal offerings due to low attendance at worship and some of it is because many are experiencing work shortages and increased expenses because of COVID and are not able to give the amount pledged.

We understand this. But we are asking if, at all possible, you would consider giving an extra offering to the congregation at this time to help decrease this budget shortage.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration!
Messiah Church Council



Red CROSS Blood Drive — November 16th

Additional information to following.

Congregational Forum
Sunday, November 15th
Following Worship

Have questions?
Get Answers!
Learn more about Messiah's
progress in the Call
Process





UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Thankoffering Service

November 22, 2020

Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us. Thankofferings have always been, and still are, our opportunity to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments.

*~taken from All About Thankoffering
by Emily Hansen*



*No W/ELCA Quilting for the
remainder of 2020!*

Upcoming Opportunities!

Triennial Convention

Phoenix, Arizona
August 5-8, 2021

Register online at welcatg.org
Scholarships available at [https://
nswowebmaster.wixsite.com/welca/
copy-of-about-us](https://nswowebmaster.wixsite.com/welca/copy-of-about-us)

Packin' on the Pounds Challenge

(see page 8)



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November 2020