

Office Hours:

9 am—3 pm Monday - Thursday Closed Fridays

Contact Messiah:

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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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

October

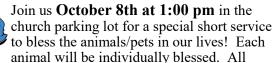


Oct 6	Jeremy Miller	O-4 10	A : alama Tanaan
Oct 7	Carol Flores	Oct 18	Aislynn Jensen
Oct 8	Ken Werner	Oct 18	Quade Voss
Oct 10	Letty Marty	Oct 20	Hayden Groetzinger
Oct 11	Carol Danielson	Oct 20	Lexi Jones
		Oct 21	Tim Lamprecht
	Larry Bengtson	Oct 24	Christina Cerveny
Oct 15	Germaine Lemkau	Oct 24	Jayden Herzberg
Oct 15	Cutler Perry		Holly Hudson
Oct 17	Gage Griffith	Oct 26	Shana Merrihew
Oct 17	Parker Smith		
Oct 18	Brvan Arndt	Oct 28	Gayleen Moeller



Oct 3 Peter and Sammy Spirk Oct 19 Dick and Barbara Berthold Oct 16 Dan and Dixie Ziegler Oct 28 Jeff and Melissa Griffith

Blessing of the Animals



animals are welcome; however, each must be contained on leashes, crates, etc. Please bring your own chair for the service. In case of rain, the service will be cancelled.

Worship Service Time Change on October 29th

Worship will be at 10:00 to allow our confirmation families more time for travel. Worship time will resume at 9:00 the following Sunday.



October 29th is Reformation Sunday and Confirmation Sunday Church will be at 10:00 am

Please join us October 29th as we confirm the following students:

Jillian Farris

Violet Carstensen

May each of these confirmands feel His peace in their heart, His presence in their day, and His power in their life.



Wear Red on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29th

Reformation Day started in the 15th century when Martin Luther nailed his arguments, named "The 95Theses" to the door of Wittenberg's Castle Church. Red is the liturgical color of Reformation Sunday because it represents the Holy Spirit. It also reminds us of those who have been martyred for their faith in Jesus.

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

A Word From Pastor Rudy

Welcome to Fall! It is my favorite time of the year as we witness creation as it changes, preparing for the winter. Leaves change colors and fall, the air is cool and crisp, pumpkin spice is everywhere, and windows are open in houses. As we take in this time of year, we can give thanks for all that God provides even if having creation change for the season. It's a good time to reflect on those in our lives who we care about and those we have lost. It's a good time to think about how God is present in our lives. In our times of loss and grief, there are no easy answers to our questions, but we can live with the promise that we are not alone. God is fully present and sends people into our lives to be with us. As the seasons of our lives change, we can still see God with us and we are reminded of this as the seasons pass from winter, from sleep, to the spring where the earth and all of creation awakens to new life. We live in this promise from God as we experience life fully with our family and friends.

This month is full of things for us to experience as a community of faith. We continue to work together in our community as we prepare for various activities like the "Run 4 Rox" 5K run/walk, the upcoming Soup and Pie Day, and the Hamilton County Bar-B-Que contest. Not to mention our upcoming Blessing of the Pets Sunday, October 8, right here at Messiah where we give thanks for our pets and animals in our lives. In their own ways, they give us a glimpse of God fully present in the care and companionship they share with us. We are also taking time to study the word of God, in our Bible study of the book of Esther. This has been an interesting book to dive into as it is very different than the usual Old Testament reading that we typically read.

Our youth education programs are in full swing with great attendance for Little Learners, SHINE, GLOW, Confirmation, and SWAT Youth Group. Again, thank you to all the volunteers who help to make these programs successful and thank you for all of the prayers. There are still plenty of opportunities to help with these programs, especially Little Learners and SHINE on Sunday mornings. If you might be interested, please ask for more information.

I continue to work with our two committees on some long-range visioning for Messiah. I have worked with Megan Dam on updating our website so that it is current and easy to navigate. And in working with our External Committee, we are putting together a special Visitors Card that will be in the pews. This will allow for the possibility of better communication for those that are visiting on any given Sunday. A big thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the surveys our Internal Committee put forward. We continue to go through those comments as well as the comments made in our focus group meetings. It is wonderful to have this kind of participation in these important topics. I have begun to make some adjustments to our services in response to those surveys. I have begun a class study looking at our Lutheran Liturgy with some of the history, what the rubrics (patterns) of our liturgy generally are, and where there is some flexibility. This will help in continuing to help us, as a community of faith, shape our worship together.

I pray you can take some time to give a prayer of thanksgiving to God. Remember that it is important to take care of you. May God's peace surround you all and may you find your strength in the hope that Jesus gives us of eternal life with God.

Blessings, Pastor Rudy

Pastor's Bible Studies



A Bible Study on the Book of Esther

Pastor began a 4-week bible study on the book of Esther on September 24th. We will meet in the fellowship hall after everyone gathers their coffee and treat. You are encouraged to read Esther before we start, it's a short book in the bible, and also to bring your personal bible to make notes in. Come to as many sessions as you can. Discussion materials will be provided.

A Study of our Lutheran Liturgy

Pastor Rudy is leading a study of our Lutheran Liturgy, Tuesdays, 6:30 pm, in the Mission room. If you have wondered where our liturgy comes from and why we do what we do on Sundays, this is the class for you. Come and be ready to learn more about our worship. Discussion materials will be provided, and we will be using our ELW as our study book. We will meet in the fellowship hall and all ages are welcome. Together we will decide how many sessions we would like to have. If childcare is needed, please let Pastor know so arrangements can be made.

Council Minutes

Messiah Lutheran Council Meeting August 21, 2023

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

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 July regular council meeting. Troy motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Alyssa and it carried.

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

Checking account balance--\$58,216.55

Current--\$44,073.32

Building--\$7,380.60

Outstanding--\$6,762.63

Money Market balance--\$50,311.09

Helping Hands balance--\$1,944.71

Youth Group balance--\$13,589.48

Fireworks Stand Account balance--\$335.77, outstanding \$47.95

Mission Investment balance--\$15,868.75

Mission Investment 1 year CD - \$25,000.00

Building Loan Balance as of 7-31-23 \$117,613.41

Income for the month of July was under the expected budget by \$2,459.00. Expenses were also under budget by \$3,763.17. The playground money was designated correctly after making the final payment.

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

Pastor's Report

With the new school year starting, the educational programs GLOW, Confirmation, and Youth Group will begin. New changes will take place in the schedule for Pastor to spend time with the various groups.

The second contemporary service went well.

A hymn sing was held with the Methodist Church and 25 participants attended. Another event is planned in December.

Pastor continues to work with the internal and external committees on long range planning. Surveys and focus groups are a part of this process.

Pastor is also looking at ways to have the youth participate in more of our services.

Pastor will be visiting his parents on September 3rd in Texas. Karen Tjarks will lead the service.

Cards sent—31

Calls/texts made—21

Visits made—11 so far

Council Minutes continued

Committee's Reports

Property - Troy McCain

Thanks to our wonderful Messiah mowers! They are awesome!

A new thermostat has been ordered for the mission room.

Another pew cleaning estimate was provided by Dr. Ozone Cleaning. It was considerably less than a quote from another company. A motion was made by Steve to have Dr. Ozone clean the pews and chairs, Allissa seconded, and the motion carried.

A fall workday has been set for September 16th at 9:00am. We will work on finishing up the rock around the church areas.

Worship - Dixie Ziegler

Thanks to all the worship volunteers.

A survey has been distributed asking how we can better fulfill and care for the needs of our members. We will review the feedback and hopefully implement changes that meet the needs of our members.

Education – Allissa Marty

Ages were set for each learning group. They are: GLOW— grades K-6 students; SHINE—grades 1-5 students, Preschool—3-5 students who are potty trained.

Dixie thanked the education committee and Pastor for reworking the schedule on Wednesday so he can meet with all the groups.

Stewardship – Todd Jensen

No report.

Fellowship – Cheryl Frickel

Many thanks to those who provide and serve treats after church services.

Thanks also to Dave Olson for making the coffee on Sunday mornings.

On Sunday, August 6th, JOY was held at the Luthy home. 20 people joined in the festivities.

On August 29th, the second annual Messiah Golf Tournament was held with a hamburger meal following.

Outreach – Melissa

No report

Unfinished Business

Emergency preparedness update

No report

Update from strategic planning committees

External Committee

A pew insert for visitors is a work in progress along with the t-shirts and polos.

Internal Committee

75+ surveys were collected, and the committee is reviewing the feedback. The surveys will help with discussion for the upcoming focus groups.

Building use fee clarification

The forms are ready, and they will be implemented.

God's Work-Our Hands

Plans are under way for Sunday, September 10th with a short service. Activities for the younger helpers might be singing at a nursing home or helping at the humane society. The high group may work with a homebound member to weed the yard. Adults will help with education and health kits for Lutheran World Relief. Cheryl will set up a light lunch for those that want to come back to the church for fellowship. Everything should be done by noon.

Council Minutes continued

New Business

Church Council Candidates for annual meeting

Four positions will be coming up for election next year. Steve has contacted Jim McHargue, nominating committee chair, to prepare for those positions. Openings will be for President, Property, Fellowship, and Treasurer.

Administrative Assistant Position

Diana Schafer would like to retire from her position no later than the end of the year.

We will start advertising the position within the church for 20-25 hours.

Immanuel Vision Foundation

A letter was shared as an informational piece about a grant opportunity for the community.

New member welcome

Gift bags were given to the new members. Steve presented another coaster idea using slate if we want to give those in the future.

Information Reports

It was decided that our reports need to reflect what happened the month before like the treasurer's report so that they are accurate and reflect what has been done.

Next Meeting -September 18th, 2023, 6:30 pm.

Closing Prayer – Steve closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim McCain, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

August 2023 Checking Account and Building Loan Summary

	Beginning		Offering Income		Other Income		<u>Expense</u>		Ending	
Current	\$	44,073.32	\$	16,555.40	\$	5,756.90	\$	31,955.03	\$	34,430.59
Building	\$	7,380.60	\$	3,270.00)		\$	4,300.00	\$	6,350.60
Money Market	\$	50,311.09	\$	-	\$	32.07	\$	3,480.00	\$	46,863.16
Helping Hands	\$	1,944.71	\$	-			\$	-	\$	1,944.71
Fireworks Stand Account	\$	335.77			\$	7,289.63	\$	132.95	\$	7,492.45
Mission Investment Fund Mission Investment Fund	•	15,868.75			\$	6.73			\$	15,875.48
CD 1 year term	\$	25,000.00	\$	-			\$	-	\$	25,000.00
Total	\$	144,914.24							\$	137,956.99
<u>Beginning</u>				<u>Interest</u>		<u>Principal</u>		Ending		
Building	\$	117,613.41			\$	624.00	\$	3,676.00	\$	113,937.41

Looking for a Part Time Job? -- Office Position Opening

The part time Administrative Assistant church office position is coming open this fall. A job description and application are available at the Information Center. If interested in applying or would like more information, please contact the church office.



ASK

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!

In a world that is shifting and changing, we have come to recognize the importance of asking good questions. Good questions come from intentional listening and a willingness to engage with the unknown. God, Jesus, prophets, disciples, crowds, and Martin Luther all asked questions. As followers of Jesus, we are called to wrestle with questions, which do not always result in clear answers.

Ouestions to Consider:

What big questions are on your heart and mind? What is a question you are afraid to ask? What would you add to Martin Luther's 95 Theses? What is a 'GO to' question as you engage in conversation?

Prayer: Knowing God, what are you asking of me? Amen.

2nd Annual Hamilton County Cheer Fun-D-Raising Barbecue Contest October 14, 4:30-6:30 Aurora Bremer Center

Area churches are asked to provide contestants and food for this fund raising event. If you would like to help provide a side or cookies, please contact Carol Flores at carolflores593@gmail.com or 713-205-0146.

Donations for a silent auction that will be in conjunction with this event are welcomed.

All proceeds from both BBQ and silent auction will go to The Hamilton County Cheer Fund. The Cheer Fund is a Hamilton County blessing that helps anyone who is in need of assistance with Utilities, additional Food, & Gas. In these times of dire need lets show our support in a fun way of connecting with the community and each other.





Benefit for Roxann Holliday 5K Walk / Run - Streeter Park Saturday, October 14th Registration 7:30 am Race Time 8:30 am

Family members of Roxann Holliday are sponsoring a 5K walk/run on October 14th. Roxann, who is a member of Messiah, is fighting stage 4 secondary metastatic breast cancer.

Messiah would like to help with the walk/run by providing four people to be at points along the route to make sure walkers/runners know the path to follow.

If you can help, please contact the church office by Oct. 9th for details. Let's show our support for Roxann!

Register or donate at: http://aurorasports.org/registration

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH ACTIVITES

WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

*GLOW is for students in Kindergarten-6th grade. A meal is provided for the GLOW kids and helpers beginning at 5:45 pm. GLOW meets from 6:00-7:00 pm.

*CONFIRMATION classes meet from 6:45-7:30 pm. Students are welcome to come at 6:00 pm for a meal.

*S.W.A.T. HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP generally meets from 7:30-8:30 pm. This year our youth group and the United Methodist youth group will meet together, alternating between Messiah and the Methodist church.

SUNDAY MORNING ACTIVITIES

*LITTLE LEARNERS meet on Sunday mornings after the worship service from 10:15-11:00. Little learners is for children pre-K to kindergarten. Class takes place in the Sunday school room right off of the Narthex.

*SHINE meets Sunday mornings for elementary aged students $(1^{st} - 5^{th})$ after the worship service from 10:15-11:00 in the Education wing. Children are welcome to attend both GLOW and SHINE or choose the one that works best for your family.

LITTLE LEARNERS & SHINE will meet from 9:00-9:45 on October 29th.

Looking for Teachers & Helpers for our Education Program

Volunteers are needed to help with ALL of our programs. A sign-up sheet is at the Information Center for Little Learner teachers and helpers.

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".

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

God's Work Our Hands Sunday was September 10th

We had a great day showing God's love by serving others. Thank you to the many volunteers of all ages who worked on the following projects:



Assembled Lutheran World Relief School and Personal Health Kits Aurora Adopt-A-Pet - Families laid new gravel Little Learners class - painted rocks and colored pictures for care facilities SHINE class - helped with various outdoor projects













Don't Forget the Blessing of the Animals special service on Sunday, October 8th, at 1:00 pm in the church parking lot! Invite your friends and neighbors to bring their pets as well.

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Bassinet Basket

A new Bassinet Basket opportunity has been set up for Bryce and Morgan Arndt for the birth of their son, Asher, in April. To help welcome Asher to Messiah Lutheran Church, we are providing three meals for them beginning Monday, October 2nd. You may sign up for a main dish and/or side dish. Please click on the following link if you would like to sign up to help with a meal. https://mealtrain.com/1enz03. Thank you to those who participate by helping with a meal! Thank you also to Kim McCain with Messiah Lutheran Church's Fellowship Committee for coordinating this event.



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. Halloween Party!

J.O.Y. will be having a spooky time for their October gathering! Plans are to play cards/games from 3:00-5:00 at church, then eat at 5:00. Sloppy joes will be provided, and everyone is asked to bring a side or dessert. If you want to make your food contribution in the form of a Halloween theme, feel free to do so (grapes for eyeballs, etc.). A prize will be given for the most spooky or unique edible. Wearing a costume is encouraged and may include a prize also. Please sign up at the Information Center so that they know how many to plan for and check off which food you want to bring.

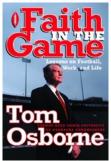
Jane VanderTuig

PROPERTY UPDATE

- A fall workday has held September 16th. Thank you to those who helped to finish laying rock around the church areas.
- A new thermostat was installed for the mission room.
- The sanctuary pews and chairs were professionally cleaned in September by Dr. Ozone Cleaning.
- Thank you to our wonderful Messiah mowers for keeping the lawn look so nice!
- Look for the new yellow parking stripes in the parking lot!

BOOK REVIEW OF THE MONTH

Changing up the "Book of the Month" series started last month with a super article by Pastor Rudy sharing the book Canoeing the Mountains dealing with Christian leadership. This month, who else would I ask to write for this space? Troy, of course! Check back in next month to see who I ask next or if you would like to contribute, please reach out to me! I would love to hear about your favorite book! —Kim McCain



Ahh! Football season is here, and we love our Huskers in Nebraska! The perfect book for this time of the year is one by Tom Osborne, Faith in the Game: Lessons on Football, Work, and Life. Now don't let me fool you, I'm not an avid reader, but did like reading this iconic man's books. Tom's outlook on life if amazing. In this book, he looks at many different characteristics a person must have to succeed in life: character, faith, loyalty, goal setting, unity and many more. As he explores and explains each topic, you gain a deeper understanding of his faith, and it provides prospective for my life. If you read this book awhile ago, or never read it, it is worth picking it up during this football season! Check this book out in our library today or one of the other awesome books we have. Troy McCain

WOMEN OF MESSIAH (WELCA) NEWS



Soup & Pie Day is Coming November 7th!

This is an "all hands on deck" day for Messiah. It takes the support of many (men, women, and children) to make this a great day and fundraiser. Last year, proceeds from this event allowed us to donate several thousand dollars to local food non-profits as well as college Lutheran Student Centers and charities.

The Soup & Pie Day preparations have begun, led by Berniece Luthy and Nancy Obermeier, Soup & Pie Day Committee Co-Chairs. Initially, we are asking for the following: **empty ice cream buckets with lids**.

Please remember that all Messiah families will be contacted in the near future by your Work Group Call Chairman asking for donated food items and workers.

We would like to thank all of you in advance for your willingness to help with this annual event.

Berniece and Nancy

LWR Kits & Quilts

On October 15th, we will be blessing all the quilts and the LWR kits that have been made this year. The first week in November, the quilts designated for LWR and the LWR kits will be taken to Kearney to be loaded on a semi-trailer to be delivered to a shipping center. Volunteers are needed to lift the boxes into a trailer at church, drive the trailer to Kearney, and then lift the boxes into the shipping trailer. Please let the office know if you are able to help.



In October, we will again collect dark colored light weight 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.

At God's Work Our Hands Sunday, with the help of many volunteers, we were able to put together 90 School kits and 105 Personal Care kits! We are still collecting items for the Personal Care kits (dark colored light-weight bath towels, 4 oz bars of soap, adult toothbrushes, sturdy wide-toothed combs, and nail clippers). Monetary donations made out to WELCA are also welcomed. Thank you for your support of LWR!

Messiah Quilters



The Messiah Quilters are still busy making quilts. They are also making ornaments for the Messiah Christmas tree at the Plainsman Museum. The 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.

A thank you

The family of Denny Danielson would like to thank you sincerely for your prayers and kind expressions of support and sympathy during Denny's fight and loss to cancer. It is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered. We have great comfort knowing that after death comes eternal life where there is no suffering.

Delores Danielson Judy Danielson and family Bill, Diane Gowen, and family Duane Danielson Darin, Carol Danielson, and family



Thanks to everyone for your prayers, calls, texts, cards, food & visits!!! They have helped me get through the last month. I am recuperating from my hip replacement ... slowly but surely!



David Frickel

BIBLE STUDY



Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study is meeting Friday, Oct. 6th 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!

Reserving the Church Building

A change has been made to the Building Use Contract for those wishing to reserve a space.

Members will pay a \$50 non-refundable building use fee to reserve the building for "personal" events, for example parties or showers. Community group events will not be required to pay a reservation fee. Nonmembers will pay a \$50 building use fee to reserve the building for any reason. Other fees may apply.

The \$50 fee is non-refundable. In the past, this fee was refundable, although many chose to donate the fee. These changes are effective for new requests as of September 1st.

Aurora Blood Drive



Messiah is hosting the Aurora Blood American Drive on October 3rd in the fellowship hall.

Visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment.

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.

CHOIR NEWS



The choir will practice on Wednesday evenings in October at 7:00 pm. They will sing October 1st and 29th. All are welcome!

Weekly Messenger Prayer List

A new list of Weekly Messenger "In Our Thoughts & Prayers" began October 1st. 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.

Are you interested in becoming a member of Messiah?



If so, please contact Pastor Rudy or the church office.

Freed for Life A fundraiser for the FEAST Program & the **Followers of Christ Prison Ministry** Sunday, November 5th 3-5 pm Open House **Sheridan Lutheran Church** 6955 Old Cheney Rd, Lincoln

This is a fundraising event for the ministries that support those who are currently incarcerated and those who are transitioning out of incarceration through education and sharing the love of Christ and power of God's grace. These ministries are solely funded by donations from individuals and congregations within the Nebraska Synod. There will be hors d'oeuvres, speakers, community partners, music, and much more.

Messiah Lutheran Church

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





October 2023