



Office Hours:

**9 am—3 pm
Monday - Thursday
Closed Fridays**

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**Find us on
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@MessiahAuroraNE



MESSIAH MESSENGER

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

August

*Happy
Birthday*

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Aug 1 | Logan Jensen | Aug 20 | Trent Arndt |
| Aug 2 | Lena Groetzinger | Aug 20 | Violet Carstensen |
| Aug 3 | Kiersten Mersch | Aug 20 | Micah Pohlmann |
| Aug 4 | Emma Arndt, | Aug 21 | Avery Miller |
| Aug 4 | Lou McHargue | Aug 21 | Ralph Redman |
| Aug 5 | Larry Keller | Aug 21 | Scott Werner |
| Aug 8 | Kristen Greenough | Aug 23 | Savanna James |
| Aug 9 | Jennifer Dvorak | Aug 24 | Kirsten Jensen |
| Aug 12 | Amy Miller | Aug 24 | Austin Wonch |
| Aug 12 | Joni Steinwart | Aug 25 | Betty Hensen |
| Aug 13 | Linda Strotman | Aug 25 | Kasey Schuster |
| Aug 15 | Caden Schuster | Aug 28 | Reese Danielson |
| Aug 16 | Steve Vrana | Aug 28 | Cami Knust |
| | | Aug 30 | Breanna Bicknase |

*Happy
Anniversary*

- | | | | |
|--------|----------------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Aug 11 | Dana and Azure Pospisil | Aug 17 | Jordan and Jessica Danielson |
| Aug 12 | Marc and Stacy Groetzinger | Aug 25 | Rick and Cara Penner |
| Aug 12 | Delmar and Sherry Peters | Aug 28 | Glenn and Nancy Obermeier |
| Aug 15 | Jack and Allison Wergin | Aug 30 | Ron and Diane Haden |
| Aug 16 | James and Lou McHargue | Aug 31 | Randy and Pauline Hahn |

Upcoming Outreach & Fellowship Events

- ◆ Pack 'em Back to School supplies due - August 6
- ◆ J.O.Y. - August 6
- ◆ Blessing of the Backpacks - August 13
- ◆ 2nd Annual Golf Tournament - August 19
- ◆ God's Work Our Hands Sunday - September 10



KEEPING THE OFFICE INFORMED

If you know of someone who would like a visit from Pastor, if you know of a member who's recently had a baby, or if you've had an address/phone change, please let us know. Thank you for helping us stay "in the know"!

*Powered by God's Grace, serving the church, community,
and world through Christ-centered faith.*

A Word From Pastor Rudy

Grace and peace to you all from God, our Heavenly Father, and our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

First, I would like to say thank you to everyone who has made my time here at Messiah so much fun. I am truly grateful and honored to have reached my 2 year anniversary here in ministry with you all. It doesn't seem possible that it has already been 2 years and I look forward to many more years together in work and in fun together.

This has been a very busy summer so far with more to come. A special thanks to Tonya Papineau, Tammy Chaney, and everyone who helped to make our Fireworks stand a success! It was a great experience for me as I worked my shifts and shared in fellowship with our members and others in our community. There was also a new Nebraska first experience with a post driver. I used one, well helped Tonya use it, to put in the posts for the banner at the stand. I had seen one before but never used one. Let's just say I know I need more practice. But we got the posts in and the banner set up. It was great to see all of the various volunteers come out and share their time especially our high school youth. They had a challenge of volunteering for a total of 60 combined hours. If they met that challenge, I would agree to have my head shaved. Well, they not only met that threshold, they blew right past it! So the event that I called Shave Gate happed on July 23. Great job to everyone and I will need to think of something new for next year.

We also had our annual Messiah Swim Party at the Aurora pool. The weather looked bad for a while, but the rain held out and we had a good crowd come out and enjoy the refreshingly cool water. A special thank you to Steve Vrana and Laura Jobman for getting up so early, you'll have to ask them how early, to get in line to sign up for our date. It was really good to see all the familiar faces and some new ones enjoying time together. I look forward to next year.

This month, I'm looking forward to our 2nd annual golf tournament. This will be on August 19 at Poco Creek and I hope we have another great crowd and great weather. We are also coming to the end of the summer and school is right around the corner. With that, our youth programs will be starting up soon. I excited to be working with the G.L.O.W. program for another year and to see the impact this program has on our little ones. Confirmation will be starting up on September 6 and I am working on the schedule and setting up a parents/student meeting to discuss the coming year. I will also be reaching out to our students who will be confirmed in October to discuss their faith projects. S.W.A.T. (Students With A Testimony) will also be starting up soon and I look forward to learning from and with this group of impressive youth.

As the summer comes close to an end and the school year approaches, I pray that everyone stays safe and finds some time to rest before all the activities, meetings, school projects, sporting activities, and all the other stuff kicks into high gear. May God continue to surround you with grace and love.

Blessings,
Pastor Rudy

At the July 17th church council meeting, which also happened to be Pastor Rudy's birthday, the council members surprised Pastor Rudy by wearing super hero attire.



A challenge was made between Pastor and our high school youth during the time of the Fireworks stand. If the youth volunteered to work 60 hours at the stand, Pastor would shave off his hair. Well, the HS youth surpassed that goal, so Pastor had his head shaved on July 23rd following worship service! Jacob Trusdle, Drew Knust, and Keegan Chaney were the top three HS youth workers, so they were each given a chance to shave a strip of hair. Thank you to Carol Danielson for giving his hair cut the finishing touches.

Council Minutes

Messiah Lutheran Council Meeting June 19, 2023

Present: Cheryl Frickel, Melissa Griffith, Mike Herzberg, Allissa Marty, Kim McCain, Troy McCain, Craig Shaffer, Steve Vrana, Dixie Ziegler **Absent:** Pastor Flores, Todd Jensen

Devotion and Prayer – Steve opened the meeting with prayer.

Call Meeting to Order – The council meeting was called to order by Council President Steve Vrana at ---6:37pm.

Minutes of previous meeting – The council reviewed the minutes from the May regular council meeting. ----Dixie motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Melissa and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's Report for May 2023 was reviewed.

Checking account balance--\$91,839.09

Current--\$83,523.78

Building--\$7,465.10

Outstanding--\$850.21

Money Market balance--\$45,112.96

Helping Hands balance--\$1,944.71

Youth Group balance--\$13,541.77 “outstanding \$545.86

Fireworks Stand Account balance--\$860.37

Mission Investment balance--\$40,840.15

Mission Investment Playground--\$0.00

Building Loan Balance as of 5-31-23 \$124,183.72

Income for the month of May was under expected budget by \$3,7776.02. Expenses were over budget by \$27,867.41. This was due to two payments to the Nebraska Synod ELCA and for a payment to Paschke Brothers for the gutters and siding. We did receive an additional \$23,326.28 from the insurance company to cover the cost of the roof, gutters, and siding.

An additional \$4,275 was applied to the principal balance of the building loan on 5-9-23. Effective July 1st the interest rate on the building loan will go from 4.375% to 6.250%. Since we are paid ahead on our loan, the new monthly payment will go down from \$3,091.00 to \$1,523.26.

A motion was made by Cheryl to raise the payment to \$3,100.00 each month and seconded by Troy. The motion carried.

Cheryl made a motion to accept the treasurer's report except for the playground budget. It was seconded by Troy. All were in favor, motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor attended the Nebraska Synod Assembly with the McCains. He felt it was a good gathering.

A contemporary service will be held the last week of each month with our first service June 25th.

For music selection, Pastor selects the hymn of the day and the musicians select the other songs.

Pastor has been working with Cassie to cover Diana's position while she has been gone on vacation.

Bishop Johnson joined us for worship on June 18th. Bishop Johnson provided the sermon.

Pastor left the afternoon of June 18th with five confirmands for Confirmation Camp.

Megan Dam has agreed to be our webmaster. Pastor and Megan will work together to have a plan for the website to bring to the council for input.

Cards sent—36

Calls made—10

Visits made—12 so far

Council Minutes continued

Committee's Reports

Property – Troy McCain

The roof is completed, and payments finished.
Playground paperwork and payments are almost completed.
Watering on the lawn has been increased due to the dry weather.
A plan is in place for spraying for Japanese beetles when they arrive.
Craig will look into a trash can for the playground area.

Worship – Dixie Ziegler

Thanks to everyone who continues to help with services.
The last Sunday of the month will be a contemporary service.

Education – Allissa Marty

Things are going well for VBS. The sign-up sheet is ready to go!

Stewardship – Todd Jensen

No report.

Fellowship – Cheryl Frickel

JOY met in Central City and 13 people participated. The next gathering will be at McHargues on the lake July 8th.
For the playground dedication, 100 people were served the hotdog meal.
For Pastor Bishop's visit, 50 people stayed for fellowship enjoying different treats and a fruit cup.
We are preparing for the golf tournament meal which will be held in August.

Outreach – [Melissa](#)

The pool party is set for Wednesday, July 19th.

Unfinished Business

Emergency preparedness update

A committee will be working on putting documentation together for different events like fires, weather, etc.

Building use fee clarification

With Pastor gone, it will be moved to next month.

Update from strategic planning committees

External Committee

Pastor will make some sample fliers for visitors.
Continuing to explore t-shirt and polo designs.

Internal Committee

They are planning to invite church members to a pre-focus group which may lead to a congregational survey and/or focus groups. This would address topics that came up on our Saturday retreat and follow up internal meetings.
They are also looking at different church service ideas to test with no long-term commitment.

Council Minutes continued

New Business

Fireworks Stand

Tonya Pappineau and Tammy Chaney will co-manage the Fireworks Stand.

It will be open from June 25-July 4.

After looking at the volunteer hours, the council will decide what to do with the proceeds.

Signup sheets are available and ready to go!

ELCA rostered ministry candidacy process

Council members were made aware of what was happening at the national level concerning current and future leaders. There are several sessions available to gain more information and provide feedback.

Steve will plan on listening to one of the sessions and send the information out to the council so they may participate if interested.

Custodian taking vacation June 20-30. If there are concerns about building needs, please contact Troy.

Next Meeting –July 17, 2023, 6:30 pm.

Closing Prayer – Steve closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Kim McCain, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

June 2023 Checking Account and Building Loan Summary

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Offering Income</u>	<u>Other Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Current	\$ 83,523.78	\$ 17,191.70	\$ -	\$ 57,344.98	\$ 43,370.50
Building	\$ 7,465.10	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,376.00	\$ 7,089.10
Money Market	\$ 45,112.96	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 29.79	\$ -	\$ 46,742.75
Helping Hands	\$ 1,944.71	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 1,944.71
Fireworks Stand Account	\$ 860.44		\$ 2,323.09	\$ 401.94	\$ 2,781.59
Mission Investment Fund	\$ 40,840.15		\$ 20.07	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 15,860.22
Mission Investment Fund - CD 1 year term	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00
Total	\$ 179,747.14				\$ 142,788.87

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Building	\$ 124,183.72	\$ 471.61	\$ 3,904.39	\$ 120,279.33



We welcomed two new members through baptism in July.
 Maevyn Kracl, daughter of Matt and Kerragen Kracl was baptized July 2nd.
 Asher Arndt, son of Bryce and Morgan Arndt was baptized July 16th.
 We celebrate with these families as we welcome these new children of God!

GO AND...



GO AND...

SHARE YOUR STORY

Ready, Set, Go! In the Great Commission, Jesus calls us to GO. We are taking those words to heart.

At Nebraska Synod Assembly, the Nebraska ELCA launched a year-long focus to “Go And...” We are invited to be part of this call to GO! During Synod Assembly, delegates leaned in as God’s people called, gathered, and sent to “Go And...”. They kicked-off a year with 12 intentional themes inviting us to pray; listen; share your story; serve with neighbors; ask; be honest; be present; rest; have the conversation; be intentional; tell the story; and be the church.

Each month, the Synod Staff will provide an introduction to the theme, along with reflection questions, a prayer, and suggested hymn or worship songs.

Together, all 90,000 of us, will be focused on responding to Christ’s sending in the Great Commission, to *GO and...*, and to really live out the joy and hope of Pentecost!

Children freely share their stories – often full of actions, sound effects, and details (sometimes minute) that bring a story to life. We all have a story to share: stories of families, friendships, histories, and faith. We connect the dots and see our connections.

Questions to Consider:

- ◆ When was the last time you listened to a child tell a story? What did you hear?
- ◆ What is a biblical story that connects with your own story?
- ◆ What is your story? Where are you GOING to share your story?

Prayer: Creator God, our story starts and ends with you. Give us the wisdom to see where and how we might share our stories and the courage to share them. Amen.

FIREWORKS STAND

Many, many thanks to all who helped make the Fireworks stand a success, those who worked at the stand and those who purchased their fireworks at our stand. Members of all ages volunteered their time and muscle to set-up, unpack, sell, pack, and tear down. Special thanks to Tonya Papineau and Tammy Chaney for heading up the stand again this year. It was truly an all congregation effort. A portion of the proceeds from the sales will be sent to Messiah later this fall. The distribution of the proceeds will be determined by Council at that time.



Upcoming Nebraska State Fair
Christian Music Concert
Toby Mac
Thursday, August 31st, 7:30 pm

Toby Mac is a contemporary Christian music singer, rapper, songwriter, and record producer.

Daily and Weekly Devotionals Available!

Have you checked out the Information Center for the free devotionals? Please feel free to take a quarterly Christ in Our Home booklet (large print is available) and/or a weekly Taking Faith Home handout. Both offer daily scriptures and prayers.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Blessing of the Backpacks - August 13th

Bring your school backpack to the worship service on August 13th.
Pastor Rudy will give a special blessing for the upcoming school year.



The Messiah Education Committee is starting to plan for the 23-24 year! Providing our Preschool, Elementary, Middle and High School and Adult programming takes many volunteers and other resources.

Please prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to take part in this Messiah ministry in the upcoming year. The pay isn't good, but the benefits are priceless.

GLOW, Confirmation, and S.W.A.T. start September 6th. SHINE and Little Learners start September 10th.

Please contact our Education Committee Chair, Allissa, or Faith Formation Coordinator, Cassie, if you'd like to volunteer!

VBS - A great night of learning and fun!

VBS was held July 12th for 45 children! Thank you to Allissa Marty for organizing VBS again this year and all the 20+ volunteers who donated their time to help make it an educational, but very fun time.

Pray for growth in our children's and youths' faith journey!

You can reach Cassie Wineteer, Faith Formation Coordinator, and Allissa Marty, Education Committee Chair, at "education@messiahaurora.org".

BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study



Men's Bible Study is meeting Friday, **Aur. 4th** at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is a time of fellowship and study as we ponder God's word and what it means to us today.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets Thursdays at 3:00 pm in the Mission Room. They are studying Max Lucado's "Ten Women of the Bible". New members and drop ins are welcome. We would love to have you join us!



Weekly Messenger Prayer List

A new list of Weekly Messenger "In Our Thoughts & Prayers" began in **July**. **If you would like someone to remain on the Weekly Messenger Prayer list or be added, please contact the office.** The prayer list is updated each calendar year quarter (January, April, July, October).



Prayer Shawls

Prayer shawls are available in the narthex for anyone to pick up to take to a friend or family member in need of comfort and a show of love. Please feel free to take one if you know of someone who could benefit from your thoughtfulness.



FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES



Anyone close to age 50 and older is welcome to come! Everyone is invited to bring a guest if they wish to do so.

J.O.Y. will be gathering on Sunday, August 6th, at 5:00 at Berniece Luthy's home for a sensational summer splash, aka a Hawaiian luau! All drinks and food will be provided; those attending just need to bring a donation for the meal and wear some kind of Hawaiian shirt, grass skirt, or whatever attire you have for a luau! Berniece's address is 1308 North K Road in Phillips.

Thank you to Jim and Lou McHargue for hosting approximately 60 people on July 8th for a wonderful afternoon and evening at their lake house near Central City. Children and adults alike enjoyed tubing and boat and pontoon rides. Children cooled off with lots of splashing and laughter in the lake. All feasted on snacks, salads, desserts, and of course, ribs and hot dogs grilled by Roger Scott.

Bassinet Baskets



Bassinet Baskets is a welcoming ministry for new children of God, newborn or adoptive, for families of Messiah Lutheran Church. If you know of a member with a new addition to their family, please reach out to Cheryl Frickel, Fellowship Chair, Pastor Rudy, or Kim McCain.

Thank you to those who helped provide meals for the Matt and Kerragen (Jensen) Kracl family in July!



Messiah Lutheran Church 2nd Annual Golf Tournament Saturday, August 19th Poco Creek Golf Course in Aurora

The registration fee is \$25/player for this 4 person scramble. We will play 9 holes and enjoy fellowship and lunch after in the clubhouse. Various prizes will be awarded. If you don't have a team, we can put you with a team the day of the tournament. There is a signup sheet in the information center to register. So hit the driving range and practice those putts! See you soon!

PROPERTY UPDATE



We are so thankful for our dedicated group of mowers, but more volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to volunteer to help mow or trim the church lawn, please contact Troy McCain at tkmcain@hamilton.net or 402-460-7863 or contact the church office. The church purchased a riding mower in 2021. Mowers sign up monthly and usually mow and trim the yard once every six to eight weeks.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Annual Pool Party

On July 19th Messiah sponsored its annual free community swim party. The event was held on a cool and cloudy evening at the Aurora Aquatic Center. Approximately 90 guests attended. Messiah and friends of the community joined together for a great evening of fun and fellowship.



“Pack ‘em Back to School” Local and Afar

THANKS FOR THE TREMENDOUS RESPONSE!!



Messiah has led the drive to provide school supply backpacks to Hamilton County students. By inviting other area churches to join us through the Hamilton County Ministerial Association a total of 95 backpacks will be provided to students across the county in this 2023 campaign. At Messiah, through the generosity of our members, we are providing 19 backpacks to local students in need. A big thank you, Messiah, as all the ‘apples’ have been taken and we have been richly blessed with financial donations, too!

REMINDER: Completed backpacks need to be returned to church no later than Sunday, August 6th!

Now is also the time to collect school supplies for Lutheran World Relief School kits. Many of the stores have great prices on the items in need for the kits we will put together and ship this fall. You can find the list on the display in the Narthex. You do not need to purchase all the things on the list. You can buy any number of items that we will later put together into the bags we have already purchased. If you do not wish to shop, monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. These contributions can be used to purchase any items we are short of as we complete the kits. The need for these school kits is great as many students in these poorest areas of the world are not allowed to attend the school if they do not have the supply kit. We are hoping by sharing our many blessings we will be able to positively impact these children in need.

God’s Work Our Hands Sunday September 10th



This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

We will be looking for projects in which all may be able to participate and can be completed in several hours. Suggestions are welcomed. If you have any project ideas, please contact the church office.

WOMEN OF MESSIAH (WELCA) NEWS



There will be a WELCA meeting **August 20th** at 10:15 following the worship service. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend.

LWR Kits & Quilts



In August, we will collect dark colored bath towels for the Lutheran World Relief personal care kits. These kits provide hygiene essentials that keep people healthy and offer a measure of dignity for those who have not been able to care for their bodies as they normally would.

During July, we focused on collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief school kits. LWR School Kits contain essential supplies that children need in order to attend school and continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities and is one of the most powerful ways to break the cycle of poverty.



Monetary donations made out to WELCA are also welcomed. **We hope to pack LWR school kits in September which will be shipped overseas by LWR to help children around the world.**

Items for LWR School Kits

70-sheet wide-ruled or college-ruled notebooks
30-centimeter ruler, or with centimeters and inches
Pencil sharpener
BLUNT children's scissors
UNSHARPENED #2 pencils with erasers
Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
Box of 16 or 24 crayons
2 1/2" pencil eraser

Items for LWR Personal Care Kits

Light-weight bath-size towels, dark colors recommended
4 oz bath-size bars of soap in original wrapping
Adult-size toothbrush in original packaging
Sturdy wide-toothed comb
Metal nail clippers

Thank you for your support of LWR!

Messiah Quilters

The Messiah Quilters meet the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays of the month. All are sewers and those able to tie a knot are welcome!

Our quilters make quilts for local organizations, the Camp Carol Joy Holling quilt auction, and LWR. Wherever they may end up, the quilts are a beautiful blessing to the person who receives it.



Hamilton County Food Backpack Program

The Food Backpack Program provides food to families through Hamilton County elementary schools, Head Start, and Sixpence. Families are recommended by the administration of the school or program. A sack of food supplies is sent home with the child each week. They utilize a rotation of different menus to provide a main meal, a breakfast, and a snack for each member of the household. In 2022/23, they served 33 families made up of 89 children and 59 adults. The cost to provide the food is approximately \$15,000 per school year. The program relies on grants and donations. As a church, we are collecting canned fruit of peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, and mandarin oranges for them to include with their meals. A collection basket is located in the Narthex. Your donations are appreciated!



Messiah Lutheran Church

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August 2023