



Office Hours:

9 am—3 pm
Monday - Thursday
Closed Fridays

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Church Office

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Find us on
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@MessiahAuroraNE

ASH WEDNESDAY

Worship Service is
February 14th



Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday

MESSIAH MESSENGER

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

February

Happy Birthday

Feb 3	Melissa Griffith	Feb 20	Caroline Jones
Feb 5	Kae Russell	Feb 21	Karsyn Perry
Feb 6	Randy Hahn	Feb 23	Dick Berthold
Feb 7	Cara Penner	Feb 23	Drew Knust
Feb 9	Riley Griffith	Feb 24	Garrett Kuehner
Feb 11	Ron Haden	Feb 24	Lynn Miller
Feb 13	Mason Howland	Feb 25	James Jensen
Feb 15	Isaac Arndt	Feb 27	Terri Jensen
Feb 17	Reese Bicknase	Feb 28	Eric Dam
Feb 18	Michaela Perry	Feb 28	Atley Miller
Feb 19	Stacy Groetzinger	Feb 28	Sharon Penner
Feb 19	Anthony Seim	Feb 29	Ryan Staehr

Happy Anniversary

Feb 16 Brad and Gayleen Moeller

Feb 26 James and Terri Jensen

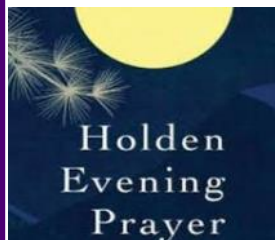
Please plan on joining us for our Annual Meeting Sunday, **February. 18th**, following worship.

All confirmed members of Messiah are eligible to vote and should plan on attending. Your voice & vote matter to the ministry here at Messiah!



SEASON of LENT

The Lenten season will soon be upon us. Here is a look at Lenten services through March.



February 22 Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm

March 1 - March 29 Wednesday Mid-week Holden Evening Prayer Services at 7:00 pm

More Information on Page 5.

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! Amen.

And just like that, February is upon us. As we begin to see the temperatures begin to rise, finally, together we prepare to begin our Lenten journey towards Easter. This year, Easter is a bit early coming on March 31. Our journey will begin on Ash Wednesday. We will also be having our midweek Lenten services using the Holden Evening Prayer. I invite you to come and be a part of this meditative service. We will also have a High School Youth led contemporary Service of the Word on the first Sunday of February. This is a chance for our youth, combined with the youth from the United Methodist Church to share their gifts in leading our service. We are all called to proclaim the good news, to celebrate the gifts that God has given us, and to worship together as a community of faith. We will also be welcoming new members to Messiah! If you or someone you know has some interest in becoming a member, or if you simply have some questions about what that mean, please let me know. I plan to welcome new members on February 25. We will gather prior to that Sunday to discuss our Lutheran faith and what it means to be a member not only of Messiah Lutheran Church, but of the ELCA, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

In February we will also be having our Annual Meeting as hear about the various ways our ministries showed God's love in the world, both near and far. We will also be reviewing the upcoming budget and welcoming in new Council members. I look forward to working with new faces in leadership. I want to thank those who have been serving on our council since I arrived. It has been a pleasure to get to work with this group of leaders and they were very helpful in helping me to learn about Messiah Lutheran Church. I also want to say a big thank you to Diana Shaffer. Diana has been with me on this ministry journey since day one. She was the Chair of the Call Committee and the first member of Messiah that I spoke to. Ever since that ZOOM meeting with introductions, she has been very supportive and encouraging. As she steps down from the Office Administrator position, she will be missed. We had a long search for someone to take over this role and I am pleased that we have two folks who have stepped up to fill this position, Allissa Marty and Cassie Wineteer. They are splitting the duties and are doing a great job. I also want to thank everyone who has helped to clear out our parking lot and walkways. This is not an easy job, but we have dedicated folks that help to make sure our church is accessible to all.

This year has started with a lot of change. But we can live into the promise that God doesn't change in being fully present in our lives. We will make our Lenten journeys together as we hear the good news and study the word of God together. I will have a Lenten Bible Study beginning on Sunday, February 18. All ages are welcome as we take a look at the gospel each Sunday and have discussions together.

Prayers for each and every one of you that you are safe and warm. Thank you all for your continued support of me and our congregation. God's peace be with you all.

Pastor Rudy



Are you interested in becoming a member of Messiah?

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



Council Minutes

Messiah Lutheran Council Meeting December 18th, 2023

Present: Pastor Flores, Cheryl Frickel, Melissa Griffith, Mike Herzberg, Todd Jensen, Allissa Marty, Kim McCain, Troy McCain, Craig Shaffer, Steve Vrana **Absent:** 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 November regular council meeting. Troy motioned to approve the minutes as amended, the motion was seconded by Cheryl, and it carried.

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

Checking account balance--\$46,439.95

Current--\$34,993.50

Building--\$10,998.10

Outstanding--\$448.35

Money Market balance--\$30,482.17

Helping Hands balance--\$4,185.56

Youth Group balance--\$13,451.30

Fireworks Stand Account balance--\$1,795.00

Mission Investment balance--\$16,214.22

Mission Investment 1 year CD - \$25,000.00

Building Loan Balance as of 10-31-23 \$106,394.89

Income for the month of November was under the expected budget by \$1,025.60. Expenses were also under budget by \$1,011.25.

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

Pastor's Report

November was a month for preparing for Advent and Christmas.

The Thanksgiving Eve service was held with 22 in attendance.

Confirmation students and SWAT helped with decorating for the Christmas season.

We will have one evening Christmas Eve service since Advent 4 falls on the same Sunday.

The confirmation class held their annual food drive reaching their goal with 691 items donated. They also received \$500.00 from Thrivent for their efforts which was given to the food pantry.

SWAT held their Veteran's Dinner and it was well received.

Pastor continues to work on the website with Megan Dam.

No visitor cards have been turned in and that will be revisited in January.

Cards sent—31

Calls/texts made—27

Visits made—21

Committee's Reports

Property – Troy McCain

Lights in the parking lot are fixed by updating the sensor.

Worship – Dixie Ziegler

No report.

Education – Allissa Marty

Christmas program went well.

Planning for VBS is underway.

Stewardship – Todd Jensen

No report

Fellowship – Cheryl Frickel

Many thanks to those who provide and serve treats after the church services. Thanks also to our baristas for making the coffee on Sunday mornings.

JOY was held on October 1st with a Halloween party.

Council Minutes continued

Bassinet Baskets was arranged for Bryce and Morgan Arndt. Thanks to all who helped with the meals. On October 14th, the Hamilton Co. Cheer Fund held their 2nd annual BBQ contest. Messiah was represented with Roger Scott providing a delicious smoked brisket and Troy McCain provided the beans, which placed first.

Blessing of the quilts and kits was held on October 15th. Thanks to everyone for the many hours of preparation of these items. They will be taken to Kearney in November.

A cookie reception was provided for the two confirmands on October 29th.

Outreach – [Melissa](#)

No report.

Unfinished Business

Item(s) to be added to the church calendar

No changes were made to the calendar.

- Emergency preparedness update

No report

Update on filling officer manager position

Pastor shared an update on the position about some possibilities.

- Helping Hands account

The items in the new policy have been put into motion.

Revisit building-use policy

This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

- Finalize 2024 budget proposal to submit to annual meeting

The budget was carefully reviewed, and more clarification is needed on some of the figures. An email vote will be taken once more information is shared.

New Business

Membership photo board in fellowship hallway

Compensation for accompanists will remain the same for 2024

Leading the worship on Dec. 31

Craig will lead the service along with others helping.

Update on the nominating committee

Next Meeting – January 15, 2024, 6:30 pm.

Closing Prayer – Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim McCain, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

December 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	\$ 34,993.50	\$ 45,065.95	\$ -	\$ 22,082.70	\$ 57,976.75
Building	\$ 10,998.10	\$ 5,455.00		\$ 7,100.00	\$ 9,353.10
Money Market	\$ 30,482.17	\$ 500.00	\$ 23.36	\$ -	\$ 31,005.53
Helping Hands	\$ 4,185.56	\$ 100.00			\$ 4,285.56
Fireworks Stand Account	\$ 1,795.00		\$ 0.23		\$ 1,795.23
Mission Investment Fund	\$ 16,210.73		\$ 10.42		\$ 16,221.15
Mission Investment Fund - CD 1 year term	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 25,000.00
Total	\$ 123,665.06				\$ 145,637.32

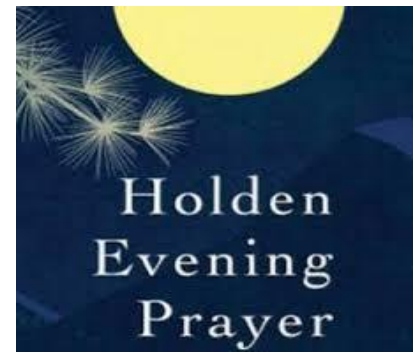
	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Building	\$ 106,394.89	\$ 546.55	\$ 6,553.45	\$ 99,841.44



2024 Offering Envelopes are now available in the Narthex for those who prefer to use the envelopes.

Tis the Season of LENT

We will be having our mid-week Lenten services beginning on February 21 going through March 20 at 7:00 PM. For this service, we will be using the Holden Evening Prayer for worship. We will also be hearing from members of our congregation as they share a short story about God's presence in their lives. Please come and join us for this short, meditative service.



Lent Devotionals



We have Lenten Devotional booklets for you to take home. They are for daily prayer during the season of Lent for you and your family to use. They will be in the Narthex beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14.

BOOK REVIEW OF THE MONTH

Christian Romance Comes to Messiah Lutheran's Library!

The Wardrobe Dinner Theater, by Candee Fick, is a 5-volume set of some of her first novels. I will give you a short preview of each of them. All characters are associated, in one way or another, with the (fictional) Wardrobe Dinner Theater in Ft. Collins, CO.

Dance Over Me

As young children, Danielle Lefontaine and her younger brother Jacob were adopted separately after their parents were killed in an accident. After college graduation, Dani landed a job with the dinner theater in Fort Collins, Colorado, as a dancer in their *42nd Street* production. She uses all her free time trying to find out who adopted her brother and where he is now. Meanwhile, romance ensues backstage at the theater with the bosses' son!

Focus on Love

Dani's roommate Liz flees her home just as her mother announces that her elaborate Christmas dinner is ready. Liz has just found out that her boyfriend "threw her under the bus" by stealing her artistic ideas for her father's company. Her father is clueless and angry and refuses to believe what Liz is telling him about Jerry. Liz escapes back to the dinner theater where Mr. Sheridan gladly hires her back as an actress for their production of *White Christmas*. Her dream job is photographing the world, not the mundane office work that her father wants her to do in his photography company. Is God really sending her a male friend with the same interests? Someone who also helps her to find her faith again?

Sing a New Song

Gloria is the leader of the mean girls among the actresses. She has an accident that requires knee surgery which in turn limits her capabilities of dancing in the theater productions. She is discovering that her main dream is really singing, not dancing and acting. She moves to Branson, MO, where there are many opportunities to sing in the myriad of shows. She becomes a changed person when some of the girls on stage are not ready to welcome a newcomer. Their behavior reminds Gloria of her former self.

A Picture Perfect Christmas

Liz and Ryan are loving their new life together. They get to travel the world while working in tandem and have decided that they want to spend the rest of their lives together. Dani is helping Liz plan her wedding. However, it is difficult when she has not yet reconciled with her dad and wishes that her mother would be willing to help her with wedding arrangements. However, Mrs. Foster dares not to cross her husband.

Home for Christmas

Trying to escape living in the successful shadow of his twin brother, Tyler Sherwood took his current girlfriend to Las Vegas where he tried to make a name for himself. When both the relationship and his singing goals failed, he returned to Missouri and hid out in his uncle's cabin for several months. Hitting bottom and embarrassed by his arrogance and failure, he allowed God back into his life. By chance, a new romantic interest developed, too!



CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

- ***GLOW** - K-6th grade, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm, meal is served at 5:45 pm
- ***CONFIRMATION** - 7th & 8th grade, 6:45 pm - 7:30 pm, meal is served at 5:45 pm
- ***S.W.A.T. HS YOUTH GROUP** - combined with UMC youth group. 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm



SUNDAY MORNING ACTIVITIES

Little Learners & SHINE meets from 10:00 to 10:45

- ***LITTLE LEARNERS** - Pre-K - Kindergarten
- ***SHINE** - 1st-5th grade

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

FEBRUARY 11, 2024



The S.W.A.T. Youth Group is proud to support the work of Tackle Hunger and the Souper Bowl of Caring event. **On Sunday, February 11th, we will take collections for the Hamilton County Food Pantry.** What if everyone watching the Big Game gave just one dollar or one can of food to help feed our neighbors in need this year? You can help us tackle hunger after the worship service February

TACKLE



HUNGER

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.

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.

JOY will be meeting on February 4 at the church from 2:00-4:00 .

A host is needed. Please reach out if you would be willing to host!
Jane VanderTuig

BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study is meeting Friday, Feb.

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



Lent Sunday Bible Study

During Lent, Pastor Rudy will have a bible study after service for the 5 Sundays of Lent. We will be using the Daily Discipleship materials for looking and discussing the Gospel reading of the day and it walks us through our Lenten journey of faith. All ages are welcome, and handouts will be provided each week. Come as often as you can!



WOMEN OF MESSIAH (WELCA) NEWS

Lutheran World Relief Kits & Quilts



During the month of February, we will focus on collecting dark colored, light weight, bath towels for the LWR personal health kits. We will also gladly accept 4 oz bars of soap. Thank you for helping us gather items for the personal health kits to spread God's love across the world. Most recently, the kits have been sent to Ukraine, where they are so needed for those who have lost everything.



Messiah Quilters



The Messiah Quilters will be meeting in February. They meet the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays from 9:00-12:00. All sewers and those able to tie a knot are welcome!



Upcoming WELCA Events

[Spring Gathering](#)

Mark your calendars for the Spring Gathering on April 13th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island with the theme: "Open Our Hearts - Listen, Be Kind, Pray".

[Autumn Renewal](#)

The Autumn Renewal will be October 12th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island.

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.

*The Interfaith Community Choir invites all to join in rehearsals for their Easter Cantata "Once Upon a Morning" by Pepper Choplin. Rehearsals began Sunday, **January 7th**, 2:00 pm, at the Aurora United Methodist Church. Book cost is \$10. Please contact Raychel at 402-770-9772 for more information.*

CHOIR NEWS

Attention Messiah Singers!

The choir will be practicing after Lenten service on February 21st and February 28th! All are welcome!



Sanctuary Stained Glass Windows



You are encouraged to take a few minutes to look around at the beautiful stained glass windows in our sanctuary. Each window depicts a special time or event in the Bible. Near the southeast corner, you'll see a window showing the baptism of our Lord. As we go through the church year, please look around and notice the beauty of the windows and the story they tell.

Messiah Lutheran Church

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



January 2024