

Messiah's Mission

Statement:

"Touching Lives With Christ"

**April
2022**

PASTORAL MUSINGS

April 2022

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."
John 11:25-27

To All the Saints of God at Messiah,

God's most gracious blessings and peace be yours by the power and surety of the resurrection of all flesh through faith in the One Risen, Ascended, and soon to Return Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, 17 April, we will gather in God's house to celebrate the hope and joy of Easter. That day there will be great food, fellowship, and family visits. There will be much laughter and anticipation as winter yields to spring. There will be no shortage of celebration and excitement.

But what exactly do we celebrate on Easter Sunday? What is the source of the hope and joy of that day? The answer is found in the alternate title given to Easter Day: The Resurrection of Our Lord. On Good Friday, the tomb is closed and sealed with the dead body of our Lord inside. Before sunrise on Easter Sunday, the women arrive to find the tomb unsealed, open, and EMPTY.

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said."
Matthew 28:5-6a

As Jesus said to Martha, so it came to pass. He has risen, and so has become the source of resurrection to eternal life for all humanity. He is indeed the resurrection and the life. This is what we celebrate on Easter Day. This is what we confess to the world: He is not here, the tomb is empty, He is risen just as He said He would; just as was prophesied and promised in the Old Testament concerning the Savior of all mankind.

Just as St. Paul taught in the fifteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians, so has the Church taught throughout her history: the resurrection of Jesus Christ is foundational to all that we believe, teach, and confess. Without the Resurrection, there is no hope beyond this life. Without the Resurrection, we Christians are the worst of fools as our faith is futile and we have no hope or joy in this life or beyond.

Because Jesus Christ has bodily risen from the dead, through faith in Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we also shall experience bodily resurrection as sin, death, and the devil have been defeated by the suffering, death, and RESURRECTION of Jesus. Because of the Resurrection of Jesus, we have hope and joy in this life and the promise for life everlasting. This is what we celebrate on Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of Our Lord. May we all confess, celebrate, and proclaim to all: He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter

1:3-5

SOLI DEO GLORIA! AMEN!

**In the Messiah's Service,
Pastor Scott**



Echo

John 11 25-26 says, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”

I think about all that is happening in the world right now, that includes a war in Ukraine and its potential to escalate. It is so important to remember, when we take our last breath here on earth, it is not the end of our story. For those who trust in Jesus as their Savior, their existence will go on. For people that put their hope in Jesus, their story is full of joy, and our story will go on in Heaven as we live Jesus as he promises all of his believers.

As we approach Holy week in April, keep looking to Jesus as our Savior who died on the cross to pay for our sins and was raised from the dead, on Easter Sunday. His resurrection assures us of our resurrection and of a never-ending life of blessings.

May we always be thankful to God for loving us so much that he sent his only son to give his life for us on the cross. Because of his resurrection we know that we will live together forever in paradise where there is joy, peace and eternal love.

May God watch over you this Easter Season and bring you peace and love

**God Bless,
Elder Jon Larson**



Schedule of Special Services

Dinners for all Midweek Lent Services will be served at 6 pm

April 6th–7pm 6th Midweek, **Jesus said: “I AM” John 8:58**

-HOLY WEEK-

April 10th–10am Palm Sunday, **The Rite of Confirmation**

April 14th–7pm Holy Thursday, **Hold Fast the Confession
Heb. 10:23**

April 15th–12-3pm Good Friday, **Tre Ore Service, Meditation on
the Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross**

April 15th–7pm Good Friday, **Chief Service, He Gave Up His
Spirit, John 19:30**



Easter Lillies

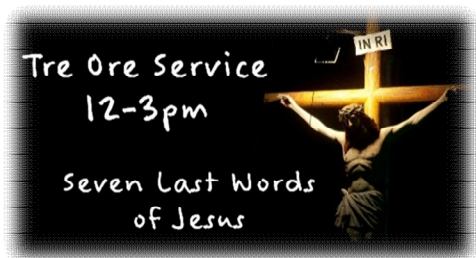
Please consider beautifying our altar this Easter with a Lilly plant! You may bring them on Saturday, April 16th, between 9am and 10am. Please write your name on the bottom of the plant and fill out a form (*located on entrance table*) if you wish to honor or memorialize someone. **Deadline** to submit forms to the church office is **April 13th**.

Tre Ore Singing Specials

For our upcoming Tre Ore Service 15th, we would like to invite you to special music. Whether it be a group, let us honor God with our talents! Please call or text Sharon Schrader to sign up or ask questions at 361-726-0555.



on Friday, April bring some solo, duet, or worship and



Tre Ore Worship

Good Friday

April 15, 2022

12:00 – 3:00 PM

Hosted by the Congregations of Circuit 27

Texas District of the LC-MS

“And when the sixth hour [noon] had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour [3 PM].”
(Mark 15:33)

Christians down through the ages have taken time on Good Friday to meditate during those hours of darkness, when the Son of God, Jesus, the Christ, hung on the Cross of Calvary. There, Jesus took our sin upon Himself, paying the price for the sins of the world, death. Although, we might look upon that day as horrible for our Lord, it was certainly a Good Friday for all humanity. For all who believe in Jesus as their Savior and trust in Him completely as their Lord, forgiveness of sins is theirs. Jesus is the once for all sacrifice!

The congregations of Circuit 27 of the Texas District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod invite you to be with us during the entire

Tre Ore Worship Service. The three hours will be divided into seven sections, with seven pastors each giving a homily on each of the seven words of Christ on the Cross. After each word, there will be a five-minute time for silent meditation. If you desire to leave, we ask that you do so quietly during one of the five-minute meditations. As you do so, you will find an offering plate at the rear of the sanctuary for the giving of glory to God the Father for the sacrifice of His Son.

Dear Father in heaven, by your Holy Spirit, help us to leave the distractions of this life and bless us to focus our attention on Your Suffering Servant, Jesus, the Christ. Lead us as we ponder once again how He gave His life for all. In Jesus' Name. Amen

Elder Update

James Richter was recently appointed Congregational President Noe Lopez Elders. Church Council approved the appointment. James is filling one of



CHURCH ELDERS

two Board of Elder vacancies. James will now be reading scriptures and assisting with communion in worship services. Some congregational members have been reassigned from an existing elder's member responsibility list to James' responsibility list. When James contacts you as your elder, let him know how much you appreciate him serving the Lord in this position. The Board of Elders welcome James to the board and look forward to working with him in service to the Lord. Pray for discernment, guidance, and spiritual growth for James and the rest of the Board of Elders as they fulfil their responsibilities to the best of their abilities.



Our Church's New Mobile App is Here!

We are pleased to announce we have an upgraded mobile app! Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile.

This new mobile app will be replacing GivePlus Mobile. With Vanco Mobile, you can send one-time donations or set recurring gifts.

How Do You Download Vanco Mobile?

It's easy! Head over to the App Store or Google Play to download Vanco Mobile for free. **Be sure to download this app soon, as GivePlus Mobile will be retired as of January 31st, 2022.**

To give using Vanco Mobile, follow these five easy steps:

- Search for our church by **name**, or **city**
- Select your gift amount, fund and frequency.
- Enter your payment method. (You can save this information for future use!)
- Choose whether you want to cover processing fees.
- Click **Submit** to complete your donation.

Planning Retreat

Your church appreciates your input as we prayerfully seek God's planning of Messiah's future and

Saturday April 30th.

Thank you! -Pastor Scott



attendance and guidance in the service to Him.



LWML

Women of Messiah's monthly meeting is on **April 19th at 7:00 pm.** Please make plans to join us!

Easter Choir

Choir practice for Easter is every **Tuesday at** are a total of 3 practices until Good Friday. Sharon Schrader to sign up or ask questions



6:30 pm. There Please call or text at 361-726-0555.



Easter Egg Hunt

The Board of Education will have an Easter egg hunt for all children **up to 5th grade** immediately following the 10 a.m. Divine Service on Easter Sunday, April 17th. If you would like to help with this, contact Sharon Schrader.

Graduates

Messiah will recognize all the graduates this need your help. If you or your son/daughter December or will graduate in May or August, church secretary know. We recognize both College graduates with a small gift. Thank you in advance.



year, but we graduated in please let the High School and

LWML Coastal Bend Zone Spring Event

Sunday, May 1st
St. Paul Lutheran Church
801 E. Main Street, Bishop TX

Registration: 2:00
Event Start: 2:30
Location: Parish Hall

Program: We will be doing hands-on activities and learning about the resources available through Visual Faith Ministry. Upon request, a special activity will be available for children ages 4 and up. Special Music will be provided by the Joyful Voices Choir.

In-Gathering: In recognition of the 80th anniversary of the LWML, we will be collecting items and assembling 80 care packages for Finals Week care packages for TAMUK students. Contact your group president for a list of items that your group is collecting for this project.

For more information on items to donate, to add TAMUK students to the care package recipient list, or to sign up your child for the special activity, contact Allison Ulmer at 361-236-5507 or alulmer@gmail.com.

Let All You Do be Done in Love
1 CORINTHIANS 16:14



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible study continues to meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Narthex at Messiah. We continue with the Study "Soul Spa" by Sharla Fritz. This is a great study and helps us get closer in our walk with the Lord. See you there.

VBS

Mark your calendar!!

June 20 – June 24, 9 am - 11:45 am is Vacation Bible School called "God's children age 3 years old (and potty 5th grade are encouraged to are older, we would appreciate your help. Signup sheets for all needs will be posted by April 1st. We will need an assist. director, music leader, craft leader, bible story leader, bible challenge leader, outside staff, refreshments staff and helpers everywhere. Please consider helping with this fun and exciting activity of Messiah! For more information contact Sharon Schrader.



Messiah's Wonder Lab!" All trained) through participate. If you

Mother's Day Out

MDO is currently enrolling current church students school year. Registration is open to the public on know of anyone looking for a great program, please at the Church office or mlcmdo@stx.rr.com. Our enrollment for 2021-22 stayed the same all year. Students-33, Teachers-5, Floaters-2



for the 2022-23 **April 1st**. If you contact Ms. Liz



Confirmation

Please join us on **April 10th** to celebrate the confirmation of Whitney Larson with **Jeremiah 29:11** as her confirmation verse. **"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."**

Lutheran World Relief

The Women of Messiah will be collecting items for Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. **These simple gifts improve the standard of living for people around the world. In the Andes, these kits are helping dairy farmers practice proper hygiene and, in turn, improve their dairy products through sanitary milking practices.**

We will be collecting through April. There is a collection box in the narthex. Items needed are:

- bath towel (preferably a dark color about 52" x 27" in size)
- 2 bars of soap
- a nail clipper with or without a file
- a toothbrush



Spotlight on Mite Grants

The following are two more of the national LWML mission grants for the biennium that ends March 21, 2023, that your mites help fund. Many of the grants have already received partial or full funding thanks to everyone's mite giving.

The Littlest and Least of These, Dallas, Texas St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy — \$42,000

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy is located in a poor Dallas community of mostly unchurched families and offers the only Christ-centered preschool, before and after school care, and adult academic and Bible classes. The Academy uses Christian books, music, and Bible stories. There are regular devotional services, and families are encouraged to attend worship. St. Paul is outgrowing their current facility after a single year of operation. Going forward, more space is needed for the preschool, nursery, and after-school educational enrichment. The kitchen serving meals needs to be upgraded to a commercial kitchen. The funds will help with these expenses and will allow the Academy to further expand their mission in the community and bring more to Christ.

Bring the Inner-City Children to Camp Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado — \$25,000

Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) shares both God's grace and the glory of His creation. Many families in metropolitan Denver are unable to fully finance camp tuition or provide transportation to LVR where their children would experience God's Word in daily devotions, singing, and worshipping around a campfire. This grant will span two summers when LVR will partner with Lutheran churches in Denver to arrange sign-up, transportation, and scholarships for 50 children from the inner city, so they could have this mountain-top camp experience. Research shows that the challenges of camp activities are transformational, giving children tools to overcome real-world challenges when they return home.

Council Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2202

Vice president, David Schrader, called the A quorum was present. Present were David Schrader, Marge and Noe Lopez, Evelyn Judy Kunkel, Alana Larson, Jerry Ellison, and the absence of the secretary, Judy Kunkel was appointed to take minutes.



meeting to order. and Sharon and John Polen, Pastor Herbert. In

Pastor opened with a devotion and prayer.

Minutes of the January meeting were read. Alana Larson moved to add John Polen's name to the nominating committee. Motion was seconded and passed. Judy Kunkel made the motion to change the word ratify the appointment of Laura Lopez to the correct word of approve. Motion was seconded and passed.

Pastor's report - Messiah hosted the circuit Winkel in February. Services for Lent/Easter season were given. There will be a Circuit 27 meeting in May to elect pastoral and lay delegates to the Synodical Convention in 2023. Pastor and an elder will attend. Full report attached.

Financial Secretary's Report-attached

Treasurer Report-attached. The last page gives a breakdown of payments on the new sign. Some money remains in the memorial fund because of insurance

payments for sign. It was noted that it appears that budget amounts were added to the Youth Fund and Benevolent fund. Sharon Schrader moved that we have the secretary remove these amounts from the funds and the budget should be spent before the funds are used. Motion was seconded and passed. Judy Kunkel will communicate this to the treasurer.

Evangelism report-none

Education report- VBS will be June 20-24 from 9-11:45 am with the theme of God's Wonder Lab.

Trustee's report-The old sign and old basketball hoop pole were hauled off. The BBQ pit is still useable and will remain. The parking lot edge bump will be worked on. Bushes by the sign will be removed. It was suggested to add more rocks to prevent weeds around the sign, and memorial money from sign project could be used.

Fellowship report-Lenten meals will be at 6 pm. March 9th- LWML (chicken spaghetti), March 16th-Council, March 23-Youth, March 30-Elders, April 6th-Council. Possible potluck March 20th.

Stewardship report-none

Elders report – Will be working on the membership list in the future.

Youth report- The sub fundraiser was successful with about \$575 in profit. Easter Breakfast will be served at 8 am

Vice President report- none

President's report – none

Old Business -none

New Business: James Richter has been appointed to fill the Elder position that expires in 2023. Sharon Schrader made a motion to approve the appointment. Motion was seconded and passed.

A Voter's meeting for elections was set for May 15th.

Judy Kunkel made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded and passed.

-Judy Kunkel, acting secretary



OUR MILITARY

Gary Roznovsky, LCDR – Naval Aviator – Alexandria, VA
Cheyenne Wilson, HS3 – Camp Lejeune, North Carolina
Dillon Anderson, PFC – Fayetteville, NC
Brandin Diamond, SSG – USAF – Deployed, Japan
Cristopher Diamond, PV2 – USAC – Deployed, Korea



Continued Prayers Requested For:

Marlene DePau, Pastor Jim & Margaret Sturgis, William Bluntzer, Kathy Jennings, Pam Luckenbach, Louise Diamond, Doug & Judy Wilson.

MEETINGS

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>ELDER'S:</u> | Monday, Apr. 4 th – 7 pm |
| <u>ELDER STUDY:</u> | Monday, Apr. 11 th – 7 pm |
| <u>LWML:</u> | Tuesday, Apr. 19 th – 7pm |
| <u>COUNCIL:</u> | Thursday, Apr. 21 st – 7pm |

April Servers

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|----------|----------------|
| Elder: | John Polen |
| Acolyte: | Whitney Larson |
| Altar: | Laura Lopez |

April 2022 Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---|
| 27 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10am Divine Service | 28 | 29 | 30 7pm 5th Midweek Lent | 31 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10am Divine Service | 4 7pm Elder Meeting | 5 | 6 7pm 6th Midweek Lent | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10am Palm Sunday Divine Service w/Confirmation | 11 7pm Elder Study | 12 | 13 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Lily Forms DUE</div> | 14 7pm Maundy Thursday | 15 12pm Tre Ore Service 7pm Chief Service | 16 9am-10am Bring Easter Lilies |
| 17 7am Easter Sunrise 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10am Easter Divine Service | 18 | 19 7pm LWML Meeting | 20 | 21 7pm Council Meeting | 22 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">May Newsletter Items DUE</div> | 23 |
| 24 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10am Divine Service | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 9am-4pm Congregational Planning Retreat |
| 1 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service 2:30 pm LWML Spring Event in Bishop | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

please email all corrections to mlc@stx.rr.com