



Messiah Messenger

August 2018

Messiah's Mission: *To know Christ and to make Christ known through the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all through a Word and Sacrament ministry of worship, Christian Education, fellowship, outreach and service.*

Rev. Tom Bartzsch, *Senior Pastor*
Rick Krueger, *Parish Assistant*
Vonda Smestad, *Preschool Director*
Sandy Goodlander, *Office Manager*

pastor.bartzsch@messiahgr.org
rick.krueger@messiahgr.org
smestadv@messiahgr.org
office@messiahgr.org or
Sandy.goodlander@messiahgr.org

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

There are a number of different healthier diets or dieting methodologies that people make use of, whether because of medical conditions, a desire to lose weight or often just a desire to feel better. One category of these diets centers around being low in carbohydrates. There are “keto” diets, paleo, and just plain low-carb. Another group of people need to avoid or choose to avoid anything with gluten.

One of the major items containing both carbohydrates and gluten are all the different forms of bread we take in. That’s resulted in baked goods and bread getting a “dirty” reputation as far as nutrition goes. Sure there are such things as gluten-free breads, but gluten is such a powerful force in holding things together that anything without it tends to be a poor imitation of the real thing.

“That’s fine Pastor, so why have you suddenly taken such an interest in diet and nutrition?” Good question! For the first three weeks of August, our Gospel readings depart from Mark’s Gospel and move into the 6th chapter of John, after John’s recording of the feeding of the 5,000. This section of John is known as Jesus’ “Bread of Life” discourse. (There’s your connection!)

“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.’” Just as many people in this world are avoiding physical bread with their meals, even more avoid and push away the Bread of Life Himself. He is the one who holds the whole universe together by His Word that spoke it into existence. Sadly, so many think they can “feel better” without this bread.

As we hear these passages in church this month, I continue to encourage you to feed your souls on the life-giving Bread of Life himself, Jesus Christ. **“For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”** (John 6:33) Let us be like those who heard this and said to Him **“Sir, give us this bread always.”** (John 6:34b) Amen!

Your brother and servant in Christ,

Pastor Bartzsch

Messiah Updates and August Events

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES: This summer we are holding one worship service on **Sunday mornings at 10:00 am, ending on Sunday, September 2nd**. Bible Class will be held at **8:45 am through August 19th**. We also are offering a **Monday evening service at 7:00 pm through August 27th**

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE gifts to Messiah in memory of **Jim Lueders** from Robert & Jeannine Lavens.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE gifts to Messiah in memory of **Dave Merkle** from Herman Wissenberg, June Ribbe, Norda Tillotson, Phil & Sharon Fahling, Randy & Diane Oppeneer, Mike & Carol Mushong, Rick & Deb Krueger, Bill & Barb Brinkman and Bret & Ellen Pawloski.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE gifts to Messiah in memory of **Pamela Hart** from Dwight & Marlene Anderson.

ELDER ASSIGNMENTS - These are your "official" elders but remember you can always approach ANY elder at any time with a concern!!!!

Elder	Last Name Begins With
Jack Keller	A thru B
Randy Oppeneer	C thru Di
Dale Reinke	Do thru Gil
Dwight Anderson	Gle thru Hoo
Bill Brinkman	Hou thru Kru
Max Conner	Kry thru Mee
Pete Garchow	Mer thru Pe
Randy Gerke	Pi thru Sha
Larry Goodlander	She thru Tr
Mark Hoogerhyde	Ty thru Z



THROUGH DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS, the Parish Service Guild has a great new way to raise money to help with the ongoing needs of our Preschool!

Every time you shop at your local **Family Fare, D & W Fresh Market, Forest Hills Grocery and any other participating Spartan store**, save your receipts. Once we've collected \$150,000 in receipts from these stores, we can turn those slips of paper into a \$1,000 check for **Messiah Lutheran Preschool!**

To reach our goal, we'll be collecting eligible receipts in our Direct Your Dollars box. The box has the logo on it, and it's located on the shelving outside the office. Or, you may drop them off in Sharon Hula's mailbox.

Please make sure you drop off the entire original receipt. Also, the receipt must have the words **DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS** on it to qualify.

Messiah Updates and August Events Con't:



ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 12TH AT 11:15 AM, we're inviting people from our preschool, Vacation Bible School and our neighborhood to join us for our first **Community Picnic** after church! Messiah's Board of Outreach and LIFT are sponsoring this event; barbecue sandwiches & beverages will be provided for all. We'd appreciate your help; please sign up to bring food or help with activities at the Welcome Center or in Adult Bible Class. Be sure to mark your calendars *now* and plan to be there!

FAREWELL TO MARIAN MEEHLER - AUGUST 12, 2018 - FOLLOWING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE. As part of our Community Picnic, we will join together in wishing Marian farewell and godspeed, as she makes plans to live with her daughter in Florida. If you have signed up to bring dessert for the Picnic, we request that you bring only cookies/bars, as we will have a special cake to commemorate Marian's service to our Lord during her years among our Messiah family. There will also be a special box for cards if you wish to extend special thoughts to Marian. Please plan to celebrate with us!



MESSIAH'S MEN'S RETREAT: Save The Date!

Messiah's Annual Men's Retreat is scheduled at Camp Concordia for **September 28 & 29, 2018, from Friday evening through Saturday evening**. Registration starts at 5 pm followed by a Steak Dinner. Other activities of Friday include an Opening Worship & Bible Study, Campfire and Games. Saturday starts at 7:30 am with a Hot Breakfast. Other activities on Saturday include a Worship & Bible Study, Work Project at Camp, Lunch with Brats & Dogs, Golf/Work Project/Leisure Time and Corn Hole. We finish with a Fish Fry and Closing Worship & Bible Study. More information will be forthcoming this summer. For any questions, contact Dwight Anderson at 647-7549 or at danderson9586@yahoo.com

YARD SALE: PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANY DONATIONS until a decision is made on future yard sales. Thanks to all who have donated and made the yard sales such a success.



► **THANK YOU NOTE FROM RUGER'S MOM:** Thank you again for inviting our family into your church and your hearts. We are so grateful and felt the love and blessings Hali Eveleth (*Yard sale proceeds are helping to provide a new wheelchair for Ruger*)

From the Parish Assistant's Desk

CALLING ALL MUSIC MAKERS!

*"I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations."
(Psalm 108:3)*

When we gather for worship, God lovingly serves us through His Holy Word and Sacraments. Responding to God's love, we use His gift of music to pray, praise, proclaim and recount the story of His grace in song!

Messiah's music ensembles lead and support our musical praises in worship. As we gear up for another year of activity, you can help by participating in these groups:

From the Parish Assistant's Desk Con't:

- The **Senior Choir** sings for two Sundays a month (usually once at 8:30 am and once at 11 am), helps introduce new hymns and songs, and leads service music. They also sing for festivals (Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, Transfiguration of our Lord, Easter, Pentecost) and other special services (such as our annual Ascension service with St. Peter-Rockford). Weekly practices will start **Wednesday, September 5th, lasting from 7 to 8:15 pm.**
- The **Rhythm Section and Singers** sing folk, gospel & contemporary anthems, help introduce new hymns & songs, and lead service music. The group plays and sings once a month for both services; they practice on an as-needed basis, usually on **Wednesdays at 8:15 pm or Thursdays at 7 pm**, with occasional practices on Saturday mornings.
- **Instrumental Ensembles** (brass, woodwinds, strings and percussion) play for the festivals mentioned above, and throughout the year on an as-needed basis.

If any of these musical groups interest you, please contact Rick Krueger for more details!

WORSHIP IN AUGUST

The Time of the Church continues in August, as the Gospel readings focus on the Bread of Life, as recorded by John. Our altar, pulpit and lectern paraments (covers) remain green as we feed in the rich pastures of our Good Shepherd.

Divine Service, Setting Four in Lutheran Service Book will be our order for communion services. The *Service of Prayer & Preaching* and *Morning Prayer* will be used on non-communion weekends; we'll use the *spoken Prayer at the Close of the Day* on Monday, August 27th. We'll also continue *Praying the Catechism* in worship, with the Lord's Prayer as our focus through August. Be sure to watch for installments of *Kids in the Divine Service* and *What Does This Mean* (with definitions of "worship words") in our service folders.

In all of this, we pray that your hearing of God's Word and partaking of the Lord's Supper will strengthen your faith and empower you to share God's love in Christ with the people in your life!

SINGING A NEW SONG

Starting in mid-August, we'll be adding new songs introduced during the past two years to our *Songs for the Divine Service* supplement. We need help trimming and punching holes in the new pages, then inserting them into all supplement copies. If you can help, even for an hour or two, please contact Rick Krueger. Thanks!

CONFIRMATION PRAYER PARTNERS NEEDED!

Are you willing to pray for and support one of our junior confirmands in the coming year as they grow in their faith? We're looking for Confirmation Prayer Partners as another year of instruction starts. If you'd like to make a positive difference in a young Christian's life, contact Rick Krueger. Thanks!

Women's Ministry

GOD'S KITCHEN NEEDS CORNBREAD BAKERS: We are in need of cornbread bakers for delivery to church on **August 5th** and **September 2nd**. Signup sheet on Welcome Center. Thank you so much for helping with this ministry! Questions ??? See Judy Gerke or Laura Altemann.

KITCHEN CLEANING TIME - *Could you invite a friend, child or grandchild to join you, spend an hour (or as much as you choose), and help clean the kitchen cupboards?* We need good knees for the low spots, long arms for the high spots and anyone in between who can help. Many of our senior ladies are unable to physically perform some of the "stretches," so we look forward to some helping hands. There is a schedule for **August Thursdays**, but any day of the week is fine. A listing of the cupboard locations will also be on the clipboard above the dishwasher, so it would be helpful if you can check off the location you have chosen to clean. Thank you for helping to keep God's house clean - especially in the kitchen!

SANDY'S TRADITION will meet for dinner at Blue Water Grill, 5180 Northland Dr NE, on **Thursday, August 23rd**, at **4:30 pm**. Please RSVP to Pat Hoffman (784-5817) by the day before.

Other Items

WEST MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SCHOOLS NEWS:

WEST MICHIGAN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL (WMLHS) seeking teacher having experience and interest in teaching Spanish I and II to secondary students at a college preparatory school. The teacher will be expected to speak fluent Spanish and be exceptionally knowledgeable about the Spanish culture, history and language connections to our current society. Please contact Pastor John Diener at 616-455-2200 or gracelc.pjd@gmail.com if interested. The position is part-time preferably from 8:40 AM to 10:45 AM daily, but we will try to accommodate other times.



WMLHS MUSTANG GOLF OUTING:

Location: Yankee Springs Golf Course

When: August 25th, 2018

Time: 9 Hole Shotgun start at 3:00 PM (using 18 holes if more than 52 golfers)

Dinner: 6:00 PM

Cost: \$55.00 (Fee includes 9 hole round of golf with cart and an Italian dinner).

Prizes for Lowest Score, Highest Score, and Contest Holes

WEST MICHIGAN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL is now enrolling 9th -12th grade for the 2018-2019 school year. Please go to www.wmlhs.org for more information or to register. An affordable and exemplary Christ-centered education that is within your reach. If you have additional questions that our website cannot provide, please feel free to call the office and Mrs. Bell will be more than happy to accommodate your needs. Mrs. Bell's email is secretary@wmlhs.org

Other Items Con't:

COACHES NEEDED: Do you have a passion for sports? For working with youth? For demonstrating your faith publicly? West Michigan Lutheran is looking for coaches for multiple sports including volleyball, basketball, and our running teams. If you would like more information and are interested in applying, please contact **WML Athletic Director Aaron Cochrell at ascochrell@aim.com or (616) 292-0259**. Our most time-sensitive need is for a volleyball coach this fall. We look forward to hearing from you!

HABWAL (HIT A BALL WITH A LUTHERAN): Saturday, August 18th - we can use volunteers & players! First full team to register can have the first pick of shirt color. ALUMNI contact us if you are willing to play but do not have a team - we would like to put together an all alumni team (remember, we need both guys and gals to create a team). Please email **Aaron Cochrell wmlsboosters@wmlhs.org** if you have any questions or to begin registration.

TIME IS GETTING SHORT!!! West Michigan Lutheran is seeking a host family for Binh from Vietnam. Binh excels academically and studies hard. He is currently attending a school in Georgia, so this will be his second year as an exchange student. A much easier adjustment for him and you since he's had a year here already. He enjoys playing sports, hanging out with friends and watching American movies. Host families provide the student with room and board as well as some transportation and guidance. Students come with their own spending money and insurance. This is an experience of a lifetime that you do not want to miss out on. If you would like to host Binh, please contact Robin in the H.S. Office by emailing secretary@wmlhs.org or calling 616-455-2200.



IN OUR PRAYERS

- ✦ Those with immediate prayer concerns: **Larry H. Rich**, great grandson of Arline Woosley; **Bernice Washinifski**, friend of Judy Spencer; **Joann Hilton, Natalie O'Rourke, Phil Fahling, Jon Bradley**, friend of Judy Spencer; **Judy Spencer, Sharon Fahling, John Mullooly**, son-in-law of Sam & Joann Hilton; **Rev. Paul Garchow**, brother of Pete Garchow; **Jackie Navoychik**, friend of Sandy Ryan; **Serenity Knight**, family member of Bill & Rita VanEtten; **Bernie & Eileen Ottenjan, Nancy Bowens**, cousin of Sharon Fahling; **Hunter Andrus**, granddaughter of Colleen Andrus; **Linda Kilgore**, mother of Cathy Quackenbush; **Larry Peterson**, friend of Bill & Barb Brinkman; **Ken Stayton, Matt**, friend of Bill & Diane Legate's daughter Kelsey; **Jim Potter, Sr., Marlene Peasley, Sharry Milner**, daughter-in-law of Shirley Lang and **Laurie Teasly**, niece of Sandy Ryan.
- ✦ Those with ongoing prayer concerns: **Claudia London, Dawn Feorene**, niece of Elaine Jingles; **Robert Neuman**, brother of Theona Gee; **Dawn Metivier**, mother of Leah Kearney; **Carol Shick**, friend of Nyha French; **Jessica Santa Clara; Kathy Mueller; Tina Eikenroth**, friend of Matt VanEtten; **Simon Leavit**, grandson of Bob & Jan Ringel, former members.
- ✦ Those serving in the military: **Eric Gerke**, grandson of Judy Gerke; **Dan Gerke**, son of Judy Gerke; **Clinton Gibson**, son in law of Bill & Diane Legate; **Randy Tanis**, great nephew of Marcie Merkle, **Jacob Teeple**, grandnephew of Mark & Laura Altemann; **Andrew Feigel**, nephew of Al & Renee Davis; **Joseph Lueders**, nephew of John & Ruth Lueders and **Raymond Bartman**, son of Carla Bartman.
- ✦ Our Missionaries: **Pastor Masih & Pastor James**.
- ✦ For **Tahseen Kanwal** (daughter of Pastor and Rosy Masih) and husband, **Imran**, their children **Rain and Trinity** and the twins, **Riley and Leslie**. That they transition well to their temporary home in Virginia until the way is made clear for them to join the rest of the family here.

WORSHIP ANEW - "Worship Anew" is a Lutheran television, 30 minute worship service with no commercials or repeats. It is not a tape of a Sunday morning service, but a special taping done just for the viewer at home. Worship for Shut-Ins airs locally **Sunday mornings at 11:30 am** on Comcast (channel 21), Charter (channel 2), AT&T (channel 54), and DirecTV (channel 377). Services may also be viewed online at www.worshipforshutins.org



August 5, 2018 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

"The Bread of Life" - Sermon Text: John 6:22-35 - *Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege*

August 12, 2018 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

"Try It! You'll Like It!" - Sermon Text: Psalm 34:8 - *Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer*

August 19, 2018 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"Those Difficult Places" - Sermon Text: John 6:51, 60-69 - *Rev. James Elsner*

August 26, 2018 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"Lip Service or Heart Service?" - Sermon Text: Isaiah 29:11-19 - *Rev. William Mueller*

SERVING YOU . . .

Staff:

Rev. Tom Bartzsch, Pastor

Mr. Richard Krueger, Parish Assistant

Mrs. Sandy Goodlander, Office Manager

Mrs. Mildred Rathbun, Office Assistant

Mrs. Vonda Smestad, Pre-school Director