



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@
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Email Pastor Rudy:
pastor@
messiahaurora.org

Find us on
Facebook & Twitter!



@MessiahAuroraNE



November

Happy
Birthday

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|--------|------------------|
| Nov 2 | Jean Peters | Nov 11 | Brady Papineau |
| Nov 3 | Regina Farris | Nov 12 | Shirley Schacht |
| Nov 3 | Jack Wergin | Nov 13 | Dara Schuster |
| Nov 4 | Evan Dam | Nov 15 | Jannelle Seim |
| Nov 4 | Jeff Griffith | Nov 16 | Jane Vander Tuig |
| Nov 4 | Kim Schaffert | Nov 17 | Bella Bicknase |
| Nov 5 | Tiago Fuentes | Nov 17 | Connor Smith |
| Nov 6 | Herb Peters | Nov 19 | Scott Cerveny |
| Nov 6 | Del Steinwart | Nov 19 | Cele Sullivan |
| Nov 8 | Kerragen Kracl | Nov 20 | Carsen Staehr |
| Nov 8 | Troy McCain | Nov 21 | Jerry Ekhoﬀ |
| Nov 9 | Glenn Obermeier | Nov 30 | Shelby Staehr |
| Nov 10 | Keegan Chaney | | |
| Nov 10 | Jack Lyon | | |

Happy
Anniversary

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Nov 4 | Jay and Tina Oswald | Nov 27 | James and Anna Wert |
| Nov 5 | Scott and Lisa Werner | | |

Upcoming Special Services

November 5th - All Saints Sunday

Votive candles will be available for you to light in memory of a loved one. You are welcome to light a candle before the service for your beloved saint. The names of church members who have passed away within this last year will be named.



November 22nd, 7:00 pm, Wednesday evening - Thanksgiving Eve

There will be a short Service of the Word for you to reflect on all for which you are thankful.

November 26th, Advent begins

Special services will be planned throughout the Advent season. More to come on these special services.



We look forward to seeing you during this special time of year.

Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 5th!



*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. As we welcome this month of November, we keep in mind the things we are thankful for in our lives. The times we can share with family and friends. Older acquaintances that we keep in touch with. Times when we remember the good times we shared with our loved ones who have passed. This time of the year can bring different emotions where some are joyous and for others, it is a time of sorrow. Together, we can help one another through this time of the year, giving of ourselves to care for each other. Around the world, there are scenes of destruction and yet, amid this, we join with our siblings in Christ to pray for peace, to pray for hope, and to remember that we are not alone. Jesus walks with us in our times of joy and our times of sorrow. For this we can be thankful.

I am also looking forward to our Annual Soup and Pie Day! What a wonderful way for Messiah to gather as the body of Christ to provide for our community. I am so thankful for everyone who has helped to plan, to organize, to cook, and bake so we can provide some wonderful meals and desserts on November 7. I hope to see everyone there who can come out and to meeting our neighbors in Aurora.

We will once again be celebrating our Thanksgiving Eve service the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. This is a short service where we can take some time out of our busy week to take a deep breath to remember who provides for us. You and your family and neighbors are invited to this service before all the excitement of Thanksgiving Day comes upon us. Our Confirmation class will also be participating in a food collection that will go to our Hamilton County Food Pantry. We will be asking for donations from the congregation to reach our goal of 500 items for the food pantry as part of the Thrivent's November Food Shelf Challenge. Last year we exceeded this goal and look forward to what we can do together this year!

We will be starting a new Sunday Bible study for all ages on November 12 that will be a 4-week study of the Pastoral Epistles from the New Testament. These are the three short books 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus. You are encouraged to read through them in your bible and bring that to our class with questions or comments that come to you. We will look at the author(s) of these books and their meaning to the early church as Paul shares encouraging words and wisdom to these new Christians. I will also be starting a new Tuesday night, 4-week study beginning November 14 on Paul from the New Testament. Once a persecutor of Christians and the new church to the person we know as the defender of the Christian Church. All materials for our studies will be provided. If childcare is needed, please let the church office know so we can make arrangements. If you have an idea for a bible or book study, please let me know.

As we approach this season of holidays, remember that there will be options to give to others through our various ministries like the Confirmation Food drive, the Christmas Angel Tree, Soup and Pie Day, and others that will be available. We continue to give thanks to God for what we have, with hearts filled with love and hope. Amen.

Pastor Rudy

New Bible Studies to Begin in November



Pastoral Epistles from the New Testament
1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus
4-Week Study on Sundays at 10:15 am
Nov. 12, 19, 26 and Dec. 3

A Study on Apostle Paul from the New Testament
4-Week Study on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm
Nov. 14, 21, 28 and Dec. 5

October was pastor appreciation month. *We will show our appreciation for Pastor Rudy and Carol for all they do for us with refreshments following worship on November 5th.* A basket for cards will be at the Information Center.



Council Minutes

Messiah Lutheran Council Meeting September 18, 2023

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

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 August regular council meeting. Dixie motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Troy, and it carried.

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

Checking account balance--\$48,901.71

Current--\$34,430.59

Building--\$6,350.60

Outstanding--\$8120.52

Money Market balance--\$46,863.16

Helping Hands balance--\$1,944.71

Youth Group balance--\$13,592.83

Fireworks Stand Account balance--\$7,492.45

Mission Investment balance--\$15,875.48

Mission Investment 1 year CD - \$25,000.00

Building Loan Balance as of 8-31-23 \$113,937.41

Income for the month of August was under the expected budget by \$9,924.60. Expenses were also under budget by \$4,573.42. The second half of the multiperil insurance premium was paid in the amount of \$6237.50.

Diane Gowen will start working on a budget for next year and will visit the council when it is ready.

Craig will follow up with Diane.

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

Pastor's Report--August

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.

Confirmation started with 10 students this year.

The Youth Group is combining with the Methodist Youth Group this year.

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.

We had a large turnout for the blessing of the backpacks. Pastor is also looking at ways to have the youth participate in more of our services.

Cards sent—31

Calls/texts made—25

Visits made—14

Council Minutes continued

Committee's Reports

Property – Troy McCain

Thanks to our wonderful Messiah mowers! They are awesome!

The pews have been cleaned by Dr. Ozone.

The rock was finished around the church. Thanks to the helpers who came to the Saturday work day.

Worship – Dixie Ziegler

Thanks to all the worship volunteers.

Survey feedback included suggestions on music and length of service.

Thank you to all who completed the surveys. We will analyze all feedback and take additional action where needed.

Education – Allissa Marty

All educational programs are going well.

Stewardship – Todd Jensen

Todd is exploring the option for Lutheran Giving to visit with the council and possibly the congregation about legacy giving and estate planning. More information will be coming.

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](#)

God's Work our Hands went well. The pizza meal was also well received.

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. Designs are ready. T-shirt and polos pricings were discussed. The designs are ready to go once the final decisions are made.

Internal Committee

The focus groups went well. Pastor has also implemented some of the changes with feedback.

One idea was to ask what people like to do then extend in invitation to become involved in different activities in the church.

New-member welcome bag

Coaster options—Steve will have some made so we are ready for the next round of new members.

New Business

- Compensation for co-managers of fireworks stand
Tabled until next month
- Health benefit package for Pastor
Troy moved to maintain the Gold+ for Pastor and it was seconded by Craig. The motion carried.
- An update for a possible Church web site structure
Pastor and Megan Dam worked on the web site layout.
Hamilton will create the website for us.

Council Minutes continued

- Conversation on helping others in our community.
- Pastor has been asked to do Pastoral Care for United in Hampton.
- Discussion on marking parking spaces for cars in the parking lot. Craig volunteered to work on this project. It will be helpful for all activities held at the church.
- 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 outside of the church.

Next Meeting –October 16, 2023, 6:30 pm.

Closing Prayer – Steve closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.


Respectfully Submitted,
 Kim McCain, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 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	\$ 34,430.59	\$ 22,033.66	\$ -	\$ 19,650.14	\$ 36,814.11
Building	\$ 6,350.60	\$ 3,810.00		\$ 3,100.00	\$ 7,060.60
Money Market	\$ 46,863.16	\$ -	\$ 31.84		\$ 46,895.00
Helping Hands	\$ 1,944.71	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 1,944.71
Fireworks Stand Account	\$ 7,492.45		\$ 0.95	\$ -	\$ 7,493.40
Mission Investment Fund	\$ 15,875.48		\$ 6.73		\$ 15,882.21
Mission Investment Fund - CD 1 year term	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 25,000.00
Total	\$ 137,956.99				\$ 141,090.03

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Building	\$ 113,937.41	\$ 611.17	\$ 2,488.83	\$ 111,448.58



The family of Zane Maltas would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, calls and memorials. We are so blessed to have such a great church family for support through this difficult journey the past five months. God bless all of you.

Berniece and Randy Luthy and families

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.

GO AND...



GO AND... BE HONEST

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!

Honesty requires vulnerability, awareness, and a willingness to really listen. Assumptions and half-truths can lead us to misunderstand the situation and story. What does reconciliation mean as we strive to move from places of misunderstanding? God calls us to be honest. Sometimes, that may look like lament and confession, and other times hymns of praise and gratitude.

Questions to Consider:

What is a time you didn’t tell the whole truth... or were not honest?
What piece of history should you/could you explore with a lens of honesty?
In what way are you being dishonest in your life?

GO and express gratitude by saying thank you to someone who deserves it.

Prayer: Reconciling God, we ask for forgiveness for the times we have not reconciled our differences and acknowledged the hurts and wounds we have caused. Amen.

SOUP & PIE DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7th, 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM



Soup & Pie Day is here! Non-perishable items should be brought to church by November 5th. For all other items, the southwest door of the church will be open from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm on Monday, November 6th, and at 6:00 am Tuesday, November 7th.

Please join us throughout the day on Tuesday, November 7th from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm for soup and pie. Come for lunch, supper, or come for both! Take-out ordering is available. With the proceeds from this one event, the families of our church purchase needed items for our church kitchen as well as fund several ministries throughout our community, Synod and world.

Along with Soup & Pie Day, the Confirmands will be holding a Bake Sale. Please consider donating baked goods for their bake sale. You may bring it with you on Soup & Pie Day.

We thank you in advance for your support of this worthwhile event!!!

If you have questions, please contact Berniece Luthy (402-694-9073) and Nancy Obermeier (402-694-9269).

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

***GLOW** - K-6th grade

***CONFIRMATION** - 7th & 8th grade

***S.W.A.T. HS YOUTH GROUP** - combined with UMC youth group.

S.W.A.T. is planning a dinner to honor our Veterans on November 15th, 6:30 pm, at MLC. Please RSVP at the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or calling the church office by November 12th.

Some fun S.W.A.T. activities!

SUNDAY MORNING ACTIVITIES

***LITTLE LEARNERS** - Pre-K - Kindergarten

***SHINE** - 1st-5th grade



If you are interested in more details of our Children's Ministries, please contact the church office or the following: Cassie Wineteer, Faith Formation Coordinator, or Allissa Marty, Education Committee Chair, at "education@messiahaurora.org".

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

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.



Feeding the Community

Pack on the Pounds for the Hamilton County Food Pantry November Food Shelf Challenge \$500 for 500 items

Our Confirmation youth will be holding their annual project to support the Hamilton County Food Pantry. Once again we have qualified for a \$500 donation to our local food pantry from Thrivent IF Messiah can collect over 500 non-perishable food items in November. Last year, we collected 505 items for the Hamilton County Food Pantry, PLUS we were able to give the food pantry the \$500 Thrivent donation!

If everyone contributes a few items we can reach the goal of 500 food items and help families in our community. As we give thanks for all of our blessings, we can share God's love with others. Thank you for remembering those in need.

Let's help the confirmation students make a big impact. *Thank you in advance for your generosity!*

*Congratulations to Violet Carstensen and Jillian Farris
our new Confirmands!*

We pray you will desire to know and follow Jesus as his disciple with a grateful and courageous heart.

May you continue to grow spiritually and may your faith always be strong.



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Christmas Angel Tree



Mark your calendars! Messiah will again be participating in “The Angel Tree” project. Cami Knust will be the coordinator. The Angel Tree project provides Christmas gifts for Hamilton County students in need. Messiah has faithfully responded year after year to this project and we prayerfully ask that you continue to support this very important outreach for the students in the Aurora, Hampton, and Giltner public schools. Dates to remember:

Sunday, November 26, 2023.....Messiah launches “The Angel Tree” project.

- ◆ A display will be set up in the narthex. Please select an angel from the tree and record your name on the sign-up sheet located by the tree.
- ◆ Angels can be sponsored by individuals, by families, or by partners.....whatever works best for you!
- ◆ Monetary donations will also be greatly appreciated. Let the Outreach Committee do the shopping for you!

Sunday, December 3, 2023.....Angels are available for selection

- ◆ You can also stop by the church during the week to pick up an Angel.
Messiah office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9:00 – 3:00.

Sunday, December 10, 2023.....**all gifts are due back to church.**



We ask you to prayerfully consider taking part in Messiah’s Angel Tree this year.
Thank you!
Cami Knust, Angel Tree Coordinator
and
Messiah’s Outreach Committee

Plainsman Museum “Winter Wonderland of Trees”

Messiah has participated in the “Winter Wonderland of Trees” since 2017. This year Messiah’s Quilting Group has graciously volunteered to decorate a tree for this community event. They have been busy at work making quilt-themed ornaments for the museum tree. The event opens to the public on Saturday, November 25, 2023. *Please visit the Plainsman Museum Nov 25 – Dec 31 to see Messiah’s tree beautifully decorated by the Quilting Group.* Thank you, Quilting ladies!

Messiah Outreach Committee



We had a beautiful afternoon blessing our loved pets on October 8th. Eleven dogs and three cats were individually blessed by Pastor Rudy. Each animal was offered a toy to take home. Connie Nick played her accordion while Mark Jobman and Craig Shaffer led us in singing “All God’s Children Have A Place in the Choir”.



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.

A fun time was had by all who came to the spooky Halloween party on Oct. 1st. Elaine Graves and Sue Schultz won best costumes as bottles of ketchup and mustard. Pitch, Yahtzee, and Rumikub were just a few of the games played. Jane gave out fun prizes throughout the afternoon. A supper of sloppy joes, salads, and desserts was a perfect ending to the afternoon.

J.O.Y. will NOT meet in November. Watch for details to come for the December 3rd get together!



A Bassinet Basket meal train was organized in October for Brock and Shelby Kohtz to celebrate the birth of their daughter, Hadlee. Thank you to those who helped provide meals and to Kim McCain with the Fellowship Committee for organizing the meal train!



BOOK REVIEW OF THE MONTH

We continue the “Book of the Month” series with Sarah Lyon as our guest. 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

One of my favorite books is Annie Dillard’s “**The Writing Life.**”

I have fond memories of my first time reading it, because it was one of the first books we read in a long-standing book club. Reading about the writing process from a Pulitzer-prize winning author is a treat overall, but there are two quotes in the book that stick with me, and that I reference often in my mind:

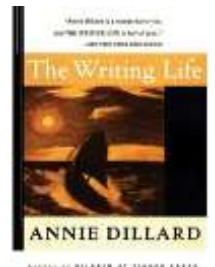
“**How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.**”

And,

“**The life of sensation is the life of greed; it requires more and more. The life of the spirit requires less and less; time is ample and its passage sweet.**”

If anyone has read this book or wants to talk about non-fiction in general let me know!!

Sarah Lyon



BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study



Men's Bible Study is meeting Friday, **Nov. 3rd** 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!

WOMEN OF MESSIAH (WELCA) NEWS

Lutheran World Relief Kits & Quilts

On October 15th, quilts made by our Messiah Quilters and the LWR school and personal care kits made this year were blessed. On November 2nd, 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 and sent to those in need around the world. Quilts and kits are blessings to many around the world. Messiah Lutheran Church Women have supported LWR for many years. Per LWR, our "support and kindness saves and improves lives, traveling the distance to reach neighbors in need, no matter where they are in the world. Thank you for stepping out in faith and being the hands and feet of Christ."



Messiah Quilters

In addition to the many quilts they have made, our Messiah Quilters have recently been making ornaments for the Messiah Christmas tree at the Plainsman Museum. Be sure to stop by the museum to see their handmade ornaments! The quilters will be taking a much needed break and will not be meeting in November or December.

Hamilton County Food Backpack Program

To help this program provide food for children during the weekends, we are collecting donations of cans of fruit (peaches, pears, mixed fruit, mandarin oranges). Thank you!



CHOIR NEWS



If you enjoy singing, join the Messiah Choir! Practices will be the following Wednesdays in November at 7:00 pm. Nov. 8, 15, & 29. All are welcome!

The **Hand Chimes** are back! Practice will be Wednesday, November 1st, at 6:30 pm, with plans to play in church on November 5th. If you are interested in joining this musical choir, please contact Carol Flores at 713-205-0146 or come to the practice!



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.



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.

Are you interested in becoming a member of Messiah?



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

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).



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"!

Messiah Lutheran Church

Messiah Lutheran Church, ELCA
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MESSIAH  LUTHERAN

November 2023