

Messiah Messenger



Discipleship

The recent spring rains have begun to quench the thirst of our area lawns, plants, trees and fields. Growth has returned. Messiah is in a new spring of life, ready to grow. We, with the right focus, are positioning ourselves to be the hands and feet of God in our growing community. God has placed us in this place to serve the needs of those around us. He is preparing us to serve both physical and spiritual needs.

The May Portals of Prayer had an interesting story reminding us of the ups and downs as we grow to serve.

Growing Up (from Portals of Prayer May 23, 2023)

I am the oldest daughter with three younger brothers. As is the experience in many families, siblings don't always get along. At a recent family gathering, my brothers were recalling some of the physical fights they engaged in during their youth. It was great to hear them laughing about those days and to see how they love one another now. They have grown up.

As a parent of four children, I know how frustrating it can be when my children are fighting. I love my children, and want them to love one another as well. Things go much more smoothly when everyone is getting along. We can accomplish so much more as a family.

God feels the same way about His children. He loves us all and wants us to love one another. He wants us to build up one another so that the body of Christ can function smoothly and accomplish great things together. God says the key to this is to grow up in our faith. We must study God's Word and learn to put it into practice in our dealings with one another. As each part matures in Christ, the whole body grows and builds itself up in love.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! Psalm 133:1

To God be the Glory!

David Wendeborn, Discipleship



From our Elder

I would like to thank all the members who were able to attend the **Town Hall Meeting** on May 20th.

Each of the learning teams received valuable feedback on their reports and were able to explain their reasoning behind some of the issues within each of the reports. Hopefully, the teams will be able to go over the feedback they received and update their reports as they see fit. Once this is completed, they will be able to provide those updated reports to the **Vision Team** who can then get to work on creating a vision for Messiah. The **Vision Team** has indicated that it will try to have its work completed within two weeks of receiving the reports. The voters will then be asked to vote on the vision. Once this happens, the **Mission Team** should be able to develop a mission statement fairly quickly and we'll be ready to send the information to the district, which will be included in the call package.

At the town hall meeting I discussed the need for all of Messiah's members to fill out a **Pastoral Profile Survey**. In the near future the District will provide us with an electronic link for your responses to be provided directly to the District. In the meantime, we can either email the **Pastoral Profile Survey** to you or provide you with a copy of the Survey so that you can review the questions and begin to think about any comments that you might like to make regarding any of the questions in the survey. You can use the attached survey like a sample ballot for elections by answering the questions and writing out any comments you might have on the survey. Once we are given the electronic link by District you can then simply transfer your answers to the electronic survey. The **Pastoral Profile Survey** is an important part of the call package and I encourage everyone to complete the survey.

I am also ready to begin soliciting members to be on the call committee. Once I have secured the number of members I would like to have on the committee, I will let the congregation know the makeup of the committee.

Until that time, I encourage everyone to pray for our church and the upcoming call. God has a plan for us and as always, in his time, that plan will be revealed. *Your brother in Christ, Mike Lang*



Partnership Team

Kathlin Jauregui, Kathy Giardinelli, Sue Theis, Ernie Mazurek & Joe Sorensen



History-Culture Team

Pam Sansone, Carol Mycock, Paul Duennenberg, Charles Georg & Kim Maloy



Leadership Team

Russ Leachman, Tony Giardinelli, Sharon Sattler, Maurice Doublet & Pam Fields

Dispensable - Yet Important

Upon returning to work after a family vacation several years ago, I was struck once again by the realization that I was dispensable. I had been away for five days, yet upon my return I found that the congregation was functioning just fine without me. Another pastor had been contacted to serve the congregation in case of emergencies, but there had been none. The secretary had completed all the office work and the bulletins were ready for the weekend's worship services. Congregational members were busy fulfilling their various tasks. Although at times we may think that our participation in congregational life is essential, the reality is that the congregation continues to function fine with or without us.

Now, even as we need to recognize our dispensable nature with regard to congregational life, we also must realize our important place in the body of Christ, the Church. Although the congregation may continue to function while we are gone, it suffers in our absence. As St. Paul reminds us in his First Letter to the Corinthians:

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. . . . God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is

honored, every part rejoices with it. (12:21-23a, 24b-26 NIV)

When members of our congregation are absent or become less active in their participation, we need to respond as a caring community of Christians and offer them help so that they can function once again as active members of our church. Every member of Messiah Lutheran Church is important and serves a vital function in the body of Christ, as St. Paul says, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of it" (1 Cor 12:27 NIV).

While realizing our dispensable nature as members of the congregation ought to keep us humble, may we never forget that we are precious in God's sight and each of us serves an important function in the body of Christ. God has called us into the body of Christ through the Gospel, and the Holy Spirit has given us gifts to use for the common good (1 Cor 12:7). So come to church and do your part in serving the Lord and your congregation. I look forward to seeing you!

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

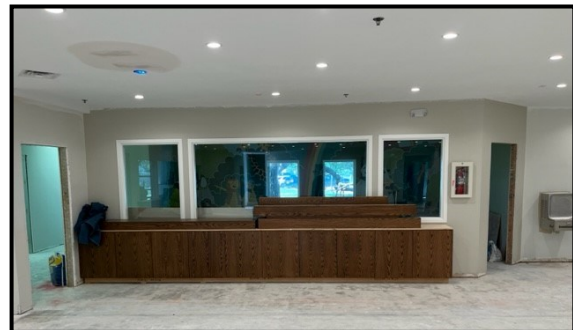


Refurbishment Update . . .

We are getting closer!! By the time of the June Newsletter the refurbishment project will have completed the painting of the first-floor offices, narthex and sanctuary. The new lighting and electrical systems will be completed. The cabinets, beams, doors and trim will be installed and the flooring almost completed. The installation of the pews is scheduled for mid-June. The Audio-visual assessment will have been completed and new speakers and projectors planned for installation. The new stained-glass windows will be one of the last items to be installed. New ADA compliant entry has been completed.

As we approach the time for moving back into the church, please be on the watch for a work day to be scheduled. We will need many hands to make light work of getting things back into the building. There will be a need for preparing the grounds and making ready the campus to invite our members, past members and our community to re-dedicate the refurbished building to God's Glory.

David Wendeborn, Discipleship/Refurbishment Team



Contributions to the Church Refurbishment

Several people have asked how they might contribute to the Church refurbishment. Another need will be updating the sound system that is not included in the refurbishment contract. Contributions can be earmarked as "Audio-Visual" and made to Messiah Lutheran Church. If anyone has questions, they can contact me. David Wendeborn 830-331-0870

David.Wendeborn@outlook.com.



From the Board of Directors

Your board of directors met on May 9th to discuss a proposal from Toro Soccer Academy (TSA). TSA would like to develop several soccer fields on the grounds of Messiah for their academy to use, primarily for training. TSA would invest between \$40,000 and \$50,000 to develop the fields (clear the land, level the surface, install drainage and irrigation systems, plant grass, and maintain the fields). In return they're asking for a 10-year agreement for their use of the fields at a reduced field-use fee. The board is divided on whether this would be a good opportunity for Messiah. Diego Garcia, founder of TSA, attended the last part of the meeting to answer questions. The board raised several issues, including developing the back fields instead of the front and reducing the 10-year agreement to something closer to three or five years. TSA will need to do more work to see what it would cost them to develop the rear lots instead of the front ones. We agreed to continue discussions and will meet again after they've done more research. If the board decides to recommend moving forward, this will have to go to the congregation for ratification.

Other business items discussed included:

The renovation. We don't have a firm date for completion, but it doesn't appear we'll make the June 25th date mentioned earlier.

Security. Brad is waiting to hear back from a few people as to whether they'd be interested in working security on Sundays.

Tree Trimming. Work should be completed before we move back into the sanctuary.

As always, please reach out to one of your board members if you have any questions.

Sharon Loren, Secretary

Vonda Petmecky

Brad Sanders, Chairman

Maurice Doublet, II

Anthony Sansone, Comptroller

David Theis

Membership Matters

General Fund Offering

Year To Date: \$206,186.10

Building Fund Offering

Year To Date: \$35,277.39

Renovation Fund

Year to Date: \$397,125.00

Family Life Center Rentals

Year to Date: \$19,424.36

as of May 31, 2023



From Adult Education

Lady's Friday and Adult Sunday Afternoon studies will resume in mid-September. In June, Pastor's Bible Class at 9:15 AM will move to Spiritual Growth. He will teach that Bible study is the foundation of all spiritual growth. *"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life."* John 5:39. He will add four more essentials; Worship, Stewardship, Evangelism, and Fellowship.

Don't neglect personal Bible study and devotions. Use your Portals of Prayer which for June were written by Rev. Tom Engel. He begins Thursday June 1st with "Our Hows, Whats, and Whys". Do you have questions about life's hard knocks? Read 1 Corinthians 8:5-6 and Psalm 73:25-26 along with Pastor Engel's devotional about the role of faith.

I hope you are enjoying "Reading through the Bible in a Year" with us. Remember you can start and stop anytime and resume when you have time. I'm using Laura Sanders excellent book, "Your Daily Companion to the bible: Making Sense of it to Transform Your Life." I have the original paperback version and the new Amazon Kindle version. The Kindle version is helpful when I travel so I can keep track of daily readings on my iPad or phone and enjoy the thoughtful context and questions.

I started in January Week one Day 1 on Monday, January 2nd. I am now in week Twenty-two and June 1st will be Day 4. Readings for that day are II Samuel 3:1 to 5:10, 23:8-39 and I Chronicles 11, 12:23-40.¹ Note on Kindle I can cut and paste readings or comments and I will get an automatic footnote.

¹Sanders, Laura. Your Daily Companion To The Bible: Making Sense of It To Transform Your Life (p. 286). Kindle Edition.

I really enjoy rereading the stories of Samuel, Saul and now King David. Even the sad stories like week 22, Day 3 when King Saul and his three sons are killed. It is important to see why after 40 years of rule God allowed Saul's defeat and death. But why read I Chronicles? Laura points out the Jewish scholars wrote I Chronicles after the Babylonian exile to record key events in the life of David since through David would come the Messiah. It is valuable to read their version of the story alongside the original story. This is a chronological reading of the Bible.



On weekends we take a break from the Old Testament and get into Day 6 and 7 each week reading from the New Testament. This weekend we will read a "harmony of the gospels" by reading Matthew, Mark and Luke's versions of Jesus' last supper with His disciples. Good reading and let us know your questions.

Dennis Parker

Upcoming Events at Messiah



VBS Update: Mario wants to let everyone know that we are full with the number of kids/campers we can have. However, we still need a lot more volunteers. Volunteers can sign up on Messiah's Website using the following information: Messiah Lutheran Church – Stellar VBS 2023 :: VBS Pro :: Group Publishing <https://vbspro.events/p/events/396263>

There is a very special mission opportunity this year at Messiah Boerne's Stellar Vacation Bible School. We have the opportunity to get involved with Operation Christmas Child. Mark Giardinelli and one or two of his teammates will be out representing Operation Christmas Child at Vacation Bible School. There will be a competition between the boys and girls to see who can get either boxes of 10 counts of washable markers or 24 counts of crayons. At the end of VBS, either the boys or girls will get a special prize. In Christ, Mark Giardinelli

Messiah Ladies Time Out Lunch to start our summer is at Tapatio Golf Course in their restaurant La Cascada at 11 am on June 15th!!
RSVP to Lindy Eschenko (979) 229-7760.

Messiah's Next Adult Game Day is the third Saturday June 17th at 2pm in the Family Life Center! Come join us!
Bring drinks, snacks, games and friends!

The Hill Country Pregnancy Center Baby Bottle Boomerang - Thank you to those who have already filled their baby bottle and returned it. If you have not returned your baby bottle, you still have plenty of time to do it. The deadline is Sunday, June 18th, which is also Father's Day.

Hill Country Daily Bread - Once again, we are helping needy children by participating in the Hill Country Daily Bread Miniseries **Back-to-School Clothing Drive**. Please pickup a bag and return by 6/25. Thanks! Kathy Giardinelli 210-334-8820 or kagiardinelli@gmail.com

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

June 1 - Abigail Bibb
 June 2 - Cass Kloeping
 June 6 - Isabelle Jones
 June 6 - Annette Moynahan
 June 8 - Ronald McMann
 June 12 - Madeline Schwarz
 June 12 - Gianni Betancourt
 June 13 - Lorrie Wendeborn
 June 15 - Luke Longson
 June 17 - Ansley Harder
 June 18 - Luke Addington
 June 22 - Margaret Booker
 June 27 - Roddy Dukes
 June 29 - Harold Moore
 June 29 - Charles Georg
 June 29 - Josh Sagebiel
 June 30 - David Rhoads

June 1 - Hal & Lindy Eschenko
 49 years
 June 2 - Frank & Amanda Addington
 22 years
 June 2 - Pete & Sandi Robinson
 33 years
 June 2 - Pat & Alana Kemmy
 50 years
 June 7 - Joe & Verna Sorensen
 55 years
 June 10 - Chad & Ada Bohlken
 23 years
 June 11 - David & Kathleen Blakely
 40 years
 June 11 - Javaier Martinez &
 Kristy Neal - 18 years
 June 15 - David & Sue Theis
 60 years
 June 17 - Arlyn & Anna Maloy
 45 years

June 17 - Carl & Lori Powell
 38 years
 June 18 - Steve & Kristen Koronczok
 18 years
 June 20 - Dave & Heidi Yelverton
 6 years
 June 20 - Ed & Judy Beauford
 59 years
 June 21 - Ed & Carol Mycock
 48 years
 June 22 - Artie & Diana Dolt
 17 years
 June 26 - Gary & Cass Kloeping
 47 years
 June 28 - Larry & Kathy Rottman
 48 years



June Altar Flowers

June 4th - Joe & Verna Sorensen
 Celebrating 55 years of marriage
 June 11th - Hal & Lindy Eschenko
 Celebrating 49 years of marriage
 June 11th - David & Sue Theis
 Celebrating 60 years of marriage
 June 18th - Mario & Eve Betancourt
 Celebrating Gianni's 16th Birthday
 June 25th - Larry & Kathy Rottman
 Celebrating 48 years of marriage



Messiah's Kids Preschool News

On May 21, Messiah's Kids Preschool and Messiah Lutheran Church guided 55 students through a beautiful graduation ceremony. Students sang songs, were presented with diplomas, and were blessed by Pastor Lofgren. Our graduates and families then enjoyed cookies and lemonade, provided through Thrivent, and served by several congregation members. It was a very special day, and we were so excited to promote so many friends to Kindergarten.



Leon Springs Fire Department sent our preschool friends off for the summer with an old fashioned, firehose spray down! Messiah's Kids is now on summer break! Please join us in covering our many families in prayer so that they can enjoy a safe and memorable summer.

Messiah's Kids Preschool - Healthy Blessings, Gina Huskey



Messiah Members Enjoying Time in Fellowship



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Messiah Lutheran Church

9401 Dietz Elkhorn
Boerne, Texas 78015

Phone: 830-755-4300
Metro Line: 830-981-8034
Fax: 830-981-8035

website: www.messiahboerne.org

*Growing Up ~ Growing Out
It's About Souls!*

HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD?

In my life God has grown bigger than He was in my younger years. We know God is the same today as He was yesterday so what happened? It seems that things or events in life change us. It seems that the way we live is a consequence of the size of our God. The problem many of us have is that our God is too small. We are not convinced that we are completely safe in the hands of a fully competent, all-knowing, ever-present God.

A lot of times we put limits to what God can do. For instance if we pray for rain how many of us will walk out the door without an umbrella? How many times have we prayed for God to do something and not even look for the results of the prayer? As scripture has shown we have a God that created life, the world, and us, but we still can't trust Him to take care of us. We see God in scripture as huge, doing things we would never dream of. In scripture we see God sending His Son to save us from our sins but

we even limit this. We just can't give up our sin to Him because we feel they are too bad for Him to take.

One of our new confirmands had my favorite Bible verse Philippians 4:13 (I can do everything through him who gives me strength.) This is one of the verses in the Bible that tells us our strength comes from our big God through Jesus Christ. You can't beat that strength. So when you want to talk to someone about Jesus remember how big your God is, when you want to make a donation or help someone but feel you can't just remember how big your God is, when you face a serious illness remember how big your God is and when you are feeling down and out remember how big your God is.

God is soooobig, praise Him always.