

# Messiah Lutheran Church - February 2023



## Messiah Messenger



## *What (and Who) Does it Take?*

Several years ago, the former Synod President A.L. Barry wrote a series of "What About" pamphlets. They addressed doctrinal topics, moral issues and concerns in the church to help Christians grow in their understanding of these important questions.

Recently I was reflecting on his "What About . . . Stewardship" information with regard to all of the things (and people) it takes to make a Sunday worship service happen. Do you know what goes on behind the scenes to get ready for a Sunday Service? Most of us show up on Sunday morning arriving to welcoming greeters, hot coffee, tasty treats, warm fellowship followed by a service of; worshipful music, hearing and studying God's Word, giving thanks, receiving His sacraments, asking Him in prayers and then we go home to start another week.

It takes a lot of "time and talent" to provide a Sunday Worship service. Obviously, church workers do their part, Pastor prepares the message and Bible class information, the church office prepares the service bulletin and power point for presenting the service and coordinates the previous Sunday's information and the facilities are managed. Additionally, many other activities are happening. The web-page is updated. Bible class is prepared. Flowers are ordered. Music is practiced. The property is cared for. Plus, many more ongoing planning activities by the Board of Directors, Elders, Lay ministers and committee teams.

While we are waiting for refurbishment of the church to be completed and temporarily holding our Sunday service in the Family Life Center, there has arisen an increased need for many hands to prepare and provide the Sunday service. If you have arrived early enough for a Sunday worship you may have seen or helped with setting up or taking down everything for worship. There are over one hundred chairs that need to be set up, welcome coffee made and treats displayed, the altar and sacraments organized, audio-visual equipment hooked up, information and offering tables brought out, bulletins and attendance booklets set out and many other things.

Many members shared their interests in serving on our recent Time and Talent survey. If you haven't decided how you can best serve, helping set up and take down the Family Life Center Sunday mornings would be a place to start. Also, check out our updated church web page [www.messiahboerne.org](http://www.messiahboerne.org). There is information about; how to "connect," upcoming "events," and a listing of the "ministry boards" where you could offer your time and talents.

As former Synod president Barry explains in What About . . . Stewardship:

"Clearly then, it is our joyful privilege and sacred duty to support the work of the church through our financial offerings. We give too of our time and our talents in the work of the church, giving as we have received and sharing as we have been blessed. We do this in order that the message of Christ and the truth of His Word is spread abroad, through our own personal efforts, and through the efforts of our congregation . . . as together we join hands to reach out boldly with the Gospel—telling the good news of Jesus."

As we at Messiah strive to fulfill our heavenly call to "go and make" disciples sharing the Good News, I pray we all find a place to be of service.

In Jesus name and with His Peace,  
David Wendeborn, Discipleship

# *Mission Work Begins at Home*



While I was a pastor in the Indiana District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Executive Director for Outreach, the Rev. Geoffrey Robinson, wrote the following article in the District newsletter entitled, “Mission Work Begins at Home.” As we prepare to form learning groups in our ongoing process to call a new settled pastor for Messiah Lutheran Church, I thought the topic was important for consideration by the members of Messiah Lutheran Church.

For years as I was raising my children, I had pasted on the side of my file cabinet in my office these words of Dr. Martin Luther, “But the greatest good in married life, that which makes all suffering and labor worth while, is that God grants offspring and commands that they be brought up to worship and serve him. In all the world this is the noblest and most precious work, because to God there can be nothing dearer than the salvation of souls.”

Raising children isn’t an easy task. Sacrifices have to be made in serving our children. It isn’t always easy to go against the flow in the modern-day culture of parenting either. I can tell of numerous times when my children would come home and say so and so’s parents were allowing them to do this or that. And I would take a stand and say, “I don’t care what the other parents are doing, you will not be allowed to do this or that.” And then, I would hear from thankful parents, “Pastor, we are glad that you took the stand that you did. We really didn’t want our children to do what you objected to either. We just didn’t want to be the only ones to say no to our children, but since you didn’t allow your children to participate, we won’t either.”

Rearing children indeed can be difficult when you stand out from the crowd. But aren’t we Christians called to stand out from the crowd? Didn’t Jesus say we are to be in the world but not of the world? I consistently insisted that my children go to church and Sunday school every Sunday. I didn’t give them the option of not going. Nor did I allow them to work on Sunday morning or skip church and Sunday school because they had a job. I lamented every time I saw parents give into that pressure because, more often than not, their teenage children would fall away from the church when work became more important to them than hearing God’s Word and partaking of the Blessed Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Why was I so strict about their church and Sunday school attendance? Because I knew that for their sake, they needed to hear the Word of God proclaimed and taught. The Word is the meat and drink for a Christian’s soul. I knew that they needed to receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion if they were to remain strong against the onslaught of Satan in their daily lives.

Children are a wonderful gift from God. They are as precious to God as they are to their parents. Parents, you have the privilege and responsibility to share the message of Jesus Christ with your children so that they will grow up knowing the great love that God has for them. You can love your children best by sharing God’s Word with them on a daily basis and modeling for them the love you have for God by faithfully attending Divine Service and Sunday school week after week. Parents, your foremost opportunity for mission work begins with your own children!

As you think about the positive changes, you’d like to see take place in your life, your family, and Messiah Lutheran Church and Preschool in the coming years, please prayerfully consider how mission work begins at home. See you in church.

Your co-worker in Christ, Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor



## *Pastors Know . . .*



The data is out there. The trends are known. We know before we go about our duties. We know who is likely to remain in the church. We know who is likely to return to the church. We already know.

Will the married couple remain in the church after their wedding in our building? Will the family bring their baptized child into the Lord's house regularly? Will the catechumens remain in the church after they're admitted to the altar? Will the new visitors become a permanent fixture here after transfer or conversion? Will the family newly invigorated by the death of a closely related blessed saint of the Lord lose their zeal or keep it? Will the children keep coming when the duties, passions, and hormones of adolescence drag them aroundwildly in their own minds? Your pastors pray the data is more dire than reality. In each case, it boils down to habit and patterns.

Newlyweds: what is their family background? A couple from a similar upbringing: LCMS, regularly attended as a child and adolescent, and both parents brought them to church. In the same way that similar ideas about money, number of children, and chiefly if Moms and Dads were married and remain married improve the chances of a successful marriage. Those commonalities also improve the chances that these kids will be and remain in the church.

Your pastor will coach you concerning the difficulties in your future when the odds are not stacked in your favor. Only in extremely rare circumstances will he refuse marriage. He prays that the Lord will deliver you from misfortune and strife, even the foreseeable kind.

Baptized child: what's the deal with Mom and Dad? If they are or become regular attenders, the kids will likely follow suit. If they are not, their kids will still likely follow suit. Your pastor will often baptize a child, whose future in the church is uncertain. He prays that foreseeable apostasy does not befall your house.

Catechumens: Again, what's the deal with Mom and Dad? Here, there's more data readily available. Did y'all attend regularly before confirmation was on the horizon? If not, there's a mighty high chance the catechumens will peter out quickly following confirmation.

Your pastors will desperately attempt to instill new habits in the kids. He'll impose strict attendance standards or require seemingly endless piles of sermon reports. He's seen parents drop children off for required church attendance, while driving off themselves. He's grieved to know the child may be lost already. He prays he's wrong, keeps up with his efforts, and prays the Holy Spirit defeats those odds. Rarely would he withhold confirmation.

Transfers / Converts / Those motivated by a close death: Where were you before? Are you returning to lifelong patterns of attendance to the Lord's house? Or are these attempts to develop a new pattern? Those who attended before are more likely to attend again. Those who did not, are not.

Adolescents: This group gets the most attention, the most ink spilt over them, and even individualistic ministerial attention. How often have you heard of a church with a minister of newlywed Christianization, baptismal life, catechetical instruction, or newly returned Christian life instruction? Prob'ly never. But, we've all seen churches with a youth minster or a youth ministry team.

Sadly, that's also an example of the poor return on those efforts. Again, data indicates that strong youth programs don't predict strong Christian adults from within them. Worse, when those programs look distinctively different than the churches from which they spring, they serve as an off ramp directly out of the church.

Can't we beat the odds? Yes, we can. Your pastor prays that you do. He preaches, teaches, and conducts himself towards you assuming the data is wrong in your case.

As a body of believers, we have data to help direct our efforts. Children follow the patterns established by their fathers regarding church. As we discussed before, the data is stark in this regard. If we want baptized babies in church, children in church following along and learning, catechumens attending to the Lord's house, youth who remain in or return to church, newlyweds who attend regularly and bring their babies to the font, we must have fathers to build those patterns into their children.

Your pastors already know. We pray everyday that the data is wrong in your case.

Rev. Jason M. Kaspar Sole Pastor  
Mt. CalvaryLutheran Church & Preschool La Grange, TX  
and Mission planting pastoral team: Epiphany Lutheran Church Bastrop, Tx



# *Update from the Board of Directors*



The Board met in early January to welcome new members, elect officers, and handle various agenda items. Pam Fields, Tony Giardinelli, and David Sattler have all come to the end of their terms, and we thank them for the years of service to the church. Replacing them are three new board members elected by the congregation in November: Maurice Doublet, Russ Leachman, and Brad Sanders.

The primary order of business was to elect officers for 2023:

Brad Sanders, Chairman

Russ Leachman, Vice Chairman

Anthony Sansone, Treasurer

Sharon Loren, Secretary

Maurice Doublet, Vonda Petmecky, and David Theis will serve as at-large members.

Other items of discussion:

- Year-end financials were not yet available, but based on information available so far, 2022 finances are looking good.
- The congregation's constitution was updated in 2019, but the paperwork was never finalized. Tony recently sent the final document to the Synod, so we now have an updated constitution.
- The congregation has the opportunity to submit nominations for Synod leadership. This item will be forwarded to the Board of Elders for action.
- The Preschool Committee needs additional members, and the Board will be reaching out to find additional people willing to serve in this capacity.
- The church will follow the federal holiday schedule for paid holidays. If a holiday falls on a workday, hourly employees will be paid based on their normally scheduled hours.
- Laura Sanders is working to update the church's website, and it's much improved.
- We need to get more people trained on how to use the Realm system.
- Church leadership needs to continue to increase transparency and open communication.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of your board members. We are here to serve!

## *Special Called Voters Meeting*

The purpose of the meeting is to confirm by a vote of the congregation, our nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President and Regional Vice-President for the LCMS. Our approved nominations will then be sent in to the national elections committee by David Theis, our congregational representative for this process.

Since we will be gathered for the meeting, I would also like to take the opportunity to have the Lay Ministry Board chairs give a two-minute synopsis of each of their plans for the coming year. Per the Constitution, this meeting should be held in May, but it makes more sense to lay out plans for the year at the first of the year and not the middle.

I have also spoken with Pastor Lofgren and he has agreed that he will have the first three learning teams formed by this time as well, so those learning teams will also be introduced and each team leader will give a brief summation of their team's task and how they will accomplish that task.

I encourage you to make every attempt to be at that meeting. I know it sounds like a lot to cover, but I will attempt to keep the meeting to 30 minutes. Mike Lang

## *From Our Elders*

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, the board of elders is continuing to focus on the formation and subsequent work to be done by the learning teams. As I stated in last month's article, Pastor Lofgren has worked diligently through the late fall and the first few weeks of this year to interview as many of our members as possible. He has pretty much completed that task and will start forming the teams based upon his opinion of who can serve best on which teams.

I would encourage you to be receptive if you are asked to be on one of these teams. I don't need to remind you of the importance of our achieving the assigned tasks so that information can be used by the ensuing Vision and Mission Statement teams. As I have stated before, we must complete this process in order to show President Newman that we are ready to call a permanent pastor.

By the time you read this, you may have already received a call from Pastor Lofgren, as he is trying to get the teams in place in the next two weeks. It is my hope that the teams can be introduced at the Special Voter's meeting scheduled for Feb. 12th. It has been pointed out that the 12th is Super Bowl Sunday. The game does not start until 5:30, but regardless, I promise to keep the meeting to 30 to 45 minutes so everyone can be home before any of the festivities begin.

On the issue of replacing Dennis Parker on the Board of Elders, I am pleased to inform the congregation that Bill Eichman is going to come on the board as the sixth elder. Bill and his wife Mary Ann have been members of Messiah for three or four years and have been very visible in church activities since their arrival. Bill and Mary Ann own Texas Splash, a water softener company located on the IH-10 frontage road in the center beside the John Deere dealership. If you don't know Bill and Mary Ann, look them up in the church directory and be sure and thank him for his service the next time you see him. Your brother in Christ, Mike Lang



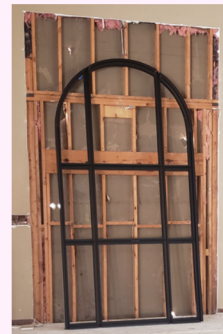
## *Refurbishment Update*

It is exciting to see the progress being made. You probably noticed the new water line being dug across the parking lot. This component is finally in place to allow installation of the required fire sprinkler system. While that step in the construction has been delayed waiting on fire marshal paperwork it is now moving forward. The lighting and HVAC systems have been placed and awaiting final installation. The tile, commodes and stall partitions are in. The framing and sheetrock have been almost completed. The new coffee bar is shaping up. Electrical wiring switches and lighting control for the sound booth has been completed. The flooring tiles have arrived but are waiting to be laid once the overhead work has been completed. The millwork for the beams, trim and cabinets is being built.

The opening for the new stained glass window construction will start soon. The new energy efficient windows are replacing the old side windows. There have been seven of the ten new stained glass side windows purchased. The "I Am" theme for the side windows is very creative. If you are interested in donating a stained-glass side window, please let the Kathy Bibb, David Wendeborn or the church office know as soon as possible.

One of the final steps in the project will be the installation of the new pews. Please pray that the work will progress safely and we will be able to praise God in the updated sanctuary soon.

David Wendeborn, Refurbishment Committee



Frame for window behind the altar.



Window frame-out awaiting Stain Glass



Friday workday in Media Room  
Ernie Mazurek, Brad Sanders,  
Anthony Sansone & David  
Wendeborn

# Adult Education



The apostle John wrote to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through Him. *"9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..."* (John 1 ESV)

Have you heard this Scripture before? I suspect you can explain what all that means, "true light" and "become children of God", to your friends in the congregation. But how about explaining it to your children, and grandchildren, and their friends, or your unchurched neighbor?

Has anyone ever said to you, *"So you go to church – good. Personally, I'm spiritual but not religious. Organized religion has caused so much hate in the world."* Imagine you respond with your faith, about the Bible, even Jesus' death on the cross for them. And they say, *"How does what happened on a cross 2000 years ago and thousands of miles away matter to us today?"*

Or you are talking with friends and neighbors who tell you they are Christian too. That they believe in the Bible but *"only in the way their church leaders interpret it"*. Another friend jumps in, *"but you must make a decision for Christ, and your eternal life depends on your decision"*. As you ponder how to respond, yet another one pipes up, *"Well. I believe, and I am so enthusiastic that at our meeting next week I'm going to grab some bread and grape juice and we're all going to celebrate the Lord's supper together!"* (This just happened to a couple of us).

Should we become assertive, open our Bible and quote John the Baptizer, *"11 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."* (Matt 3) After all, we believe in teaching law and Gospel, right?

Join us in February as Pastor Lofgren teaches us the basics again, what we believe, teach, and confess, every Sunday at 9:15 AM. He will teach about the Scriptures on God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and Sanctification.

On Sunday afternoons we will study how some of our Christian friends have a different understanding of Scripture, and how we can respond in love to explain the Lutheran difference. We will also look at those who have non-Christian beliefs, other Worldviews, or no beliefs. How can we share the Gospel with them?

Other groups are meeting to learn more about apologetics, and how to use small groups, fellowship, and new techniques to witness. Be sure to join us daily reading through the Bible chronologically, using Laura's new Book, *"Your Companion to the #1 Bestseller"*, for thoughts and ideas about the text.

Our mission at Messiah is to become disciples of Christ, ever growing in His Word, and to make more disciples in our changing world. Let us work together.

Dennis Parker

**Thank you !**

Thank you for all the support since my accident. Your prayers, visits, cards and wonderful meals have made this difficult time easier for me and my family. I am healing well and hope to be back with you soon.

God bless you all.

Judy Beauford



# *Stephen Ministry*



Something many people don't know about our Stephen Ministers is they are trained and are qualified to serve throughout their lives. Oftentimes our ministers have stepped back due to their own personal time constraints. Many have become reluctant to stay in the program because they don't feel like they're able to help enough people. Most people are reluctant to ask for a Stephen Minister because they don't feel like their problem is big enough! For this reason we are entering a new season of caring.

We would like to call upon many friends and members who are going through grief, illness or just difficult situations. We would like the opportunity to call you on the phone, drop by for a visit or send you a card. We desire to listen to your needs and pray for you. We would like to use our training to reach out one on one. This would be unofficial and may be different people from our SM group contacting you. As always, our conversations will remain confidential unless asked to share. Our caregivers will always be female-to-female or male-to-male contacts.

If you get a call, know that someone from Messiah cares about you and misses you.

*Your's in Christ - Kathy Giardinelli and Sue Theis (co leaders)*

*Pam Fields, Kathlin Jauregui, Marilyn Mazurek, Jean Schuchardt, David Sattler and John Soper*

# *Braille Ministry*

Members of Messiah print and bind books of the Bible the first Wednesday of each month (excluding July, Aug and Dec) Please let me know if you'd like to join us in this very important ministry.

Marilyn Mazurek 210 380-1906

*Excerpt from Illuminations, Fall/Winter 2022 newsletter, article written by Interim President of Lutheran Braille Workers Daniel Jenkins.*

*All of this support is critical to the ministry as our work only continues to grow. Even more urgently, nobody else is handling this work. There are 253 million people in the world who are blind or visually impaired and 95% of this population are unchurched. In the U.S. there are 8.5-9 million people who are blind or visually impaired and 90% of this population is unchurched. There are millions of people in the U.S. and it's almost guaranteed many residing in the very communities where you live, who are living in physical darkness and spiritual darkness. No other church, organization, or ministry is bringing the Gospel to this population on any mass scale. In 2022, Lutheran Braille Workers shipped Braille Bibles to 49 different countries.*

*We heard from a lady in New Orleans who was terrified that because she was losing her sight, that if she couldn't read the Bible, God would stop loving her. I cannot imagine the burden which weighed on her heart. And when she heard that she would receive a Bible she can continue to read exclaimed, "God still loves me!" There are millions more people who need to know the same message, how much God loves them as well.*

*This is why I ask for your continued prayers and support. As we grow the ministry of Lutheran Braille Workers, as we increase production, and as we expand the number of new titles available for our recipients, you are a critical component. It is the prayers you offer up, your hands which do the work, and the gifts you provide which brings the love of Christ made known through Braille Bibles throughout the world and the United States.*

# Save The Date!



## Saturday Afternoon Games Gathering

### Messiah Ladies Time Out !!

Thursday, February 16th we are meeting at The Little Gretel between 9:00 am and 11:00 am to do breakfast together! Any ladies who want to join us just let me know so I can make enough reservations!

Email: [eschenkol@yahoo.com](mailto:eschenkol@yahoo.com)  
Phone call or text 979-229-7760.



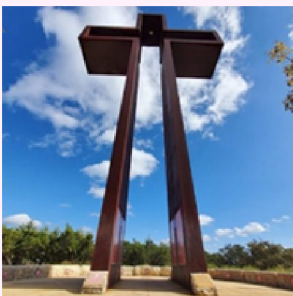
We are starting a Messiah Monthly Adult game afternoon on the third Saturdays of the month beginning Saturday, February 18th from 2:00 – 5:00 pm in the Bible study room at the Family Life Center. Bring your own drinks and if you want, snacks to share. We will have cards and games and dominoes etc. but will welcome any games that you would like to bring! We will have games we can play as groups or games that can be different at each table! No RSVP needed. Any questions see Lindy Eschenko, call or text 979-229-7760 or email [eschenkol@yahoo.com](mailto:eschenkol@yahoo.com)



Saturday March 25th - I have an opportunity for you called The Outdoor Family Fair in the Boerne Square. The Outdoor Family Fair provides Kendall County families the opportunity to learn about local services and organizations that are available in Boerne and surrounding areas. This community-focused event features entertainment and fun for the whole family. Stop by the booths to learn about the different organizations and play some games. The Outdoor Family Fair is hosted by the Kendall County Child Service Board and the City of Boerne Parks and Recreation Department.



Saturday April 1st - Easter Jubilee 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Games, crafts, train rides, a petting zoo, and of course an Easter Egg Hunt! (Don't forget to bring your own basket!)



Ladies' Field Trip! The ladies of Messiah are planning a field trip to Kerrville to visit "The Coming King" Sculpture Prayer Garden on Thursday, April 20. We plan to meet at church at 9:00 a.m. and carpool to Kerrville. After touring the sculpture garden, we'll enjoy lunch at Mamacita's. A sign-up sheet will be available in the FLC so we can get an estimated head count for lunch reservations

Sunday May 7th - Come hear Sarah Keeling speak about Praying the Psalms for the Nations. In it, you and your family, no matter how old or young, will learn how to effectively pray for missionaries (especially Bible translators) using different Psalms and how Sarah started doing this with her family during devotions. There will be a light meal after church provided by the Lay Board of Missions before she starts to speak. The registration for this event is already up. Go to this website to register: [www.messiahboerne.org](http://www.messiahboerne.org)



Watch over this vine,  
the root that your right hand  
has planted. Psalm 80



# Wacky Olympics

SUNDAY, 2/5 AFTER CHURCH



## THE GAMES

HUNGRY HIPPOS

BALLOON RELAY

HULA HOOP GAME

RUG RUN

POOL NOODLE JAVELIN THROW

COLORED PING PONG BALL TOSS



Please sign-up to help or play at  
[www.MessiahBoerne.org](http://www.MessiahBoerne.org)  
or see Kathy Giardinelli at church.

Every participant gets lunch, drinks and prizes!

Every participant gets a chance to win one of  
four prizes in a drawing!

The person to bring the most visitors wins a  
prize!



## How Do I register?

Online at [www.MessiahBoerne.org](http://www.MessiahBoerne.org) or at church by  
Wednesday, February 1st. Please indicate PLAY or HELP.

## What should I wear?

Wear comfortable clothes.



## When will we begin?

We will begin around 11:30 when church service  
ends. A lunch of Subway sandwiches, chips and drinks  
will be served, followed by a short devotional.

## What happens next?

We will open with our most active game:

Hungry Hippos (check on YouTube). Remember there  
will need to be people helping as well as playing this  
game!

After this game is cleared, all other game stations will  
be opened for play. These games are multigenerational  
and can be played in any order.

You will receive a stamp at each station and turned in  
when ALL the games are completed for a prize drawing.



## When will the prizes be drawn?

After the games are complete, around 1:30. Along with  
grand prize for the person bringing the most visitors!



# Messiah's Kids Preschool

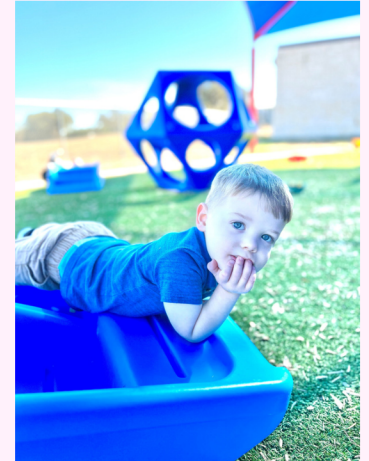
The preschool is bursting with excitement over our winter themes.

Our friends have had a great time exploring winter and all things cold. Sensory bins were filled with snow. Classes were having pretend snowball fights. The crafts were abundant as students learned about snowmen and snowflakes. We are like snowflakes; each unique and special to God.

If you have been at the Family Life Center, you have certainly heard the booming feet and roaring voices. That's right, DINOSAURS! Always a classroom favorite, our friends learned all about dinosaurs and volcanoes.

Registration is in full swing! Priority registration has been a great success! Our preschool is beyond blessed by each of the families who make this an amazing preschool. Messiah Lutheran Church provides a preschool that reaches nearly 200 students! Each child is blessed by the love of Jesus and exceptional learning opportunities. Community registration will begin on Wednesday, February 8 at 8:00 am.

Healthy Blessings, Gina Huskey, Director



## February Celebrations!

### *Birthdays*

**Feb. 1 - Diana Dolt**  
**Feb 1 - Donna Cifers**  
**Feb 3 - Greyson Dukes**  
**Feb 5 - Hal Eschenko**  
**Feb 9 - Tony Giardinelli**  
**Feb 10 - Roger Ley**  
**Feb 10 - Ashley Harder**  
**Feb 12 - Juliet Betancourt**  
**Feb 13 - Lisa Ley**  
**Feb 14 - Wyatt Golden**  
**Feb 17 - Rolf Schulz**  
**Feb 18 - John Beard**  
**Feb 19 - Sandi Robinson**  
**Feb 23 - Gerald Zumm**  
**Feb 25 - Lindy Eschenko**  
**Feb 25 - Brooks Koronczok**



### *Wedding Anniversaries*

**Feb. 7 - Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek**  
**- 2 years -**  
**Feb 18 - Anthony & Pam Sansone**  
**- 50 years -**  
**Kevin & Valerie Workman**  
**- 31 years -**



# Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center



Dear friends at Messiah, Did you know that it will be 50 years ago to the day this Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 22 -- that Roe v. Wade was upheld as legal precedent (Jan 22, 1973) allowing elective abortions to become easily accessible?

I find no irony in God's timing, as Roe was actually overturned this past June, we enter year 50 without this precedent in place!

So maybe, just maybe, we can look at the year ahead (year 50) as a year of Jubilee -- a year of release, rest, restoration, and freedom. (I was reminded of this by my friend, Kirk, who experienced a past abortion but received healing from the bondage of abortion trauma in his life).

Abortion promises a false sense of freedom when in reality, millions that experience it, face a bondage of trauma and secrets. Making abortion unthinkable begins with understanding, which can come through healing, restoration, and the acknowledgment of the true trauma that surrounds abortion. Let's help people (especially our brothers and sisters in Christ) find full freedom from the bondage that abortion creates.

Millions of people have been affected in the past 50 years and many sit next to us in our church pews. Stats at the lowest estimate show that 20-25% of congregants have an abortion experience in their past and have suffered as a result of that experience.

As we promote the Sanctity of Life this week, let's also offer release for those who are suffering from the "secret bondage" a past abortion experience created. This could be the year of their release from captivity of a past abortion -- their year of Jubilee! We are here as a support to you and your people.

Attached is our information promoting abortion healing (our next meeting takes place February 2). We are confidential and here to help. Also, if you would like someone to come and speak to a group of your people (large or small) about abortion healing just reach out and I'll put you in touch with Kirk or Martha who have been through their own healing journey. As always, please call me with any questions or needs at 830-249-9717.

Blessings, Donna Klingaman, Executive Director - Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center

## Invitation to Certification & Sending Celebration

Area C in the Texas District is sending another group of 11 Evangelists on Sunday afternoon, February 26th, from 3 to 5 pm. We invite you to join us at Word of Life, 213 Coy Lane, Cibolo, TX. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Pete Mueller, Area C Mission Strategist. It's a good time to interact with him. Besides supporting the program and the Evangelists, you will also learn what it's all about and some things you can use in life and benefit from as each evangelist will speak on one of the following topics:

Module	Talking Points for Sending Ceremony	Resource
2	Q136-Q139 How to address someone's questions about suffering and death in your own words	Luther Catechism, pages 150-154
3	Salvation Outline in your own words to witness	Luther Catechism, page 362
3	Q1-Q3 Your Journey of Faith, People God Sent in Your Life, and to Whom Is God Sending You Now	Evangelist 101, page 28
4	Q200 How to respond when someone says they are spiritual, not religious, in your own words	Luther Catechism, page 203
4	Q209 What to say when someone has doubts in your own words	Luther Catechism, page 210
5	Q1-Q2 Use the OT to testify to the Gospel message	Evangelist 101, page 47
6	How does dividing correctly between Law & Gospel impact your devotional life, your leading of others through scripture, and your ministry as an Evangelist?	Evangelists 101, page 52
7	How do the sacraments (baptism & Lord's Supper) impact your daily life?	Evangelist 101, page 56
8	Q1 How to respond to someone when God doesn't answer prayers?	Evangelist 101, page 67
9	Q2 Top Three Needs as asked and answered by ten people	Evangelist 101, page 76
10	Give your Evangelist Plan for your Team	Evangelist 101, pages 101-106
11	What has helped you grow in these three relationships (Up, In, and Out), & what skills have you learned?	Evangelist 101, page 85



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Pastor Bobby

I am enjoying reading the Bible through. While there are many unanswered questions that arise, one thing is for certain, we are to trust the Lord, love Him and love others. I am also reading a book called An Invitation to a Journey by Mulholland. He reminds us that

we are all on a journey and none of us is on the same one. We are complex individuals who have it right in some places in our lives and still need growth in others.

Picture walking up a long hill. The top of the hill is the horizon. You recognize that the journey is difficult but you can see the top so you keep

walking. When you arrive at the apex of the hill, you then see that there are many more hills to climb. God gives us the energy to climb the hill we are on and once we have conquered that hill then we are ready for others.

Whatever hills you are climbing take heart! God is there with you. He sees your struggle and desires to help you. He desires to walk with you. Peace comes to those who trust Him. May your journey be guided by that peace.

Bro. Bobby

