



“... You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; you will be my witnesses . . . to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Messiah Messenger

Messiah Lutheran Church



Faith Tested? . . . Shaken?

Messiah Contacts

Staff

Pastor - Richard Lofgren
Admin - Maurine Maloy
Facility Manager - David Rhoads

Messiah's Kids Preschool

Director - Gina Huskey

Board of Directors

Chairperson - Brad Sanders
Vice Chairperson - Russ Leachman
Secretary - Sharon Loren
Comptroller - Anthony Sansone
Maurice Doublet, III
Vonda Petmecky
David Theis

Board of Elders

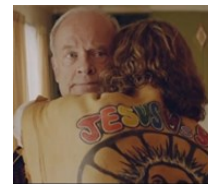
Larry Risley A-B
Roger Winkelmann C-H
Bill Eichman J-Li
Allen Leitko Lo-O
Hal Eschenko P-Sc
Mike Lang, Head Elder Sm-Z

Lay Ministry Boards

Adult Education - OPEN
Discipleship - David Wendeborn
Congregational Care - Marilyn Mazurek
Congregational Care - Kathy Rottman
Fellowship - Kathlin Jauregui
Fellowship - Pam Fields
Head Elder - Mike Lang
Missions - Kathy Giardinelli
Missions - Mark Giardinelli
Property - Paul Duennenberg
Youth Development - OPEN



His Only Son tells the story of the testing and faith of Abraham, Sara and Isaac.



Jesus Revolution, based on a true story from the 60's and 70's about the impact Jesus had on people with different expectations.

Two movies have come out recently that can remind us of our faith that God is in control.

Messiah has been through some rough times over that last several years. Dealing with the testing transitions has shaken some to the point of losing faith that God is in control of His church in Boerne, Texas. Many members have decided that God's plan for changing direction is too much to handle. For many, looking back to where Messiah has been is a stronger pull than where God is leading. Personal preferences of; leadership decisions, personality, style and presentation have caused many to say I have had enough and leave to search for their personal preferences elsewhere. Much grumbling can be heard over preferences.

God has a plan! While we are dealing with all of the uncomfortable changes, do we recognize; God's Word has continued to be present? His sacraments are still present, we have caring members around us. He has told us He is with us "to the end of the age." Matt 28:19-20. What He continues to provide for us has not changed. Our expectations may have been challenged, but God hasn't stopped moving Messiah in the direction He has in mind. Much like how God challenged Abraham and the culture of the 60's-70's, God is preparing Messiah for the upcoming growth in the community surrounding us. We may not like the changes, but as it has been said, "change is inevitable, growth is optional."



I pray that we look for what God is doing and ask Him to guide us to be part of His plan to His glory, in Jesus' name!

David Wendeborn, Discipleship Team

A Priceless Award

Many awards will be given to people during the month of May. Among these will be awards given to students for special achievements during the school year. For example, awards will be given to athletes who played on school teams during the year, and special awards will be given to the top athletes of the year. Also, with the end of the academic year, degrees will be conferred, and diplomas given to students and scholars after many years of study, and academic honors will be awarded to the top scholars.

There is one award that has nothing to do with personal achievement, however, at least not ours. It is the award of a crown of life (Rev 2:10). Scripture tells us that a crown of life will be given to everyone who is faithful unto death - faithful to Jesus Christ, that is. Jesus is the One who won the crown of life for all people through His innocent suffering, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection, and that victorious crown of laurel leaves, the symbol of eternal life, will be granted to everyone who believes in Him. By shedding His blood on the cross of Calvary, dying, and rising from the dead, Christ defeated sin and Satan, death, and hell for you and for me. As God the Father awarded many crowns of victory to Jesus at His ascension and enthronement in heaven, so Christ will grant to each of us a crown of life when we join Him and all the saints in heaven. What a priceless award awaiting everyone who is faithful unto death!

During the month of May, we will continue to hear of the priceless awards God gives believers in Christ, and we may also give some awards ourselves. For example, Sunday, May 14th, is Mother's Day. Don't forget to award Mom for the great love and faithfulness she has shown you throughout the years. Remember to bring her to church as a part of your family's celebration of Mother's Love! On Thursday, May 18th, Ascension Day, the Church celebrates God's award to Jesus Christ of His throne at the Father's right hand in heaven upon His ascension. On Sunday, May 21st, Messiah's Kids Preschool will celebrate the graduation and promotion of our young students to Kindergarten. And on Sunday, May 28th, the Day of Pentecost, we will rejoice together in God's award to the Church of the gift of the Holy Spirit. So, see you in church!

Your co-worker in Christ, Pastor Lofgren



10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. Rev. 2:10

May Awards

*Academic Achievements
Athletic Team Achievements
Degrees conferred
Diplomas awarded*

Honoring our Mothers

*Celebration of Christ's Ascension
to His throne in Heaven*

*Graduations & Promotions
of Messiah's Kids Preschool*

*Pentecost - the award of the gift
of the Holy Spirit*



Dear Friend of Issues, Etc.,

Below is information to post in this week's church bulletin. Here is some sample copy for the week of April 30.

LUTHERAN TALK AND MUSIC MOBILE APP... You can listen to Lutheran talk and music 24/7, anytime, anywhere with the free Lutheran Public Radio app. You can download for your cell phone at the App Store, Google Play or at issuesetc.org. This information is updated weekly. (see link) <http://issuesetc.org/support/>

If you know of other pastors and secretaries to add to this weekly email list, please send their email addresses to lynn@issuesetc.org.

Thanks for your support! Jeff Schwarz, Producer Issues, Etc.





From the Board of Elders . . .

We are on our way! The first three learning teams have finished their work and have provided their respective reports to Pastor Lofgren. By the time you read this article in the May newsletter, hopefully, you will have received copies of all three reports. If not, you should be receiving them soon.



As you read these reports, I'm sure there are going to be issues that you may not agree with and there will be issues important to you that you may find not addressed. For that reason, there will be a 'workshop' held on Saturday, May 20th starting at 9:00 AM. I would envision going till around 11:00, however, we would continue until everyone has had an opportunity to give any input they desire.

We will use a panel format, having the members of each of the learning groups at a table in front of the attendees. A spokesperson for the group would give the highlights of their report and then open the floor for discussion. The desire is to have give the attendees the opportunity to share any thoughts that the groups may not have considered as well as allow the groups to explain why or why not something was or was not in their final report. With the additional information provided by the attendees, the groups will then be able to make any additions or deletions to their reports prior to their reports being given to the next group, the Vision team.

This will make the work of the Vision team easier as they will have benefited from hearing from the entire congregation (*at least those attending the workshop*) as to the direction the members would like to see the church go. There will be members who cannot attend the workshop. They can, however, still give their input by emailing the church office with their thoughts and those emails could then be provided to the appropriate learning teams.

I would encourage those that can attend, to please do so, as face-to-face discussions are much more productive than simply sending in your thoughts, as it allows everyone to hear all sides of an issue. This is a very a particularly important part of the call process, and we want everyone to have an opportunity to give their input.

As a reminder, once the Vision team and the Mission team have completed their work, the final document will have to be approved by the voters. We don't want to get to the end of the process and THEN have discussion about its content. We want to have that discussion NOW. I hope to see everyone there.

Your brother in Christ, Mike Lang

MLC Transition Team Learning Groups

- History**
- Paul Duennenberg - (210) 279-5294
paulduenn@yahoo.com
 - Charles Georg - (210) 508-6835
jgeorg@gvvc.com
 - Kim Maloy - (210) 748-4829
kmaloy@gvvc.com
 - Carol Mycock - (210) 363- 3314
c.mycock7@gmail.com
 - Pamela Sansone - (210) 414-6768
ifsgroup@aol.com

- Partnerships**
- Kathy Giardinelli - (210) 334-8820
kagiardinelli@gmail.com
 - Kathlin Jauregui - (210) 872-3014
kshj1115@aol.com
 - Ernie Mazurek - (210) 268-6581
emaz33jr@gmail.com
 - Joe Sorenson - (830) 537-4871
lsoren@gvvc.com
 - Sue Theis - (830) 431-0733
smtheis@gvvc.com

- Leadership**
- Maurice Doublet - (210) 602-4483
mauricedoublet@gmail
 - Pam Fields - (830) 446-1574
pfields@gvvc.com
 - Tony Giardinelli - (210) 896-8173
tonygiar@yahoo.com
 - Russell Leachman - (915) 471-4410
russell.leachman@usdoj.gov
 - Sharon Sattler - (210) 286-2320
srsattler46@gmail.com

- Vision**
- John Beard - (602) 524-1834
johnwbeard@yahoo.com
 - Tom Bibb - (210) 273-0831
tom@joypipe.com
 - Mark Giardinelli - (830) 446-2289
missionarymark@gmail.com
 - Sharon Loren - (210) 913-6032
dresdenwood@hotmail.com
 - Melissa Rutledge - (813) 404-0698
melissa.rutledge4.0@gmail.com



- Mission**
- Kathy Bibb - (210) 215-7642
kathybibb@gmail.com
 - Mike Gissi - (210) 421-5991
mkgissi@gvvc.com
 - Rebecca Sagebiel - (661) 810-7504
brottman13@hotmail.com
 - Anthony Sansone - (210) 213-0724
tsansone@live.com
 - David Theis - (830) 431-2443
jdtheis@gvvc.com

From the Board of Directors

The board held its quarterly meeting on April 12, and we're pleased to share this brief recap with you.

Finances | Anthony presented year-end 2022 numbers and 1st Quarter 2023 finances. The year-end 2022 statement of financial position shows an increase of over \$950,000 in assets, driven almost entirely by the restricted dedicated account tied to the renovation. Long-term liabilities have been reduced by \$225,000, primarily through payments against the mortgage.

For the first quarter of 2023, offerings continue to lag plan, while expenses are better than plan. Complete financial details are available from Anthony Sansone.

Preschool | The preschool has received a federal grant from a Covid-era program to support childcare and preschool programs. The preschool committee has solicited bids and approved spending on items to improve the Family Life Center building and security, including cameras and controlled-access doors, playground equipment, and fencing. Additional items pending bids are completion of the circular drive, replacing the carpet in the adult fellowship room (damaged from the AC leak), painting in the preschool's main hallway, and cleaning windows.

Soccer Fields | Both Toro Soccer Academy and Boerne Soccer Club have approached the church about leasing the soccer fields. They each proposed making improvements to the fields and building more fields in exchange for reduced or waived leasing fees. Brad will meet with the clubs and solicit formal letters of proposal. Further discussion was tabled until we have the clubs' proposals.

Church Renovation | All the stained-glass windows have been spoken for. The overall theme is "I am." Drywall, electrical, and plumbing are complete, and we have the fire marshal's approval. There's no firm date for completion; the latest hope is the end of June.

Other items of note:

AC repair is pending parts; they've been ordered, but we don't have an estimated delivery date.

Brad Sanders is looking for volunteers to start the "eyes and ears" program again. We also discussed the possibility of hiring an off-duty police officer to handle security on Sundays.

Realm Training. Once Sharon gets access and learns the system, she'll offer training to other members of the congregation.

Russ has offered to pay the fee for Messiah to be a sponsoring congregation on Lutheran Public Radio. There are many resources offered by LPR that our members could enjoy using.

Three of the transition teams – Partnerships, History, and Leadership – have completed their initial drafts. Once approved by the congregation, those reports will inform the work of the two remaining teams, Vision and Mission.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of your board members. We are here to serve! Board members are Brad Sanders, Russ Leachman, Anthony Sansone, Sharon Loren, Maurice Doublet III, Vonda Petmecky, and David Theis.

Sharon Loren





Adult Education

Thanks to Pastor Lofgren for continuing to lead his excellent Sunday 9:15 am class on Bible basics, “What we believe, teach and confess”. He will continue in May as we get to the last sections. His class has allowed us to take a contrasting look in the noon Bible Study and Lunch class at what other denominations believe and in April at what Progressive Christian’s teach. Mark Giardinelli and Dennis Parker concluded that class April 23 looking at the doctrine of the substitutionary atonement and of Hell.



In May the Bible Study and Lunch group will join our Missions Lay Ministry looking at the story of Sabina and Robert Wurmbrand, how they went from fun loving Jewish atheists in the early 30’s to being witnesses for Christ, helping some Jews escape the Nazi’s, and being victims themselves. Join us Sunday April 30th for some background and May 7th to watch and discuss the movie, “Sabina: Tortured for Christ”.

The Ladies Friday Bible Study concludes May 12 with a final discussion and Potluck. They will break for the summer and restart in the fall.

How are you coming on our 2023 plan to read through the Bible? I am enjoying the fast pace guided by Laura Sanders Book, “Your Daily Companion To The Bible: Making Sense of it to Transform your Life”. I have enjoyed getting a digital copy on my Kindle so even when I travel, I can keep up with daily readings and comments. Yell out to Laura or myself your thoughts or concerns. Love to hear from you.

Let me know your suggestions for Fall studies and activities. We are looking for a few who would like to start small group studies in your home, especially in the Fair Oaks Ranch area.

Dennis Parker



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. The need is for replacing the overhead speakers and making sure we have the equipment for Audio and Visual presentations. 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

Messiah's Kids Preschool

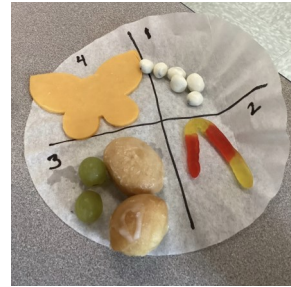
Messiah's Kids closed out April celebrating the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Our preschool friends have been rocking out to 1, 2, 3 *Jesus is Alive!* This time of year, we sing everyone's favorite song, *You Forgive Me*. Our friends are once again reminded that the Lord will always be there to forgive them.



Our classes celebrated the arrival of caterpillars and said a prayer as they sent their beautiful butterflies into the world!

Our older friends also celebrated the 100th day of school with self-portraits!

We are looking into May with excitement as the end of our school year comes to an end. We are looking forward to celebrating our many preschool graduates on in the Family Life Center's Gym on Sunday, May 21st. We will have 4 short graduations planned between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm. We are thrilled to promote these friends to kindergarten in August.



Healthy Blessings, Gina Huskey Messiah's Kids Preschool Director

From the Desk of Dr. Bill Hinz, Director of School Ministry, LCMS Tx District

This is a critical and exciting time in Texas history. A Parental Choice/School Choice bill (sometimes referred to as Vouchers) has been passed in the Texas Senate. Several School Choice bills have been filed in the Texas House.

Governor Greg Abbott has been speaking around the state in favor of Parental Choice.

While the Parental Choice bills will impact only K – 12 students the voice of your families in the legislative process will still have a significant impact on the outcome. More students will be able to attend K – 12 Lutheran Schools and hear about Jesus every day if a Parental Choice bill is passed in Texas.

Our schools will continue to have autonomy in accepting students. Students will follow the same policies regarding suspension and expulsion, as all of our students are required to follow.

If you have any questions about parental choice please call me, 512-769-6791.

Your parents can use the QR code in the attachment to automatically contact their individual legislators. This is a very significant way to influence the legislative process in the Parental Choice opportunity.

Please consider sending this information to your parents and congregational members. Thank you.

Sincerely, in Christ, Bill Hinz

Messiah's Kids Preschool Committee

Chairperson - Pam Risley
Vice Chairperson - Kathy Bibb
Secretary - Heidi Yelverton
Becky Behrens
Tony Giardinelli
Kathy Pemberton
Becca Sagabiel
Ex Officio - Gina Huskey, Director
Ex Officio - Pastor Richard Lofgren
Ex Officio - Brad Sanders

It's time to speak up!

One of the easiest and most important things you can do to influence change is to reach out to your legislators. You can help now by telling your State Representative you support parental choice in education for Texas children.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

for Education Choice in Texas!



Visit tpcetxt.com to quickly and easily contact your legislator. Scroll down to the "Contact Your Local Legislator" section on the homepage.

TEXAS PRIVATE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION



Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center News

HCPCC thinks very highly of our local churches and stays connected to them through **Church Advisory Council** members. These members belong to local churches and come together quarterly to hear HCPCC updates and how we can help their church, and they help us. We had 6 NEW church representatives at our last meeting.

Thank you, *Alana Kemmy*, for representing Messiah with the Church Advisory Council at Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center.



HILL COUNTRY PREGNANCY CARE CENTER ANNOUNCES ITS BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG

event to be held be from Mother's Day to Father's Day!!

Please watch for the display table and pick up your baby bottle to fill with coins, cash or check. Everyone is welcome to participate. The pregnancy center exists to promote the value of life and empower individuals to make healthy choices regarding pregnancy and sexuality and to extend the healing presence and love of Jesus Christ. We do this through our education programs in the Boerne schools as well as adult programs. Your participation is a valuable asset to us and very much appreciated. If you have specific questions about what we do at the pregnancy center, please speak to Kathlin Jauregui, Sue Theis and/or Alana Kemmy.



Gospel for Asia

Dear Messiah Family, As most of you know, before being involved with Operation Christmas Child, I used to work at Gospel For Asia (GFA).

I will be going back there for a week-long retreat called Set Apart from May 22nd thru 28th. There, I hope to learn how to have a deeper walk with God and grow in my passion for the lost around the world.

In addition to hoping to grow in my love for the Lord and the lost, I will be volunteering some of the time at the retreat.

Please pray for me, as I seek the Lord and His heart. Also, please pray for God to prepare me for whatever He has to speak to me during the retreat.

Thanks for all your prayers. I appreciate them.

In Christ, Mark Giardinelli



Getting the Word Out . . .

Messiah's webpage is staying updated at <https://www.messiahboerne.org/> and now we are active on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahBoerne> Check us out at Messiah Lutheran Church where we post daily about upcoming worship, Bible studies, or events. For those of you on Facebook, your likes, comments, and shares will make sure any posts do not get buried in the newsfeed. Photos convey a higher ranking, so email or text Laura Sanders any pictures you have to share. In time, we will expand to Instagram, which is used more by the younger generation.



Facebook explains it this way: To help connect people to the posts that matter to them most, we use a process called ranking. Feed ranking creates a personalized and diverse stream of posts from the people, news sources, businesses and communities you've connected with on Facebook.

Some things influence ranking more than others, and some of the most important factors include:

How often you interact with posts from friends, groups or Pages (friends and family are prioritized);

If the type of post is something you often interact with (example: photo, video, link);

The number of comments, likes, reactions and shares a post receives from the people and Pages that see it. Keep in mind that these posts are shared by the friends, groups or Pages you follow; and

How recently something was posted.

Posts that you see higher in Feed are influenced by your connections and activity on Facebook. The number of comments, likes and reactions a post receives and what kind of post it is (example: photo, video, status update) can also make it more likely to appear higher up in your Feed.

Posts that you might see higher in Feed include:

A friend or family member commenting on or liking another friend's photo or status update;

A person reacting to a post from a publisher that a friend has shared; and

Multiple people replying to each other's comments on a video they watched or an article they read in Feed.

I hope this helps. I look forward to your photos.

For Facebook, text photos to 210.843.6020.

For the webpage, email photos to LSandersCoach@gmail.com





What's happening in May?

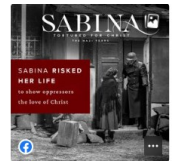


The Mother's Day outing for the Messiah Ladies Time Out will be this next **Thursday, May 4th at 11am at El Cazador** upper patio weather permitting or inside. Please sign up or RSVP to **Lindy Eschenko**. Friends are welcome!!



May 7th - Movie in the Gym - Sabina

Due to sickness and complications, Sarah Keeling will not be able to make it to speak at Messiah on May 7th. Instead, there will be a movie shown in the GYM called Sabina, which is about Sabina Wurmbrand (one of the founders of Voice of the Martyrs), which is a true story of how she and her husband came to Christ and faced persecution and stood strong in their faith, even to the point of forgiving their persecutors. Snacks will be provided. Please register online. *In Christ, Mark Giardinelli*



Teacher Appreciation Week is May 8th thru 12th

Be sure to tell a teacher "Thank You!" this week!

Our next Adult Game Day
is **Saturday, May 20th at 2pm!**
Bring your drinks and snacks and games if you like and join us! Friends are welcome!



- SAVE THE DATE -
2023 Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 19th thru June 22nd!

Willie's Spirit Night - Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Save the Date for a Willie's Spirit Night on July 11. This Spirit Night will benefit Operation Christmas Child. 15% of the check will go to Operation Christmas Child when you mention that you're there to benefit Operation Christmas Child. Once again, thank you for your prayers and support for the ministry of Operation Christmas Child. OCC is sharing the Gospel to children all around the world. *In Christ, Mark Giardinelli*



"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; you will be my witnesses to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8



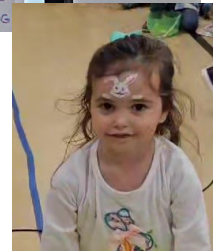
Jada Knott (daughter of Sue Knott) is a student at UTSA. She has received her undergraduate degree with her major being Medical Humanities, minors being Chemistry and Biology with a concentration in Pre-med and is currently studying to get her master's in business administration before applying to Med School.

Jada contacted Messiah asking for help in fundraising for the UTSA Food Pantry. 40% of college students experience food insecurities. These are students on scholarships, working multiple jobs, and still worrying about how they will pay for their next meal or if they must skip a meal.

Jada's goal was to collect 1,500 cans of food by April 13, 2023 to help her fellow peers that are struggling to find their next meal while wanting to improve themselves for the future. Thanks to the generosity of the Members of Messiah Jada was able to meet her goal!



Easter Jubilee Pictures





May BIRTHDAYS



May ANNIVERSARIES

- May 1 - Roger Winkelmann
- May 3 - Nate Rutledge
- May 3 - Janis Meier
- May 3 - Joyce Meier
- May 4 - Pam Sansone
- May 6 - Erin Stallings
- May 11 - Jim Minica
- May 12 - Toby Brosien
- May 17 - Sharon Sattler
- May 18 - Anthony Sansone
- May 20 - John Stallings
- May 22 - Bella Betancourt
- May 24 - Mike Lang
- May 24 - Eric Longson
- May 24 - Fred Hawkins
- May 25 - Bill Horn
- May 28 - Josh Mycock
- May 29 - Kathy Rottman
- May 29 - Kristy Neal



- May 20 - Mike & Melanie Gissie
45 years
- May 22 - Jim & Becky Behrens
42 years
- May 23 - Lyle & Mandi Turner
25 years
- May 23 - Austin & Ashley Harder
3 years
- May 27 - Tony & Kathy Giardinelli
45 years
- May 29 - Will & Ginnie Jones
41 years
- May 31 - Bob & Chris Eckhart
48 years



12 Ladies from Messiah were able to break free from their normal routines to take a drive to Kerrville to see The Coming King Sculpture Garden. How do you pick just one picture? Every angle brings a different view as you are surrounded by scriptures and prayer rock.




ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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*May flowers always
line your path and
sunshine light your day.*

- Irish blessing

