

Messiah's Mission

Statement:

"Touching Lives With Christ"

**February
2022**

PASTORAL MUSINGS

February 2022

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 and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:17-18)

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:18-20)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this He called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus

Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

(2 Thessalonians 2:13-17)

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 3:14-16)

Dear Messiah,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

In the devotion for 28 January from the *Treasury of Daily Prayer*, is this writing from St. Vincent of Lérins, a fifth century Gallic Christian Monk, concerning the necessity of the interpretations of the One Holy Catholic (Christian) and Apostolic Church for right interpretation of Holy Scripture.

From: *Commonitory* II.5–III.7

(Please note that “Catholic” in this context is not in reference to Roman Catholicism, as it did not exist as a separate entity at this time, but “Catholic” means the one, universal, Holy Church.)

But here someone perhaps will ask, Since the canon of Scripture is complete, and sufficient of itself for everything, and more than sufficient, what need is there to join with it the authority of the Church's interpretation? For this reason—because, owing to the depth of Holy Scripture, all do not accept it in one and the same sense, but one understands its words in one way, another in another; so that it seems to be capable of as many interpretations as there are interpreters. For Novatian expounds it one way, Sabellius another, Donatus another, Arius, Eunomius, Macedonius, another, Photinus, Apollinaris, Priscillian, another, Iovinian, Pelagius, Celestius, another, lastly, Nestorius another. Therefore, it is very necessary, on account of so great intricacies of such various error, that the rule for the right understanding of the prophets and apostles should be framed in accordance with the standard of Ecclesiastical and Catholic interpretation.

Moreover, in the Catholic Church itself, all possible care must be taken that we hold that faith which has been believed everywhere, always, by all. For that is truly and in the strictest sense “Catholic,” which, as the name itself and the reason of the thing declare, comprehends all universally. This rule we shall observe if we follow universality, antiquity, consent. We shall follow universality if we confess that one faith to be true, which the whole Church throughout the world confesses; antiquity, if we in no wise depart from those interpretations which it is manifest were notoriously held by our holy ancestors and fathers; consent, in like manner,

if in antiquity itself we adhere to the consentient definitions and determinations of all, or at the least of almost all priests and doctors.

What, then, will a Catholic Christian do if a small portion of the Church have cut itself off from the communion of the universal faith? What, surely, but prefer the soundness of the whole body to the unsoundness of a pestilent and corrupt member? What, if some novel contagion seek to infect not merely an insignificant portion of the Church, but the whole? Then it will be his care to cleave to antiquity, which at this day cannot possibly be seduced by any fraud of novelty.

St. Vincent reminds us that the Holy Scriptures did not drop down to us like a rock from God, but more like a dove that was given to us by God in the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through the human authors who first proclaimed the Gospel message by spoken word and then by letter (see 2 Thessalonians 2:15) as the Gospel message began to be written down over the first seven or eight decades of the Early Church.

He wants us to hear that we need the consistent witness of the Church throughout history to know the right understanding of Holy Scripture and to then be able to dispute other interpreters that come in after the fact and try to reinterpret the Bible according to their predetermined ideas. St. Vincent names those in the Early Church who interpreted Holy Scripture their own way, contrary to the witness of the Church and eventually proclaimed ***a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6b-7)***. We have many today who claim to have a “word from the Lord” that is then used to dispute what the Christian Church has proclaimed to be true for close to 2000 years.

We need the two millennia old witness of the Church to avoid a misinterpretation leading to heresy, such as led by those listed by St. Vincent, beginning with Novatian, and those today who, either by design or by accident, are also leading believers astray so as to bring to fruition St. Paul’s words to the Galatian Christians: ***I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel (Galatians 1:6)***.

As we seek wisdom for this age, may He who is indeed the Lord of heaven and earth, bless and keep us by His grace and mercy in all truth.

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



Planning Retreat

We will be postponing the congregational retreat until **Saturday April 30th.**

Thank you. -Pastor Scott





Echo

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In the beginning ... God. From here all creation started with His plan and direction. His ways were true and pure. We were the last of His creation.

He instructed Adam. We were to care for His creation and love Him back by doing His will. Adam, our great-great grandfather, as head of his household was supposed to care for Eve his wife. BUT he didn't. We carry that forward by not only the stain of that sin, as well as our own sin. We accepted and still accept the LIE, "Is that really what God said?"

We play with sin, seeking/searching for "our way". We go deeper and further down as we try to convince ourselves that we have the answer.

Jesus didn't just come as a baby. Yes, that's good/great/wonderful news; but He has and is doing much more for us.

Upon leaving, He sent the Holy Spirit to move and hold us to Himself.

The most positive and reassuring place we can be is in His Word, that Word (unlike the LIE) is able to not only hold us, but also bring us to the Father.

The Father created us, the Son redeems us and the Holy Spirit brings us in faith back to where we need to be, in the Word/home!

From the Wednesday Portals of Prayer, "Help me speak to all a word of peace, even when the world does not accept it. Give me acceptance of all that comes to me today in the spirit of forgiveness that animated Jesus. In His holy and blessed name I pray. Amen."

**In Jesus,
John Polen**



Stay Up-to-Date!

Please send your anniversaries, confirmation dates, birthdays, baptisms, updated e-mails and phone numbers to mlc@stx.rr.com. Thanks!

2022 Flower Calendar

Please consider writing your name on a date of our flower calendar located in the Narthex and help us beautify the Altar for services! Flowers can be purchased from the store or florist of your choice and brought to the church on your Sunday. For your convenience, vases are available in the cabinet above the sink in the kitchen. Thank you in advance!





MDO

Blessings from the MDO Staff. We had a great Christmas break and have been enjoying getting back into the swing of things. This month will be full of fun with different activities. As always, we have open spots in our Pre-K room and actively seeking more Substitutes.

Enrollment: Students- 33, Teachers- 5, Floater-1, Volunteers-2

Women's Bible Study

It's never too late to join us for Bible study! We are doing the study "Soul Spa" by Sharla Fritz. During this 8-week study, we will sample 28 different experiences that will help you draw upon the spiritual renewal that only the Holy Spirit offers. He will soothe your hurts and fill you with hope. He will nurture your soul with grace and mercy and peace. Please join us in 2022. All members and friends are invited and encouraged to come!



Sunday School

All children are invited to Sunday School in 2022. This is a great time to begin this experience with your children. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class begin at 8:45 every Sunday morning. Children and adults of all ages are invited and encouraged to join us as we study God's word and learn about Jesus. Classes are available for all ages.

Altar Help

The signup sheet is on the fridge in the kitchen to with the communion ware on Sunday mornings. Volunteer now for monthly rotation, it is a very important part of every service. Laura Lopez is always ready to help you learn. This is for an individual person or a family to assist in preparation for the service. Please consider this opportunity to serve your church and fellow believers.



Volunteers Needed

The Board of Elders is looking to fill the position of head usher. The head usher responsibility is to recruit, train, schedule, and remind ushers of their assignments for worship services. Pastor Herbert has agreed to help with the training part. Messiah also needs as many members as possible to usher on a rotating basis. Ushering is a way to serve the Lord in a worship setting. It hopefully gives members another reason to attend worship more often. If you feel called to serve in this way, contact Pastor Herbert or Robert Kunkel.



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.

LWML

Women of Messiah, our monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 15th, at 7:00 pm. Please make plans to attend!



Voter's Meeting!

Make plans to attend your church Voter's Meeting on Sunday, February 6th, 2022. It will be held for all member of Messiah Lutheran Church following the Divine Service at approximately 11:15 am. Every vote counts!

Spotlight on Mite Grants

Your monthly mite giving goes to support these mission grants of the national LWML.

Redeeming Life Maternity Home, Illinois Expansion- Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries — \$100,000

Redeeming Life currently operates maternity and transitional homes in Central Florida for single pregnant women who are homeless, abused, and/or at-risk of abortion. It is a proven model. This grant will help Redeeming Life support a called deaconess to serve in a new location in the Chicagoland area. Additionally, the funds will help offset the costs, during the first two years, of operating a safe and stable home (rent, utilities, food) and provide program services for the women to be



served. Redeeming Life's goal is for their residents to learn to live independently and offers many opportunities for the women to understand that, in Christ, there is forgiveness, peace, and unconditional love.

Mercy Medical Care for Tanzania - Mwadui Lutheran School and Community — \$68,182 Mwadui Lutheran School in Shinyanga, Tanzania, has become one of the leading schools in the region with enrollment increasing from 40 to over 200 students. It is educating many new pastors, teachers, and professionals from all over western Tanzania using a curriculum with a Christian world view and daily chapel. This educational facility has become a valuable Christian outreach ministry to the community and region. However, malaria and other health issues continue to be a vexing problem for the students, teachers, staff, and community. The next step in enhancing this educational facility is starting a medical clinic. This grant will purchase medical equipment, medical supplies, and medicine to treat the various illnesses of the student community in the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tanzania (SELVD-ELCT).

Council Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2021



The meeting was called to order by Vice President David Schrader. David gave an opening prayer. A quorum was present with the following in attendance-Judy Kunkel, David and Sharon Schrader, Evelyn and John Polen, and Marge and Noe Lopez. Since we don't have a Council Secretary, Judy Kunkel was appointed to take minutes.

The minutes of the October meeting were read. With a minor correction to the name of Mt. Olive Lutheran church, the minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report – none

Financial Secretary's report is attached.

Treasurer's Report is attached.

Evangelism Report-none

Education Report-Sharon Schrader reported that MDO has 33 children enrolled and for Thanksgiving, parents will be invited for songs, lunch with their children and pie provided by MDO. The Sunday School Christmas program will explain the story of the Candy Cane and is being directed by Erika Larson. The program will be during the service on Dec. 19th.

Trustee's Report- the chair was not present but the need to work on the leaky roof and steeple leak was discussed.

Fellowship report- Marge Lopez reported that we will have the Thanksgiving feast and Advent meals. Council members signed up to bring items for the second Advent meal.

Stewardship Report – John Polen will be helping on the Stewardship committee. A time and talent survey was discussed.

Youth Report - none

Vice President-David commended the Larson girls for ushering. More ushers are needed, and women are welcome.

President's report – A discussion was held on the need for climate-controlled storage. Several possibilities were discussed. A committee will be needed to look at options.

Old Business-none.

New Business was covered in the President's report.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Judy Kunkel

Acting Secretary



OUR MILITARY

Gary Roznovsky, LCDR – Naval Aviator – Alexandria, VA

Cheyenne Wilson, HS School – USCG – Petaluma, CA

Dillon Anderson, PFC – Fayetteville, NC

Brandin Diamond, SSG – USAF – Deployed, Japan

Cristopher Diamond, PV2 – USAC – Deployed, Korea

Continued Prayers Requested For:



Continued Prayers Requested For:

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

MEETINGS

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>ELDER'S:</u> | Monday, Feb. 7th – 7 pm |
| <u>ELDER STUDY:</u> | Monday, Feb. 13th – 7 pm |
| <u>LWML:</u> | Tuesday, Feb. 15th – 7 pm |
| <u>COUNCIL:</u> | Thursday, Feb. 17th – 7pm |

February Servers

Elder: Dev Brewer
Acolyte: Whitney Larson
Altar:
Usher:

February 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 30 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service | 31 Teo McDonald's birthday | 1 Kate and Jay Womack's anniversary | 2 10am- Women's Bible Study | 3 Margarita Lopez's birthday | 4 | 5 |
| 6 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service Voter's Meeting! | 7 Alana Larson's confirmation Jon Larson's confirmation Karin Griffith's birthday Mary Lambert's birthday 7pm- Elder Meeting | 8 Irma Brewer's birthday John Lackey's confirmation Pyrce Wittner's birthday | 9 10am- Women's Bible Study | 10 Isabella Perkins's birthday | 11 Sherry Ellison's birthday | 12 Pamela Luckenbach's birthday |
| 13 Kay Richter's birthday 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service | 14 Jamie Wilson's birthday Parker Bluntzer's birthday 7pm- Elder Study | 15 7pm- LWML Meeting | 16 10am- Women's Bible Study | 17 7pm- Elder Study | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Evelyn Polen's birthday 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service | 21 Office Closed Whitney Larson's baptism Newsletter Items Due | 22 Alex Lopez's birthday Amy Perkins's birthday Gloria Rouse's birthday Sally Bounds's baptism | 23 10am- Women's Bible Study | 24 Edward Lopez's birthday | 25 | 26 |
| 27 CoCo Utley's birthday Collin Utley's birthday 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service | 8 | 1 George Yaklin's baptism Marlene DePau's baptism | 2 10am- Women's Bible Study | 3 | 4 Evelyn Polen's baptism Kilmer Bluntzer's baptism Tanner Bluntzer's baptism | 5 Lee Tiller's birthday Robert Kunkel's birthday |

Please e-mail all corrections to mlc@stx.rr.com