

Messiah Courier
November 2026

Don't forget to vote

I continue to read reports that too many citizens don't vote, mainly because they think one vote, their vote, won't make a difference. I think that way of thinking/deciding is a symptom. A symptom of questioning the value of small acts. I am reminded of all the small, even tiny things, that have made a difference in my life.

A quiet thank you.
A note.
A smile.
An act of forgiveness over something minor.
An encouragement.
The misspelled note from my grandson.

The only advice I gave our son on dating was: "Beware of the grand gesture ~ small acts of consistent kindness are important." The American temptation is "go big." The "go big" effect is to dismiss and reject that each kindness and each person has value. God is big on small things: the hairs on our head are numbered, birds of the field and flowers that bloom bring delight.

Here's some advice: Go small ~ each mercy that you extend to others is magnificent, you can ease suffering with a quiet word. The Holy Spirit blesses small things that make for difference ~ including voting.

A quiet thank you & a smile for you,
Pastor Susan

Thanksgiving

The other night I had a nice conversation with my grandson Kenny. After hearing about his job, how the children are doing in school and about his wife's new job came the question he always asks "Grandma do I remember this right? For all the holidays we had a big family dinner but what I remember best was the children's table set with tablecloth, good china and silverware just like the adults." He was right in what he remembered but didn't remember any of the reasons for thanksgiving: give thanks to the Lord for all we have received.

After the call I gave a lot of thought to what kind of example I am for my family. My answer was that they hear me complain more than they hear me give thanks even for the little ones. This past year I have had a lot of medical issues but I found myself worried and anxious about everything.

Philippians 4:6 "Be anxious for nothing,
but in everything by prayer and supplications
with thanksgiving let your requests
be made known to God."

How often we forget just to trust in the Lord and we will receive the answers. I am now back to my old self able to do my little things for which I am thankful. In my late eighties I am still thankful and remembering each day to give thanks. For all of us 1 Thessalonians 5:8 says it best = in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Have a blessed Thanksgiving and make sure to give thanks even for the little things.

Love and Prayers,
Judy Ruud

Messiah Lutheran Church ~ ELCA
410 H Street NE Auburn, WA 98002 (253) 833-5280

Council Meeting ~ October 15, 2026

- Nominating Committee for 2027 Council members to begin its work 10/28; members of Committee: Ross Chamberlain, Alan Melrose, Janene Nelson, Pr S
- Personnel and Mutual Ministry committees have been formed.
- September Expenses of $49,741.35 exceeded income of $ 48,702.81 by $1038.54
  YTD +$9716.58
- Pr Bridget will provide leadership as staffing is consider for 2027 due, in part, to the retirement of Pr Susan and office manager, Lynne Inman
  Council was encouraged to keep a non-anxious and prayerful attitude as staffing needs are considered ~ trusting the Holy Spirit to provide guidance
- Personnel Comm presented a draft of job description for Sr Pastor; next step is to meet with Pr Bridget
- All interior lighting has been changed to LED ($2300 under budget) and installation of solar panels to begin first week of November
- Office collecting feedback from Stewardship Ministry Fair; the Fair was well-attended and many new volunteers were identified.
- Intents for 2027 giving is on-pace from previous years
- Affirmation of Baptism is in Sunday, October 25.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 19, at 6:30 pm

November 3 ~ 11:30-1:00
First Tuesday
Lunch & Bible conversation
We'll be reflecting on the saints in our lives *and* how we've all been called to sainthood.

November 17
A busy *Third Tuesday!*

- **9:30-11:30 Gather Grow & Serve Fellowship & Small jobs at Messiah**

followed by. . . .

- **11:30-1:30 Movie in Galli Hall**
  "Best Christmas Pageant Ever"
  Bring a snack to share!

MLC hosts the community meal on the fourth Sunday of every month. And, grocery costs continue to rise ~ you've no doubt seen that! It would help if folks could provide 1lb of hamburger or chicken to offset the expense.



On Sunday, November 8, Messiah has been asked to serve the Community Meal. Sign up on the Welcome Table if available!



Gospel Lessons for November 2026

Sunday, November 1
All Saints Day
Matthew 5:1-12
You are the light of the world.

Sunday, November 8
24th Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 25:1-13
Keep awake!

Sunday, November 15
Christ the King
A Liturgical Church Year

Sunday, November 22
A Day of Thanks Giving
Luke 17:11-19
Praising God with gratitude

Sunday, November 29
First Sunday of Advent
Mark 13:24-37
Keep awake!

Adult Education on Sunday mornings in the new year!
Three one-hour classes will be held following worship on January 10, 17 & 24
Topic: "Making Sense of the Christan Faith" by Rev. Dr. David Lose
Class will be based on a short video followed by discussion.
Led by Pastor Susan in Classroom A.



Reminder

Messiah's office is open 9-2 Tuesday thru Thursday.
In case of emergency, PLEASE reach out to your pastors on the cell phone numbers listed below!!

Additionally, please provide the following contact numbers to family:

Pastor Bridget cell: 253-256-5492 Pastor Susan cell: 425-223-6034

ADRIANA'S ANSWER: YES!

By Amanda Flanery & Dielda Kuhlmann



Adriana Petronella Maria Theresa Chandler

On Adriana's 2nd Sunday at Messiah, she dropped her children off for Sunday School and expected to return home to finish getting ready for worship service. Instead, Sophie Gunderson asked her if she could please fill in for the missing teacher in the 4-year-old class. Without hesitation, Adriana said*, "Yes, but can I stop by the restroom and take the curlers out of my hair?"* And Adriana has been saying yes at Messiah for the past 53 years.

Born in the Netherlands in 1939, her earliest memories are of sleeping in the cellar while soldiers slept in their home. Her family immigrated to the USA in 1954 for a better future. She saw the Statue of Liberty as the ship approached New York. They took trains to Seattle. Her dad worked as a carpenter. Adriana spent the summer picking strawberries, blueberries & raspberries, and used her hard-earned wages to buy the family's first TV.

She was married for 5 years and had 2 children. After the divorce, she worked at Boeing and met Michael Chandler. They married in 1968, got laid off in 1970, and moved to Auburn in 1972. Adriana's brother designed their home and her father built it. They still live there today and have retired from Boeing.

Their life insurance agent told them about Messiah; how it was nearby and right next to a high school. She recalls our church motto was *"Messiah: the church where the action is."* She joined when Pastor Sigmar was here, when Carmen Ode played piano for Sunday School, when Ron Douglas taught Bible study, and when John Filchak helped Pastor know when his sermon was getting too long. She has been on every committee except Stewardship, and fondly recalls the days of Martha circles, bazaars, and sewing costumes & finding props for the kids' Christmas pageants. She learned how to sew in school in Holland and has been with our quilters for 28 years.

"I like belonging here. Messiah is my church. I want to be here, and I plan on serving forever!" She shared her faith with her grandchildren by having them sit in the front pew with her every Sunday, allowing the kids to better see what was going on. It brings her joy to share that 4 grandchildren and a great granddaughter were baptized at Messiah. Adriana especially enjoyed when we had children's sermons.

When she's not at Messiah, she and Michael enjoy traveling and being with family. She's fluent in English and Dutch and can get by ok in Spanish. Before traveling to a country, she learns a little of the language. At Boeing, she impressed management by welcoming a tour group from Japan in Japanese and responding to their questions in the language. Greek is especially difficult for her.

And what does she think about Messiah? *"I love everything about Messiah. I really like our two wonderful pastors. I support them with all my heart and all my soul."*