

I will give thanks to you Lord with all my heart.

I will tell of your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1

Messiah Messenger

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH - NOVEMBER 2022

"Go Around Again!"

One of the joys of parenthood is reading books to your children. When my children were younger, just toddlers, I used to sit and read children's books to them, and one of our favorite books was *Go, Dog. Go!* by P.D. Eastman. One scene in the book pictures dogs going around and around and around in a carousel, and my children and I enjoyed saying with the blue dog to the carousel

operator, "Go around again!" We truly enjoyed reading that book together, so much so that we read it again and again and again.

Another joy of parenthood is worshiping with your children. Although children can be difficult at first to control in church (God bless all the parents, especially the mothers, who make the effort to do so), they are learning to worship God. You see, as they say, "worship is more caught than taught." Children need to be in worship to learn to worship, and the younger and more often children are brought to worship, the easier it gets. That's why the Lutheran church encourages parents and children to be in worship together, so that they may learn to enjoy worshiping the Lord and do it again and again and again. As the psalmist says, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" (Ps 122:1)

November provides us with many opportunities to gather as a family and enjoy worshiping the Lord together. For example, we begin the month by celebrating All Saints Day on Sunday, November 6th. On this day we thank God for making us a part of the whole family of God in Christ Jesus - the Christian Church - and for those of our congregation who have departed in the faith during the past year - the "sainted"! On Sunday, November 13th, we will gather and give thanks to God for our preschool teachers and staff and their important ministry to the children and their families that attend our preschool. On Wednesday, November 23rd, at 6:30 p.m. we will celebrate our Thanksgiving Eve Service, giving thanks as a church family for all the many blessings we have received from our heavenly Father's gracious hand during the past and asking for his blessing in the future. Then, on the last Sunday of the month, November 27th, the Church Year begins again with the First Sunday in Advent, and our first Advent service will be on Wednesday, November 30th at 6:30 p.m. Please come to church as you are able, bring the whole family, and enjoy our worship as we "go around" the church year "again!"

Your co-worker for Christ,
Pastor Richard Lofgren

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Voters' Meeting Announcement | There will be a voters' meeting on November 6, immediately following the service, to approve the 2023 budget and vote on the slate of candidates to fill open positions. Please plan to attend this important meeting!

October Board Meeting | The Board met on October 13 to review year-to-date financials and approve the 2023 Budget. One other agenda item was a request to serve as the sponsor for Boy Scout Troop 407. The board voted against sponsoring the troop, primary because of the BSA's non-Biblical position on homosexuality.

Barring any major changes to the budget at the Voters' Meeting scheduled for November 6th, the board will not meet again until new board members are installed in January.

Congregational Meeting | Thank you to everyone who stayed after the service for the congregational town hall on October 23. Anthony Sansone, our church treasurer, presented year-to-date financials and the 2023 budget.

Finances. Monthly offerings remain below budget, and expenses through September are \$57,803 greater than revenue. However, this shortfall is \$18,503 less than we anticipated it would be. (Anticipated shortfall was \$76,306.) Total cash on hand increased by \$1,096,144, driven by dedicated contributions to the renovation fund. Complete financial reports were available at the meeting and are always available from Anthony.

2023 Proposed Budget. The board proposed a 2023 budget of \$719,292. Main discussion items:

- This is a balanced budget and does not require taking money from designated funds or prior year's savings to cover expenses.
- The budget includes a slight increase in budgeted offerings, and that raised some questions. Anthony pointed out that with the "bump" in offerings we typically see in December, we do expect to meet our offering goal this year.
- There was also a discussion about the relationship between the church and the preschool, especially regarding finances. The church pays the director's salary to maintain oversight of the preschool. The board does review how much money the preschool returns to the church in their contributions and their share of expenses. The preschool remains a primary ministry of Messiah; its goal is not revenue generation.



CONTINUED FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS . . .

Lay Ministry and Board of Directors Nominees. There are four open positions: two on the Lay Ministry Council (Adult Education and Youth Development) and two on the Board. David Theis and Maurice Doublet have been nominated for the Board positions. No one has volunteered for Adult Education or Youth Development, and another plea was made for volunteers so these critical positions don't remain vacant.

If you have questions about any of these items, please reach out to one of your board members: Tony Giardinelli, Pam Fields, Sharon Loren, Vonda Petmecky, Pete Robinson, Brad Sanders, or Anthony Sansone.

Last minute update - Pete Robinson contacted Tony Giardinelli to let him know that he needs to step down from his term on the Board of Directors. That leaves us with three positions to fill on the Board of Directors.

Russ Leachman has agreed to fill Pete's unexpired position. See Russ's biography below:

Russell "Russ" Leachman has attended Messiah Lutheran for more than ten years. Having converted to Lutheranism after many years of participating in the worship of several other denominations, he greatly values the doctrine, liturgy, hymnity and history of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. He is husband to Margaret, and dad to Benton, Boone and Beth. He previously served on the Messiah Board of Elders from 2018 to 2022. He has also served as an usher, Sunday School teacher and volunteer. He has been a civil, administrative, and criminal trial lawyer in public and private practice for over 30 years. His interests in his spare time are apologetics, hunting, fishing and ranching. He is a big fan of Issues Etc.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD . . .

If you haven't heard, David Wendeborn sold all the chairs that we used in the sanctuary. In the original renovation calendar, the contractor had scheduled to stop renovations from Nov. 30, through Jan. 9th and then resume the second week of the new year, allowing us to return to the sanctuary for the Christmas season. Since we no longer have chairs in the sanctuary, we will remain in the Family Life Center. Hopefully, the contractor will be able to get us back into the newly renovated sanctuary and narthex ahead of the original completion date. David may have more detailed information in this newsletter, but I wanted to make sure the congregation knew we would stay in the Family Life Center for the holidays.

Your brother in Christ, Mike Lang



NEWS FROM OUR ELDERS

In October's Newsletter, it was noted that Pastor Lofgren will start the process of recruiting the leaders and members for each of the three groups that will start our *'Learning Process'*. He will begin calling on members to interview them and determine where they can best serve in this process. You may get a call for an interview, so please put Pastor Lofgren's phone number in your phone so that you will know it is him if / when he calls.

Pastor Lofgren's phone number is 260-417-9003.

There are some members who have pro-actively stepped up and asked to be placed on certain teams. If you feel inclined to volunteer to be on one of the teams, please call Pastor Lofgren and let him know. It will help him form the teams much more rapidly. Remember, the quicker we get these teams formed and working, the faster we can get to the point of being able to call a permanent pastor. We have to do this, not Pastor Lofgren. Just to refresh your memories, the three teams' area as follows:

- (1) Community Partnerships and community involvement. Messiah currently has working relationships with the Hill Country Pregnancy Center and the Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries, along with sponsoring a cub scout pack and probably others of which I am not aware. This group will determine how well we are doing in support of those ministries and what other ministries are in the Boerne community that warrant our involvement and could have an impact in spreading God's word.
- (2) History/ Culture. What is the culture and demographics of the Boerne community? How do the demographics of Messiah compare to the community at large and how do we leverage our similarities and alter our differences in order to draw more people to the church? (I'm talking ethnic, age, language, etc. not doctrinal issues).
- (3) Leadership structure/Constitution. The last group will look at how the leadership of the church is set up and determine whether changes are warranted. We currently have a two-board system with Lay Ministers addressing the ministries of the church and a Board of Directors that oversees the business dealings of the church. There was a committee that put in many hours in updating the existing constitution, which has been in place since 2011, but it was never finalized between the church and the district, so we are still operating under the 2011 constitution. It may be as simple as completing the affirmation of that new constitution with district, or the group may determine that the Constitution and By-Laws should be modified further in order to be more useful to the church as it exist today.

*If you receive a call from Pastor Lofgren,
please consider volunteering so we can get this process going.*

Your brother in Christ, Mike Lang



MESSIAH'S ADULT EDUCATION

Messiah Read Through the Bible in 3 Years

Congratulations to all who participated in our chronological study through the Bible which began November 1, 2019. We concluded Friday October 28 with a study of Revelation 22. Please continue your daily Bible reading using other studies, Portals of Prayer, and devotionals. *“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”* Romans 15:4

Adult Education Opportunities in November

Pastor’s Bible Class at 9:15 Sunday Mornings – Pastor Lofgren is teaching through the book “Begin – a journey through Scriptures for seekers”. Pastor points out the crisis in world views we face in these modern times. Most people no longer grow up with the Bible nor learn anything about it in school. Introducing them to the Christian World View is a challenge, let alone leading them to be believers in Jesus Christ. Look ahead to page 200, “What does It mean to Be Saved”, then jump to page 210, to the evangelistic and apologetics section, “Ten Basics to Boldly Proclaim a Biblical Worldview”. This is a study that focuses on the basic Bible lessons we should use for our outreach, our missions’ programs, our evangelism to neighbors, and our discipleship of new believers.

Small groups – The Messiah Ladies Time Out led by Lindy Eschenko will be meeting again December 8th from 9am to 11 am at Little Gretels. Watch for her signup sheets or text her at 979-299-7760 if you have any questions.

Friday Women’s Bible Study led by Kathlin Juaurgui is doing a nine-week study on 1 and 2 kings based on a book by Lysa Tereurist entitled “Trustworthy”. They meet each Friday at 10:00 am in the Family Life Center Adult Fellowship Room.

Family Bible Study is hosted monthly by Mario and Eva Betancourt at their home in north Boerne. They are studying “Cold Case Christianity” by J. Warner Wallace. Watch for their November meeting date.

“The Seven Cities of Revelation” is the subject of a Sunday afternoon small group study meeting through November. It is led by Dennis Parker at Messiah on Sunday afternoons at 1:30 PM in the FLC Adult Fellowship Room.

We are seeking more home neighborhood studies or other small group activities, particularly in the Fair Oaks area. If you are interested contact Dennis Parker - drparker46@gmail.com



OPERATIONS CHRISTMAS CHILD



Crysta Dunda, the Regional Area Coordinator for 4 San Antonio teams and the Hill Country Team, spoke at the potluck on October 16th about her distribution trips to Haiti and Namibia. On that day, 45 shoeboxes were taken. That is equal to 45 Gospel Opportunities for children around the world to get a gift, but ultimately and more importantly, the opportunity to hear about Jesus.

Crysta told many touching stories of children who were impacted by a simple shoebox. Yet, she saved the most sobering story for the end. While there are millions who have heard the Gospel through OCC, there are children at each distribution that longingly want a shoebox of their own. These children may or may not hear about Jesus some other way, but Crysta challenged us to pack more shoeboxes. For those of you who weren't at the potluck, we have 50 more shoeboxes, so more children will hear about Jesus for the first time. Even if you can't pack multiple shoeboxes, Crysta's challenge is to get at least one shoebox and pack it. That's one more child who gets to hear of Christ's love and that each shoebox matters. The due date for the shoeboxes to come back is November 20th. Notes for each child will be provided so you can write to them.



Thank you to everyone who helped with our Operation Christmas Child Kick-Off Potluck! The attention you gave Crysta and the overwhelming participation of the shoebox ministry is greatly appreciated. We were also thankful for some very generous monetary donations. If you can't find your items in the store, then you can go online at Amazon or Hobby Lobby.

Thanks for doing this and making an eternal impact on children around the world - In Christ, Mark Giardinelli

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them everything I have commanded you and surely I am with you to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Menu Items for Donations

canned card
canned or boxed chicken broth
canned sweet potatoes
canned cranberry sauce
boxes of instant potatoes
canned green beans
gravey packets
boxed stuffing
pie crust mix on in pie tin
canned apple or pumpkin pie filling
aluminum turkey roasters
turkeys

HILL COUNTRY DAILY BREAD NEEDS MESSIAH'S HELP PROVIDING THANKSGIVING MEALS FOR FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

There may be some of Messiah's folks who are unable to take donations directly to Hill Country Daily Bread for their Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Boxes for donations for the HCDB Thanksgiving Food Drive will be in the entryway at the Family Life Center the next two Sundays, October 23rd and October 30th.

Donations collected each of these Sundays will be delivered to HCDB the following Tuesday or Wednesday.

You can call me if you have any questions 719-431-3666.

Thank you, Debbie Stender



MESSIAH'S 2022 GRADUATES

Congratulations to our Graduates - Okay, a little late . . . with Covid, changes in our staff and all the other distractions, our traditional acknowledgement of our high school graduates for 2021 and 2022 got missed. Please join in their families' joy of their accomplishments and pray for their students' protection, discernment and God's will as they work to achieve their future goals. (In order of the photos)

Nathan Rutledge graduated from Clark High School on June 6, 2022 and is attending Texas A & M, College of Engineering at College Station.

Sytahn Beard graduated from Lutheran High School on May 21, 2022 and is attending University of Wisconsin-Stout, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Luke Turner graduated from Boerne High School in May of 2021. He is a sophomore at Oklahoma State University College of Business studying Economics and Finance.

Please be sure and acknowledge them if they come home for Thanksgiving!



MESSIAH SOWERS

The Messiah Sowers are still active. Right now, we are making blankets and burp pads for The Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center and lap quilts for the Kendall County Women's Shelter.

Due to the Family Life Center being used for so many things right now during the Church renovation, the sowers have taken material home and are sewing at their convenience. We will start meeting again after the first of the year.

If you like to sew, want to learn to sew or just like to help in any way, please join us. More information to come later. If you have any questions, please call Debbie Stender at (719) 431-3666 or Jean Schuchardt at (830) 446-2116,



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR CARDS!



On October 1, 2022, we celebrated my mom's 104th birthday. One of her favorite things in life is getting cards from people. Messiah Lutheran Church sponsored a Card Shower for her that resulted in numerous cards from our congregation. You cannot imagine the joy that brought to my mom. She could not believe that so many people sent cards to her. She saves cards and occasionally re-reads them. We want to thank all of you who sent cards to my mom and brought so much joy into her life. God bless each of you, Roger Winkelmann



MESSIAH'S KIDS PRESCHOOL



October sped by us. This month brought a lot of lessons about apples and pumpkins. Many of the classes enjoyed dress up days and special parties. The trunk or treat was once again a fun event, partnered with the church. We also had a tremendous showing of dads at our Let's Taco-bout Daddy breakfast. Our small friends treated their dads to tacos, coffee and a tour of their school.

In chapel, our kids have been learning about the ten commandments and how important it is to follow God's rules. God's rules help us to have a better relationship with Him and others. We have been reciting Psalm 56:3: When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

The preschool was excited to purchase and replace the AED outside of the gym in the Family Life Center. The device is extremely easy to use and is capable of saving a life in a moment's notice. Please know that in an emergency, this AED is fully functional and ready for use.

In November, we will be demonstrating how thankful we are for all that we have. We will be focusing on showing that through our generosity towards others. Our classes and families are building boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We are also collecting Thanksgiving feast items to donate to Hill Country Daily Bread. The holiday season can bring many struggles to area families and we hope to ease their burden through the graciousness of our families.





MORE ABOUT MESSIAH'S KIDS PRESCHOOL . . .

The preschool teachers enjoyed a great evening together celebrating all the accomplishments of a super licensing visit. State licensing makes a yearly, unannounced visit to assure Messiah's Kids is a safe place for children to learn and grow. Our state licensing representative was thrilled to walk through each classroom on a wet, cold Monday morning to witness our small friends singing the praises of God. What a gift she was treated to by our amazing teachers.

Healthy Blessings, Gina Huskey
Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool



Mark Your Calendar !

Sunday, November 13th.

Please join us at the

10:30 Worship Service as

Pastor Lofgren will be giving our

Messiah Kids Preschool Staff

a blessing!



UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

Walk to Emmaus - Women's Walk # 62 is scheduled for Thursday, November 17th thru Sunday, November 20th 2022 at Camp Capers, Waring, Texas. The Walk to Emmaus is a 72-hour experience focused on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to the church. The event is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Communion. The focus of Emmaus is God, as known in Jesus Christ, and how that finds expression in the local church. The object of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches and our daily Walk with Jesus. Anyone interested in attending this Walk or sponsoring someone for this Walk can contact Maurine Maloy - email: mmaloy@mac.com or cell: (210) 748-4828.

FROM LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL of SAN ANTONIO

Lutheran High School of San Antonio would like to welcome middle school families to a special preview night Tuesday, November 8th. Come and hear from LHS students, faculty, and parents about their experience as a Mustang. Dinner will be provided for families who RSVP by Friday, November 4th. If you have questions call Allison Henderson, Communication Director LHS-SA.



The Holy Land: "Come and See" - Walking the Path of Jesus

Interested in visiting the Holy Land - to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and visit the places He taught, healed, and performed miracles? Pastor Doug Bielefeldt and his wife Nancy will be leading a group tour of the Holy Land September 1-10, 2023. If you would like to join them in exploring the land of Israel, please contact Pastor Doug at dougb1315@gmail.com for trip information and registration. Reserve your spot today!

God be with you, Pastor Doug Bielefeldt

so very Thankful



incredibly Grateful



unbelievably Blessed





November Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

- Nov 1 - Allen Leitko
- Nov 4 - Bryan Degner
- Nov 5 - David Theis
- Nov 7 - Sharon Loren
- Nov 7 - Laura Biles
- Nov 8 - Anneliese Dukes
- Nov 9 - Billy Loren
- Nov 9 - Ed Mycock
- Nov 12 - Jim Mitchell
- Nov 15 - Lori Powell
- Nov 22 - Spence Behrens
- Nov 22 - Barrett Koronczok
- Nov 23 - Kelsey Golden
- Nov 25 - Melissa Rutledge
- Nov 26 - Reese Mycock

ANNIVERSARIES

- Nov 3 - Pat & Lori Harrington
4 years
- Nov 11 - Dennis & Sue Parker
55 years!
- Nov 21 - John & Debra Beard
24 years
- Nov 22 - Dan & Donna Cifers
27 years
- Nov 24 - Ed & Gracie Funk
43 years
- Nov 29 - John & Isabelle Jones
3 years

ALL SAINTS DAY

- Polly Mohnke
- Dick Jauregui
- Ted Lewis
- Marion Sansone
- Cecelia Stamm
- Brooks Becker



Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:4

All Saints Day - a day to remember those who have died in the faith this past year. We all have lost loved ones. Jesus comes to comfort us in our sorrow. He knows our grief, but He Himself left the grave and will one day restore us and everyone who has died in the faith to life eternal.



CONGRATULATIONS!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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The Thanksgiving Prayer - Johnny Cash - Josef Anderson

We've come to the time in the season
When family and friends gather near
To offer a prayer of Thanksgiving
For blessings we've known through the year
To join hands and thank the creator
And now when Thanksgiving is due
This year when I count my blessings
I'm thanking the Lord He made you
This year when I count my blessings
I'm thanking the Lord He made you

I'm grateful for the laughter of children
The sun and the wind and the rain
The color of blue in your sweet eyes
The sight of a high "ballin" train
The moon rise over a prairie
Old love that you've made new
This year when I count my blessings
I'm thanking the Lord He made you
This year when I count my blessings
I'm thanking the Lord He made you

And when the time comes to be going
It won't be in sorrow and tear
I'll kiss you goodbye and I'll go on my way
Grateful for all of the years
I thank for all that you gave me
For teaching me what love can do
Thanksgiving day for the rest of my life
I'm thanking the Lord He made you
Thanksgiving day for the rest of my life
I'm thanking the Lord He made you