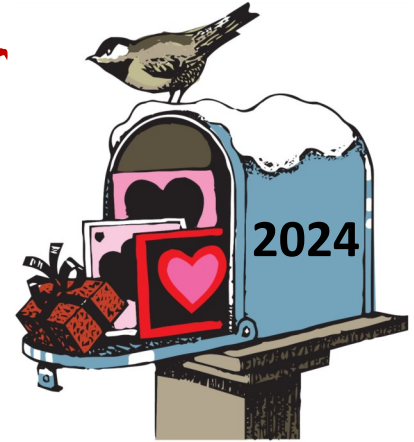


Messiah Lutheran Church

February

Messiah Messenger



Lent - What's love got to do with it?

Americans often associate the month of February with “love” since many people in our society celebrate Valentine’s Day on the 14th. On this special day, people will exchange cards, candy, flowers, and other gifts as expressions of love to each other. This year the church also begins the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. During Lent we remember our Savior’s great love for us and all people as demonstrated by his suffering and sacrificial death on the cross for our salvation. Since our celebrations of Valentine’s Day and Ash Wednesday are so different, yet each do with “love” let’s review what the Bible says about love.

Various words used in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are translated by the English word “love.” Three of these words in Greek are of particular importance: eros, philos, and agape. First, eros denotes the love between a man and a woman that includes feelings of longing, craving, and desire. In Greek mythology, Eros was the god of love, and his Roman counterpart, Cupid, is associated in our culture with Valentine’s Day - you know, the little guy with wings and a bow and arrow! Eros is associated with romantic love and describes, among other relationships, the married love of a husband and wife.

The second word, philos, is the most general word for love and human affection. It mainly denotes the attraction of people who are close to each other both inside and outside the family. It includes concern, care, and hospitality, as well as love for things in the sense of “being fond of.” Thus we have philosophy, “the love of knowledge,” philadelphia, “love for a friend or brother,” and the name Philip, “lover of horses.”

The third word is agape. In nearly every case in which agape is used in the New Testament, it speaks of God’s relationship with human beings. It is divine love and refers either to God’s love for people, people’s love of God, or the love for other people which God’s love evokes in a person. We are most familiar with the use of agape in “the Gospel in a nutshell” (“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. . . .” John 3:16) and “the Golden rule” (“You shall love your neighbor as yourself” Matt 19:19). Agape, the origin of which is in God alone, is the fulfillment of the law (“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.” Rom 13:8).

Which brings us to Ash Wednesday and our celebration of Lent. This year our congregation will follow a sermon series entitled The Crosses of Lent. Out of God’s great agape for you and for me and for all people, He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer and die upon the cross of Calvary for our salvation. Our Lenten series will explore the themes suggested by nine classic depictions of the cross. The history of each of The Cross of Lent - of prophecy, humility, hope, regeneration, suffering, mission, redemption, passion, and victory - points us to an aspect of the rich meaning of the cross of Jesus. As we join together in devotion and meditation on the cross in all its aspects, we will find, with the hymn writer, “Sweet moments rich in blessing, Which before the CROSS we spend.”

See you in church!

Your co-worker in Christ, Pastor Richard Lofgren



Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit. Psalm 51:10 -12

Invitation and Challenge . . . Read, study, discuss the Bible

“Finally, we have cause to celebrate our synodical jubilee with fear and trembling when we glance at the present condition of our Synod. It is true, we still have the very precious treasure, the pure Word of God. As a rule, it still governs our congregations, but it cannot be denied that we are no longer what our fathers were. Indeed, the symptoms of the decline are evident and increasing among us. I will only point out a few. The holy zeal to study and grow in God’s Word has declined markedly among both preachers and hearers. The boundary between us and the world is no longer drawn so sharply. Our manner of life is not always prudent. Terrible scandals, also on the part of our pastors, are on the increase. While we are richer in earthly things than our fathers, we are weaker in faith and Christian love.”
Friedrich Pfotenhauer, 1897

Friedrich Pfotenhauer was president of the LCMS from 1911 to 1935. He said the above to the gathered district pastors and laypeople in 1897 on the 50th anniversary of the Synod when he was president of the Minnesota and Dakota District. Wow! If Pfotenhauer felt that way about his generation, I dare say his words are an indictment exponentially greater upon ours. We spend plenty of time lamenting the state of the world, but we have a much more difficult time recognizing the encroachment of the world’s viewpoints upon us.

Jesus preached, **“Back to the Bible!”** *“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me”* (John 5:39). The apostles preached, **“Back to the Bible!”** In fact, every great era of reform in the Church’s life has begun with the cry to repentance, and **“Back to the Bible!”**

The Lutheran Reformation was exactly such an event. The Lutheran Confessional Revival of the 19th century was also such an event. After a century of pastors and scholars denying that the Scriptures are the Word of God - and even that Christ is the God-Man, *“the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”* (John 1:29) - a revival of serious study of the Word of God began in the 1820s. Soon many were captivated by the truth of Scripture.

The Scriptures are God’s own inspired and infallible Word. *“Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”* (2 Peter 1:21). Jesus Himself quoted the Old Testament as the very Word of God and as absolutely reliable and authoritative (*“the mouth of God”* Matt. 4:4; *“It is written,”* Matt. 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46; *“this which is written must be fulfilled in me,”* Luke 22:37; *“Have you not read that which was spoken unto you by God ...”* Matt. 22:31–32; and much more!).

- Can we be sure of Christ, forgiveness and eternal life? Back to the Bible! (1 John 4:1–4)
- How shall we treat each other in the Church? Back to the Bible! (1 Corinthians 13)
- Shall we share the Word of the Gospel with others? Back to the Bible! (Luke 19:10)
- How shall we hold up under suffering and ill health? Back to the Bible! (Romans 5; Hebrews 12; 1 Peter 1)

There is no problem of faith, life, family or Church for which the Bible does not have answers.

Invitation and challenge!

As Messiah awaits the Pastor, God calls for us, what a great time it is for us to strengthen and revive our faith by gathering in small groups to read, study and discuss the Bible. There are several opportunities available to us; Pastor’s continued pre-service discussion using, “Begin,” Adult Bible discussions (being scheduled) and opportunity for small groups of friends and neighbors to organize and gather to discuss the Bible and build relationships.

Also there are many online resources, blogs and pod casts available at: <https://witness.lcms.org>. Check out *The Lutheran Study Bible*, available from Concordia Publishing House. You’ll find helpful tools like “How to Read and Study the Bible” **Back to the Bible!**

To God be the Glory, Education and Discipleship lay ministries **David Wendeborn**

Content Excerpts taken from: *April 2, 2018 / Letter From the President, The Magazine / by The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*



From the Call Committee

If you missed the voter’s meeting on the 28th the congregation voted unanimously to issue a call for the position of Sole Pastor to Pastor Stephen DeMik. Pastor DeMik was notified of the vote and he did indicate that he was still in a position to consider a call to Messiah. The call documents were sent to Pastor DeMik at his request on Sunday evening as he was leaving for San Diego early Monday morning for a weeklong training session in San Diego. He said he and his wife, who was accompanying him, would be able to discuss and digest the information during their free time over the course of the week.

As you recall, Pastor DeMik was already considering a call to Hope Lutheran in Lubbock. I can only assume that he will make a decision as to take or decline that call during the course of this week, as I had been told that he needed to let Hope know by the end of January, which was Wednesday of this week. I don’t think we will hear from Pastor DeMik until he returns from San Diego. At that time, he will have either accepted the call to Hope or he will have declined and be still considering the call to Messiah.

If he declines the call to Hope and wants to pursue the call to Messiah, I think he will call us and try to set up a time to come visit the church and the Boerne area. I think we would try to set up something for the following week, depending on his work schedule and the days he has off. If he does come to visit, once that occurs, I don’t think we will hear an answer for another week, perhaps two.

That being the case, if he does decline Hope and considers our call, I don’t think we’ll know his decision before mid to late February. We must be patient. Pastors do not rush into these decisions. The call committee will keep you informed as we are informed. I want to remind everyone that although some people in Pastor DeMik’s church are aware of both of these calls, the parishioners may not be. Consequently, please **DO NOT POST** any comments about the call to **ANY** social media platform.

Please keep Pastor DeMik in your prayers as he contemplates how he may best serve the Lord (which could be by staying in his current call).
Your brother in Christ, Mike Lang

Elder's Report

January has come and gone faster than ever. The weekend of January 14th we had three days of below freezing temperatures. This caused six sprinkler heads in our fire protection sprinkler system to burst in the attic which activated the system resulting in water flooding the second floor and some of the offices on the first floor of the church just a little over three months after we moved back into our newly renovated building.

By orders of the Fire Marshall, we had to vacate the church building due to mold and repairs and move Pastor Lofgren, David Rhoads, and Maurine Maloy back into the Family Life Center. We all pray that the repairs will be made as quickly as possible so that we will be able to move back into the church to resume our worshipping there. We will keep the congregation posted as to the progress of the repair and a possible completion date.

As you know there are two newly appointed Elders Ed Mycock and myself - Maurice Doublett, III as Head Elder. We will be contacting the members of our flock as soon as possible. *Maurice Doublett*



2024 Elder Assignments

Larry Risley	A - B	830-431-0309	Ed Mycock	Lo - O	210-363-4854
Roger Winkelmann	C - H	210-415-3850	Hal Eschenko	P - Sc	979-204-4121
Bill Eichman	J - Li	210-701-6652	Maurice Doublett	Sm - Z	210-317-3006

From the Board of Directors

The board had our first meeting of 2024 on January 8th, where the primary order of business was electing new officers. For 2024, board officers are:

Russ Leachman, Chairman - Tom Bibb, Vice Chair man

Anthony Sansone, Treasurer - Sharon Loren, Secretary

At-large members are Vonda Petmecky, Brad Sanders, and David Theis.

Other items discussed:

Development of written guidelines for use of the Family Life Center and the Adult Education Room.

Messiah Kids Preschool and how they're using grant funds for upgrades to the FLC, retention bonuses, etc.

The Lemon Creek development and their encroachment on our property line. They received our cease-and-desist letter and have started to restore the fence.

Ideas for new signage for the property.

The cancellation of our prior property insurance policy and the subsequent increase in costs with our new carrier.


If you have any questions about the board's actions, please contact one of your board members. **Sharon Loren**

The Newest Board Member

Meet your Board! This month we're featuring Tom Bibb, the most recent addition to our board. (Tom was appointed to the board when Maurice Doublet stepped down to serve as head elder.) Tom and Kathy, his wife of 47 years, have been members of Messiah since 1994. They raised three sons, all of whom were confirmed at Messiah. Tom has been a faithful steward, always willing to share his talents with Messiah. He has served on the board of directors twice before, including several years as president. He's been a Sunday School teacher, an usher, and has served on numerous lay committees. In the professional world, Tom has worked in the oil & gas industry for 45 years! His hobbies include golf and having fun with his and Kathy's seven grandchildren. I'm sure he'd be happy to share pictures if you ask!! I'll close as I always do: if you have any questions about or for the board, please reach out to Tom or one of the other Board members. We're here to serve you!



FEBRUARY 2024



Texas District Church Extension Fund
1.888.951.1233 • texascef.org

Investment	Fixed Rate (2)		Floating Rate (2)	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note (1)	3.500%	3.55%	3.000%	3.03%
Three Year Note (1)	3.650%	3.70%	3.250%	3.29%
Five Year Note (1)	3.750%	3.80%	3.500%	3.55%
Jumbo Investment	4.000%	4.06%		
\$100,000 minimum, 18 month term				
Flex Savings			1.000%	1.00%
Rainy Day Fund			1.250%	1.26%
Amounts over \$10,000 receive the Flex Savings rate				
Congregation Savings			1.250%	1.26%
Building Fund			3.000%	3.04%

All individual Texas District CEF investments (FLEX, fixed and floating rate notes) may be included in a person's IRA portfolio, through our custodian GoldStar Trust Company. www.texascef.org/ira.html (1) Subject to penalty for early withdrawal. (2) Rates subject to change. Rates reviewed monthly. Texas District Church Extension Fund is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, CEF investments are not SIPC or FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This does not constitute an offer to sell or a request to buy. The offer is made solely by CEF's Offering Circular.



Messiah's Kids Preschool



Messiah's Kids has been very busy getting our priority families registered for the following school year. During January, our teachers take the opportunity to meet and conference with each family to share each student's growth. We are always so blessed to have so many of our families continue to trust our ministry and re-enroll each year.

Community registration is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14th at 8:00 am. I have had the privilege to meet many new prospective families who are very eager to join our community.

Please keep our staff in your prayers as we drive to the Texas District Early Childhood Conference in Montgomery, TX on February 29th. This is always an amazing opportunity for our teachers to learn more about early childhood education, team build with their colleagues and be filled with the Lord's spirit through the amazing keynote speakers and praise team who bless us with their amazing gifts.

Gina Huskey



Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars

Every Tuesday - Prayer Breakfast

Breakfast & Bible Study & Prayer
at 8:30 am - open to all
Taqueria Reyna Tapatio
- 1000 North Main, Boerne.

Friday Morning - Ladies Bible Study

"If You Want to Walk on Water,
You've Got to Get Out of the Boat"
Family Life Center
Jan 19th thru Feb 23rd


Ladies Day Out



Thu. Feb. 1st - Ladies Time Out

Valentine Brunch at 9:00 am
Mae Dunne Kitchen & Goods - 23702
West IH 10 Frontage Road, SA, Tx.

Adult Game Day

Sat. Feb. 10th at 2:00 pm 
Family Life Center
Bring your favorite game & snacks &
drinks to share - everyone is invited!

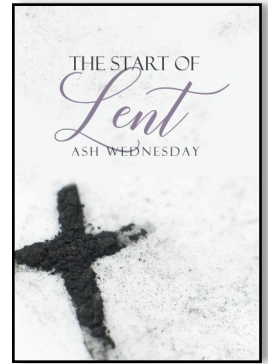
Valentine Lunch

Alstadt Brewery In Fredericksburg
Saturday February 17th at noon.
Same weekend as Trading Days!
Everyone is welcome!

National Day of Prayer

Thursday - May 2nd
at Messiah Lutheran Church
contact Kathy Giardinelli if you
would like to help with this event.

From the Fellowship Committee



The Fellowship Committee met on Sunday, January 28th and has an agenda for some fun events for the congregation. *The committee is going to have a soup supper at 5:30 pm before the Ash Wednesday Service on February 14th as a celebration of the upcoming Lenten season. There will be 4 or 5 different soups, with breads including cornbread, and desserts.*

Once again, this year we will have a Wine Tasting, on Saturday May 4th. Fellowship will provide snacks/hors d'oeuvres, and the congregation is asked to bring their favorite beverage to share. This year the location of the tasting will be at the home of David & Kathleen Blakley {179 Mira Vista Drive, Comfort, Tx} from 4:00 to 7:00 pm.

Since it seemed as though this past year's Christmas Party was a hit, we are keeping the same format for this year. So, save the date, Saturday December 7th from 5:30 - 8:00 PM.

Additionally, we are working on putting together a couple of other events, to include bringing back the Chili Cook-off on a Saturday afternoon in November. More information will be forthcoming soon. **Pam Fields**

Feb 7th - Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek

- Celebrating 3rd anniversary -

Feb 18th - Anthony & Pam Sansone

- Celebrating 51st anniversary -

Feb 29th - Kevin & Valerie Workman

- Celebrating 32nd anniversary -

Feb 29th - Adam & Becky (Maloy) Bailey

- Celebrating either their 3rd

or their 12th anniversary -



Feb 1 - Donna Cifers

Feb 1 - Diana Dott

Feb 3 - Greyson Dukes

Feb 4 - Gina Huskey

Feb 5 - Hal Eschenko

Feb 9 - Tony Giardinelli

Feb 10 - Roger Ley

Feb 10 - Ashley Harder

Feb 12 - Juliet Betancourt

Feb 12 - Norma Lofgren

Feb 13 - Lisa Ley

Feb 14 - Wyatt Golden

Feb 17 - Rolf Schulz

Feb 18 - John Beard

Feb 19 - Sandi Robinson

Feb 23 - Gerry Zumm

Feb 25 - Lindy Eschenko



A Boerne Legacy - Since 1884

"Whether you're just passing through or consider yourself a true local, we're happy you're here. Located in the heart of Boerne, The Dienger Trading Co. brings the quintessential small town, Texas hill country experience to life. From the moment you enter our historic double doors, you'll be greeted by our friendly staff and drawn in by the smells of your favorite foods. We love creating community spaces and hosting gatherings of family and friends. There's something for everyone at The Dienger Trading Co. We'll see you soon on the Hill Country Mile!"

Raymond Lunsford, owner of The Dienger Trading Co. called the Messiah Church Office extending an invitation to Messiah's widows and widowers.

Tuesday, February 13th at 6:00 pm (you can start coming at 5:30 pm) you are invited to a dinner meal - free of cost.



It is a wonderful opportunity for some fine dining and an excellent time for fellowship!



Volunteers Needed!



The Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center needs your help. Drivers are needed to deliver flowers for Valentine's Day. The delivery dates are February 13 and 14. Please contact the Center to sign up for a delivery time or use the QR code. The Center phone number is (830) 249-9717.



Two of the Boerne flower shops (An Empty Vase and The Flower Shop) donate the delivery charge to the Pregnancy Care Center for each delivery we make.

This task is very enjoyable and fun. Without exception, every one of the recipients are happy, excited, and sometimes very surprised. David and I deliver flowers together then I get taken out to lunch to celebrate our Valentine's Day together. It's a win-win! **Sue Theis**



VALENTINE'S DAY Flower Delivery
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR HILL COUNTRY PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 & WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

How You Can Help

1. Sign up for a delivery window using the QR code below
2. Deliver gorgeous flower arrangements.
3. A portion of the delivery fees are donated to HCPC!

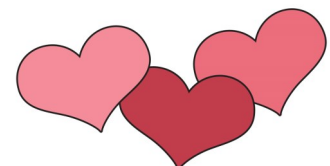
You can also help by ordering flowers from a local small business florist to be delivered in Boerne on the fundraiser days!

OUR LOCAL FLORIST PARTNERS

An Empty Vase
Filled with quality & creativity

The Flower Shop

HCPCCTEXAS.ORG/EVENTS
830-249-9717

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ML MESSIAH LUTHERAN
— GROWING UP, GROWING OUT —

9401 DIETZ ELKHORN
BOERNE, TEXAS 78015

PHONE: 830-755-4300
FAX: 830-981-8035
WWW.MESSIAHBOERNE.ORG



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



Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

JULY 2:15
NRSV



LENTEN CALENDAR

- Wednesday - February 14th - Ash Wednesday**
Soup Supper at 5:50 pm - Lenten Service at 6:30 pm
- Wednesday - February 21st - Lenten Service at 6:30 pm
- Wednesday - February 28th - Lenten Service at 6:30 pm
- Wednesday - March 6th - Lenten Service at 6:30 pm
- Wednesday - March 13th - Lenten Service at 6:30 pm
- Wednesday - March 20th - Lenten Service at 6:30 pm
- Palm Sunday - March 24th - Worship at 10:30 am**
- Maundy Thursday - March 28th - Service at 10:30 pm**
- Good Friday - March 29th - Service at 10:30 pm**