

August 2023

Messiah Lutheran Church

You are either an example of or an opportunity for grace. Which shall it be?



Messiah Messenger

Refurbished

As we look forward to returning to worship in our newly refurbished church -

do we as members need refurbishment as well?

Boerne continues to grow, not everyone thinks that is a good thing. We are faced with many challenges with that growth. Our surrounding neighborhoods are changing, growing. We have heard it said; ***“Change is inevitable, Growth is optional.”*** Messiah has voiced a desire to grow, both up and out. As our community grows, we have the opportunity to put into action our calling:

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Our growth as Christians is an ongoing refurbishment process, starting with baptism, growing with teaching, strengthened by Christ’s Body and Blood, supplemented with prayer, fellowshiping with other believers until we reach our ultimate home with our teacher Jesus in heaven.

Like us, many in our neighborhoods need the refurbishment of knowing Jesus. Our challenge to ***“Go and make disciples, baptizing and teaching”*** is a tough one. If we are to grow, we must be willing to speak the truth in love.

Ephesians 4:15-16 “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into

him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

A reminder of the challenge to grow by speaking the truth in love came from the July 30th Portals of Prayer message:

“... a mature faith is anchored to Christ. The text says that we grow by “speaking the truth in love” (Eph 4:15). That may sound simple, but it can be hard to put into practice. It is easy to value the truth so much that we speak it harshly, losing sight of the precious gift that is our neighbor. It is easy to value love so much that we are willing to ignore the truth in an attempt to care. Yet Paul here urges us toward both truth and love. Giving both is possible and good. When speaking the truth, let’s remember also to love. In our desire to love, let’s make sure we are also speaking the truth. Without truth, it’s not really love; and without love, it’s not the full truth . . . Anchored to Jesus, we, too can speak the truth in love to those who need Jesus.”

We will very soon have a fresh new refurbished church building! We are faced with the ongoing challenge of reaching out to our neighbors and friends in truth and love to bring the knowledge of Jesus to them. May each of us seek to be refurbished in our desire to take on the challenge of making disciples using the gifts each of us has been given as we, “Go, make, baptize and teach.”

To God be the Glory, In Jesus Name!

David Wendeborn, Discipleship team

From you Elder and Call Committee . . .

Brothers and Sisters in Christ: I want to keep you up to date on the progress being made on the call for a permanent pastor. As you know, the call committee has been in place for several weeks and again, consists of ***Debra Beard, Rebecca Bottlinger, Sharon Loren, Kim Maloy, Rebecca Sagebiel, Brad Sanders, Joe Sorenson, Sue Theis and me.*** The committee had a Zoom meeting with our District representative, Larry Reitz on Thursday, the 27th in which Larry brought us up to speed on the call process and the timing of the steps to be taken.

In last Friday's weekly newsletter, I encouraged you to begin completing your Pastoral Profile Surveys online via the link you should have received from Maurine in the first week of August. I asked that you try to get your surveys in within two weeks of receiving the link, but I realize there is a lot going on in August, with families trying to get in last minute vacations as well as school starting in mid to late August. ***Just to let you know, the survey will stay open until the end of August, so you have four weeks to get your survey uploaded.*** I encourage you to add comments to each of your responses, since your comments shed light on why you answered a question as you did. The surveys are kept confidential, so your comments will remain with District. The congregation will receive a report reflecting our responses to the questions in the form of graphs and tables, but our comments will not be included in the report in any way.

The Learning Teams are nearing completion of their task as the Mission Statement Team is now working on a Mission Statement for Messiah. The other portion of Messiah's 'Self Evaluation' as I have told you before, is nearing completion with input concerning the historical demographics and financial position of Messiah being compiled by Maurine, Anthony Sansone, our Treasurer, and me. We will begin formulating the information into its proper form for submission as part of the Call Package to be sent to District.

As a reminder, if any member would like to submit the name of a pastor for consideration in our Call Package,

they should complete a '***Nomination Form for Pastoral Call List***'. Copies of the form have been on the information table each Sunday and will be there throughout August. An announcement will be made a week or so before the nomination period is closed, as well as a reminder for the closing of the pastoral survey. Please keep in mind that pastors nominated from the congregation may not come back to Messiah as feasible candidates for whatever reason(s) as determined by District.

My hope is that our complete Call Package will be finalized and ready for submission to District in early September. If that could be accomplished, District might be able to review the package and submit it to pastors who are open to a call within a week or so of receiving it. Any pastor open to considering a call to Messiah would have approximately six weeks to return their personal information to District. District would review the information it receives from the pastors and would then send us the list of pastors. By this time-table, in the best of cases, we could have candidates for the call committee to begin screening by late October or early November.

Please continue to pray for Messiah and the entire call process, keeping in mind that God has already selected our next pastor. Our prayers should be that His will be done.

Your brother in Christ,

Mike Lang

Proverbs 3 : 5 - 6

Trust in the Lord, with all thine heart,

And lean not onto thine own understanding;

Building a Discipling Culture

One of the books I have read recently is entitled *Building a Discipling Culture*, written by Mike Breem and other members of his ministry team. The goal of the book is to provide a strategy for teaching people how to make disciples the way Jesus did in order to send them out into the community to continue the process of making disciples among the people they meet. The strategy involves using three types or methods of learning: Classroom/Lecture (passing on of information), Apprenticeship (practical application of the information), and Immersion (experiential learning of information in a real life setting). Most educators agree that learning takes place best when all three of these types of learning take place at the same time, such as when learning a foreign language (classroom, tutor, foreign exchange).

Most churches teach the Christian faith by using the classroom/lecture methodology, for example, sermons, Bible and Sunday School classes, confirmation classes, and small groups. This is a great way to pass on information from one generation to another. We all understand this since we've all experienced this. Doctors and plumbers also have classroom hours, listen to lectures, and read books, but that's not all. Who would want a doctor performing surgery or a plumber fixing your pipes if all they had was book knowledge?

This is where apprenticeship comes in—learning how to apply the knowledge learned in the classroom in a practical situation. This is why many professions have an apprenticeship program as part of their process for employment. In fact, while serving as the pastor of a previous congregation, I had the opportunity to work in the vicarage program, DCE internship, and fieldwork education apprenticeships of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In real life, when we want to learn how to do something, we often find someone to teach us how to do it. Someone invests their time, energy, skills, and life into ours, teaching us to do what they do.

Immersion, the third type of learning, is the most subtle type because it's where our personalities and learning environments come together to shape us into the people we are becoming. In immersion a group of people who are competent in their craft or skill are gathered together, and people in the process of learning then learn the skill by observation and practice within the culture. The key to learning by immersion is having access to the culture you are hoping to shape you. Unfortunately, the church as we know it today is mostly about the first kind of learning, classroom/lecture, and churches in which the process of disciples making disciples is the cultural norm are rare.

Don't you agree that an important goal for Messiah Lutheran Church is to become a culture where the process of disciples making disciples is the norm? After all, that's what Jesus wants, isn't it (Mt. 28:19-20)? Breem writes: "Discipleship isn't a random assortment of facts and propositions and behaviors. Discipleship is something that is you to the core and is completely incarnated in you. If it is information, it is information that has worked its way into you and is now part of you," similar to the way that Jesus made the first disciples. By our regular schedule of worship services, classroom activities, fellowship activities, board and committee meetings, and serving in our various vocations in the community, we are involved in the process of building Messiah Lutheran Church into a discipling culture.

Your co-worker in Christ,

Rev. Richard S. Lofgren



**- Passing on of information - Practical application of the information -
- Experiential learning of information in a real life setting -**

Messiah's Vision Statement Approved!

Messiah Lutheran Church exists to lead people to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

We promote:

- A caring congregation where all feel welcome,
- Christian growth through ongoing, Christ-centered education, and
- Using our God-given talents for outreach to the community and beyond.



The Vision working group presented their recommendation to the congregation at a special voter's meeting on July 30th. After some healthy discussion, the amended vision statement was approved.

The vision team thanks everyone for their attendance and participation in the meeting. We'll work to get the final, amended Vision Team report out to the congregation soon. The Mission working group will now craft Messiah's mission statement, and then the output from all the working teams will help create the call package. Please continue to pray for the Mission working group and the Call Committee as we move closer to calling a new pastor to help fulfill God's purpose for Messiah Lutheran Church. *Thank you!*

Mark Giardinelli, Sharon Loren, Melissa Rutledge, Gina Huskey, Tom Bibb & John Beard

Mission Team

*Kathy Bibb, Mike Gissi,
Rebecca Sagebiel, Anthony Sansone,
David Theis*

Call Committee

*Debra Beard, Rebecca Bottlinger,
Sharon Loren, Kim Maloy,
Rebecca Sagebiel, Brad Sanders,
Joe Sorenson, Sue Theis,
Mike Lang*

Sunday Morning Sewing Opportunity



Do you look forward to that cup of coffee or maybe the sweet treats when you walk into the Gym on Sunday Mornings?

*We need a volunteer to make coffee on Sunday - August 20th & 27th
We also need a volunteer to provide sweet treats on Sunday - August 20th*

Please let Maurine know if you are available.



Turn Your Problems Over to God . . .

How many times have you faced serious difficulties and a Christian friend says, *“just turn it over to God?”*

Some may say *“just pray about it”* and remember the Words of Jesus, *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.”* (John 14:1)

When you have a seriously ill loved one or a dire job situation such words may not be encouraging. Our human heart and mind can't help worrying, thinking, and drumming up all the bad things that might happen. We become anxious, paralyzed, or frantic about the bad things that ARE happening.

As baptized, forgiven sinners we are children of God, we believe yet we have doubts. Recall Jesus challenging the man who asked him to heal his child *“if He (Jesus) can,”* Mark 9:23-24 *“And Jesus said, **“If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.”** Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, **“I believe; help my unbelief!”***

Of course, we believe Jesus loves us and cares for us, but we still have a problem with accepting God's will in our lives. Truly Jesus promised, *“Come to me you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* (Matthew 11:28) He also said, *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.”* (John 14:1)

Jesus says to trust and to be active, not passive. He asks us to be strong and courageous. Recall His words to the

disciples caught in the storm? *“Why were you afraid? Why were you afraid when I was with you?”* (Matthew 8:23-27)

Indeed, why are we so afraid when He is with us? Because we still have fears and worries as earthly people – like Mary and Martha. Death stings now even though we know believers will be resurrected.

God always answers prayers, but not always as we want. According to Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, he asked God three times to remove this "thorn" in the flesh, but God refused. The Bible is clear that God's grace was sufficient for him and that he was able to find strength in his weakness.

Recall what Jesus Himself faced, *And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, **“My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”***

Jesus *“turned it over to God,”* *“And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, **“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”*** (Matt 26:37-39).

God, we believe, help us be strong as your will is done! Amen.

Dennis Parker

Shout out to Debbie Stender and Jean Schuchardt! Servants of Christ.

These ladies from Messiah Lutheran Sewers stopped by Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center with armloads of hand-made quilts, blankets, burp cloths, and stuffed animals for our families!

Thank you for your faithfulness and using your gifts for God's glory.

We value the work and prayers that go into these made-with-love gifts and our clients love receiving such beautiful creations! Thank you!



ML MESSIAH'S KIDS

Messiah's Kids is excited to be winding down after an amazing summer. Our staff and families undoubtedly enjoyed the hot weather and fun filled activities with their families.

This summer we are continuing to get the building ready for the upcoming school year. The Family Life Center will be painted soon. We are excitedly waiting to install many security upgrades and additional playground equipment.



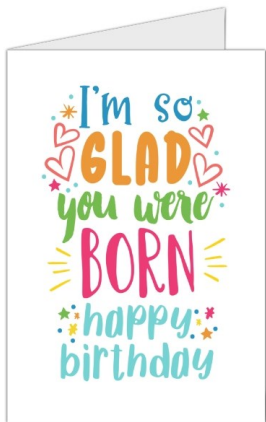
*"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."
Mark 10:13-15*



Our teachers return on August 21st and our students return on August 28th.

Please keep our early learners, families and staff in your prayers as we start another year. -- Healthy Blessings, Gina Huskey

Gina Huskey, Director
Messiah's Kids Preschool



- Aug 4 - Larry Rottman
- Aug 6 - Steven Haberoth
- Aug 8 - Russ Leachman
- Aug 11 - Carol Tonn
- Aug 12 - Becky Behrens
- Aug 17 - Kristen Koronzok
- Aug 18 - William Bibb
- Aug 18 - Kathleen Blakely

- Aug 1 - Ed & Annette Moynahan - 59 years
- Aug 3 - David & Lorrie Wendeborn - 38 years
- Aug 4 - Doug & Cherry Camp - 39 years
- Aug 9 - David & Sharon Sattler - 48 years
- Aug 11 - David & Katja Rhoads - 10 years
- Aug 18 - Bill & Mary Ann Eichman - 55 years
- Aug 20 - John & Sara Barry - 24 years
- Aug 20 - John & Peggy Hedrick - 35 years
- Aug 21 - Ron & Margrit McMann - 59 years
- Aug 28 - Tom & Kathy Bibb - 47 years

- Aug 18 - Amelie Brosien
- Aug 21 - Gus Addington
- Aug 21 - David Sattler
- Aug 24 - Margaret Leachman
- Aug 29 - Patty Hagy
- Aug 29 - Lyle Turner
- Aug 30 - Laura Sanders



Save The Date

Tony & Kathy would like to invite you to Mark's 34th Birthday Party at Patrick Heath Library in Boerne on **September 14th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.**

This year on Mark's big day he would like to pack 100 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We have all the supplies and only ask that you bring a "WOW" gift for either a boy 2-4 years old or a girl 10-14 years old.

We'll have light snacks, Birthday cake and beverages for anyone who wants to participate in the fun!

Please RSVP with Kathy Giardinelli by text message to 210-334-8820. Make sure you leave me your name and number coming.

Thanks! *Tony & Kathy
Giardinelli*



Messiah's Ladies Time Out - We are planning to meet at Las Guitarras Mexican Restaurant on Main Street in Boerne on **Thursday, August 10th at 11:00 am.** Please RSVP to Lindy or sign up at church.



Messiah ladies, mark your calendars for our Friday Bible study to resume on **Sept. 15, 2023 at 9:30.**

Anna Maloy has graciously agreed to facilitate our next study. She hasn't nailed down the topic yet, we'll let you know soon so that books can be ordered.

Please let me know if you'll be attending so that you'll be on my email distribution list.

Marilynptx50@gmail.com , call me if you have any questions. *Marilyn Mazurek*

Messiah's Adult Game Day - is cancelled for the month of August – Mark your calendars the next Game Day is scheduled for **Saturday September 16th at 2:00 pm** in the Family Life Center! Come join us! Bring drinks, snacks, games, and friends!

MLC's Annual

Messiah 5K Fun Walk / Run

Saturday morning, September 30, 2023

Be on the lookout for more information!

August Altar Flowers

August 6th - Margaret Leachman - in honor of Russ's Birthday

August 6th - David & Sharon Sattler - celebrating 48 years of marriage

August 13th - Bill & Mary Ann Eichman - celebrating 55 years of marriage

August 13th - Tony & Kathy Giardinelli - in honor of David's Birthday

August 20th - OPEN

August 27th - Steve & Janet Haberoth - honoring God's blessings

August 27th - Brad Sanders - in honor of Laura's Birthday

Membership Matters as of June

General Fund \$ 250,437.29

Building Fund \$ 39,067.39

Renovation Fund \$ 448,754.79

FLC Rental \$ 24,060.82

Average Weekly Attendance

Worship 70 souls

Bible Study 43 souls

Confirmation of Zane Bohlken

Baptism of Hayli Fernandez



Just letting everyone know beginning July 31st thru August 18th the Family Life Center will be receiving a new coat of paint. Painters will be working in the Gym and all classrooms including the Church Office and Fellowship Room.

Painters have told us the Gym will be completed by the end of day on Friday, Aug. 4th giving it time to dry and assuring us there will be no lingering paint smell.

in loving memory of

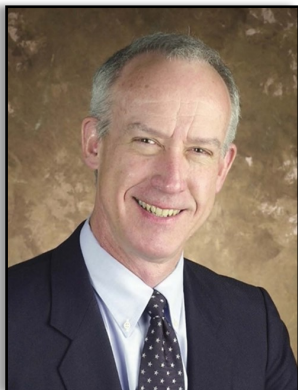
Edward Adrian Funk

January 18, 1943 - July 18, 2023

Ed served as a respected elder and Sunday school teacher at his Lutheran church. His devotion extended beyond church walls, molding the minds of young people as a Cubmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America in Japan and California. Ed instilled in them his core values: integrity, diligence, and a profound love for God and country.

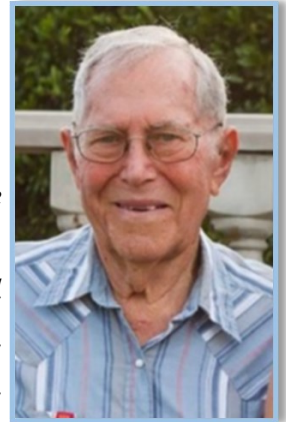
Remembered for his infectious humor and kindness, Edward leaves an enduring legacy. He is survived by his wife Gracie (nee Long), his daughters Amy and her spouse Charles Johnson, Elaine, his sons Conrad (Cid) and his spouse Vicki Simpson, Daryl and his spouse Jennifer Losito, his sister Bernice (Beni) and her husband Robert Bowman, and his six cherished grandchildren: Anna, Isabelle, Luke, Elizabeth Cate, Tyler, and Dylan. As we mourn, we honor a life devoted to family, education, and patriotic service.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at Ebensberger Fisher Funeral Home. Interment will be held on Monday, August 14, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, TX.



Robert Lee Saur

January 31, 1932 -
July 25, 2023




Robert married Lily Mae Saur on January 23, 1998. Robert and Lily joined Messiah Lutheran Church on March 28, 2005, through Adult Confirmation. Lily passed away on April 13, 2010. Robert was an active member of Messiah and was blessed by the Bill Loren Family that brought him to Worship when he wasn't able to drive himself.

His family says . . . "He retired in 1995, from the Lone Star Brewery, where he worked for over 40 years. He farmed and ranched for as long as he was able. He was a self-sufficient man who lived a simple life."

Services - August 1, 2023 at Puente & Sons Funeral Chapel on 14315 Judson Road, San Antonio, Tx.

Interment at Holy Cross Cemetery at Holy Cross Cemetery on 17501 Nacogdoches Road,

The world
and its desires
pass away.
but whoever
does the
will of God
lives forever.



1 John 2:17 (NIV)

The Journey begins with life . . .



The journey begins with life...it's time to prepare for Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center's annual fundraising gala, "Journey of the Heart." Join us on the adventure and walk with us as we honor our clients' stories on *Tuesday, September 19, 2023*. We have two program options: lunch or dinner. The event is being held at The Cana Ballroom in Boerne.

Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center (HCPCC) has served the community for over 35 years.

A ministry like ours exists because nearly 50% of pregnancies in the US are unexpected. That means well over 1,000,000 women will have to make a decision about the outcome of their pregnancy. Supporting your local pregnancy care center is vital for your community as we provide life-giving options for moms and dads to consider when faced with this situation.

How HCPCC Helps:

- 22 babies have been born to our clients so far in 2023. These parents receive one-on-one education and support, plus essential baby items like clothing, diapers, and car seats.
- In 2022, we gave away \$97,790 worth of material support. This includes diapers, wipes, clothing, cribs, car seats, maternity items, and many other baby items.
- We are on track to provide 9,300 services in 2023, more than we've ever done annually!
- We've expanded our Fatherhood Program with new classes and ten men volunteered for our Client Advocate team to walk alongside new fathers.
- Increased our After Abortion Support outreach through churches and the community.



Join us on Sunday . . . you never know who you will get to visit with!



How Medicare Works and Protection from Fraud

How Medicare Works and Protecting Yourself and Others from Financial Fraud and Scams

Our community partner, LINC South Texas, offers this free seminar led primarily by Messiah member Brad Sanders, Detective with the San Antonio Police Department. You might have heard Brad and Laura Sanders give this presentation in January 2020 at Messiah; however, they have updated it to show how Artificial Intelligence is changing the world and exposing you to more fraudsters.

You may think this is only for the “elderly”; however, you would be surprised to learn that individuals in the 18 - 24 age range were more than three times more likely to fail to recognize scams. Other studies report that millennials are 77% more likely than other age groups to say they lost money to a scam that started with an email. Could you help us get the word out? The younger generation can always use Medicare information to help their parents or grandparents understand the complexities.

Join us at 308 Mt Calvary Drive, San Antonio, TX 78209, on Saturday, September 9th, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. As an alternative, I am looking for a volunteer to host a group at Messiah to zoom in together. She wants to offer this to the community at large as they visit our campus and see what Messiah is all about. You can contact Laura at LSandersCoach@gmail.com or 210.843.6020. Please see the flyer for more details. If we can host at Messiah via Zoom, Laura can change the flyer to correspond to the correct location and RSVP.

Laura Sanders

Looking through old Newsletters . . .

Sometimes I get to looking back at some of Messiah’s Newsletters from years ago . . . looking for inspiration or new ideas . . . Today I found a poem written by Mark Giardinelli that touched my heart.

As I read this poem it brought up feelings that some of us might have while going thru this transition period. Thought I would share it with you.

Lonely - by Mark Giardinelli

I feel so lonely,
does anybody care,
why does it hurt
so much?
Is this where
it ends,
with all this pain?

God says,
you are fearfully
and wonderfully
made.
Don’t give up,
this is not
the end,

Keep pressing on.
I AM your God
and will never
give up on you,
so never
give up on yourself.

The flyer features the LINC San Antonio logo with a heart and star icon, and a map of Texas with the text 'Expanding To LINC South Texas'. The main title is 'HOW MEDICARE WORKS AND PROTECTING YOURSELF AND OTHERS AGAINST FINANCIAL FRAUD AND SCAMS'. Below the title is a photo of an elderly woman on a phone with a credit card, and a sign that says 'Don't Be A Victim Free Seminar'. The text on the flyer includes: 'Free Educational Seminar', 'WHEN: Saturday September 9th from 9am to 12pm', 'WHERE: Mt Calvary Lutheran, San Antonio or Zoom for South Texas friends', 'WHAT: Medicare Confusion, Telephone Scams, Phishing Scams, Contractor Scams, Charity Scams, Stolen Mail, Artificial Intelligence', 'RSVP: PhilipD@LincSA.org', and bios for Bob Wetesnik, Brad Sanders, and Laura Sanders.



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



You are always welcome
at Messiah Lutheran Church!

