

June/ July 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 dear Brothers and Sisters at Messiah,

It's June, and a time of transitions in our community. School is coming to an end for the year, and some of our children are graduating from high school and preparing to start working or to-further their studies. Others are graduating from college, and preparing to begin their careers. For Messiah, it is a special time because several of our young people will be confirmed in the Christian faith on June 5, the Feast of Pentecost.

Confirmation is sort of an odd thing for Lutherans. We don't believe that it confers extra grace or that it somehow completes the sacrament of baptism (or, as some theologians believed in the 19th Century, that it was more important than baptism—it certainly isn't!), but we do believe that it is important. The Agenda for the *Lutheran Service Book* (our hymnal) notes the following about confirmation:

The rite of Confirmation, though not commanded by Christ in Holy Scripture, is, nevertheless, a salutary custom that marks the catechumen's confession of faith after a period of thorough and extensive catechesis in the Small Catechism. It is also a celebration of the gifts that God gave the catechumen in Baptism and affords the confirmand the opportunity to confess his or her faith publicly before the Church.¹

What does this mean? ("Was ist das?" as Luther would say in the catechism.) It means that confirmation is not, as it would appear, a sort of graduation or rite-of-passage. It is a milestone in that it indicates that our confirmands have learned the basic tenets of our faith, and they confess before the whole church that they intend to continue in it. But the important thing is the *continuing in it* following confirmation. Confirmation is not the end—it is the beginning of a journey where the confirmand, now with some deeper knowledge under his or her belt, is able to more confidently learn and grow in faith. I often liken confirmation to "leveling up" in a video game. Earlier on, confirmands had fewer abilities and

¹ LSB Agenda, p.3.

less knowledge. But now that they have gone through the hard work of study, they have more experience and are more prepared to deal with greater challenges—and even threats—but there is still much to learn and do, and greater challenges to overcome.

And the challenges and threats are real for Christians. Martin Luther wrote the following about what happens in baptism in his “Baptismal Booklet”:

[3] Therefore, you have to realize that it is no joke at all to take action against the devil and not only to drive him away from the little child but also to hang around the child’s neck such a mighty, lifelong enemy. Thus it is extremely necessary to stand by the poor child with all your heart and with a strong faith and to plead with great devotion that God, in accordance with these prayers, would not only free the child from the devil’s power but also strengthen the child, so that the child might resist him valiantly in life and in death.²

The same applies at confirmation—the confirmands are still the target of the devil’s attacks, and it is still imperative that the church prays and cares for them, encouraging them in attending church, reading Scripture, receiving the Lord’s Supper, confessing their sins, and growing in their faith and walk with Christ through devotion and fellowship. This is what we at Messiah all owe to our confirmands—and to each other!

So I encourage you to support and pray for our confirmands. Encourage them to learn and grow, and include them in our life together here at Messiah. ***They are the future of the church***—both our part of it here at Messiah, and in the world at large.

In His grip,

Pastor Nils Niemeier

² Martin Luther’s Baptismal Booklet, from Robert Kolb, Timothy J. Wengert, and Charles P. Arand, *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2000), 371–375.

THANKS



The 2022 Messiah Family Reunion Luncheon

May 15, 2022

A Big Thank You to All Who Came to the Messiah Family Reunion!

Thank you to everyone who made our Family Reunion luncheon possible! After a short postponement, we had a wonderful time coming together for food, fellowship, and fun after church on May 15. Special thanks are due to our Evangelism and Stewardship Boards for spearheading the luncheon, as well as to all the people who brought food and drinks and who helped set up and take down all the tables and chairs. We had a wonderful time, and we look forward to doing this again soon! Thank you all!

And a Note of Very Special Thanks:

We also wish to thank, from the bottom of our hearts, our secretary, Diane Gourlay, for her twenty years of selfless service to Messiah Lutheran Church. If it had not been for her deep knowledge of the congregation, her kindness, and all her hard work, things would have fallen apart for us at Messiah long ago!

Diane, it has been a joy having you with us here at Messiah Lutheran Church. We will miss you in the office, but will look forward to seeing you on Sundays and in other capacities. (This isn't goodbye!) We love you!



THANK YOU!

To my Messiah Family,
It was a wonderful afternoon having
everyone together for the Family
Reunion. There are too many people
to mention by name who put the
event together. The food everyone

brought was delicious, the decorations were bright and cheerful and
everyone had a good time. It was great to see everyone in
fellowship.

Your fellowship and kindness is what makes Messiah so
special to me and my family. Thank you all for the love you have
shown me over the years. Your generous gifts and celebration of
my retirement were overwhelming. I am truly blessed and look
forward to this next chapter of my life with Guy and my family and
seeing you all at future gatherings. It's been a true honor to work at
Messiah. May God bless you all!

Love,
Diane



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

BIRTHDAYS



1 ~ David Mehrling,
Megan Varvaro,
Georgia Emig
3 ~ Liam Hanley, Colin Hanley, 4
~ Patrick Ochei,
Susan Furrer, 8 ~ Alessandra
Liotta, Ethan Depinto
9 ~ Patrick Gourlay, May Baguio, 10 ~ Artie Withers,
Kyle Breitenbach, 11 ~ Beth Tanzi, Nancy Hofler
12 ~ Marc Levine, Anthony Liotta, Elijah Riley, Justin Clarke
14 ~ Carter Ezelius; Michael Miller, PJ Scianna,
Morgan Hofler, 20 ~ Guy Schneider, 23 ~ Karen Hofler
25 ~ Avery Frank, Isabella Tantillo
28 ~ Alan Smith, Olivia Harrison;
29 ~ Hope TeNyenhuis, James Malcomson
30 ~ Karyn Bell, Lisa Yoos



1 John Tanzi,
2 Linda Unger, Elizabeth Sackett,
Dorothy Baum
Barbara Brownworth,
5 Melanie Mackey,
6 Megan Connolly
10 Rachel Anderson 11 Teddy
Record,
12 Ernie Dinda, Zachary Frank, 14 Phyllis Grebe,
15 Olivia Moravick, 16 Jillian Mackey, Elizabeth Smith,
17 Libby Star, 18 Barbara Robertson, Rebekah Detwiler
21 Thom Brownworth, Donnalee Morris 22 Patricia Collins,
25 Thatcher Bell, Jillian Bell, Chris Cuvier
26 Steven Jones, 27 Michael Schneider 28 Robert Baum,
Jessica Musano, 29 Keith Harris III, Olivia Tantillo,
30 Paul TeNyenhuis, 31 Erin Yoos, Ethan Young, Jake Gazura

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY – We've made it through Kings—now we're in Chronicles. We'll retread a lot of what we learned in Kings about the downfalls of Israel and Judah, but with new information and new insights. There will be intrigue and murder, prophets, apostasy, false gods and evil people—but through it all, God keeps his promises to the House of David, laying the groundwork for his people's redemption.



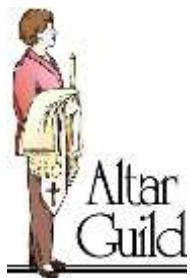
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - The **The women's bible study is held on Thursday evenings at 7pm via Zoom.** We'll be learning about the life and missionary journeys of the apostle Paul. This is a perfect follow-up to our prior study about the first century church. You might think you can't

relate to this high-powered missionary of Christ, but you're going to be surprised at how much of his personal life may sound a lot like your own!. Please sign up at messiahny.org/Education. Then click the picture above "SUNDAY SCHOOL, CONFIRMATION, BIBLE STUDY."



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, June 8th 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



The Altar Guild has been informed by our long-time florist that the price of the beautiful arrangements we have gotten from them for many years has gone up—quite a bit! We will now have to pay \$115 to have arrangements delivered rather than the \$50 that we have paid for many years. After consulting with some other churches in our circuit, we have come up with an alternative solution: If anyone wishes to have flowers at the altar, we would keep the price at \$50 and display two bouquets of flowers at the altar on the designated Sunday. You would be able to take those bouquets home after the late service. If for any reason you would like to have an arrangement from the florist, we would certainly be able to arrange an order. Thank you!



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.



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!





Your donation helps us keep sending The Messiah Messenger to members and friends of Messiah

Our Messenger is delivered to 400 homes in our area monthly.
Contact the church office at 631-751-1775
for more information.