



Office Hours:

9 am—3 pm
Monday - Thursday
Closed Fridays

Contact Messiah:

402-694-2017
Church Office

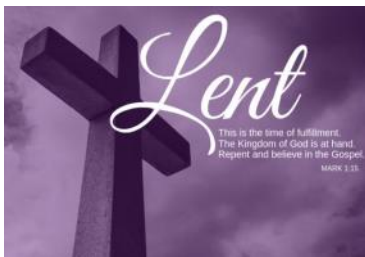
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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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

March



Mar 2	Mary Scott	Mar 13	Ellie Cervený
Mar 2	Andrea VanDeWalle	Mar 14	Jackie Bowman
Mar 4	Carter Howland	Mar 14	Brad Moeller
Mar 5	Dixie Ziegler	Mar 16	Alexa Katt
Mar 6	Hadley Helgoth	Mar 17	Holly Herzberg
Mar 6	Sammy Spirk	Mar 21	Shelby Kohtz
Mar 10	Tyson Dvorak	Mar 21	Delmar Peters
Mar 10	Bonnie Paisley	Mar 21	Azure Pospisil
Mar 11	Brandon Perry	Mar 23	Berniece Luthy
Mar 12	Christa Hudson	Mar 27	Allie Dam
Mar 12	Caleb Oswald	Mar 28	Bill Arndt
Mar 12	Danielle Redman	Mar 29	Cassidy Knust
Mar 13	Sharon Beyer		



Mar 1	Randy and Sarah Jensen	Mar 26	Charly and Kiley James
Mar 22	George and Tammy Chaney	Mar 31	Scott and Christina Cervený
Mar 24	Eric and Megan Dam		

Welcome to our new Messiah Lutheran Church Members

Sue Trusdle Felicia Schuster Nate Clark Kara Clark
Myles Clark Caleb Clark Knoxx Clark

SEASON of LENT

The Lenten season is upon us. Offerings from our Wednesday Lenten services will be designated to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Fund.

March 1 - March 20	Wednesday Mid-week Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00pm
March 24	Palm Sunday Service at 9:00 AM
March 28	Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 PM
March 29	Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM
March 31	EASTER Service at 9:00 AM

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

A Word From Pastor Rudy

God's grace and peace to you all! Amen.

Happy March to you all! February was very busy with various events. A big thank you to everyone who helped support our S.W.A.T. Youth Group with the service they led, combined with the youth from our siblings in Christ from the Methodist church. They did a great job all around in leading our prayers, music, and a heart felt message of faith by Savanna James. It is such a gift to have such wonderful and talented youth that give us a look at the future of the church. Our youth group also had some great support for their Souper Bowl of Caring promotion. Thank you to everyone who helped with donations of money and food items. All of those donations made their way to the Hamilton County Food Pantry.

Our Confirmation class will be taking a break from meeting for class during Lent, but they are staying involved by being an acolyte for our Wednesday mid-week services and on Sundays. This helps to reinforce the things that we have been studying like the significance of the Apostle's Creed and Lord's Prayer in our worship. We will then have a few more weeks together for study and questions with a party at the end of year to celebrate all the hard work they have done. It is wonderful to see their growth in both classes as we have been in our Lutheran year of study. Next year we will be in the New and Old Testaments of the bible.

February has been a month of study for me. I have taken time to study more about the bible using a resource called the BibleProject.com. It offers great videos that help give information about various parts of the bible and how we can read them with a better understanding of the writers, community they were written for, and context for the books of the bible. I also attended my 1st Call Educational Retreat that took place at St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE. It was a gathering of my fellow 1st call colleagues along with some of the Synod staff and Bishop Scott Johnson who led us through our time of learning. This session we focused on the idea of stewardship and what that means to us as leaders. We concentrated on how this goes beyond the obvious of simply giving money. It is how we share the gifts we have been given by God with others in our faith community and beyond. This is something that I have witnessed on countless occasions here at Messiah Lutheran Church. As a congregation, we give regularly of more than just financially, but also with our willingness to help lead in our services, volunteer for our various ministries, donations that help those within our wall and those outside our walls.

This month will be very busy as Easter is on March 31. Holy Week will be here soon, and I look forward to our special services during that week. I plan to have our dramatic readings on Palm Sunday, we will once again have 1st Communion on Maundy Thursday with the stripping of the altar at the end of that service. For Good Friday, we will have our service of readings and hymns as we leave in silence as the tomb is closed and then return on Easter morning in praise and thanksgiving for our risen Lord. As we journey together during Lent, I hold you in prayer as you discern those things you might consider that will help you in your relationship with God with the help of the Holy Spirit. It's never too late to consider what that might look like for you. Don't feel bad if you falter, you are still invited back into God's loving relationship just as you are.

May God's peace be with you all. Amen.

Pastor Rudy

Council Minutes

Messiah Lutheran Council Meeting

January 15, 2024

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

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 December regular council meeting. Troy motioned to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Cheryl, and it carried.

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

Checking account balance--\$57,104.15 Current--\$57,976.75

Building--\$9,353.10 + Outstanding--\$10,225.70

Money Market balance--\$31,005.53

Helping Hands balance--\$4,285.56

Youth Group balance--\$14,699.70

Fireworks Stand Account balance--\$1,795.23

Mission Investment balance--\$16,221.15

Mission Investment 1 year CD - \$25,000.00

Building Loan Balance as of 12-31-23 \$99,841.44

Income for the month of December was over the expected budget by \$22,065.95. Expenses were also under budget by \$824.52

Craig reminded us to remember the importance of maintaining a building/maintenance fund after the building loan is paid off.

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

Pastor's Report

December was a very busy month.

GLOW had a great Christmas program and thanks to all who helped with it.

GLOW and SHINE participated in the December 17th church service by singing, reading, and playing chimes.

Families also helped with the Advent services.

A Longest Night service was also held and Pastor plans to continue to have this service.

One Christmas Eve evening service was held this year due to how the calendar fell. Next year, we will have two services.

Council members helped lead the last service of the year while Pastor was away on vacation.

Pastor also officiated two funerals in December.

Special thanks to our musicians, worship assistants, altar guild, and sound booth volunteers. It takes many to have our services.

Pastor is registered with Channel 10/11 for weather related events.

Pastor gave an update on the church website.

Calls/texts made—19

Visits made—26

Council Minutes continued

Committee's Reports

Property – Troy McCain We made it through a cold, cold night with no problems.

Randy did a great job with the snow removable and thanks to the other volunteers who helped with the sidewalks.

Worship – Dixie Ziegler Thanks to Pastor for being proactive with the FaceBook service for the severe cold weather.

Education – Allissa Marty No report

Stewardship – Todd Jensen No report

Fellowship – Cheryl Frickel Thanks to Mary Roehrs for decorating during Advent. It is beautiful!

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 December 3rd with a white elephant exchange and goodie exchange. Sit N Bull pizza was enjoyed by all.

Thanks to Laura Jobman for serving cookies after the wonderful Christmas program held on December 13th.

Two funeral luncheons were also served in December.

A Christmas Sing a Long was held on December 16th at the Poco Creek Community room.

Outreach – Melissa No report.

Unfinished Business

Item(s) to be added to the church calendar Edits were made to update the 2024 calendar

Emergency preparedness update No report

Update on filling officer manager position Allissa Marty and Cassie Wineteer are sharing the position.

Revisit building-use policy This will be tabled to the next meeting.

Finalize 2024 budget proposal to submit to annual meeting One change was made with the final budget being \$280,000. Troy moved to accept the budget with one amendment, Dixie seconded the motion. Motion carried. Thank you to Craig and Diane Gowen for preparing the budget.

New Business

Approve agenda for the annual meeting Dixie moved to follow a similar agenda from past meetings for the February 18th annual meeting. Cheryl seconded the motion and it carried.

Designation for Lenten offerings Dixie made a motion that the Lenten offerings be given to the Sheriff's Fund, Cheryl seconded, and the motion carried.

Next Meeting – February 19, 2024

Closing Prayer – Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Kim McCain, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 2024 Checking Account and Building Loan Summary

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Offering Income</u>	<u>Other Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Current	\$ 57,976.75	\$ 23,971.00	\$ -	\$ 21,294.22	\$ 60,653.53
Building	\$ 9,353.10	\$ 3,312.50		\$ 6,200.00	\$ 6,465.60
Money Market	\$ 31,005.53	\$ 100.00	\$ 23.76	\$ -	\$ 31,129.29
Helping Hands	\$ 4,285.56	\$ -			\$ 4,285.56
Fireworks Stand Account	\$ 1,795.23		\$ 0.23		\$ 1,795.46
Mission Investment Fund	\$ 16,221.15		\$ 318.96		\$ 16,540.11
Mission Investment Fund - CD 1 year term	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 25,000.00
Total	\$ 145,637.32				\$ 145,869.55

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Building	\$ 99,841.44	\$ 551.21	\$ 5,648.79	\$ 94,192.65



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

WELCA Donations to Area Organizations

The Women of Messiah (WELCA) are happy to announce monetary donations made in February to local, state, and world-wide ministries. Because of your support for Messiah's Soup & Pie Day and Poinsettia donations, a total of \$6,500 is being donated to the following organizations. Thank you for supporting these ministries as your donations benefit so many within and beyond our doors!

\$1,500	Hamilton County Food Backpack Program
\$1,500	Hamilton County Food Pantry
\$250	Hamilton County Ministerial Association
\$500	Lutheran Disaster Response to help wherever needed
\$500	Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund
\$250	Messiah Lutheran Church for the local diaper drive
\$500	Messiah Lutheran Church Helping Hands fund
\$1,500	Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry



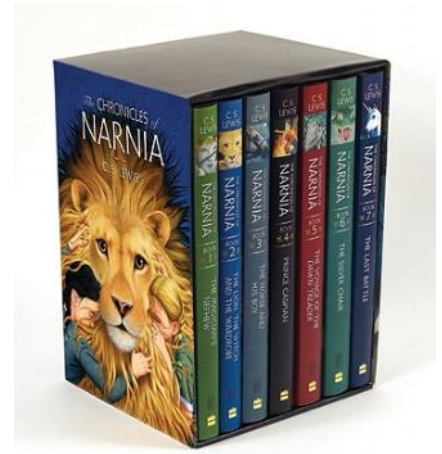
BOOK REVIEW OF THE MONTH

“The Chronicles of Narnia”

Welcome to another month as we look at book options for our readers. Thanks to Jane VanderTuig for our February write up. This month, Jackie Bowman, shares about her favorite series.

"The Chronicles of Narnia" is a series of seven novels written by C.S. Lewis. The series has captured readers of all ages. The series begins with *"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."* Set during WWII, four siblings are sent away to the countryside. While exploring they stumble upon a wardrobe that transports them to the land of Narnia. The siblings are destined to fulfill a prophecy by aiding the great lion, Aslan (Jesus). The children embark on a quest to save Narnia from eternal winter. There is a Lenten through Easter devotional to go with this series.

Come back next month to meet our guest reader!



Other Things Happening in the Community



Diaper Drive

For the Early Childhood Event

Messiah is once again supporting the Diaper Drive by collecting diapers and wipes for the Early Childhood Event that is taking place on March 23rd from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. **Diapers and wipes may be dropped off at Messiah now through March 20th.** Any sizes of Huggies or Pampers diapers (especially sizes 3-5) and any kind of wipes are greatly appreciated. These items will be given to families in need at the Early Childhood Event, which will take place at the fair grounds. Thank you for supporting this need.



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** - Not Meeting During Lent

***S.W.A.T. HS YOUTH GROUP** - combined with UMC youth group. 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

No GLOW on March
6th and 27th!

No Little Learners or
SHINE on March
10th and 31st!

SUNDAY MORNING ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

RESULTS OF THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Youth group collected canned items and food for the Hamilton County Food Pantry in support of Tackle Hunger. Participants donated to the basket or provided food to the basket with the team they were hoping or expected would win the Super Bowl. While the competition was close, those participating decided the Kansas City Chiefs would be the winner. Thank you to all who donated and supported the Hamilton County Food Pantry.



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.



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 are in the Narthex.

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 March 3rd

Time: 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Location: At Church

If your last name starts with a letter between A and L, please bring a snack to share!

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30th, 10:00 AM

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on our church lawn this year! Please let families know that any little ones are welcome to come and join in the fun. Donations of individually wrapped candy, including chocolate, for the take home bags would be greatly appreciated for this fun event.



BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study is meeting Friday, **March 1st**, 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

In the month of March, we will focus on collecting dark colored light weight bath towels for the personal care kits. We are also gladly accepting donations of 4 oz. bars of bath soap. Other items needed for the personal care kits are toothbrushes, nail files, and sturdy wide-toothed combs. Collecting a few items each month helps us to be able to put together a number of kits later this fall. Thank you for your donations!



Hamilton County Food Backpack Program



The Hamilton County Backpack Program provides food for children and their families so they may have something to eat over the weekends. Grocery items for one meal and one breakfast per family member are sent home with school children before each weekend throughout the school year. Families are identified through the schools. Currently they are providing food to 42 families totally 185 individuals through the Aurora, Giltner, and Hampton schools as well as Sixpence and Head Start in Aurora. This program relies totally on donations and grants and is coordinated through a small group of women in Aurora. Messiah has been collecting cans of fruit for the Hamilton County Backpack Program for several years. A wicker basket is located in the narthex. Your donations of fruit are so important as they go toward feeding children and their families in need throughout our county.



A soup fundraiser is being planned by the Backpack Program for March 22nd. Please watch for more information to come!

Messiah Quilters

Sanctuary Stained Glass Windows



beauty of the windows and the story they tell.

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



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

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.



Parma Werner Memorial Scholarship

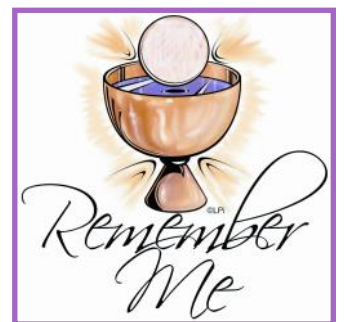
To apply for the Parma Werner Memorial Scholarship, you must be a graduating senior from a Hamilton County High School with a minimum GPA of 3.25 pursuing a four-year degree in either Education or Music, at the University of Nebraska Kearney. Applicant must be an active member of Messiah Lutheran Church and Messiah Lutheran High School Youth Group. All demonstrated leadership skills and extra-curricular activities are to be considerations.

Determination of qualified applicants and scholarship awardee to be made by Scott Werner, Mickie Werner, and Messiah Lutheran Stewardship Committee.

One \$500.00 scholarship will be awarded per year if qualifications for scholarship are met. Applications may be picked up at Messiah Church office.

*** Upcoming 1st Communion Classes ***

Pastor Rudy will have 1st Communion classes on Saturdays March 16th and 23rd from 9:30-10:30am for those interested in taking communion for the first time. We will celebrate 1st Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28th. Please let the office or Pastor Rudy know if you are interested.



Messiah Lutheran Church

Messiah Lutheran Church, ELCA
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March 2024