

Messiah's Mission

Statement....

"Touching Lives
With Christ"

February

2021

PASTORAL MUSINGS

**Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.**

Psalm 1:1-3

Dear Saints of God,
Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

On 17 February we will begin the season of Lent for the year of our Lord 2021 with Ash Wednesday. Our Ash Wednesday worship will include the Imposition of Ashes and the celebration of the Holy Mystery of the Eucharist. The service starts with a reading from the Old Testament prophet, Joel, beginning with the following verses.

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster. (Joel 2:12-13)

Lent begins with a call from our Lord and God, our heavenly Father, to **“return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”** It is an invitation to humbly come to God in confession and repentance. An invitation to come for forgiveness and renewal as we prepare for the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and as we prepare for the uncertainties of a year that follows what was one of the most uncertain years we have ever experienced. Through His Word, God the Father equips and empowers us to be **ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us (2 Corinthians 5:20a)**; an appeal to a country hell-bent on sin and damnation to return to Him in humble repentance.

This invitation comes to the Christians in Corinth via Sts. Paul and Timothy.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God that is in Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:1-2)

It is through these same saints that God speaks to us this Lent.

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” (2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:2a)

And God encourages us not to delay in seeking Him and His salvation.

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2b)

Finally, Jesus Himself, in His Sermon on the Mount, reminds us:

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

Therefore, this Lenten Season, we humble ourselves before God. We come before Him with contrite hearts. We bow before Him in confession and repentance. We seek His mercy. We are raised up by the Holy Spirit in forgiveness and strength to be His witnesses to **this adulterous and sinful generation (Mark 8:38)**. We answer the call from God to be **“the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13a)** and **“the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14a)**, so that more will believe in Jesus who proclaims: **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6)**.

The Holy Spirit will guide our Lenten journey to the Cross of Christ this year with meditations on the Psalms during our Midweek Lenten Vespers services. The Scriptures for the midweek homilies will be:

Ash Wednesday (17 February) – Psalm 51
Midweek Lent II (24 February) – Psalm 25:1-10
Midweek Lent III (3 March) – Psalm 22:23-31
Midweek Lent IV (10 March) – Psalm 19
Midweek Lent V (17 March) – Psalm 107:1-9
Midweek Lent VI (24 March) – Psalm 119:9-16.

I encourage all the saints of God at Messiah to make it a priority this year to attend the Midweek Lenten services to be blessed by God through His Word. Pray that God would give you an opportunity to invite a neighbor to come to the Father's house with you **that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward Him and find Him (Acts 17:27)**. May God's peace be with us all.

In the Messiah's Service and Love,
Pastor Scott.



I hope this doesn't sound too corny, but it's been quite a while since I've communicated via writing. I'm John Polen, one of your elders. I've been given the honor of doing this month's echo. So please bear with me and I hope and pray our Lord will bless you as I proceed.

The first three commandments are about our relationship with God. As our Lord taught us, "Thy will be done as it is in heaven". I mess that up big time, especially in today's world. I find myself telling God how to do it. My prayer requests are more like demands and my patience is nowhere to be found.

As a father and a husband, I know that doesn't work. Having tried many and various ways, it still doesn't work. As some would say, well what does? I, we are lost on our own. Condemned to continually and utterly fail at doing and being right.

Here's the best part. I, we are rescued from our muck. Our sin makes us completely unlovable. THEN, THEN, THEN. HE, Jesus our Lord, does what this world will never understand. We can never understand. HE comes down, walks the same kind of life we have so messed up, but HE does it perfectly. HE even takes our shame and punishment. IT IS FINISHED!

But that's not the end of it. To completely seal the deal, HE rose from the dead and broke the curse forever. But HE doesn't leave us alone. We can never make it to the end by ourselves. So HE so lovingly sent us our helper, the Holy Spirit. I've watched as two very close loved ones have died. I, we cannot get to the end, the other side, alone by ourselves. Praise be to God, we don't have to! I am Jesus little lamb ever grateful that I am.

In His great and glorious name. Go in peace and His love.

In Jesus's name, Amen.
John Polen



Women of Messiah, LWML

The Women of Messiah, LWML will have a meeting on Tuesday, **February 16th, at 7 p.m. in the Narthex**. Please join us! All confirmed ladies of Messiah are encouraged to attend.

MDO

MDO ended up having to take a week off due to back this week (January 26th) and so far are doing enjoyed their time this year learning bible stories, We have definitely made the best of a crazy year! us and we have hired a new teacher. We welcome Ms. Milly this week into our classroom. Enrollment is still well. Kids- 32 Teachers- 6 and one Floater."



a few outbreaks. We came very well. The kids have really colors, shapes, numbers etc. Our Duck teacher had to leave



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible study continues to meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Narthex at Messiah. We are studying "Joy" by Deb Burma which is a study of Philippians. You are encouraged to join us Wednesdays for study and fellowship. This is a great opportunity to share and get to know others. Questions? Ask Sharon Schrader 361-726-0555.

Communion Help

The signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the kitchen to set up and clean up the communion ware on Sunday mornings. The signup is by month and is a very important part of every service. Laura Lopez is always ready to help you understand what is done. This is an opportunity for a person or family to assist in preparation for the service. Please consider this opportunity to serve your church and fellow believers.

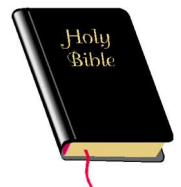


Flower Calendar

The Flower calendar for 2021 is up and ready for you to fill out for dates of importance to you and your family. It is on the bulletin board by the water fountain. Simply put your name on the date. Flower bouquets can be purchased from the store/florist you wish and brought to the church on the Sunday you chose. For your convenience, vases are available in the cabinet above the sink in the kitchen. **Help us beautify the Altar for services.** Thank you in advance.

Sunday school and Bible Class

The Sunday School program will be collecting money to send to Lutheran World Relief. We hope to purchase either hens and chicks for \$45 or a herd or half herd of animals. (herd is two goats, two piglets, two sheep and one hen and 6 chicks for \$530. Half herd is \$265) If you would like to contribute to this either put money in the black bag by the offering plate or put it in an envelope and mark it for Sunday School project. Your help is appreciated. We will be collecting through May when we will send in the money. Contact Sharon Schrader for specifics.



Recurring Giving Made Easy



We are truly grateful for your donations to Messiah. It's though your gifts that allow us to provide services and carry out acts of ministry in our area.

Have you thought making your regular gifts to Messiah using our eGiving tools? Our eGiving tools make it easy to schedule recurring gifts – the gifts you make every week now. By using recurring gifts with our eGiving services, your gift always arrives when you intend and in the correct amount.

Our eGiving options include:

- Online giving through our website www.messiahlcms-cc.org
- The free GivePlus mobile app from the App Store or Google Play

You can set up recurring gifts here or give a one-time donation. This is convenient way to ensure your gift is made, and you don't have to remember to bring cash or your checkbook to services. Plus, if you have to miss services one week, your gift will still be made.



Your Mites at Work

On the bulletin board in the Narthex is a graph showing the total mites given for the biennium and what grants have been paid. This graph is changed the first week of each month. These are the Texas District mites which account for 75% of the mites sent to district. The other 25% is sent to the National LWML which also has a budget for mites and a list of grants which it pays. You can find specific information about mites and the grant recipients at lwmltxdist.org for Texas and lwml.org for National. We thank all who help us by collecting and giving mites each month. It is amazing what can be done when we work together.



MEETINGS

COUNCIL:

Thursday, Feb. 4th – 6pm

ELDER'S:

Monday, Feb. 8th – 6pm

Elder Study:

Monday, Feb. 15th – 6pm

Continued Prayers Requested For:



Janie Guerrero (Marge Lopez's cousin), Marlene DePau, Cindy Divers (Julie Brynestad's sister), Pastor Jim & Margaret Sturgis, Floyd Hoff, William Bluntzer, Judy & Doug Wilson, and Mike Clevenger

OUR MILITARY

Gary Roznovsky, LCDR – Naval Aviator – Alexandria, VA
Cole Wilson, MK3 – USCG – Cutter, Seneca. Portsmouth, VA
Cheyenne Wilson, E3 – USCG, ANT Unit – Morgan City, LA
Jeremiah Sims, SFC – Ft. Campbell, KY
Dillon Anderson, PFC – Fayetteville, NC
Brandin Diamond, SSG – USAF – Deployed, Japan
Cristopher Diamond, PV2 – USAC – Deployed, Korea



December Servers

Elders:	Jon Larson
Ushers:	
Acolytes:	Whitney Larson
Alter:	Laura Lopez

Flower Schedule



Feb. 7 – Happy 1st Birthday Isabella Perkins!
Feb. 14 – Happy Birthday Irma Brewer!
Feb. 21 –
Feb. 28 –

Organists

Feb. 7 –
Feb. 14 –
Feb. 21 –
Feb. 28 –



February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Teo McDonald's <u>B.day</u> 9am Adult Bible Study 9am Kids' Bible Study 10am Divine Service <u>11:15 Voter's Meeting</u>	1 Kate and Jay Womack's anniversary	2	3 Margarita Lopez's <u>B.day</u>	4 <u>6:00pm – Council Meeting</u>	5	6
7 Alana Larson's confirmation Jon Larson's confirmation Karin Griffith's <u>B.day</u> Mary Lambert's <u>B.day</u> 9am Adult Bible Study 9am Kids' Bible Study 10am Divine Service	8 Irma Brewer's birthday John Lackey's confirmation <u>Pyrc Wittner's</u> birthday <u>6:00pm- Elder's Meeting</u>	9	10 Isabella Perkins's <u>B.day</u>	11 Sherry Ellison's <u>B.day</u>	12 Pamela Luckenbach's <u>B.day</u>	13 Kay Richter's <u>B.day</u>
14 Jamie Wilson's <u>B.day</u> Parker Bluntzer's <u>B.day</u> 9am Adult Bible Study 9am Kids' Bible Study 10am Divine Service	15 <u>6:00pm- Elder's Bible Study</u> Office Closed	16 <u>7pm- LWML meeting</u>	17	18 Newsletter Deadline	19	20 Evelyn Polen's <u>B.day</u>
21 Whitney Larson's baptism 9am Adult Bible Study 9am Kids' Bible Study 10am Divine Service	22 Amy Perkins's <u>B.day</u> Gloria Rouse's <u>B.day</u> Sally Bounds's baptism	23	24 Eddie Lopez's <u>B.day</u>	25	26	27 CoCo Utley's <u>B.day</u> Collin Utley's <u>B.day</u>
28 Cheryl Patten's <u>B.day</u> 9am Adult Bible Study 9am Kids' Bible Study 10am Divine Service	1 George Yaklin's baptism Marlene DePau's baptism	2	3	4 Evelyn Polen's baptism Kilmer Bluntzer's baptism Tanner Bluntzer's baptism	5 Robert Kunkel's birthday	6 <u>9:30am- LWML Zone Exec. Board Meeting</u>