



Messiah Courier

September 2026

What do you know for sure?

That was the question posed to me most Sundays during my internship. It was asked by a member of the church where I had been assigned ~ always asking me at the door, as he shook my hand on his way out of church following worship.

I was an intern, having completed the first two years (of four) of seminary. **As I recall, I was sure about a lot of things.** Sure that I wanted to be a pastor, sure that I had chosen the seminary that was right for me, sure that my parents and brother were mystified that I wanted to be a pastor, and sure that there were those who didn't think women should be pastors.

However, I wasn't sure about God's unconditional love. Truly, I wanted to be sure but I knew my failings and found it sadly impossible to trust God's love. Have you wrestled with that? Jesus struggled, too. From the cross, Jesus called out, "Why have you abandoned me?"

Over time, with the Holy Spirit nudging me, I have come to be sure. . . most of the time. My uncertainty reveals itself in moments when I see my brokenness clearly. Then I remember the question ~ what do I know for sure? ~ as **an invitation to grow in faith.** In departing from the disciples, Jesus told them they would not be abandoned, that the Holy Spirit would come to them to deepen their faith.

For sure,

Pastor Susan

God's unfailing provision

Ever since I joined Messiah 22 years ago I have heard "everything has changed, it just isn't like the old days".

In the 22 years we have seen a new building, pastors have gone but new ones come, programs change, Traci retires so children and youth ministry isn't the same, office staff leave or retire and office hours are limited.

In the 1920s, 12 families would have pot-lucks, Bible study, VBS for the children and hymn sings. Finally in 1924 they were able to establish a church and call a pastor.

What hasn't changed since the 1920s is that we hear God's word. Messiah was built on the firm belief of God's love and grace. So Messiah has seen a lot of change but it is the same in that God's love and grace are still here.

I thought about what was the same as in the 20s and we still hear God's word, Bible study, coffee after service, Family choir is our hymn singing, working to find the right programs for children and youth, concern for others with a very active Care Team, started work parties to help keep our building strong, continue Quilting, Food Bank and Community Dinner and above all sharing God's love and word.

I truly believe Messiah was built on a firm foundation and we continue today.

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the Church, those in need and all of God's creation.

Love and prayers,

Judy Ruud

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



Council Meeting

August 20, 2026

- Council accepted the Call Committee report; subsequently Council voted to extend the Call to Pr Bridget. Call accepted. Congregation will vote on 9/20/26.
 - Financial Reports: June: Income \$59,604 Expenses \$49,281 ~ net difference of +\$10,321. July: Income \$50,120 Expenses: \$51,868 ~ Net difference -\$1,748 YTD diff is \$10,307.61
 - Stewardship update by Pr B: theme is "I will serve!" Various MLC committees and teams will host information/how-to participate in various roles around the facility on the four Sundays of the Stewardship emphasis: 9/13, 29, 27, 10/4
 - New members will be received on Sunday, 9/13. MLC to celebrate!
 - Project Nehemiah report by Pr B ~ mortgage reduction is \$1500 per month
 - Solar panel project design in negotiation. LED project will be completed when supplies are rec'd
 - Personnel Team to begin development of job description for Pr B
 - Communion to homebound and those in a crisis situation when a pastor unavailable can be offered by MLC laity who have been trained by Pastor Susan and commissioned; procedures for preceding to be established by Council members, PrS & PrB
 - Fall Christian Ed for youth and adults to be led by Pr S & Pr B
 - 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering to be held in Minneapolis - 6/28-7/2 "*Imagine More*"
 - Pastors stated that they prefer that members refer to them as Pastor Bridget and Pastor Susan ~ as the role of pastor is a particular relationship.
- Council concurred



First Tuesday

A Back to School/Rally Day Extravaganza!

September 1st ~ 11:30-1 pm ~ Sack Lunch provided

Bring old VBS materials, Luther's Catechism,
or Sunday School lessons,
there will be a Show & Tell

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 MLC folks could provide 1lb of hamburger or chicken to offset the expense. Let Sheilia McLaughlin know if you are able to assist in that way. Her number is 253.886.0925 or call the church office at 253.833.5280. And, thank you!

Gospel Lessons for September 2026

Sunday, September 6

Pentecost 15

Matthew 18:15-20

“For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them.”

Sunday, September 13

First Sunday of Stewardship

John 21:15-17, 19b

Feed my sheep

Sunday, September 20

Second Sunday of Stewardship

Galatians 5:1, 13-14

For freedom Christ has set us free

Sunday, September 27

Third Sunday of Stewardship

Luke 1:26-38

Here I am, the servant of the Lord, let it be with me according to your word.

**Every word of God proves true;
God is a shield to those
who take refuge in God. Proverbs 30:5**



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



The beginning of our Stewardship season is right around the corner. This year our theme is I Will Serve! This theme recognizes that the members of Messiah are generous in more than one way. We are grateful for how this congregation gives time, talents, and money to support the ministry of Messiah. As you prayerfully consider your financial intent for 2027, we invite you to consider what other ways you can invest in this congregation.

To help your discernment we are hosting a Ministry Fair after worship each Sunday from September 13 until October 4. Various ministries, committees, and task forces will be spread throughout the building with a demonstration of some of the ways they contribute to the mission and ministry of this congregation. You'll receive a passport with spaces to check off. When you've visited all the ministry sites you'll get a prize! And, even better, you'll know all the ways that members are contributing to the work of Messiah.

Thank you for all the ways that you give to this place. And I can't wait for this fall as we continue to say, "I Will Serve!"

Peace,
Pr. Bridget

Fall Schedule:

September 13 – Rally Sunday

We will welcome new members, and begin our Ministry Fair! Enjoy cookies and coffee after worship, say hello to our newest members, and then begin visiting all the ministry stations.

September 20 – Congregational Meeting

Right after worship we will vote on calling Pr. Bridget Misare as our Senior Pastor. Then the ministry stations will be open for visiting again!

September 27 and October 4 – Stewardship and Ministry Fair continue

Be sure to visit all the Ministry stations to win a prize!

October 11 – Intent Cards are due

During worship we will receive and bless intent cards for 2027. Cards that have been mailed in or returned to the office will be blessed too.

Adult Education this Fall ~ Bring your curiosity & questions!

Three one-hour classes will be held on Sunday mornings following worship
on the following dates: **October 25, November 1 & 8**

Topic: "Making Sense of the Christian Faith" by Rev Dr. David Lose*

Class will be based on a short video each week, followed by discussion.

Taught by Pastor Susan in Classroom A.

*The Rev. David Lose, Ph.D., is Sr Pastor of Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN



LYNNE INMAN Found Her Calling at Messiah

By Amanda Flanery & Diolda Kuhlmann

LYNNE'S FAMILY:

Lynne was born in Toledo, WA and grew up in Longview. Her only sibling, Garry, passed away recently. She married Everett (Sandy) Inman June 30, 1962. They were married almost 60 years when he passed away in 2021. They raised 3 children: Michael, Susan who passed away at age 48, and Janet who she lives with. She has 5 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

As an infant, Lynne was not expected to live. She spent months in a Portland, Oregon hospital, with her parents visiting when they could. They made the decision to take her home to pass away. She was in a comatose state, and then 1 day her mom heard a noise in the room, came in and saw Lynne sitting up.

"God gave me a second chance. I was alive for a purpose. I wanted to return the kindness and love given to me to as many people as possible."

As a child, her parents didn't attend church so in middle school she walked 5 blocks by herself to church.

She joined Messiah with her kids when Pastor Sigmar was leading worship, then volunteered, then worked part time with Carmen Ode, and began working full time in the office in 1984. Those were the days of typewriters, carbon paper and mimeographs. She's grateful that technology and communications have gotten so much better since then!

"There were 42 kids in my daughter's confirmation class. But the demographics of Auburn (and Messiah) have changed." She appreciates that we are learning how to serve an older congregation.

"I've had colon cancer, lost the vision in one eye, had a bad fall that kept me in the hospital and rehab for a month, my daughter and husband and brother died. Through it all, this congregation has been so loving and caring. I don't know what I would have done without them. I still have my prayer shawl; it's good to hear that ministry is returning."

"I love coming to work. I've heard it all, seen it all, and cried with people in the office. When there is no minister in the office, and people want to talk to someone, I have listened. Sometimes a person needs to share their heart, be heard, and then they can leave feeling better."

"It is a privilege to serve." Lynne expects to retire June 30, 2027, at the age of 84.

"I don't want to retire. I expect to be bored stiff. I need ideas on how to keep busy! I will volunteer here, that's for sure. This has been my life. This congregation has been everything to me."

Membership 101 !

Classes were held on 3 Sundays in August to introduce the ELCA to MLC members & those interested in MLC membership.

On Sunday, September 13, new members will be received!

Plan to stay following worship to greet them!