



What the "Real" Problem is . . .

We are midway through 2023, summer is hot, drought threatens, politicians are fighting, the country is in debt, our church refurbishment is not complete and we haven't called a Pastor. When will things get better?? The frustrations never seem to end. The June 7th Portals of Prayer author reminded me of What the "Real" Problem Is:

Doesn't it seem like after you get through one problem, another one comes up behind it to hit you? Maybe, with so many of them, we should talk about what kind of problems we have. Costly repairs. Budget problems. Bad accidents. Sudden illnesses. Family conflicts. Not to minimize these problems, but every person goes through hard situations at times.

In hard situations, I get in a mode where I either want to fix everything or just want to give up. Both of these modes cause me anxiety. They both overwhelm me.

The most difficult problem to beat is the one you can't see. Satan is trying to get you to believe that you are defeated in every way and that you are lost forever. But faith always wins and saves. Jesus made sure of that when He died and rose, defeating Satan forever.

Problems do come, often on a regular basis, but faith says Satan can never bring us down, for faith always has us looking up to Jesus, who guides us through all things to victory.

During tough times, I pray that we each will remember the eternal salvation that God has already provided for us in Jesus. We cannot dismiss the problems Satan thrusts on us. In faith looking forward we know Jesus has our back, not only in eternity but, while we are here on earth. For Christians being on earth is as bad as it gets, heaven is our home.

While we are still here let's use our God given; time, talents and treasures to fight against the devil's challenges until we arrive at our eternal home.

To God be the Glory! *David Wendeborn, Discipleship*

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Ephesians 6:10-12

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

"An Attractive, Missional Congregation"

As a pastor, I'd like to serve a growing congregation, but how do congregations grow, in other words, "How does God grow the Church?"

A common way in which people have thought about growing congregations is known as the Attractional model. In fact, the Attractional model is the most common model used to grow most of the congregations commonly known as "megachurches." The basic idea may be summarized by the phrase, "If you build it, they will come." In other words, the Attractional model leads congregations to think that if they provide the biggest and best sanctuary, the best preacher, musicians, and choirs, and multiple ministries for families, single adults, and children, then people will be attracted to the congregation, attend services, and become members. The model is "needs" based, that is, if a person's needs are met by the congregation, then they will be more likely to join the congregation so that their needs will continue to be met.

A shift has occurred, however, in the way many congregations think about church growth and membership. They have moved from the Attractional to the Missional model. The Missional model does not depend on the congregation's physical plant, preachers, and programs, but rather on the members of the congregation serving as witnesses to Jesus in their lives and thereby connecting people to Christ. In missional congregations the emphasis is not on attracting "seekers" (also known as "church shoppers") but on making disciples. Thus the emphasis is two-pronged: first,

transformative Christian education programs; second, touching the lives of people in the community in ways that communicate Christ's love. Thus, the Missional model is also needs based, but rather than focusing on physical, emotional, and intellectual needs as means to a spiritual end, the focus is on the person's spiritual need for the love and acceptance of God in Christ Jesus.

Considering these two models, the Missional model agrees more closely with the witness of the Scriptures and the historical record of growth in the Church. In Acts 1:8, Jesus told his apostles before his ascension, "***You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses . . . to the end of the earth.***" Jesus did not send them to build churches or develop entertaining programs of religious instruction, but to witness to people about the love of God manifested in the person and work of Jesus Christ for the salvation of all people. The greatest need of people in Boerne, as in every place, is the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation available through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Which leads to the reason — the only reason — for you and me to be here: to connect people to Christ, and what a wonderful opportunity we have to serve as Christ's witnesses, as the hymn says, "***The lives that my life touches, However great or small—Let them through me see Jesus, Who served and saved us all***" (LSB 835:4).

Your co-worker in Christ,
Pastor Lofgren

Update from the Elders . . .

The call committee is in place! The members are: *Debra Beard, Rebecca Bottlinger, Sharon Loren, Kim Maloy, Rebecca Sagebiel, Brad Sanders, Joe Sorensen, Sue Theis and myself.* At this point, there is not much the committee will be doing, as we are still in the process of completing our self-evaluation and gathering other information that is required to be sent to District in our call package. When the package does go out however, I wanted the committee to have already met with our District representative, Larry Reitz, so we can begin reviewing pastoral information as soon as it is sent to us by District.

My best estimation of a timeline for getting our information to District remains late July, or early August. The Vision Team is nearing completion, but we must have a voter's meeting to approve the Vision and then the Mission Statement Team will have to come up with a Mission Statement for Messiah.

In the meantime, Maurine, Tony Sansone and I continue to compile demographic and financial information about Messiah that is also required to be in the package sent to District.

I hope everyone has received and read through the Pastoral Profile Survey that went out two weeks ago. If you have not filled yours out yet, there is still some time as I spoke with Larry Reitz, on Monday, the 26th and he was working remotely as he is assisting his family with issues related to his ailing father. I told him to focus on his family and that we would visit once he was back in the office. When he is back, he will get

the link set up for Messiah members to upload their survey answers online.

Several members have asked about nominating Pastors they know to be considered in the call process. With the mailing of this article, consider the nominations open to Messiah members. There is a form that must be filled out for any names submitted to District from the members. Maurine has a copy of the form that can be emailed if so desired. We can also print our a few and put them on the table in the Family Life Center for the next couple of Sundays. The nominations can remain open until we are ready to send our call package to District, which again, won't be until sometime in August. I will make an announcement when I have a clearer deadline, but if you have someone in mind, please get a form and look over the information requested and go ahead and get your nomination to me or to the church office.

Please keep this entire process in your prayers, as this is an extremely important time for Messiah. Pray that we find a pastor who is in step with the Vision and Mission that we ultimately decide upon.

Your brother in Christ,

Mike Lang



Refurbishment Project Update

The new pews have been installed and look great. The new interior doors and millwork trim are being installed. The new front doors have been installed.

The narthex ceiling beams have been installed.

The Nave arches wood trim and new cross are being installed.

The refinished altar, baptismal font and new lectern are ready to move into place.

The final testing of the fire sprinkler by the fire marshal has passed.

New lights and electrical wiring is complete.

The restrooms, coffee bar and cabinets are awaiting counter tops.

The stained-glass windows are being created and will be one of the last items installed.

The dumpster, port-a-potty & chain link fence have been removed.

There is still a need for financial resources in addition to the already generous donations that have been offered up. Those interested in sharing in meeting those needs can earmark donations to "Refurbishment."

There is opportunity for congregational support for:

Audio-Visual new speakers, projectors

New narthex furnishings

Repair and updating of our sanctuary air-conditioning/heating systems

Grounds yardwork/cleanup (once a date has been set)

Move in Day help (once a date has been set)

Dedication & Community Celebration Day (once a date has been set)

David Wendeborn



Update from the Vision Team

The Vision team is led by ***Melissa Rutledge and includes John Beard, Tom Bibb, Mark Giardinelli, Gina Huskey, and Sharon Loren.***

The first three learning teams - History & Culture, Partnerships, and Leadership Structure - presented their findings to the congregation in late May and handed off their work to the Vision team.

Our team's purpose is to craft a vision statement for Messiah Lutheran Church and Preschool, using information developed by those first three learning teams.

We're almost done with our work, and there will be a congregational meeting after service on **July-30th** for us to present our recommendation and to take questions from the congregation.

Please plan to be at this important meeting as we move closer to finalizing the information needed for our Call package!

If you have any questions before the meeting, please reach out to someone on the Vision Team. *Sharon Loren*

Discipleship

The apostle Paul warned young Pastor Timothy, ***"I Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ... 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."***
1 Tim 4 & 13.

Sadly, we see this happening - false teaching, and a lack of teaching. I read recently all three "bright young" contestants on the TV show **Jeopardy** failed to answer this question: Fill in the missing word - "Our Father in heaven, _____ be your name." Can you provide the answer? Check Matthew 6:9.

In 1517, per the Large Catechism timeline, Luther began preaching a series on the Lord's Prayer. Why would a doctor of the church and a college professor preach on the Lord's Prayer? Luther was also a parish priest, and the prince of Saxony urged him to visit the parishes and assess

"how bad things were in the Saxon churches". Luther wrote:

"The deplorable, miserable condition which I discovered lately when I, too, was a visitor, has forced and urged me to prepare this Catechism, or Christian doctrine, in this small, plain, simple form. Mercy! Good God! what manifold misery I beheld! The common people ... have no knowledge whatever of Christian doctrine, and alas! many pastors are altogether incapable, and incompetent to teach. Nevertheless, all maintain that they are Christians... Yet they cannot recite either the Lord's Prayer, or the Creed, or the Ten Commandments, they live like dumb brutes and irrational swine." (Bente, 156)

I love Luther's way with words - imagine hearing it in German! There is nothing new under the sun. Still today we should read and study our Bibles and the catechisms. This is why Pastor Lofgren is teaching us the basics in his Sunday 9:15

class. In July he will transition to another basic Scripture book, The Gospel of John.

In Your Daily Companion to the Bible, Monday, July 3, we will start Week 27 studying 1st Chronicles beginning with chapters 22-25. King David is now an old man giving instructions to his son Solomon on how to govern. We will once again learn that our God is a God of order and He expects leaders to maintain order and structure in all things, including worship. What about your vacation time? No problem. In this chronological reading of the Bible, it is easy to stop and start wherever you left off. But at least carry your Portals of Prayer. Blessings as you stay in the Word.

Dennis Parker



News from the LCMS District

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, having received 52.32% of the votes cast, is the president-elect of The Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod (LCMS) for a fifth term of office, 2023-2026.

The nominations process for the position of Synod president began last fall. The resulting candidates were the five ordained ministers who received the highest number of votes in the nominations process and who consented to serve if elected: Harrison, the incumbent president; the Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry, former president of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor; the Rev. Richard L. Snow, president of the LCMS Nebraska District; the Rev. Peter K. Lange, LCMS first vice-president; and the Rev. Benjamin T. Ball, LCMS sixth vice-president.

The election took place, according to Bylaw 3.12.2.4, starting June 17 (six weeks prior to the convention) via internet balloting provided by YesElections (formerly Election-America). The

6,053 pastoral and lay voters validly registered by the congregations and parishes of the Synod (Bylaw 3.12.2.3) before the deadline (electronic registration by March 19) or their substitutes (as validly submitted before June 9) served as the voters for this election. Of those, a total of 5,000 votes were cast, constituting a vote percentage of 82.60% of the electorate.

The results of the ballot tallied and reported to the Secretary of the Synod by YesElections are as follows:

Harrison was voted president-elect with 2,616 votes (52.32%);

Ferry received 1,593 votes (31.86%);

Ball received 341 votes (6.82%);

Snow received 318 votes (6.36%); and

Lange received 132 votes (2.64%).

Additional elections for Vice-Presidents and Board of Directors and many other synodical positions will take place at the convention July 28—August 3, 2023 in Milwaukee, WI.

David Theis

Concordia University Texas

One of the major issues which will come before the LCMS Synodical Convention: Concordia University Texas seeks separation from Synod. In 2022 the Concordia University Texas Austin, Tx, Board of Regents amended CTX's governance documents, changing among other things, the manner by which CTX regents are elected and removing any reference in CTX's governance documents to following the Bylaws of The LCMS. This act of changing the CTX governance documents was done without LCMS approval and in opposition to LCMS Bylaws, and the Synod has condemned it. The series of events leading to this moment is long and complex. As the Synod prepares for the 68th Regular Convention of the LCMS this summer, questions loom about the

future of CTX. This will, of course, affect the current status of LCMS rostered CTX workers. Concordia University System (CUS) President Rev. Dr. Dean O. Wenthe said that the Synod's deepest concern is for Concordia Itself. Speaking of CTX he said, "The proposal for self-governance will only further weaken an already compromised fidelity to the doctrine and practice of the LCMS. A self-perpetuating board with a president who has unbridled authority is in direct opposition to what Concordia's founders desired and what the last three national LCMS conventions have advocated and supported." Many hours will be spent on this at the convention. *David Theis*

MLC 2023 VBS



To: Congregation, Volunteers, and most importantly, the VBS Families

First and foremost, I would like to thank every single person that has volunteered and supported our awesome VBS event this year! Seeing the happy faces of all the children, truly showed just how our Savior Jesus Christ shines and makes Messiah Lutheran Church and the Pre-School the extra special and unique place it is.

What I enjoyed the most was hearing the kids shout, "Shine Jesus' Light!" everyday. I feel truly blessed to be able to emcee this event and provide the kids with laughter, surprises, and especially spreading the good news that our dear Lord is with us every step of the way. Thank you again!

God bless, Mario :)



Dear Messiah Family,

During Vacation Bible School, we had a special mission project for the children. It was a competition of boys vs. girls. The goal was to collect as many markers/crayons as they could for Operation Christmas Child.

At first the girls were ahead 17-1, but the boys came back to win it all. Boys 34 - Girls 31. Thirty of the markers and crayons will go to Jericho's packing party at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, while the rest will go to another packing party.



In Christ, Mark Giardinelli



Letting Others Know About Messiah . . .

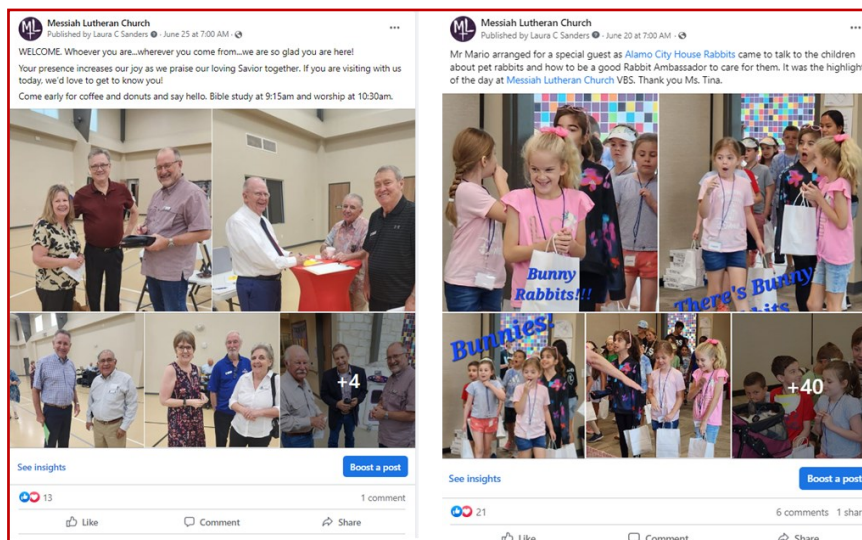
Social Media, love or hate it, is here to stay. It is one way to let the world know Messiah exists. According to PRNewswire, 76% of consumers look at online presence before physically visiting a business. The same would be true for churches. I know long before we even visit a church, Brad and I are checking LCMS church websites and Facebook pages as we prepare to move once he retires.

So what can you do? Like, comment, or share the Messiah Facebook posts so that they get a boost and appear on more newsfeeds.

<https://www.facebook.com/MessiahBoerne/>

Take pictures as we gather Sunday or at other events and email them to me at LSandersCoach@gmail.com. Photos are especially helpful as I can't be there every Sunday and don't attend all the events we host.

It's like the age-old question, "If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound? Today, the question becomes, "If it isn't posted on Social Media, did it really happen?" Let's let the world know about Messiah and all the great things we have to offer as the Good News is preached and the fellowship of believers gather each week. *Laura Sanders*



Messiah's Kids Preschool

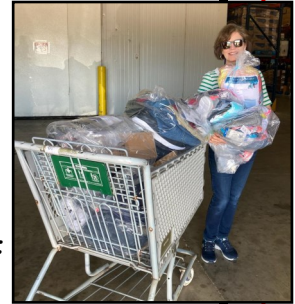
Messiah's Kids was excited to see so many of our preschool friends at MLC's VBS. Our kids and families enjoyed participating in all of the activities. Our preschool is still looking to hire 2 two-year old assistants. If you know anyone who enjoys sharing Jesus, loves working with young children, doesn't mind working on potty training, please have them email me directly at messiahskidsboerne@outlook.com.

Healthy Blessings, *Gina Huskey*



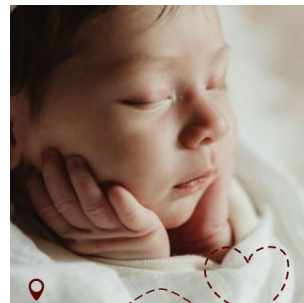
Kathy Giardinelli, our Board of Missions Co-Chair, dropped off the 35 clothing bags for Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries from our small church! Thank you for providing new clothes for these children. It's hard enough when poverty strikes and you don't feel like you fit in with your peers. New shirts, jeans, and shoes always bring a smile of gratitude.

Matthew 25:37-40 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'
"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'



Messiah's Next Adult Game Day is the third Saturday July 15th at 2pm in the Family Life Center! Come join us! Bring drinks, snacks, games, and friends!

Messiah's Ladies Time Out - By popular demand we are going to do lunch at El Cazador again since the food is awesome and service excellent and it was inside and very nice!! We are already scheduled there for Thursday, July 20th at 11am!! RSVP to Lindy or sign up at church!!



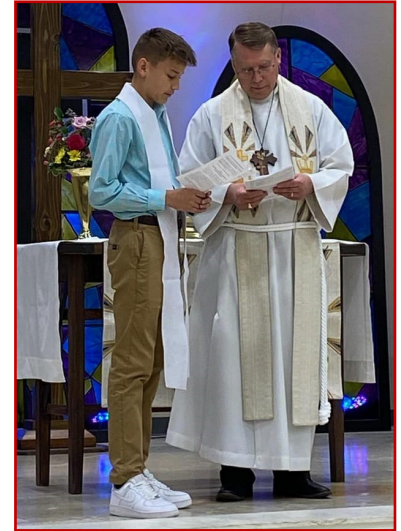
Journey of the Heart
Hill Country Pregnancy Care
Center's Annual Fundraising Gala
Tuesday, September 19, 2023
at The Cana Ballroom
Lunch: 11:30 am - 1 pm
or Dinner: 6 pm - 8 pm

Zane Thomas Bohlken

What do we believe, teach and confess? Zane Bohlken spent the past year studying the Faith so he knows what he believes and confesses. What a remarkable young man who takes his faith so seriously. Then again Jesus took us pretty seriously! Praise be to God. Congratulate Zane for completing Confirmation and thank God for His faithfulness.

Zane - is the youngest child of Chad & Ada Bohlken was confirmed at Messiah on Holy Trinity Sunday - June 4th after completing his studies with Pastor Lofgren.

His confirmation verse:
"And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." Acts 2:21



Hayli Rose Fernandez

Hayli Rose Fernandez received the sign of the holy cross upon her forehead and upon her heart marking her as one redeemed by Christ the crucified on Sunday, June 18th. Hayli is the granddaughter of Larry & Pam Risley.



**MLC's Annual
Messiah 5K Fun Walk/Run
Saturday morning, September 30, 2023**

**Be on the lookout for forthcoming
information!**



**MLC's Annual Adult Christmas Party
Saturday evening, December 9, 2023**

**Be on the lookout for forthcoming
information!**



July Birthdays & Anniversaries



Jul 1 - Pat Harrington
 Jul 2 - Gary Kloeping
 Jul 4 - Bob Eckhart
 Jul 7 - Beverly King
 Jul 7 - Sean Barry
 Jul 10 - Vonda Petmecky
 Jul 17 - Laura Turner
 Jul 18 - Mireille Marcum
 Jul 19 - Mark Rutledge
 Jul 19 - Ruth Knupke
 Jul 21 - Betty Brightsman
 Jul 21 - Debbie Stender
 Jul 21 - Drew Mucci
 Jul 22 - Zane Bohlken
 Jul 29 - Mary Ann Eichman
 Jul 30 - Janet Haberoth
 Jul 30 - Marilyn Mazurek

Jul 4 - Mark & Melissa Rutledge - 27 years
 Jul 7 - Jim & Kelly Mitchell - 39 years
 Jul 7 - Brian & Kelsey Golden - 11 years
 Jul 8 - Russ & Margaret Leachman - 34 years
 Jul 11 - Steven & Janet Haberoth - 47 years
 Jul 16 - Bill & Sharon Loren - 35 years
 Jul 19 - Larry & Pam Risley - 43 years
 Jul 21 - Roy & Laura Biles - 44 years
 Jul 23 - Kenneth & Jean Schuchardt - 57 years
 Jul 27 - Les & Laura Turner - 32 years
 Jul 29 - Mike & Debbie Stender - 51 years



JULY ALTAR FLOWERS

**July 2nd - Rebecca Bottlinger - Commemorating the Declaration of Independence
 by the Constitutional Congress dated July 4, 1776**

July 2nd - Mark & Melissa Rutledge - celebrating 27 years of marriage

July 9th - Russ & Margaret Leachman - celebrating 35 years of marriage

July 16th - Dan & Donna Cifers - in honor of Donna's Mom - Margaret Chamness

July 23rd - Steve & Janet Haberoth - thanksgiving for God's Blessings

July 23rd - Bill & Linda Dicke - the blessing of Grandbabies

July 30th - Mike & Debbie Stender - celebrating 51 years of marriage

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Messiah Lutheran Church

9501 Dietz Elkhorn
Boerne, Tx 78006
Phone: 830-755-4300
Metro Line: 830-981-8034

website:
www.messiahboerne.org

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

