



# MESSIAH MESSENGER

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

### Office Hours:

9 am—3 pm  
Monday - Thursday  
Closed Fridays

### Contact Messiah:

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Church Office

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Find us on  
Facebook & Twitter!



@MessiahAuroraNE



## June



- |        |                   |        |                 |
|--------|-------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Jun 1  | Cathy Binfield    | Jun 16 | Brennah Farley  |
| Jun 1  | Elena Kuehner     | Jun 17 | Carmen Goertzen |
| Jun 2  | Barbara Berthold  | Jun 19 | Craig Shaffer   |
| Jun 3  | Megan Faller      | Jun 22 | Bryce Arndt     |
| Jun 4  | Wyatt James       | Jun 23 | Debra Miller    |
| Jun 5  | Marc Groetzinger  | Jun 24 | Barb Cox        |
| Jun 5  | Connie Nicklasson | Jun 24 | Preslee Perry   |
| Jun 6  | Eloise Hiebner    | Jun 25 | Kassidy Hudson  |
| Jun 7  | Kyleigh Farley    | Jun 26 | Dick Akerlund   |
| Jun 7  | Tony Marty        | Jun 26 | William Mersch  |
| Jun 8  | Roger Scott       | Jun 27 | Jay Oswald      |
| Jun 9  | Tina Oswald       | Jun 27 | Rick Penner     |
| Jun 9  | Dee Sautter       | Jun 30 | Laura Jobman    |
| Jun 10 | Ed Rathje         | Jun 30 | Randy Luthy     |
| Jun 14 | Trevor Dvorak     |        |                 |



- |        |                          |        |                         |
|--------|--------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| Jun 5  | Mark and Laura Jobman    | Jun 21 | Scott and Dara Schuster |
| Jun 10 | BJ and Shana Merrihew    | Jun 21 | Eric and Laura Sweeney  |
| Jun 14 | Jay and Kim Staehr       | Jun 22 | Mike and Ruth Fletcher  |
| Jun 15 | Alvin and Ashton Voss    | Jun 23 | Ed and Claudia Rathje   |
| Jun 18 | Lance and Sheila Hiebner | Jun 28 | Steve and Marilyn Vrana |
| Jun 20 | Linda and David Strotman | Jun 29 | Mike and Holly Herzberg |

A Visit from the Bishop  
Bishop Scott Johnson of the Nebraska Synod will be joining us for worship and fellowship on **June 18th**. Bishop Johnson was elected as Bishop in 2022. This will be his first time visiting our church as bishop. We hope many of our members will be able to meet Bishop Johnson!

## 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.

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

See you there!

## *A Word From Pastor Rudy*

Pastor's Word for June

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

The summer is upon us in full force and there are many things to be thankful for and to look forward to in the coming months. First of all, congratulations to all of our high school graduates and best wishes as they prepare for their futures. We had a great turn out for our Senior Sunday and lots of fellowship after the service. Carol and I had a great time attending several graduation parties where we had our fill of great food and desserts! I also want to say congratulations to all of our students who completed this past year and are moving on to their next grades. For those who will be moving on to a new school next year, you've got this! With all that said, I hope our students, teachers, coaches, parents, and grandparents have time to take a break during the summer for some fun and rest.

The long-planned playground was installed, and we gathered outside on Sunday, May 21, for an outdoor service. The sun was shining, the wind was blowing a bit, the kids were singing, and we celebrated this wonderful gift for the people of Messiah Lutheran Church and the community of Aurora, Nebraska. Since it's installation, I have sat in the office working while watching children and parents/grandparents come to the playground to enjoy some time running around, climbing up and down, going down the slide, and ringing the bell at the top. I can't say enough about the vision of the people of Messiah and the willingness to put in the work necessary to look at the needs not only of the youth of our church but also the youth of our community. Already, I have seen the impact it has had within the surrounding neighborhood. Invitations were delivered to the houses around the church, and we had a family come and join our service and celebration. For this, we give thanks to God.

We have other summer activities being planned for this summer including the Messiah Swim Party, an old favorite "Ribs by the Lake" coming in July, VBS coming also in July, Youth Group Fireworks Stand leading up to July 4th, and the 2nd Annual Messiah Golf Tournament to name a few. We will also be welcoming new members to Messiah in June. Keep tuned for more details to come. I hope to see you all at these wonderful fellowship events and I hope you invite your neighbors and friends to join us. I have also made plans for Bishop Johnson of the Nebraska Synod to join us for worship and fellowship on Sunday, June 18. That same day, I will be joining 5 confirmands as we leave to spend the week at Confirmation Camp at Carol Joy Holling Camp.

In June, I would like to start having a contemporary service on the last Sunday of the month. This will include a slightly different liturgical setting with contemporary music and will be a Service of the Word with no communion. Of course, there will be some special Sundays that we will have our regular liturgy service such as Reformation Sunday. I will be making announcements about this as we get closer, making sure that everyone is made aware of the changes.

I do pray that you all find some time for rest and relaxation this summer. Take some time to pray to God for the gifts in your lives. Take some time for a walk in the evening. Take some time to sit on your porch and watch the birds flying here and there. God comes to you in different ways each and every day, inviting you into a loving relationship, if only you take the time to be still for only a moment and see that gift. God's peace be with you all.

Blessings,  
Pastor Rudy



### **Nebraska Synod Assembly**

Pastor Rudy and Troy and Kim McCain will represent Messiah at the Synod Assembly in Kearney June 2nd and 3rd. Please pray for God's guidance as they vote on assembly business, the budget, and consider resolutions. They will have opportunities for continued learning, fellowship, and interaction with our Synod ministry partners.

# Council Minutes

## Messiah Lutheran Council Meeting April 17, 2023

**Present:** Pastor Rudy Flores, Cheryl Frickel, Melissa Griffith, Allissa Marty, Kim McCain, Troy McCain, Craig Shaffer, Steve Vrana, Dixie Ziegler **Absent:** Mike Herzberg, 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 6:31pm.

**Minutes of previous meeting** – The council reviewed the minutes from the March regular council meeting. Cheryl motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Pastor Rudy and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – The Treasurer's Report for March 2023 was reviewed.

Checking account balance--\$75,657.44  
Current--\$57,720.10  
Building--\$8,854.60  
Outstanding--\$9,082.74  
Money Market balance--\$88,090.32  
Helping Hands balance--\$1,944.71  
Youth Group balance--\$16,455.64  
Fireworks Stand Account balance--\$860.30  
Mission Investment balance--\$40,759.95  
Mission Investment Playground--\$35,793.97  
Building Loan Balance as of 2-28-23 \$138,928.45

Income for the month of March was over expected budget by \$2,599.67, this does not include lent offerings. Expenses were over budget by \$4,050.11, this would be from the first half of the insurance premium for multi-peril of \$5,320.83. The loan is being refinanced in July. Troy clarified the roof payment and with the adjustments, Messiah will be responsible for \$15,000 instead of the original amount of \$25,000. They will be putting on new gutters and flashing. If we did not do this, we would lose out on depreciation monies from the insurance company.

Dixie made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Melissa. All were in favor, motion carried.

### Pastor's Report

Palm Sunday's dramatic reading and Holden services went well.

The confirmation parents and students prepared the Seder meal. Attendance was down from last year by 40 people.

On Maundy Thursday, four youth received their first communion.

Pastor presided over Rudy Plate's funeral in Grand Island and chapel services at Westfield and MCC.

Pastor is also working on the Baccalaureate Service for Aurora High School.

Vacation will be taken April 10<sup>th</sup> through April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor is proposing a contemporary service with guitar music the last Sunday of each month.

Lenten offering was \$2500 and divided between the Hamilton Food Pantry and the Ministerial Association.

Cards sent—38

Calls made—29

Visits made--10

# Council Minutes continued

## Committee's Reports

### Property – Troy McCain

Playground installation will take place this week.

The new roof was installed last week and the cement damage is being replaced at the cost of Paschke's Construction.

Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> is Spring Clean Up starting at 9:00am.

### Worship – Dixie Ziegler

Thank you to all those who volunteer and/or assist in any way with worship each week.

Watch for updated instructions regarding the responsibilities for each volunteer role during church.

Adjustments to communion and announcements, as well as having the reader give the prayers will be made to the service.

We are looking into getting the announcements put up on the TV in the narthex.

Dennis Rock will serve as substitute pastor on April 11<sup>th</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Education – Allissa Marty

GLOW, Little Learners, and SHINE will be wrapping up the year soon.

Age levels for each area will be set.

July 12<sup>th</sup> is slated for VBS.

A discussion was held on parents coming to pick up children and the doors are locked to the church.

Questions were raised about possibly adding a doorbell to the front doors. Troy will investigate options for this.

### Stewardship – Todd Jensen

No report

### Fellowship – Cheryl Frickel

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

Arranged for Pat Pickering to provide a meal for the Council Retreat.

29 youth enjoyed the Easter Egg hunt on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

JOY was held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> with five people participating.

A meal train for Bryan and Carley Arndt has been set up.

Meals and snacks were provided for the playground installation crew for two days.

### Outreach – Melissa

Pre-sales for the summer pool party is coming up. We will secure a Messiah slot.

## Unfinished Business –

- CPR class—Brent from the fire department can do the training. More information will be coming as details are figured out.
- Training for church service volunteers—we will have written instruction sheets for all the areas instead of in-person training.
- Update from strategic planning committees
  - External Committee—This committee met last month, and we are looking at updating our online presence. Facebook and Twitter will be utilized more. The cost for updating the website could be paid by an anonymous donor. The t-shirt design is in the works for people to be more visible in the community for community events like working at the movie theatre.
  - Internal Committee—This committee met before the meeting and took the membership care idea broadening it to three themes—coming to church, involvement in church, and making changes to worship.
    - Focus groups will be created for each theme and develop surveys from their input.
    - Different service styles will be tried, then feedback gathered, before making any permanent changes.

## Council Minutes continued

### New Business –

Plans for playground dedication were discussed and it was decided to have the dedication outside on May 21<sup>st</sup> with a simple hot dog meal to follow.

**Next Meeting** –May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 6:30 pm.

**Closing Prayer** – Pastor Rudy closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim McCain, Secretary

### Building Fund Update

On July 1st, our building loan will undergo a rate adjustment. Most likely, the interest rate will be rising. The good news is, we have been doing well to cover our monthly loan payment (church addition and parsonage). **If you would like to go above and beyond your regular building fund giving, please do so by June 11th so that Diane Gowen, Church Treasurer, can apply that to reduce our principal.** This will allow us to pay off our debt at a faster pace. Again, I ask that this be above and beyond regular contributions so as not to adversely affect our ability to for the remainder of the year.

Craig Shaffer, Council Treasurer

## TREASURER'S REPORT

April 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	\$ 57,720.10	\$ 29,099.00		\$ 44,135.79	\$ 42,683.31
Building	\$ 8,854.60	\$ 7,350.00		\$ 5,741.00	\$ 10,463.60
Money Market	\$ 88,090.32	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 48.52	\$ 45,275.56	\$ 44,863.28
Helping Hands	\$ 1,944.71	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 1,944.71
Fireworks Stand Account	\$ 860.30		\$ 0.07	\$ -	\$ 860.37
Mission Investment Fund	\$ 40,799.36		\$ 20.05		\$ 40,819.41
Mission Investment Fund - Playground	\$ 35,828.90	\$ -	\$ 10.58		\$ 35,839.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 234,098.29</b>				<b>\$ 177,474.16</b>

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Building	\$ 136,303.72	\$ 506.47	\$ 5,234.53	\$ 131,069.19

## 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 is planning a dinner out at the Lincoln Manor in Central City at 5:30 pm on **Saturday, June 3rd**. Menu choices are prime rib, steaks, and pasta. Plan to meet at the restaurant. If any questions or if you'd like a ride, please contact Jane VanderTuig at [janev6843@gmail.com](mailto:janev6843@gmail.com) or phone/text 308-383-0706.

### *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.

The Fellowship Committee plans to have "Ribs (meat) by the Lake in July. Stay tuned for information as plans come together.



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

Thank you to Brent Dethlefs with the Aurora Fire Department for teaching us CPR compressions and breathing, AED use, and when to call 911. Eight people completed the training on May 18th. Thank you to Dr. Mark Jobman for setting up this class for us.



### **It's Pool Party Time - Free Swim Night!**

Messiah has reserved the Aurora Aquatic Center for a free community swim night on **July 19th**. Please invite your family and friends to join us for a fun fellowship evening!

### **Pack 'em Back to School is Coming**

The Outreach Committee is gearing up for "Pack 'em Back to School", our annual campaign to provide backpacks/supplies to students in need. The committee will launch the campaign the first week of July. Please be watching the July newsletter for more information. We prayerfully ask that you consider donating to the backpack program.

# CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES



*Please mark your calendars for VBS this summer! 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. Watch for registration forms coming soon!*

*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!*

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## Confirmation Camp in June

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

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## On May 7th, we celebrated our 2023 High School Seniors! Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Hayden, Carsen, Devin, Dylan, Cam, Connor, Wyatt, Drew  
Kasey, Kirsten, Lexi



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*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](mailto:education@messiahaurora.org)".

# PROPERTY UPDATE

- Lawn mowing season is gearing up. If you would like to volunteer to help mow or trim the church lawn, please contact Troy McCain at [tkmcain@hamilton.net](mailto:tkmcain@hamilton.net) or 402-460-7863 or contact the church office.
- Spring clean up was held April 29th. Thank you to the volunteers who came out to help.
- A new washer and dryer was purchased for the parsonage as the previous set quit working.
- The playground installation was completed the end of April. A grand opening was held May 21st with an outdoor worship service, picnic lunch, and games. We are thankful to be able to have this safe space to play to the community.



## WOMEN OF MESSIAH (WELCA) NEWS

### LWR Kits & Quilts

During the month of June, we will focus on collecting **dark colored light-weight bath towels** that will be used for the LWR health kits. We will also be happy to continue to receive toothbrushes, wide-toothed combs, and bars of soap.

The school supplies will soon be in the stores. We will collect rulers, black or blue ink pens, blunt tipped scissors, 70 count spiral notebooks, unsharpened pencils, 24 pack crayons, 2-3 inch erasers, and pencil sharpeners.

Thank you all for your support of LWR!

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### 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!



### Prayer Shawls



Our knitters and crocheters have been busy making prayer shawls to provide warmth and comfort for those needing a show of love. The shawls are available for anyone to pick up to take to a friend or family member. Several shawls are displayed in the narthex. Please feel free to take one if you know of someone who could benefit from your thoughtfulness.

## BIBLE STUDY

### Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study is meeting Friday, **June 2nd** 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 not meet in June. When they resume in July, it will be on Thursday 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!



### Hand Chime Kick Off



Are you interested in learning more about Hand Chimes? No experience necessary! Come find out what it's all about on **June 21st**. We'll meet at 7:00 pm in the Messiah Sanctuary to get started.

Contact Carol Flores for more information.

[CarolFlores593@gmail.com](mailto:CarolFlores593@gmail.com)

713-205-0146



## June Book of the Month



Prayer and sharing with God is important to our faith journey. The Pocket Guide to Prayer by Gary Egeberg takes an in depth look at prayer. Practical suggestions like how to start prayer are given and ones that I could easily apply to my prayer time. The section on “Listening for God’s Voice” was very interesting to me. Other topics covered are expectations, how prayers are answered, praying with the Bible, and praying in times of pain and suffering. The easy-to-read book ends each chapter with a prayer along with questions for reflection, journaling or discussion. This book published by Ausburg Publishing provides excellent information concerning prayer. Check it out in our church library today along with many other reading selections.

This book, along with many others, can be found in our church library.

Kim McCain

**Mark your calendars for a FREE live concert featuring VOTA and Ryan Martinez**

**Hamilton County Fairgrounds, Farr Building**

**June 24th, 7:30 pm  
(just before the A'Ror'N Days fireworks show)**



Hosted by Christian Resource Center and area churches, this will be an evening of outreach and a proclamation of the Gospel.

VOTA is led by Bryan Oleson, who was one of the original guitar players with the Newsboys before settling down in Lincoln and forming VOTA. He serves at Lincoln Berean Church and uses his platform to assist Love Justine, an anti-human trafficking ministry. Ryan Martinez is originally from Grand Island and is now working with Youth for Christ in the Omaha area.



What are your summer plans?  
Maybe you can take a Flat Jesus picture with you!

Summer time fun is right around the corner. If you are traveling somewhere or just having fun at home, take a Flat Jesus picture with you on your adventures.

Decorate your Flat Jesus and send us a photo of you with Flat Jesus to [messiah@hamilton.net](mailto:messiah@hamilton.net) to post on our church bulletin board. Let's see how many fun pictures we can collect. It will be exciting to see what our families are doing this summer. Remember that Jesus is always with you! We'll have Flat Jesus picture copies at the Information Center.

### *Using Bibles During Our Scripture Readings*

In order to add to our Scripture readings during our services, we are encouraging you to look up the passages in the pew Bibles or your personal Bible. We will add the approximate page number where you can find the scripture. It is hoped this will add to your understanding of our Bible lessons and familiarity with our Bibles.



### **Weekly Messenger Prayer List**

We will start over with a new list of Weekly Messenger “In Our Thoughts & Prayers” each quarter (January, April, July, October).

**If you would like someone to remain on the Weekly Messenger Prayer list or be added, please contact the office.**



## *Messiah Lutheran Church*

Messiah Lutheran Church, ELCA  
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MESSIAH  LUTHERAN

June 2023