



Messiah Messenger

Messiah Lutheran Church

Christ's Abiding Presence

The Church's Easter Day celebration continues long after all the chocolate and sugary treats have been eaten and all the fluffy little chicken toys and Easter bunnies have been safely tucked away for another year. For forty days the Paschal Candle - the symbol of the risen Christ - will stand lit beside the baptismal font. Its bright flame recalls those forty extraordinary days that the astonished disciples lived with their resurrected Lord, seeing Him with their own eyes, touching and handling His living flesh with their own hands, eating and drinking with Him after He had risen from His grave, and listening to His life-giving, death-destroying Word with their ears.

On Ascension Day the paschal candle will be moved to stand beside the altar, symbolizing Christ's ascension into heaven and session at the Father's right hand in power and glory. After Ascension Day you will note that this candle does not go away but takes up residence beside the baptismal font again, where it stands as the abiding symbol of the risen Christ among his people. You see, our Lord Jesus is not dead and gone, like some departed hero. Instead, He lives forever and reigns to all eternity as the head over all things for His Church. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ shall come again. The very same Lord who was put to death for our offenses has been raised for our justification and will come again in glory to claim His Bride, the Church, on the Last Day. Therefore we Christians remain faithful to our heavenly husband, though we cannot see Him now for a time.

Although we have not seen Him, yet we love Him; and though we do not see Him now with our eyes, we believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible joy (1 Peter 1:8). For in the precious Word of Christ's Gospel and in His Holy Sacraments we are continually receiving the goal of our faith, namely, the salvation of our souls. No wonder the festival continues unabated. All the Sundays from now until the Day of Pentecost are not labeled "Sundays *after* Easter," but "Sundays *of* Easter." Throughout the Easter season we celebrate Christ's resurrection with undiminished joy. This is a good thing, because God knows there is so much to rob us of our joy these days. Private and public perils and pandemics threaten us all around. Fear and uncertainty grip the nations of the earth, while wars and rumors of wars echo and re-echo around the globe. Illness and hardship, distress of body, mind, and soul - all these things can (and sometimes do) rob us of inner peace and joy. "Fighting and fears, within, without" is a good description of our predicament at any given time here in this world, perhaps even now.

The good news of Easter is that the great cosmic battle between God and Satan is done and over. Peace has been won for us all through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sin is now vanquished, the stronghold of the grave has been breached, and hell itself has lost all power to destroy. Life has triumphed over death. Death has lost its teeth. It may scowl and glare, as Luther wrote, but it cannot bite. The sting of death is gone, for all sin has been removed in Christ our Lord, the Lamb who gives us peace. Now that sin is gone, there is nothing in all creation that can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, not even death itself.

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

Update from the Call Committee

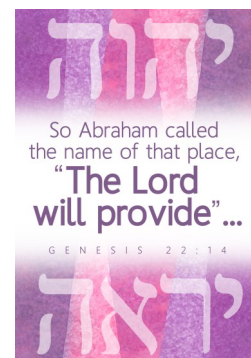
If you weren't in church last Sunday, you missed the latest update on the call. I reported to those in attendance, that Pastor Barz has now heard back from all of the pastors we wanted to interview and four of the five were open to discussing a call to Messiah.

The one pastor who was no open was Pastor Kurt Klaus, who we liked as a second choice when we elected to extend a call to Pastor DeMik. Pastor Klaus informed Pastor Barz that he had declined the call he had received from Hope Lutheran in Wichita Falls and would not have further conversations with Messiah as a family health issue had

arisen that precluded him from leaving the area at this time.

With regard to the four pastors that are open to discussing a call, they all requested that the process wait until after Easter. Hopefully, next week, Pastor Barz will be able to contact each of them and arrange a time either late next week or the week after for the committee to have conversations with each of them. Out of the four, pray that one or more will be deemed suitable to meet Messiah's needs.

Your brother in Christ, ***Mike Lang***



Elders

Seems like we are always moving and rearranging . The upside is when the part of the second floor is completed after renovation moving and rearranging should be near over.

As most everyone knows the two attendance sign-in books one on each table before the entrance into the sanctuary . Please sign the attendance form before entering the sanctuary to attend worship services. We made this change to alleviate distraction during the worship service with the attendance book going back and forth causing distraction . Thank you for your assistance while making this change.

Another minor change has been made with our pianist Bob who began a slight speed up with his playing for hymns and music during the service. For those of you that do not know Bob you need to introduce yourself to him . He retired from the United States Army with a wealth of music knowledge directing army bands. He was the band director for General Omar Bradley's military funeral.

Should you have any questions of the Elders just ask and any of the six Elders who will entertain your questions.

Maurice Doublet



How to Succeed Where It Really Counts

I recently read an excerpt from the book ***How to Succeed Where It Really Counts*** written by Doug Sherman and William Hendricks. They share some ideas about how we live in Christ.

Ideas have consequences. Whether or not you're aware of it, your actions are very closely linked to your ideas. And the more powerful those ideas are, the greater their impact on your behavior. That's why it's so important to understand what true success is all about - - because most of us spend the majority of our time, resources, and abilities trying to achieve success as we understand it.

Though the trappings of worldly success (status, wealth, power, position, beauty, etc.) are not wrong in and of themselves, many times the pursuit of such things leads only to emptiness, anxiety, and frustration. But when we purpose to succeed where it really matters, we gain a genuine satisfaction with our accomplishments, a refreshing concern for others, and a sense of self-acceptance that does not hinge on society's approval.

Faithfully pleasing God is an activity not just a nice set of beliefs. It must be a way of life.

- . . . in the 1960's-70s, people were asking the question: Does God Exist? Today that question has changed to: What difference does He make? The answer for too many people is: Not much! Even with those who have Bible knowledge, God makes little difference in how they actually live their lives.*
- . . . If Christ doesn't make any difference in my ethics and values at my job; if He doesn't affect my speech and attitudes toward others; if He makes absolutely no difference in the way I live and work, then pray tell, what difference does He make?! What's the point of playing a religious game that is all talk and no action?*
- . . . whenever you are exposed to Scripture, ask yourself: How can I apply this to my life? What practical thing can I do to embed this truth in my attitude, character, and behavior?*

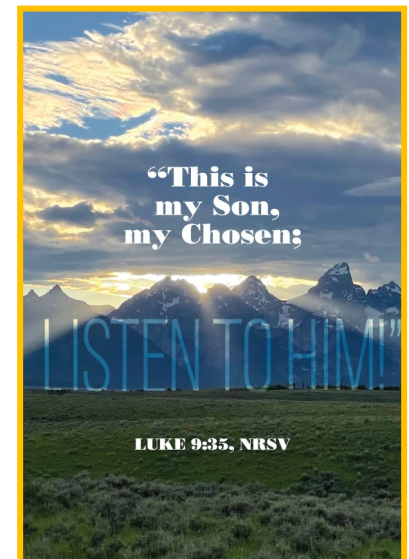
As we continue to press on after Easter Celebrations, God continues to give us both challenges, but also an invitation to follow Him. When we read or hear His word in scripture let's ask two things:

"God, what are you saying to me?"

"God, what would you have me do?"

To God be the Glory!

David Wendeborn on behalf of Education and Discipleship teams



Spiritual Warfare

Messiah Tuesday Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study began a few years ago when Lay Minister of Property, Paul Duennenberg, and longtime friend, Armando Flores, started a weekly time of fellowship at Taqueria Reyna at 1000 North Main in Boerne. They invited Dennis Parker, Lay Minister of Discipleship, to join them. Eventually during this time of morning prayer and fellowship they began discussing Scripture.

Soon Mike Gissi, Lay Minister of Adult Education, and Elder Hal Eschenko, who both assist Paul with Messiah landscape duties, got involved. Now ten to twelve gather each Tuesday for coffee, breakfast, fellowship and to pray and study God's Word.

In March they completed a study of 1st and 2nd Peter. In April they will begin a study of what Scripture teaches about Spiritual Warfare. George Berberich will lead the discussions. For too many people, popular films, books, comic books, and other media are their only sources of information about angels and demons - if they believe in these creatures at all. But Christians know they do exist - they are discussed throughout the Bible.

Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness: *Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord*

your God, and Him only you shall serve." Matthew 4:10. The apostle Peter warns: *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."* 1st Peter 5:8. Paul wrote: *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."* Ephesians 6:12. Come join the Messiah Tuesday morning sessions in April with George Berberich leading.

Paul and Armando, and I have another breakfast spot which has more room for us to spread out. We are going to try it this Tuesday, April 2 at 8:30 am.

Centinela Mexican Restaurant & Bar
215 W Bandera Rd Ste 106,
Boerne, TX



Linda & George Berberich



Full breakfast and breakfast tacos available.

All members and visitors are welcome.

Dennis Parker



Thursday - May 2nd - 9:30 & Noon

Two events will be offered at this year's National Day of Prayer. You may register for one or both. The morning prayer segment will start with a light breakfast fare and will focus on Family, Education and Health. The noon

National Day of Prayer event will focus on Work, Government, First Responders and Media and will include pizza and beverages for lunch.

Kathy Giardinelli



Palm Sunday Events and Celebration

Sunday, March 24 was a day filled with great joy as 11 young people either helped hide eggs or went to Children's Church to learn about Palm Sunday and the story of Easter told by Eve with a dozen resurrection eggs. After Children's Church, Mario led a procession of the children back into the church waving their palms.

After church a Multigenerational Easter Celebration began with pizza, followed by decorating Sue Parker's delicious Easter cookies, lots of bunny petting and hugging taking place in the nursery, and ending in the big Easter Egg Hunt. Every child's basket was filled to the top with candy filled eggs.



April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Apr 1 - Charles & Judy George

48 years of marriage 1976

Apr 3 - Paul & Robin Duennenberg

31 years of marriage 1993

Apr 16 - John & Patty Hagy

30 years of marriage - 1994

Apr 20 - John & Erin Stallings - 1996

28 years of marriage

Apr 20 - Roger & Kathryn Winkelmann

22 years of marriage - 2002

Apr 25 - Jerry & Anne Zumm - 1993

31 years of marriage

Apr 27 - Mike & Lynn Lang - 2013

11 years of marriage

Apr 27 - Kim & Maurine Maloy - 1973

51 years of marriage

Apr 2 - Mykenzie Bohlken

Apr 5 - Pam Fields

Apr 5 - David Wendeborn

Apr 7 - Zach Hedrick

Apr 10 - Les Turner

Apr 10 - Ben Sagebiel

Apr 14 - Anne Zumm

Apr 16 - Will Jones

Apr 18 - Katherine Zikos

Apr 22 - Dennis Parker

Apr 24 - Brooke Rutledge

Apr 24 - Amani Rhoads

Apr 28 - Karen Brosien

Apr 28 - Valerie Workman

Apr 30 - David Blakely

HCPCC - Project for Mother's Day



Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center holds two annual spring fundraisers: Baby Bottle Boomerang and Mother's Day Flower Delivery.

Baby Bottle Boomerang is a simple, family-focused, community and church-wide effort to support the mission of HCPCC. Take home a bottle on Mother's Day, fill it with change, dollar bills, checks (or a combination) and return it by Father's Day. In addition to raising funds to support the mission, Baby Bottle Boomerang brings awareness to HCPCC and our services.

HCPCC partners with local floral shops on Mother's Day weekend! HCPCC Volunteers deliver floral arrangements on behalf of the flower shops and the shops donate the delivery fees to support HCPCC! This year, HCPCC is partnering with An Empty Vase and The Flower Shop and will need volunteers on Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11 to deliver arrangements.

Sign up by visiting www.hcpcc texas.org/events. Additionally, ordering flowers for the moms in your life from these shops supports both local businesses and HCPCC! **Sue Theis**

Messiah's Kids Preschool

Earlier this month, staff from Messiah's Kids traveled to Lake Conroe for the Early Childhood Conference. Be the Light themed the conference and challenged participants to ignite their passion for teaching the Lord's children. Our staff enjoyed a weekend of laughter and fellowship as sisters in Christ.



We were excited to see more maintenance items completed during March. The back circle of the Family Life Center is now paved, curbed and painted! In addition, the parking lots near the



church were also painted for safety and ease while parking. Thank you for your patience as we completed all of these improvements.



Upcoming Events at Messiah

Messiah Ladies April spring lunch at Dodging Duck
on the Patio at 11am on Thursday, April 11th

April breakfast outing for all to Cafe on the Ridge in Kerrville at 9:30 am on Friday, April 19th !!
It has a bakery inside and nursery and gift shop outside!! Passes by the main James Avery store
compound! A winery is on the same road!!

Messiah's Adult game day is Saturday, April
20th from 2-5 pm!! Come join us and bring
your drinks and any snacks to share!!

Our Messiah's Ladies Mother's
Day brunch will be May 9th!

Wine Tasting at the home of Kathleen and David Blakely, 179 Mira Vista Dr., Comfort,
TX (between Comfort and Center Point) on May 4th from 4 PM to 7 PM. The fellowship
committee will provide hors d'oeuvres and snacks. We ask that you bring your favorite
beverage - wine, soft drinks, juice, as you prefer - to share.

Messiah's Fellowship Committee is hosting a Family Picnic on Saturday, June 1st from
10:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Joshua Springs Park Large Pavilion (just off I-10 between Boerne and
Comfort).

Bill Miller will be catering the event which will include plates with 2 meats (brisket and
turkey), coleslaw, potato salad, charro beans and iced tea. We will be selling tickets for this
event beginning Sunday, April 28. The price will be \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for
children. There will be games and activities to enjoy!

We are so proud of Beth's dedication. As a result, she does all things well!
When you see her on Sunday, congratulate her for a well-done job! She is
setting all kinds of records. She won the girl's 5000-meter championship
(that's over 3 miles!) in 15:28:90. She was nearly 50 seconds ahead of the
second-place runner!



*"I Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but
only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win."*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Boerne, Texas 78015

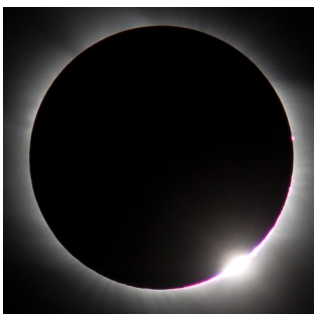
Phone: 830-755-4300

website:
www.messiahboerne.org



Genesis 1:14- 19 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights - the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night - and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

April 8, 2024 - 12:14 thru 2:55 pm - Boerne, Tx



Boerne and the surrounding Hill Country is in the direct path of a Total Solar Eclipse! We were given a preview back in October for what we will see on April 8th . . . And many of us will never see anything like this again in our life time.

Psalm 111:7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. What an opportunity we are allowed next week so see God's handiwork in the sky above us! As we sit in our chairs and watch this amazing event - let us remember our God the Creator of it all - He truly has done Marvelous Things - I too will Praise Him with a New Song!

Praise & Adoration Hymn #817
Earth and All Stars

EARTH AND ALL STARS! LOUD RUSHING PLANETS!
SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG!
HE HAS DONE MARVELOUS THINGS!
I TOO WILL PRAISE HIM WITH A NEW SONG!