

PASTORAL MUSINGS

[Jesus] said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church (assembly), and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:15-18)

herefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:19-25)

Dear Saints of God at Messiah and All Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Glory to Jesus forever!

Before I continue, allow me to assure you that I write this page not as a condemnation of anyone but as an encouragement for prayerful consideration as we move forward together as the "Corpus Christi" the body of Christ in this place.

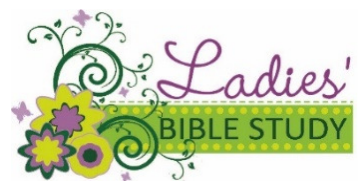
In the gospel of Matthew, after St. Peter's confession of faith declaring Jesus as **the Christ, the Son of the Living God**, Jesus makes a promise. He says, **"I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I shall build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."** In the original language which Matthew wrote his gospel, Koine Greek, the word that is translated "church" is "ekklesian," which is more literally translated as "assembly." The church is the assembly of God's children, those forgiven, redeemed, and saved by the shed blood of Jesus on the Cross of Calvary. Holy Scripture teaches us that Jesus died for all sinners. Even if there would have been only one person to ever live on earth, the Son of God, Jesus, the Christ, would have become incarnate and died on the cross for the sins of that individual. Yet, Holy Scripture also makes it very clear that we are not saved to stand alone as individuals, but we are saved together as a body of believers, as the assembly, the Church of God on earth. We are called to love and serve each other and to join all our gifts together as one body in Christ, to declare through word and deed our faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord and to invite all to receive the Word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, unto forgiveness, salvation and the promise of eternal life.

The Church of God is the assembly of believers, coming together **to stir one another to love and good works**. We need the blessings of God to remain faithful in this life, the blessings of coming together as a forgiven, redeemed believers who **devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42)**.

Therefore, may I humbly and lovingly encourage you to prayerfully consider once again a to begin a regular habit of meeting together with your brothers and sisters in Christ, here in God's house at Messiah Lutheran-Corpus Christi, Texas, **encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near**.
In Christ's Service, Pastor Scott

Women's Bible Study

You are invited to join the Women's Bible Study starting, **Wednesday, Sept. 9th, at 10:00 a.m.** in the narthex at Messiah. We will start with a review of the first 4 lessons in Divine Design by Sharla Fritz and then do the last 4 lessons in the study. If you were not part of the first ones this will allow you to catch up and work on the rest with us. Each person will receive a copy of the study to keep. Our sessions usually last about an hour with discussion and fellowship. Any questions, please ask Sharon Schrader.





MDO

We are back in session **Sept 8th!!** We couldn't be more excited, and we hear the kids are as well! We will be taking plenty of precautions to ensure the safety of our children and staff. Please pray for extra health and safety of everyone involved as we come back. Also, we strongly discourage visitors on Tuesday and Thursday to help with the safety of our children. If you must visit, make sure to always have a mask and be prepared to have your temperature checked.

Blessings, Liz Revis and the MDO Staff



Echo

End of Days

What is this world coming to? Boy, these kids today, no manners! Things were different when I was a kid! If that party gets elected, it'll be the ruin of our country! These are just a few of the many comments/complaints that one might hear today about social/political issues that our country is dealing with. What's interesting is that it doesn't necessarily apply to just our country, or a recent timeframe. All around the world people are lamenting how times are bad, and it's never been like this before. Some are questioning if we're in the end days. But we know that there have been bad times before with plagues, world wars, the holocaust, and mass genocides. We know that sin is ever-present in the world that causes this kind of depravity. So what's different about now? Is it just because almost everything that happens now is being filmed and Facebooked around the globe, so that it seems much worse? Or is it that the prophetic clock that has been ticking for 2000 years is about to strike midnight. Without getting into a deep evaluation of end times, I'll just leave 3 carrots to get you reaching into further inquiry. We know our redemption draws near when we see things happening (Luke 21:25-28), and we know when the fig tree (Israel) is about to bloom, this generation will not pass away (Matthew 24:32-35), Israel became a nation May 14, 1948, and we know, 'As it was in the days of Noah', so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. (Matthew 24:36,37)

No one knows the day or the hour, but we can know the season. And we are one day closer to the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Revelation 22:20 says it best: 'He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.' Keep your heads lifted up!

In Christ, Elder Devereaux



Alter Volunteers Needed

If anyone is interested in helping set up Communion, please contact Laura Lopez. She will gladly assist you in this service. Thank you!

Coastal Bend Zone Event

This year's event will be held **Saturday, October 3**. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with Brunch starting at 10:00 a.m. There will be a \$3.00 donation for the catered brunch. This will be followed by election of officers and any business that needs attention, then a program by the Good Samaritan ministry of Rockport. There will be an ingathering of items yet to be named. We are hopeful that this can occur. All ladies are welcome and carpooling to Rockport will be worked out. To find out more contact Sharon Schrader or Laura Lopez.



Dear Messiah Lutheran Members,

I'm writing to thank you for your support of Messiah and our ministry. Through your contributions, we're able to share the message of our God's redeeming love to our congregation and the larger community, giving people the strength and compassion needed to make it through difficult times such as these. In addition to giving your offerings at services and/or mailing offerings to the church, we are excited to offer new online and mobile choices. Our eGiving service, Vanco, provides tools to make giving simple even when you're unable to attend church. Their eGiving is safe and secure, and it allows you to designate your contribution to the church funds you are most passionate about.

eGiving lets you give a one-time donation or set up recurring donations through...

- **Our church's website**– Easily enter your donation from our website by clicking the "Give Now" button at www.messiahlcms-cc.org
- **Mobile app** – Download the GivePlus Mobile App on the App Store or on Google Play, enter the zip code for our church, **78410**, chose our church from the list, and donate.



Please see if any of these eGiving options will work for you. Contact Judy Kunkel if you need more information or need help to get set up. Thank you again for supporting Messiah and our ministry.

Sincerely, Judy Kunkel, Financial Secretary

Sunday School

We are excited to announce that Sunday School/Bible Class for all ages 3 and up will begin on **September 13th**, at 8:45 a.m. Have you noticed that the sign outside has always said Sunday School starts at 8:45? We're just going to start when the sign says. The Sunday School will be using the Enduring Faith Series from Concordia Publishing House, with the youth working a separate study from CPH. Teachers will be Alana Larsen for the younger children, Dev Brewer for the middle group and Stephen Brynstad for the youth. These classes will be available every week and we hope you and your family will begin to attend as soon as you are ready. We will begin in the Sanctuary on the 13th so everyone can be sent to the appropriate rooms. If you are interested in substituting any of these groups or have ideas to improve Sunday School please talk to Sharon Schrader.



Women of Messiah, LWML

Please join us on **Sept. 15, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Narthex at Messiah for our devotion and meeting. We will be discussing LWML Sunday, packing School Kits, fall activity possibilities, and plans to attend the Coastal Bend Zone Fall Event, Saturday, October 3, in Rockport. All ladies of Messiah are welcome and encouraged to attend if they are ready. Masks and social distancing will be required, but we can still interact and encourage each other. If you need a ride or want to ask questions talk or text Sharon Schrader. We hope to see a crowd.

Lutheran World Relief

School supplies are on sale and once again we will be collecting items for school kits for Lutheran World Relief who sends school kits around the world to children in need. Lutheran World Relief kits give families around the world some of life's essentials, as well as a reminder that they are not alone. From chronic poverty and conflict to drought and typhoon, the intensity of humanitarian needs continues to increase. In many countries, children cannot attend school without the needed supplies. The school kits will be used to take away the need to choose between food and education.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

We are collecting items to supplement the items we already have on hand to make more school kits. The basket on the LWML table is ready to collect the following items

- 70 sheet notebooks of wide-or college-ruled paper(**4 needed per kit**); no loose-leaf
- 30-centimeter Ruler or one w/inches & centimeters
- 5 Black or blue ball point pens (no gel ink)
- Pencil sharpener
- Crayons, 16 or 24 count

Thank you for your donations!



Spotlight on Mission Grants

These Texas District LWML Mission Grants are funded by your mite giving.

Lutheran Student Center Improvements — Lubbock — \$20,000

The Lutheran Student Center is in dire need of much deferred improvements, mainly carpet/flooring and exterior paint. We want students to know that this ministry, as well as their faith, is important enough to warrant an update to their “home” to encourage them to study, cook, and enjoy Christian fellowship.

Urban Base Camp Outreach — Camp Lone Star — \$15,000

Urban Base Camp is a new program designed to partner with urban congregations at their facilities to reach out to lower income youth in their communities, offering an adventurous Christ-centered camp. The mission grant will be used to purchase a mobile rock-climbing wall.

Giving Made Easy

Did you know we offer electronic giving? You can contribute anywhere, anytime right from your computer, smartphone, or tablet.

- Give online by visiting our website and click “Give Now” www.messiahlcms-cc.org
- Download our free GivePlus mobile app from the App Store or Google Play.

Get started today! Download our mobile app or visit our online donations page to get up your online contribution. Make a one-time donation or set up recurring donations.

MEETINGS

ELDER’S:
COUNCIL:

Monday, Sept. 14th, 6:00 pm
Thursday, Sept. 17th, 6:00 pm



Continued Prayers Requested For:

Janie Guerrero (Marge Lopez's cousin), Marlene DePau, Cindy Divers (Julie Brynestad’s sister), Pastor Jim Sturgis, William Bluntzer, and Judy Wilson.

OUR MILITARY

LCDR Gary Roznovsky – Naval Aviator – Alexandria, VA
MK3 Cole Wilson – USCG – Cutter, Seneca (deployed)
E3 Cheyenne Wilson – USCG, ANT Unit – Morgan City, LA
SFC Jeremiah Sims – Ft. Campbell, KY
PFC Dillon Anderson – Fayetteville, NC
E4 Brandin Diamond – USAF – North Carolina
PFC Cristopher Diamond – USAC – South Carolina

September Servers

Elders: Tom Griffith

Ushers: Noe Lopez, John Larson

Acolytes: Coco & Collin Utley

Organists



Sept. 6 – Stephen Brynestad
Sept. 13 – Sharon Schrader
Sept. 20 – Stephen Brynestad
Sept. 27 – Sharon Schrader

Flower Schedule



Sept. 6 –
Sept. 13 – Bounds
Sept. 20 – Schrader
Sept. 27 –