



MESSIAH MESSENGER

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

Office Hours:

9 am—3 pm
Monday - Thursday
Closed Fridays

Contact Messiah:

402-694-2017
Church Office

Email:
messiah@
hamilton.net

Email Pastor Rudy:
pastor@
messiahaurora.org

Find us on
Facebook & Twitter!



@MessiahAuroraNE



July Happy Birthday

Jul 1	Julie Jensen	Jul 17	Rudy Flores
Jul 3	Delores Danielson	Jul 18	James McHargue
Jul 4	Shelby Janzen	Jul 18	Alvin Voss
Jul 4	Lukas Pohlmann	Jul 19	Kenny Howland
Jul 6	Ruth Fletcher	Jul 21	Tom Cox
Jul 7	Kim Staehr	Jul 21	Kiley James
Jul 8	Oscar Fuentes	Jul 22	Todd Jensen
Jul 10	Sue Bengtson	Jul 23	Elaine Hungate
Jul 10	Ian Jensen	Jul 23	Kathryn Obermier
Jul 11	Cheryl Holland	Jul 23	Zachary Seim
Jul 11	Mark Jobman	Jul 26	Jayne Larsen
Jul 11	Dana Pospisil	Jul 26	Gracee Pohlmann
Jul 13	Sherry Peters	Jul 26	Morgann Pospisil
Jul 13	Travis Rathje	Jul 26	Seth Wonch
Jul 14	Elena Fuentes	Jul 29	Peyton Pospisil
Jul 15	Cheryl Frickel	Jul 30	Wendy Hudson
Jul 16	Elaine Graves	Jul 31	Bill Gowen
Jul 16	Clint Paisley	Jul 31	Clint Hensen
Jul 16	Bill Sabata		

Happy Anniversary

Jul 1	Troy and Cami Knust	Jul 22	John and Regina Farris
Jul 2	Kenny and Stacey Howland	Jul 23	Bryce and Morgan Arndt
Jul 4	Clint and Betty Hensen	Jul 23	Lynn and Debra Miller
Jul 11	Bryan and Carley Arndt	Jul 26	Bill and Diane Gowen
Jul 11	Tom and Joyce Collingham	Jul 29	Troy and Kim McCain
Jul 13	Darin and Carol Danielson		

Upcoming Outreach & Fellowship Events

- ◆ Fireworks Stand - through July 4th
- ◆ "Meat" at McHargue's Lake House - July 8th
- ◆ Pack 'em Back to School - July 9th
- ◆ VBS - July 12th
- ◆ Free Messiah Sponsored Swim Night - July 19th
- ◆ 2nd Annual Golf Tournament - August



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.

Happy almost 4th of July! Where is this summer going? I hope everyone can find some time for rest and relaxation taking some vacation time with family. There is a lot to be thankful for during this time of summer. We had 5 confirmation students attend confirmation camp out at Carol Joy Holling Camp. It was hot during the day and there were a lot of activities to do including bible study, swimming, hiking, service projects around the camp, and getting to know new friends. I think by the end of the Sunday we arrived, everyone had new friends including me. We spent some time together studying the Word of God and talking about what it meant to them. We had some really good discussions and some time to just relax and have fun. It was such a pleasure to be with them for the week and see their growth and to watch as they discerned what their faith journey means to them. Each one of them brought different and new insights into our discussions.

In June, we also had a new, contemporary service with a different flow of the service and fun songs. A special thank you to everyone who helped to plan, play, and sing leading our congregation to worship and praise God in a different and exciting way. This service will continue to be planned for the last Sunday of the month. I am a traditional liturgy person, but I also feel that it is good to offer a change of pace. This allows for some creativity for not only me, but also for our worship committee and you the congregation.

We are in the heat of the summer and in the heat of fireworks sales. I hope you have a chance to come out and volunteer to help with folks shopping, working the register, or simply helping folks carry their purchases to their cars. There is always lots to do, which I found out last year. I am looking forward to see how we do with sales this year, and to see how many volunteer hours we get from our high school youth group (S.W.A.T.). If they accumulate at least 60 hours, I will be looking different as they will be able to shave my head! Hopefully they are volunteering because it is what we asked of them and it's a good thing to do, not so they can see my bald! We will see, and I plan to keep the congregation updated and where we stand with their volunteer hours.

We have another activity for the congregation planned for July 8, Meat at the McHargue's Lake House. This is what used to be known as Ribs by the Lake. We will have ribs and hot dogs for our families that come out to have some fun. I heard about this event that used to happen and wanted to make sure that we put it back on the calendar. I hope everyone is able to come out and enjoy some time together with good friends and a good meal.

As you can see, we have had a lot going on and there is still more to come. To me, I see this as relationships with each other and with God. We are called to not only care and tend to one another, but also to be in a loving relationship. We are called to spend time together, listening to one another, sharing a meal. These are the things that Jesus did throughout his ministry, giving each of us the example to live by. We are called to do these things with love and mercy in our hearts, helping us to enjoy what God has given to you and me.

Again, I pray you are able to find some time to rest and relaxation. May the Peace of Christ be with you all. Amen.

Pastor Rudy



Council Minutes

Messiah Lutheran Council Meeting May 15, 2023

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

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 ---6:32pm.

Minutes of previous meeting – The council reviewed the minutes from the April regular council meeting. Cheryl motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Allissa and the motion carried.

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

Checking account balance--\$52,301.82

Current--\$42,683.31

Building--\$10,463.60

Outstanding--\$845.09

Money Market balance--\$44,863.28

Helping Hands balance--\$1,944.71

Youth Group balance--\$16,457.53

Fireworks Stand Account balance--\$860.37

Mission Investment balance--\$40,759.95

Mission Investment Playground--\$35,793.97

Building Loan Balance as of 4-30-23 \$133,719.19

Income for the month of April was over expected budget by \$6,099.34. Expenses were over budget by \$18,741.12. A check in the amount of \$61,120.00 was paid to Paschke Brothers for the final payment on the roof, we had \$45,275.56 in the money market from the remainder of the insurance payment of \$29,275.56 and \$6,000.00 in contributions, which left us short \$15,844.44. We have budgeted \$5,000.00 from outside maintenance to be applied to the roof expense.

An additional \$2650.00 was applied to the principal balance of the building loan on 4-10-23. The balance above does not reflect the extra payment.

Discussion was held on the building loan. With changes in the loan with a rate increase, different options were mentioned. It was noted that we are five years ahead of our payment plan. We need more information about the upcoming changes and then we can make a better decision on how to proceed next month. Troy made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Dixie. All were in favor, motion carried.

Pastor's Report

The educational groups have wrapped up for the school year and are taking a break for the summer.

May 7th we recognized all our seniors and Pastor led the baccalaureate service that evening. Several of our youth shared their faith and did an excellent job.

May 14th we recognized all the teachers and helpers with the educational programs for the school year.

May 21st we plan to have an outdoor service to dedicate the playground. We will have a lunch following the service.

Pastor presided over the funeral for Marj Junker.

Through the Synod, Pastor has been asked to participate in ELCA Coach training for continuing education.

Carol has also been asked to participate. Pastor has also been asked to be part of an upcoming Candidacy Retreat to discuss rural ministry with candidates.

Pastor is working with the confirmation class preparing for summer camp.

Working with the Internal and External Committees has been another task for Pastor.

Pastor will be in Texas the weekend of June 10th performing a wedding. A supply pastor is already in place.

Cards sent—18

Calls made—13

Visits made—6 so far

Council Minutes continued

Committee's Reports

Property – Troy McCain

Playground installation has been completed. Thanks to everyone who made that possible. Providing final information for the grants we received is underway.

Saturday, April 29th was Spring Cleanup with over a dozen people participating.

A new washer and dryer were purchased for the parsonage.

Mowing season is in full swing. Thanks to the volunteer mowers.

Landscaping needs will be addressed at the parsonage.

Worship – Dixie Ziegler

No report.

Education – Allissa Marty

Leaders are looking at a change in the schedule for GLOW and the Youth Group so that the youth can have more interactions with Pastor.

GLOW is discussing new ideas for the next school year and is in the need of more volunteers with the increase in participation.

Some discussion was also held on SHINE and its importance. More volunteers are also needed for this group.

Stewardship – Todd Jensen

No report

Fellowship – Cheryl Frickel

Thanks to everyone for providing treats and serving coffee after church.

There was no JOY for May.

Senior Recognition was held with cake being served to 75 people.

Plans are underway for lunch for the playground ribbon cutting on May 21st.

Outreach – Melissa

We will be trying to secure our swimming pool dates with priorities going to July 23rd, 19th or 16th.

The annual church golf tournament is planned for August 19th.

A motion was made by Pastor Rudy to accept the reports and it was seconded by Troy. The motion carried.

Unfinished Business –

CPR class— Brent is coming date May 18th and there are six attendees signed up at this time. We will check again with the teachers.

Playground dedication May 21— The following was decided on the outdoor service:

The ribbon cutting will be held during the service. Dixie has all the supplies.

Pastor will need electricity for his guitar. We will also do Facebook live with the phone.

Tina, Craig, and Allissa will bring yard games to have available.

Hotdogs, packaged chips, cookies, and bottled water will be served with leftovers being used for VBS.

Invitations to join the service will be made and distributed to the neighborhood.

Emergency preparedness update—

From the insurance we received a device when pulled that will call 911. Once the device is pulled, it cannot be used again. It was discussed where to place the device. It was suggested to put it in by the media center bookshelves by the office.

A discussion about adding a doorbell was held and Troy will investigate that.

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

Council Minutes continued

Update from strategic planning committees—

Information was shared with Eric Dam who facilitated our first meeting. Eric reminded us of the importance of moving towards a mission or purpose statement. We need to make it visible. We will continue to focus on “Powered by God’s Grace”. We need to be more intentional in using this and sharing it with the congregation.

External Committee—Nothing new from our last meeting.

Internal Committee—

They are planning to invite church members to a focus group which may lead to a congregational survey. This would address topics that came up on our Saturday retreat.

They are also looking at different church service ideas to test with no long-term commitment.

New Business –

Fireworks Stand—

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

It will be open from June 25-July 4. More details to come.

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

Training for education volunteers—Dixie pointed out that we need to do some training with the education volunteers to meet our insurance qualifications. Pastor and Allissa will plan and implement this in August.

Building use fee clarification—We looked at the General Use and the Wedding form. After discussion and clarification, Pastor will rework the forms from the suggestions. The forms will be brought back next month for approval.

Next Meeting –June 12th, 2023, 6:30 pm.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Rudy closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at ----8:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim McCain, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

May 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	\$ 42,683.31	\$ 19,223.98	\$ 59,165.76	\$ 37,549.27	\$ 83,523.78
Building	\$ 10,463.60	\$ 4,367.50		\$ 7,366.00	\$ 7,465.10
Money Market	\$ 44,863.28	\$ 221.00	\$ 28.68	\$ -	\$ 45,112.96
Helping Hands	\$ 1,944.71	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 1,944.71
Fireworks Stand Account	\$ 860.37		\$ 0.07	\$ -	\$ 860.44
Mission Investment Fund	\$ 40,819.41		\$ 20.74		\$ 40,840.15
Mission Investment Fund - Playground	\$ 35,839.48	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,839.48	\$ -
Total	\$ 177,474.16				\$ 179,747.14

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Building	\$ 131,069.19	\$ 480.53	\$ 6,885.47	\$ 124,183.72

Thank you to Troy and Kim McCain for being our church's representatives along with Pastor Rudy at the June Nebraska Synod Assembly. Among the many things learned and discussed, one of the take aways is the "GO AND ..." initiative. Each month will have a new theme.



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!



How do we listen with our full selves? In reality, all of our senses are used when we listen – with our ears, our eyes, our mouths, and our bodies. As disciples, we listen to ourselves, our neighbors, and God. When we listen, we find new perspectives, shared history, and common ground.

Questions to Consider:

- What is something you learned from listening to your heart?
- What is something you learned from listening to a stranger?
- In a year of GOING, how will you listen to those around you?

Prayer: Listening God, help me stay open to the surprises you provide while on the road this summer. Amen.

 **Hand Chime Practice**

We had a great turnout for our first rehearsal, and there's still time to come check it out! Chime choir will meet on Thursdays through the summer. We plan to share our music during the contemporary worship service on July 30 (and maybe again in August!).

Join us Thursdays, 7:00pm in the Mission Room.
CarolFlores593@gmail.com
 713-205-0146

Weekly Messenger Prayer List

A new list of Weekly Messenger "In Our Thoughts & Prayers" will begin 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 will be updated each calendar year quarter (January, April, July, October).

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Messiah will be hosting an evening of fun and learning on Wednesday, July 12th at church from 5:00-8:00 pm. All youth 4/5 years old through 6th grade are welcome! We will have a food truck theme.

Please register your child by July 1st.

Scan the QR code, click this link <https://forms.gle/BAvDiufRh7Xj5YAw7> or send an email to vbsatmlcaurora@gmail.com to sign up



Can you help with VBS? There are many ways you can!

1. Organize registrations prior to July 12 and be at check-in table from 4:45 – 5:15 on July 12.
2. Meal helper - serve and clean up (hot dogs, chips, fruit)
3. Pre-K room helper
4. Games helper
5. Science time helper
6. Drama/story time helper
7. Craft time helper
8. Prep helper for science and craft time (done before VBS)

Email allissamarty@gmail.com if you are able to help in any of these ways or see the sign-up sheet at the Information Center.

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.

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

Confirmation Camp in June

Five of our confirmation students, along with Pastor Rudy, attended Confirmation Camp at Camp Carol Joy Holling the week of June 18th. This was a great fellowship, team building, faith growing, and fun opportunity for all!



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".

FIREWORKS

Buy your fireworks at the Messiah Fireworks stand which will be set up east of McDonalds along Highway 34. AND...

Please consider working a shift at the Fireworks stand between June 25th and July 4th. A sign-up sheet is at the Information Center or click on this link to sign up for a shift.

<https://bit.ly/FireworksMLC2023>

This is a great fundraiser, but it requires a lot of manpower. Adult and youth help would be greatly appreciated.

See you there!

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.

The J.O.Y. group enjoyed dinner out at the Lincoln Manor in Central City on Saturday, June 3rd. Instead of meeting the first Sunday in July, they will next join the "Meat" at McHargue's Lake House church outing on **Saturday, July 8th**. See below for details.

All are welcome to "Meat" at McHargue's Lake House on Saturday, July 8th!



Come anytime 3:00 or after with plans to eat at 5:30. Ribs, hot dogs, water, and table service will be provided. All you'll need to bring is a side dish or dessert and drinks.



Sign-up at the Information Center by July 4th. There will be swimming and boat and tube rides.

Bring your lawn chair, swimsuits, life jackets, and outdoor games. Come ready for some summer fun and fellowship!

Bassinet Baskets



Bassinet Baskets is a welcoming ministry for new children of God, newborn or adoptive, for families of Messiah Lutheran Church.

A meal train has been organized for Matt and Kerragen (Jensen) Kracl who recently welcomed home a baby girl! If you can help provide a meal for the Kracls between **July 6th and 18th**, please click on this link

<https://mealtrain.com/r27m3d>.

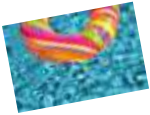
If you know of a member with a new addition to their family, please reach out to Cheryl Frickel, Fellowship Chair, Pastor Rudy, or Kim McCain.



Golf Tournament Coming Soon!

FOUR!!! Messiah is planning it's 2nd Annual Golf Tournament to take place in August. This is for members and friends. So hit the driving range and we hope to see you out on the links! More information will be coming soon.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



It's Pool Party Time - Free Swim Night! Wednesday, July 19th, 6:00-8:00 pm.

Messiah Lutheran Church is sponsoring a free community swim night at the Aurora Aquatic Center. Everyone is welcome. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us for a fun fellowship evening! The pool snack bar will be open for those wishing to purchase a treat.



“Pack ‘em Back to School”



Messiah's Outreach Committee will soon be launching our “Pack ‘em Back to School” campaign for the 2023 school year. We ask that you prayerfully consider sponsoring a backpack filled with school supplies for those students in need. A list of needed items will be at the display in the narthex. You can sponsor a backpack individually or as a family. You can sponsor a backpack with a group of friends. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. This year Messiah is committing to providing 20 backpacks filled with school supplies.

**Launch date for “Pack ‘em Back to School” is Sunday, July 9th, 2023.
The display will be set-up in the narthex.**

Messiah is helping to coordinate the backpack/school supplies campaign together with 8 other area churches. In 2022 the combined churches donated close to 100 backpacks/school supplies to students in the Aurora, Hampton, and Giltner school districts. We anticipate a great need this year in assisting students.

All donated backpacks/school supplies for the “Pack ‘em Back to School” campaign are due back to Messiah by Sunday, August 6th, 2023.

WELCA will also be collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief, as the need internationally is huge as well.

Please prayerfully consider being part of this effort to promote education for children locally and abroad. Thank you!

PROPERTY UPDATE

Lawn mowing season is in full swing. 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. We are 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.



BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study is meeting Friday, **July 7th** 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

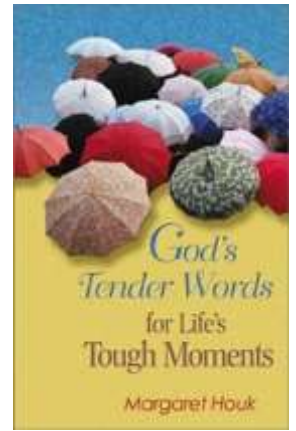
Women's Bible Study will begin meeting again in July on Thursdays at 3:00 pm in the Mission Room. They are studying Max Lucado's “Ten Women of the Bible”. New members and drop ins are welcome. We would love to have you join us!



July Book of the Month

If you are looking for a quick devotion book that addresses the many feelings we encounter in life, check out God's Tender Words for Life's Tough Moments by Margaret Houk. Each spread starts with daily situations that we may have experienced to help identify the feeling. Next, several bible verses are shared providing comfort. Then the topic ends with a meaningful prayer. The different sections in the book explore the body, mind, spirit, soul and heart. This book is easy to read and can help calm negative feelings letting God be our guide. Check it out in our church library today along with many other reading selections.

Kim McCain



WOMEN OF MESSIAH (WELCA) NEWS

[LWR Kits & Quilts](#)

Beginning in July, we will focus 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.



As you are shopping for our local school backpack outreach, please consider looking for the following items for the LWR school kits. 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.

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

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!

They donated seven quilts to Camp Carol Joy Holling for their annual July quilt auction. Of those, four were donated by Richard Schaffert which were made by his wife, Stella. The remaining three were sewn by our quilting group. This quilt auction is a major fund raiser for Camp CJH, where our church campers attend Confirmation Camp. Thank you for all your time and love going into these quilts.



[Saved to Serve Opportunity](#)

The Nebraska WELCA (Women of the ELCA) are having a Saved to Serve retreat weekend in August at Mosaic Bethphage Village in Axtell on August 4-6. They will be hosting a carnival for the residents of Bethphage Village, sprucing up some landscaping, and preparing greeting cards to make holidays special. If interested, register by July 14th at the website tinyurl.com/nebraskawelca or contact the church office.

Messiah' Lutheran' Church

Messiah Lutheran Church, ELCA
415 S. 18th St.
PO Box 37
Aurora, NE 68818



MESSIAH  LUTHERAN

July 2023