

Messiah's Mission

Statement:

**"Touching Lives
With Christ"**

**March
2022**

PASTORAL MUSINGS

March 2022

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that, together you may with one voice, glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.
(Romans 15:4-7)

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and imposters will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believe, 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 Jesus Christ. 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 3:12-17)

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Messiah,

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

As we get ready for our Lenten journey in the year of our Lord 2022, allow me to share a few thoughts with you.

What you read has an impact on the way you think. So does what you watch on TV or at the movies. Think about what you want to let into your mind to influence your thinking. Your reading should be something that will be a positive impact on your spiritual growth; that will shape your mind and orient it towards God.

To maximize the positive conditioning of your mind, you should plan to make time to regularly read the Holy Scriptures, the writings of the Holy Fathers and the lives of the people of God who have gone before us. You should organize your life so that you can spend at least a half hour a day for this task, maybe instead of one of the TV programs you watch regularly. A good time for this is in the evening just before bedtime, before or after your evening prayer. When you do this, you will then fall asleep with these blessed thoughts in your mind.

The spiritual life is challenging. It is like an ascent up a steep slope or mountain side. It is a long and slow pathway with joyful moments along the way. As you move along the path, you gain strength. You can begin to look back and reflect on how far you have come while still seeing that you have much further to travel. As you gain strength, you will be able to face an ever more difficult terrain as well as the uncertainty of storms that you cannot predict. It is often a lonely path, and at times it seems like you will never reach the summit.

As you face these difficulties, the readings can inspire you with courage to continue along the path. You can see that others have traveled this path before you, and with persistence and faith, they have reached much higher heights than you can now see. As you turn to those who had an intimate relationship with God, they will give you hope and kindle a spark of warmth in your heart. They will help you keep your head high and your eyes fixed on the journey ahead. They will show you that your capacity to choose, to change, and to endure is a reality. They will show you the way to wisdom and love and the potential to be able to radiate spiritual glory as you discover the light of God in Christ Jesus and find yourself in a glorious relationship with Him.

The Bible contains the most important books to read regularly. Here are some suggestions on how to read the Bible:

- Read the Bible with obedience. Remember that it is inspired by God. It is Christ Himself speaking to you.
- This means you need to maintain a sense of wonder along with listening without judgment. Don't take wonder for granted. Because of your familiarity or the commonness of the Bible, you can take what is written in the Bible just like any other written material and lose your sense of awe and wonder as you read it.
- Reading the Bible cannot be like reading a novel or the daily newspaper. Just like prayer, you need to prepare your mind to the nature of the text

you are about to read. This is the Word of God. With wonder, you can open yourself to listen to what is being said.

- Look for the spiritual significance of what is written. Remember the Bible is not a textbook, but a spiritual document. As you listen to the words as you read them, you will realize the awesome task that God has for you and His unlimited love He has for all humankind.
- When you read the Bible, don't try to make up your own interpretation. Scripture is to be interpreted through the Church. Remember the story of Philip coming in contact with the Ethiopian reading the Bible in his chariot? Philip asks him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The Ethiopian replied, "How can I unless someone guides me". This is the same attitude you should have.
- Scripture is not always self-explanatory. When you are at different stages of your spiritual growth, passages will take on different significance. As you grow spiritually, the Bible has more and more to teach you. You should take advantage of Biblical commentaries and of the writings of the Church Fathers to help you. This is one of the advantages of using the Lutheran Study Bible, as it contains comments to help you understand what is written as interpreted by the Church.
- Your reading of the Bible should always be **Christ-centered**. Your interpretation should be made in light of the harmony and completeness that Jesus brought to this world. You cannot take an analytical approach and break each book or chapter into its own part. **The Bible must be understood as a whole, with Christ as the bond and union.**

You should also read the Bible for a personal application. Saint Mark the Monk (5th-6th Century) says, "He who is humble in his thoughts and engaged in spiritual work, when he reads Holy Scriptures, will apply everything to himself and not to his neighbor." Do not ask, "What does this mean?" But, instead ask **"What does this mean for me?"**

When reading the Bible, first reflect that Scripture is a sacred history of the world from the time of Creation through the formation of the early Church. Then observe the particularity of this history where we find God intervening at specific times and places and entering into dialogue with specific individuals. After reliving this spiritual history, apply it to yourself. You need to bring these distant places and times into your own place and time and see that these stories include you.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as you travel the penitential road of Lent, make time to let the Word of God guide, strengthen, and encourage you. Then, as the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord washes over us once again, purposefully resolve to keep that practice for the rest of your life as you seek to grow spiritually in your relationship with your Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. God's blessings to you.

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



Howdy Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we prepare for the season of Lent, so quickly approaching, let's prepare our hearts and self reflection to the ultimate Love story. The Love of Jesus Christ. A quick Google search reveals that in the New International Version of the Bible, Love appears 686 times.

The wedding verse is the first verse that I think of and immediately remember our wedding day in the big Church filled with our family and friends.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 1 Corinthians 13:4

The next love memory is from my time in the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M when our buddies were what we relied on to make it through the tough times. (Some of those times included some slightly raised voices from upper classmen and running a little!)

Greater love has no one than this: then to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

When thinking about all the many different worldly atrocities and sins we face and overcome;

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Remembering the Old Testament, teaching us the many laws to guide our faith and emphasize our examples that impact our children for generations to come; The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generations. Numbers 14:18

This is just 5 of the love verses that come to the top of my mind. I encourage all of us to reach into our memory banks, review past bible studies and prepare our minds for future experiences by reading all 686 love verses! If there anything that motivates me is a challenge and I look forward to making that a goal to reach.

In his love, Justin



Easier Lilies

Please consider placing an Easter Lily in honor/memory of a loved one. We would like to beautify the Altar this Easter with Lilies or any live blooming plant. Please purchase and bring your Lilly to church on Easter Sunday or the Sat. before on 4/16 between 9am-10:00am. We ask that you put your name on the bottom of the pot, so you get it back. Forms available March 13th and due to church office secretary (Christinna Elizondo) by April 13th. Email the forms to mlc@stx.rr.com, text 361-317-2656, or place office desk.



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



Schedule of Special Services

Dinners for all Midweek Lent Services will be served at 6 pm except for Ash Wednesday.

- March 2nd–7pm Ash Wednesday, **Return to the Lord, Your God Joel 2:13**
- March 9th–7pm 2nd Midweek, **Mercy and Grace, Heb. 4:16**
- March 16th–7pm 3rd Midweek, **Great is Your Faith, Matt. 15:28**
- March 23rd–7pm 4th Midweek, **Blessings in the Word, Luke 11:28**
- March 30th–7pm 5th Midweek, **They Devoted Themselves, Acts 2:42**
- April 6th–7pm 6th Midweek, **Jesus said: "I AM" John 8:58**

	-HOLY WEEK-
April 10 th –10am	Palm Sunday, The Rite of Confirmation
April 14 th –7pm	Holy Thursday, Hold Fast the Confession Heb. 10:23
April 15 th –12-3pm	Good Friday, Tre Ore Service, Meditation on the Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross
April 15 th –7pm	Good Friday, Chief Service, He Gave Up His Spirit, John 19:30

As we begin the 40-day season of Lent, you are invited to attend our Ash Wednesday worship to receive the mark of the cross in ashes, a reminder that we are sinners redeemed by Christ the Crucified. In our lesson from God's Word, we will learn that, just as Lazarus was unbound and released from his burial wrappings, we are released from the deadly bonds of our sin through the forgiveness that is ours in Christ Jesus.



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

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

Thank you. -Pastor Scott

Stay Up-to-Date!

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



LWML

Women of Messiah, we will not have a monthly meeting for the month of March.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for the week of June 20 - 24. We will hold VBS from 9:00 - 11:45 a.m. that week. The theme is *God's Wonder Lab*. We will be needing parents, grandparents, and youth to help with this activity. We also need you to bring your children, grandchildren, and any other children you may know to this event. This is an opportunity to share God's word with all children. It will be a fun filled week. Check with Sharon Schrader for more information.





Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study continues to meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Narthex at Messiah. All ladies and their friends are welcome and encouraged to attend. We continue with the study **Soul Spa** by Sharla Fritz. Please join us as you are able.

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

Here are 2 more mission grants that the LWML is funding with your mite donations.

Gospel Outreach to Women and Children in Mongolia Lutheran Hour Ministries — \$100,000

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) has an opportunity to expand its mission outreach of the Gospel to the Kazakh women and children in Mongolia, a non-Christian country. The Kazakh people are nominally Muslim and the country of Mongolia is largely Buddhist with a less than one percent Christian population. Through widely-accepted Women's Listener groups, religious broadcasts, and Christian resources in the Kazakh language, family members and relatives will be impacted by the Gospel in their homes. LHM has the media expertise to ensure the Gospel message is brought to a region where the populations have not heard the Gospel. Christian resources are being distributed, including Bible studies and booklets translated into the Kazakh language, as well as into Mongolian, the main language of the region.

Caring for and Sharing Christ with Hurting People Concordia Seminary, St. Louis — \$100,000

Deaconesses are continually pointing those they serve toward the cross, sharing the Gospel with them so they gain the wonderful gift of eternal life through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Concordia Seminary has requested, through this mission grant, much-needed scholarships for deaconess students

and assistance with seminary costs to provide high-quality theological education. Enrollment in the new online Deaconess Studies Program is expected to increase, enabling the faculty to form more well-trained deaconesses and bring more people to Jesus and provide compassionate, Christ-centered help to those who are hurting and suffering — physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Voter's Meeting Minutes **11/14/2021**



The meeting was called to order by Noe Lopez. There were 13 members present. Laura Lopez took the minutes for this meeting.

Judy Kunkel read prior minutes from the last meeting. *Approved as read.* Laura Lopez motioned for acceptance, and John Larson 2nd motion.

Fellowship – Marg Lopez said the Thanksgiving Feast Dinner is still a go. Sign up sheet is still up.

Education – Sharon Schrader said MDO is running smoothly, and their Christmas Program will be on 12/16 at 1pm. Sunday School Christmas Program will be during the Worship Service on Sunday 12/19. Urged all to encourage children to participate.

Youth – Alana Larson said the Youth will provide the Advent Dinner on 12/5. Soup & Sandwiches will be served.

Elder Report – Robert Kunkel said that the Elders voted to give a 2.5 increase to Pastor Scott. (this is already in the budget) and a 5% increase to Christina. (also in budget)

Vice Pres Report – David Schrader said that he has been keeping the numbers each Sunday, and has seen a slow increase in the number attending.

Treasurers Report – See attached. We did receive insurance money to cover the new sign along with memorials, etc.

Budget Report – Noe Lopez thanked everyone for their work on the Budget. Overall, it shows just a \$300 per week increase over last years budget. See attached. The budget was reviewed, and a motion was made by Rose Sims, and a 2nd from John Larson to accept the 2022 Budget.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Laura Lopez

Council Meeting Minutes **January 20, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by President Noe Lopez. Pastor gave an opening devotion followed by prayer. In attendance was Judy Kunkel, David and Sharon Schrader, Alana Larson, John and Evelyn Polen, Noe and Marg Lopez, Pastor Herbert, Jerry Ellison, and Laura Lopez.



Church Council meeting minutes from December 16, 2021 were *approved*.

Pastor's Report – Bible studies continue, and he attended the Pastor Conference at Peace Lutheran, Rockport. The Congregation Retreat has been postponed until April 30th. His health is good, with follow-ups yearly.

Financial Secretary's Report – Judy Kunkel submitted attached report.

Treasurer's Report – See Attached report submitted by Javona Karnei.

Evangelism – No Report

Education – Sharon Schrader is looking for a Sunday School teacher for the 4th-7th grades. Pastor Herbert will immediately take the High School Sunday School class. David Schrader will take over the Adult Bible Study class. Sharon is also working with the Board of Education for a Vacation Bible School program this year.

Trustee – Jerry Ellison will be working on taking the bushes out of the bed where the Church sign is, and replacing with rock as it blocks part of the sign. We will then have a Dedication of the Sign. Discussed replacing of entire parking lot, because of the tripping hazard where the asphalt and concrete meet. Agreed to remove the lip edging and patch where the asphalt and concrete meet. Received document from Church Mutual (our insurance company) regarding the Act of Terrorism Policy we have, if we wanted to opt out of it. Motion made by Sharon Schrader, and seconded by Jerry Ellison to keep.

Fellowship Report – Marg Lopez said that the Valentine Dinner is up in air because of Covid at this time. Pastor asked Marg that a continental breakfast and light lunch items be served for the Church Retreat.

Stewardship Report – John Polen reported that he met with Pastor Phillip Allman at the Orange Grove Lutheran church. Pastor Allman is gradually trying to guide them into the Missouri Synod relations. John also said Messiah will continue to help in the transition to Missouri Synod. This takes time. John also said that he would get back with them about what the role LWML is. Messiah LWML continues to invite them to our Zone activities.

Youth – Alana Larson stated that Erica Larson was very grateful to the Board of Edu for allowing her to run the Children's Christmas Program this past year (2021). Possible out plans for Camp Lone Star and the National Youth gathering are being discussed. She requested a Thrivent Gift Card to help with expenses related to the Sub Sandwich fundraiser Sale. She said the Youth could help with the Valentine's Dinner, if we have it. Marg Lopez purchased new Christmas Garland for the Youth to use in the Sanctuary. Child Care for the Church Retreat will be provided by Mother's Day Out.

Elder's Report – John Polen suggested maybe a Survey go out before the Retreat. Pastor said no, he has plans already set. James Ritcher said he will serve on Board of Elders.

Vice President Report – David Schrader reported that women can help with ushering. Linda Simms helped and did good.

President Report – Noe Lopez reported that Dev Brewer is heading the Audit Committee, and is awaiting Tom Griffin's acceptance to help.

Old Business: Nominating Committee, John Polen and Judy Kunkel agreed to help and Noe said he needs one more individual to help. Names were given and contacts will be made.

New Business: Voters Meeting on February 6, 2022. Motion was made by Judy Kunkel and seconded to approve the appointment of Laura Lopez for the Recording Secretary position.

With no further business, the meeting was closed with the prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Laura Lopez

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:

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

MEETINGS

ELDER'S: Monday, Mar. 7th – 7 pm

ELDER STUDY: Monday, Mar. 14th – 7 pm

LWML: **no Mar. meeting**

COUNCIL: Thursday, Mar. 17th – 7pm

February Servers

Elder: Devereaux Brewer

Acolyte: Whitney Larson

Altar:

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 CoCo Utley's birthday Collin Utley's birthday 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service	28	1 George Yaklin's baptism Marlene DePau's baptism	2 7pm Ash Wednesday	3	4 Evelyn Polen's baptism Kilmer Bluntzer's baptism Tanner Bluntzer's baptism	5 Lee Tiller's birthday Robert Kunkel's birthday
6 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service	7 7pm Elder Meeting	8	9 Michelle Swalley's birthday 6pm Lent Dinner by LWML 7pm 2 nd Midweek Serv.	10 Logan Millhouse's birthday	11 Tom and Karin Griffith's anniversary	12
13 Pastor James Sturgis's birthday 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service	14 Roy Rouse's birthday 7pm Elder Study	15	16 6pm Lent Dinner by Council 7pm 3 rd Midweek Serv.	17 7pm Council Meeting	18	19
20 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service	21	22	23 Audrey Bluntzer's baptism Clara Roznovsky's birthday JB Richter's confirmation 6pm Lent Dinner by Youth 7pm 4 th Midweek Serv.	24	25 Dillon Anderson's birthday Erika Larson's confirmation Luke Davis's baptism	26
27 Amy Perkins's confirmation 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service	28	29	30 6pm Lent Dinner by Elders 7pm 5 th Midweek Serv.	31 Michael Cruz's birthday Pyrce Wittner's baptism	1	2

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