

Messiah's Mission

Statement:

"Touching Lives With Christ"

May
2022

PASTORAL MUSINGS

**DO THE WORK OF CHRIST
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL PLANNING RETREAT
SATURDAY 30 APRIL 2022 (9 AM TO 4 PM)
A DAY TO PRAY, PONDER, AND PROCLAIM**

Nineteen members of Messiah came to pray together, ponder, and proclaim God's Word and to plan for the future work of God in this place. We began with an opening service, Morning Prayer, which included readings from Romans 8:12-17 and John 14: 8-21. The sermon title was "Do the Work of Christ" based on John 14:12-14.

Sermon for the Congregational Retreat 30 April 2022

Readings: Romans 8:12-17; John 14:8-21

Sermon Title: "Do the Work of Christ"

Sermon Text: John 14:12-14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19:14) Amen

The text for our meditation is in the Epistle reading from Revelation.

[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will He do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it." (John 14:12-14)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Back in January, on the Third Sunday after the Epiphany, we heard these words from St. Paul: ***Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it (1 Corinthians 12:27).***

Earlier, in 1 Corinthians 12, St. Paul says,

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Cor 12:12–13)

Through the waters of our Baptism, the Holy Spirit has come upon us, dwells in us, and unites us as one body, the body of Christ. St. Paul also reminds us that as individual members of the body of Christ, we are gifts of Christ to the Church and to each other. Therefore, we have a responsibility to each other, to encourage and strengthen each other to stand against the false teachings of the world.

And He [Christ] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness in Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:11–16)

As the body of Christ, we are indebted to Jesus for our forgiveness and salvation, and to each other as ***The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ (Romans 8:16–17a).***

The body of Christ is to be the body of Christ by doing the works of Christ.

[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will He do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.” (John 14:12–14)

All glory, honor, and praise be to the One True and Only God,
The Father, The ✕ Son, and The Holy Spirit. Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7) Amen

After a brief break, we reviewed church boards, the chairs and meeting times, along with the budget for 2022 and how we are doing so far.

We then spent some time reviewing the past and recent present, talking about prouds and sorries, things that we need to learn from and not repeat, and things that God has done among us that need to continue.

Then we discussed the question: How do we get the world to see the Risen Christ?

Based on some insights from *How Does America Hear the Gospel* by William A. Dyrness and *The Younger Evangelicals—Facing the Challenges of the New World* by Robert E. Webber, we discussed:

How do the Gospel and Culture Interact?

A Theological and Evangelistic Method for Americans,

What is the Church?

What is the Nation?

What is the Church in the Nation? and

What Shall We Do?

Before lunch, we prayerfully pondered Jesus' words in John 15:7–8 where He says, ***“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.”***

After our lunch break, we started to plan for the future of the Gospel ministry here at Messiah.

We talked about adding bible study classes and a study in our Lutheran Confessions in the Book of Concord. We also talked about adding a Grief Share class and looking into the possibility of Steven Ministries at Messiah.

We began to set up committees to investigate work that needs to be done at Messiah in the following areas:

Community Service

Internet, Social Media, Website, etc...

Property and Facilities

One, Five, Ten Year Plans

The heads of these committees will be recruiting help from members to do research and make recommendations for the future.

Our Spring Voters' Assembly meeting will be on Sunday 15 May.

Our Fall Voters' Assembly meeting will be in November.

Those in attendance on Saturday 30 April agreed that we need to gather again in six months to review progress and continue planning. The next retreat will occur on Saturday 5 November.

Our closing devotion and prayer was based the end of the Gospel of Luke and the beginning of his second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, where the Word of God declares ***that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations (Luke 24:47)*** and encourages us to be ***devoted to the apostles teachings and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42)***, while ***the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved (Acts 2:47b)***.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Scott Herbert



Echo

As this year progresses and goes forward, we look around and see where we are. To do that, we take stock of who, what, where and why. Those all point to past, present and future. As the season of Easter builds toward the resurrection it points out all the negative evil that not only the world is involved in, but most importantly we ourselves are involved in.

We, by our sinful nature, desire to accept and do what is contrary to what is right. That's a perfect definition of sin. "What is not right with God, is sin." Are they the ten suggestions, or are they the Ten Commandments?

Here is where the meaning of the Easter season bears fruit. It is that Jesus not only died but was resurrected and lives now and in the future. He, God, knows the past, present and future. Jesus didn't leave us alone to deal with the past, present and future. He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us.

He is and will be there to take us through. He turns us from sin and despair to Faith and Glory.

May He keep our hands tightly grasped around Jesus and His promises for our present and future; as He, Jesus, has washed our past clean with His blood.

**In Jesus's resurrection and Holy name! Amen
John Polen**



Graduates

We will be honoring the Graduates at the Divine Service on May 15th. If you or your child is graduating from High School or College, please let the church know so they can be included. Your special moments are so important to your church family.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will continue to meet through Wednesday, May 18th. Then, we will take a summer break. Feel free to join us through the 18th as we continue the Study of "Soul Spa" by Sharla Fritz. Hope to see you Wednesdays at 10 a.m.



VBS

Save the Date!

Where: Messiah Lutheran Church

When: June 20 – 24

9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Please join us for a fun filled week of Vacation Bible School! We are accepting registration for 3 year olds (mostly potty trained) through 5th grade. We are also accepting volunteers to work in this activity. Please go to <https://vbsmate.com/MessiahLutheranChurchCorpusChristiTX21> to register your child or volunteer to help or scan the QR code with your camera app.



Service to Your Church

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10

On May 15th, we will have **voter's meeting** to elect officers to help lead the church. We currently still have several open positions that need to be filled: President, Board of Stewardship, 2 Elder positions

Please prayerfully consider taking an active role in **your** church. Remember that God will be with you and equip those that are called to do these jobs just as he equipped Moses to lead the Israelites (Exodus 3 and 4).

The Nominating Committee – Judy Kunkel, Sherry Ellison, John Polen and Pastor Scott



Choir Practice

Choir will continue to meet on Tuesday evenings through May. We hope to enhance the services between now and then. Please join us every **Tuesday at 6:30** in the sanctuary for a short practice.

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 have extended our deadline through May. There is a collection box in the narthex. Items needed for each kit 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

We are especially in need of bars of soap to complete kits with items that we have already collected. Thank you for your donations.



Spotlight on Mite Grants

Praise be to God! All the 2020-2022 Mission Grants of the LWML Texas District have been paid in full and there was even an overage that will be applied to the next biennium's projects. Thank you for your mite contributions. All those coins do add up. New mission grants will be selected at the LWML Texas District Convention in Houston this June, Three-fourths of your

mite donations go towards Texas projects and one fourth go to national LWML projects. The following are mission projects of the national LWML.

Spiritual and Physical Food for Children of Peru -La Mision Luterana del Peru — \$56,750

Castillo Fuerte (Mighty Fortress) Mercy House is an outreach of the LCMS Missions in Latin America and the Caribbean and was started in 2013. The people of Lima are unable to fully finance the work of the Mercy House, and the work of our missionaries, who feed the souls with the Word of God and show the love of Christ by feeding the parents and children's stomachs. Families come to receive food for their physical bodies, and they stay because of Jesus' love for them as He feeds them the spiritual food which sustains their souls. The healing power of Christ's love and redemption shine into the broken lives of the families making them whole. This grant would partner with La Mision Luterana and Castillo Fuerte to work together to care for the children and families of Lima, Peru, by providing for the needs of the body and of the soul.

"Ends of Earth" Scholarships-Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries — \$50,000

MOST Ministries is receiving more requests from LCMS missionaries and national church leaders to provide teams to go to the "ends of the earth" places such as Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa, Thailand, Peru, and Sri Lanka to work side-by-side with missionaries, sharing the Gospel. The travel cost (up to \$5,050) of the short-term mission trips to these distant places has become prohibitive and has made it challenging for willing people to join a team. Currently, team members are personally responsible for their total per person cost. Not only do they use personal funds, but they are encouraged to reach out to members of the body of Christ to participate in the mission with encouragements, prayers, and financial support. This grant would offer financial support to cover up to one-half the cost of each participant, not to exceed \$2,000.



Church Potluck

Bring a dish and let's have fellowship **Sunday, May 15th**, directly following the Voter's Meeting.

Council Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2022



Vice President David Schrader called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Present were Judy Kunkel, Sharon and David Schrader, Evelyn and John Polen, Pastor and Janis Herbert, Alana Larson and Jerry Ellison. In the absence of the secretary, Judy Kunkel was appointed to take the minutes.

Pastor opened with a devotion and prayer.

Minutes of the February meeting were read. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Pastor's report: Full report attached. Upcoming services were noted. Elder Devereaux Brewer and Pastor will attend the Circuit 27 Forum on May 12, 2022. Pastoral and lay delegates and alternates will be elected for the Synodical Convention in 2023. David Schrader noted that we need to remember to put money in the 2023 budget for the synodical convention assessment.

Financial Secretary's report attached.

Treasurer's report attached. Budget funds were removed from the Youth and Benevolent funds. Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual reports will now be given more frequently. Pastor will check if the Schulte missionaries are accepting money at this time.

Evangelism report- Janis Herbert showed an example magnet and the project was discussed.

Education report – There will be an Easter egg hunt after the second service. MDO has started registration for next Fall. Current students, siblings, and LCMS members may apply now with registration opening to the public on April 1.

Trustees report- none

Fellowship report -The first 2 Lenten dinners went well with good food. Council decided to serve fried chicken on April 6th and everyone signed up.

Stewardship report – none

Youth report – Youth will serve pulled pork sandwiches for the March 23rd Lenten service. Easter breakfast will be between the 2 services.

Elder's report – Louise Diamond has transferred to Mt. Olive.

Vice President's report – none

President's report -absent

Old business – The nominating committee has met and is searching for people willing to serve. The auditing committee has not started yet.

New Business – The projector sound is not always working properly. This is a need for VBS, and options were discussed.

With no further business, Sharon Schrader moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. Pastor closed with prayer.

Judy Kunkel

Acting secretary



OUR MILITARY

Cheyenne Wilson, HS3 – Camp Lejeune, North Carolina
Dillon Anderson, PFC – Fayetteville, NC
Brandin Diamond, SSG – USAF – Deployed, Japan
Cristopher Diamond, PV2 – USAC – Deployed, Korea

MEETINGS

<u>ELDER'S:</u>	Wednesday, May 4 th – 7 pm
<u>VOTER'S:</u>	Sunday, May 15 th – 11:15am
<u>ELDER STUDY:</u>	Monday, May 16 th – 7 pm
<u>COUNCIL:</u>	Thursday, May 19 th – 7pm

May Servers

Elder: Jon Larson
Acolyte: Whitney Larson
Altar: Laura Lopez

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service	2	3 6:30pm Choir Practice	4 7pm Elder Meeting	5	6	7
8 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service w/Guest Pastor Porter	9	10 6:30pm Choir Practice	11	12	13	14
15 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service 11:15am Voter's Meeting 11:45am Church Potluck	16 7pm Elder Study	17 6:30pm Choir Practice	18	19 7pm Council Meeting	20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> June Newsletter Items DUE </div>	21
22 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service	23	24 6:30pm Choir Practice	25	26	27	28
29 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service	30 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Memorial Day Office Closed </div>	31 6:30pm Choir Practice	1	2	3	4