



MAY 2022

Messiah Messenger

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Rev. Nils Niemeier – Pastor
Rev. Stephen Unger - Associate Pastor
Thom Brownworth - Deacon

Pastor Niemeier's Note:

My Brothers and Sisters at Messiah,

One of the great joys of the Easter Triduum (the three days that lead up to Easter) for me is the Easter Vigil service. Why? The Vigil reminds us of the work God has done for his people across history. We hear about his plan to save his people and redeem them from the very beginning, starting at Creation, and see again and again how God has worked this plan for his people at different times and in different places—Noah, the Exodus, the Fiery Furnace, and finally, with Christ's resurrection. And we get to see it happen before our eyes, too, when there are baptisms, or we are reminded of our own baptisms and know that God's plan includes our being saved.

The Vigil also connects us to very old traditions of the church. There is fire, the blessing of the Paschal Candle, the chanting of ancient songs. There is darkness and light. And there is, often, the reading of a particular ancient homily, the "Catechetical Sermon on Easter," attributed to St. John Chrysostom, the 4th Century archbishop of Constantinople.

If you've been in church these last two years, you'll know by now that I love to quote St. John "the Golden Mouthed" in my sermons. I can't help it—the man is good! And this is one of the sermons that really made me love him. It is often read during the Vigil of Easter in the Eastern Orthodox churches, but I first heard it preached in a little Lutheran church in Worden, Illinois, several years ago. I love Chrysostom's message here; how he first gives good news to all people (borrowing from Jesus' parable of the workers in the vineyard), that all shall enjoy the rewards Jesus' resurrection brings, and then how he describes the great defeat Jesus imposes upon Death and Hell. It's very hard to say it better than Chrysostom.

If you were at the Easter Vigil service this year, then you, too, heard this sermon. If you missed it, I have reproduced it again for you here, translated newly for you from the Greek so that you, too, can hear this ancient sermon again and be filled with joy from the good news that these words bring!

In His grip,

Pastor Nils Niemeier

Sermo Catecheticus in Pascha

Translated 2022 by Nils Niemeier. Bracketed text indicates lines commonly included in English translations not present in the Greek text recorded in Migne's Patrologiae Graecae LIX.721-723.

If anyone is pious and a lover of God, let them enjoy this happy
[bright] festival!
If anyone is a grateful servant, let them come rejoicing into the
grace of their Lord!
If anyone is worn out with fasting, let them now take their pay!
If anyone worked from the first hour, let them receive what they are
properly owed today!
If anyone came after the third hour, then let them celebrate [this]
festival of thanksgiving!
If anyone showed up no sooner than the sixth hour, don't fret: for
you won't lose a thing!
If anyone came later than the ninth hour, let them come, doubting
nothing!
If anyone arrived later, even at the eleventh hour, do not let them be
afraid on account of their lateness!

For the Master, lavish in his gifts, receives the last one just
as he does the first; he gives rest to the one who arrives at the
eleventh hour in the same way that he gives rest to the one who
came at the first hour; he shows mercy to the latter and cares for the
former; and to that one, he gives, and to this one it is granted. He
honors the work, and he approves the purpose.

Surely then, let us all go into the delight of our Lord! First
and second, take your reward! The rich and the poor, dance with
one another! Stoics and carefree, celebrate the day! Those fasting
and those not fasting, make merry today! For the board is groaning
under the feast. Eat richly, all of you! The calf is fatted! Let no
one go away hungry! [Drink, all of you, from the cup of faith!] All
of you, enjoy the wealth of his goodness!

Let no one grieve their poverty, for the kingdom common to all is
revealed.
Let no one lament his stumblings, for forgiveness has risen from the
grave.

Let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has freed us.
He destroyed death by enduring it.
He punished Hell when he descended into it.
He embittered Hell when it tasted his flesh.
And Isaiah, anticipating this, shouted: "Hell, it is said, was
embittered. It was embittered when it encountered You below."

Hell was embittered, for it was thrown down.
Hell was embittered, for it was mocked.
[Hell was embittered, for it was destroyed.]
[Hell was embittered, for it is now captured.]
Hell took a body, and found God.
Hell took earth, and found Heaven.
Hell took the very thing that it saw, and fell on account of what it
did not see.

Where, o Death, is your sting?
Where, o Hell, is your victory?
Christ is risen, and you are overthrown!
Christ is risen, and the demons are cast down!
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!
[Christ is risen, and life is set free!]
Christ is risen, and there is no corpse in the tomb!
For Christ, who has been raised from the dead, has become the
firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep!
To him be glory and power unto the ages of ages! Amen.

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OPEN COUNCIL POSITIONS: We have several positions
opening up on the Messiah Church Council and need
candidates for them **before** the June 12 Congregational
Meeting. The open positions are: **Vice President, Financial
Secretary, Parish Education, Trustees, Financial
Secretary, and Youth Board.** Please contact Pastor
Niemeier (pastor@messiahny.org) if you wish to nominate
yourself or know of someone else in the congregation who
would be a good fit for one of these positions. Thank you!



1 ~ Naomi Harris, Sarah-Jean Frank, 2 ~ Amy Gruenfelder
5 ~ Emily Tanzi 7 ~ Taylor Collins, Helene Cassistre
8 ~ Ruth Hawkins, Jennifer Setek, Kyle McGrady,
10 ~ Savannah Levine, Aidan Clarke, Avery Wierzbicki, Allyson
Miller, 11 ~ Daria Withers, 12 ~ Brian Schneider, Sean Morris,
Christina Perfetti, Veronica Harsch,
13 ~ Tina Baum, Natalie Anderson
16 ~ Kaitlin Murphy, Ryan Schmidke, Owen Wierzbicki
17 ~ Amie Noakes, 18 ~ Mia Sussino, Daniel Dennis
19 ~ Rev. Alfred Hofler, 20 ~ Billy Spitz
21 ~ Victoria Hass, Herb Baynon 22 ~ Marcus Furrer
23 ~ Nicholas Belmonte, 28 ~ Liann Dennis, Jeremy Guise, Derek
Guise, 29 ~ Violet Galasso
31 ~ Caryl Ann Levine, Alexis Bell, Julia Bell

Save the Date! May 1—Messiah Family Reunion

"The flowers appear on the earth, the
time of singing has come"
Song of Solomon 2:12



It's time to celebrate the joys of being
together. Plan on coming to a reunion of our church-family.
There will be **ONE SERVICE THAT DAY AT 9:30 am.**
Bring something to share. It's time to get back to fellowship!
Games, good food, fellowship & fun for the whole family.
See sign up sheet in the narthex or sign up online (Home page
drop down menu, under Events).

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY – We’re studying and



discussing Kings, an account of the end of the united kingdom of Israel and Judah, its split, the kings of both kingdoms, and their eventual downfall to foreign powers. We’ll learn about Solomon and how he lost the kingdom, and we’ll learn about his successors and whether or not they were worthy to wear the mantle of David or not. We’ll also meet Elijah and Elisha as they perform their prophetic ministries, calling Israel and Judah to repentance. There will be intrigue and murder, prophets, false gods and evil queens—but through it all, God keeps his promises to the House of David, laying the groundwork for his people’s redemption. Contact the church office if you would like to join in—everyone is welcome to join at any time!



WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY - The Women’s Bible class is held on

Thursday evenings at 7pm in person

assuming COVID cases remain low.

There will be more details announced via email and on the website (with a sign-up

form). Spring is the perfect time to “cultivate” your understanding of scripture and “grow” your relationship with Jesus. Let’s get busy in our spiritual garden!



Join us **Friday, May 20th at 3 pm.**

Come and help us assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief! We can always use lots and lots of helpers. Also, please keep bringing Ivory or Dove Soap Bars! Thank you!



The Garden Club has started back up! If you would like to help keep the church grounds looking beautiful, please join us! We usually meet on Tuesdays at 10am, but if you can't make it then, come when you can. Contact Nancy with any questions, goat322@optonline.net

The current Garden Club is aging and **we are in need of younger members to help** clean up the church property (weeding, raking, trimming, etc). This can be done as your schedule allows.



The Altar Guild will meet on **Wednesday, May 4th at 1:30pm** in the Council Room. Thank you to all those who came to help with decorating the Narthex & Sanctuary for Easter. If anyone is interested in joining this group or finding out about what we do, please come to our meeting on May 4th or speak with Ruth Hawkins.

Soli Deo Gloria

Ruth Hawkins for the Altar Guild



NEW SECRETARY SEARCH

Our beloved secretary, Diane, will be retiring at the end of May, and we are looking for a successor. If you or someone you know might be a good fit for the position and are interested, please contact Pastor Niemeier at the church office for more information.



JOIN US IN THE
JERUSALEM MARKETPLACE
JUNE 27TH – JULY 1ST!

BEGINS AT: 9 AM
ENDS AT: 12 PM

(\$15 REGISTRATION FEE PER CHILD)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE CHURCH
OFFICE AT

(631) 751-1775

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RETURNED BY
MAY 30TH

*CHILDREN REGISTERED AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT
RECEIVE T-SHIRTS*

*REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON-LINE AND
IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX*



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our **Semi-annual Congregational Meeting**
will be held
Sunday, June 12th after the 9:30 am service

There is only 1 church service that day at 9:30 am. The meeting will immediately follow the service.

We have several positions opening up on the Messiah Church Council and need candidates for them **before** the June 12 Congregational Meeting. The open positions are: **Vice President, Financial Secretary, Parish Education, Trustees, Financial Secretary, and Youth Board.** Please contact Pastor Niemeier (pastorn@messiahny.org) if you wish to nominate yourself or know of someone else in the congregation who would be a good fit for one of these positions. Thank you!



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