

AUGUST, 2021

Messiah Messenger

Gather....Grow....Go....Spread the Good News!

Summer Time Worship

10:00am Coffee Fellowship

10:30am Worship Service at Messiah

10:30am Facebook Live

11:00am Radio Broadcast (recorded at
Moe)

TIN CUPS OFFERING: Donations will go towards the Moe-ssiah Summer Day Camp which will be August 2-5!

CONTACT US:

Messiah Lutheran
Church
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STAFF:

Pastor Dave Swonger: (218) 452-4639
Email: pastordavemlc@gmail.com

Deacon Joanne Swonger: (701) 955-4479
Email: deaconjoannemlc@gmail.com

Youth Director – Jay Ostgaard
Email: jjostgaard@gmail.com

Office Administrator – Elaine Wulff
Phone: (218) 463-1648
Email: messiahroseau@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS for Office Administrator:

Tuesday – Thursday (9:00AM – 3:00 PM)

THANKS FOR GIVING MISSION PROJECT UPDATE

Watch the newsletter/bulletin for a change in the Thanks For Giving Mission Project this fall.

We are trying something new and you
DO NOT have to donate a basket.
Intrigued??



**“JUST LIFE” SUMMER WOMEN’S
BIBLE STUDY SERIES:** Wednesdays
from 7:00pm – 8:10pm at Messiah. We will
finish in time to participate in the outdoor
worship service. Contact Karyn Santl at
santl.karyn@gmail.com or (218) 242-3912

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER”: If you or
someone you know needs prayer, we would
love to pray for you! You can be placed on
the confidential prayer chain by reaching
out to Messiah’s Prayer Chain Coordinator,
Mary Olson (218-463-2364). To make a re-
quest for prayers during worship, fill out the
prayer request form found on the table in the
narthex and turn in to the church office. *If
you have any questions, please feel free to
ask either Mary, Deacon Joanne, or Pastor
Dave.*





Messiah Messenger

A Pastoral Reflection

Dear Friends in Christ,

“The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it.”

~ Matthew 13:23 ~

In the parable of the sower, Jesus tells of a farmer who abundantly scatters seed in all directions. The path, the rocky ground, the soil choked with thorns ... all receive a generous handful of seed from the sower. This parable is not an encouragement to waste seed, but beautifully illustrates the lavish nature of God's grace in our lives. Against all odds, God freely sows words of love, forgiveness, hope, and restoration in our midst! It's God's gamble that the good seed of his Word will find a nurturing spot in our hearts, will put down roots, will send up life, will bring growth, and even fruit for the kingdom! But what if all those obstacles prove to be too much for the seed? What then? What will become of the seed?

In his parable Jesus identifies three potential obstacles to the seed's success:

- + The hard path reflects times when the Evil One steals away the hope and joy we find in God's Word.
- + The rocky ground represents times when our hearts aren't receptive to God's Word, so it can't take root.
- + The thorns depict earthly ambitions and anxieties that choke out any opportunity for the Word to grow.

Yikes! We can all relate to these scenarios at one time or another in our lives! Indeed, when we look within, we may see only obstacles to becoming the rich soil that bears fruit for God's kingdom. It's tempting, especially when life gets difficult, to see things *as they are* instead of *what they can become*.

Life in a world imprinted by a pandemic can feel rocky, thorny, and not abundantly fruitful. In visiting with folks, we sometimes hear expressions of worry ... “How will Covid continue to impact our lives?” “Will the Delta variant be a significant threat in our area?” “Will our congregational members return in strong numbers to regular worship and Sunday School participation?” “What if our church family never returns to the closeness we once shared?”

With swirling questions like these, it's good to remember that Jesus comes into our midst not just to recklessly scatter seed, but to remove obstacles, as well. Whatever the obstacles you face as an individual ... whatever the challenges we face as a faith family ... we can rest assured that Jesus is ready and able to guide us through all we may be facing!

So...let's be bold and ask for Jesus' help...that we may become spiritually fruitful. Let's not become mired down in frustrating over what we may or may not be for the moment. Instead, let's focus on all we CAN BE in CHRIST...

Availing ourselves of opportunities to hear God's Word for us!

Opening ourselves in prayer to receive God's guidance on where we go from here!

Scattering good seeds of thought and deed, as abundantly and graciously as the Master Sower!

Trusting that the best is not behind us, but with the Spirit's guidance, the BEST is yet to come!

The seed sown on rich soil bears much fruit. This is God's Word for us! People of God, let's believe it and rejoice!

Praying with you and for you,

~ The Swongers

Messiah Messenger

A message from the Church President

Hello Messiah Congregation!

I hope all of you have found a way to cool off during our HOT summer.

I have a short update on our sound/video upgrades. The soundboard and microphone connections won't be delivered until September. There is a widespread delay of electronic items at this time. The project will hopefully be complete by the end of September. We still have labor and any miscellaneous expense to pay. We anticipate this to be between \$3,000-\$5,00. We continue to accept your donations towards this project.

September 12 will be that kick-off to our Sunday school year with a joint worship with Moe at the city park. Plans are being made for worship and fellowship. You won't want to miss this Sunday! Mark your calendars now!

Blessings on the rest of your summer!

Karyn

Karyn Santl
242-3912

santl.karyn@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE
On Sunday
SEPTEMBER 12th

For: A COMBINED MOE-MESSIAH RALLY DAY

Where: THE CITY PARK

What: WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, FUN for ALL!

More details coming in the September Newsletter!

Welcome home
♡

2020 was hard. 2021 has been a challenge.
But hey, Messiah Faith Family...we made it!

In September, we are ready to
say
"Welcome Home!"

Welcome home to Sunday School at 9:30 AM
Coffee Fellowship, also at 9:30 AM
Welcome home to Worship at 10:30 AM



Hey, 7th 8th, and 9th Graders!

We're gearing up for a great new year
of Confirmation!

Messiah Messenger Announcements



“Alive in Christ”

Messiah’s North Yard
7-9 PM

Wednesday nights in August
(unless otherwise announced)

EVERYONE is invited. Sand volleyball, outdoor games, hot dogs, s’mores over the open campfire, other food & drink.

Outdoor Campfire worship at 8:15pm. You can also watch worship on Facebook Live!

Messiah’s Financial Update

<u>Check Book Balance</u>	<u>YD Cash Inflow</u>	<u>YTD Expenditure</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
YTD thru June 2021: \$ 94,827.23	\$ 90,085.72*	\$ 114,650.72	\$ 70,262.23

*Includes PPP Loan proceeds

THANK YOU THRIVENT MEMBERS!

Messiah has received \$1,780.00 through Thrivent Choice Dollars this year to date.

Thrivent Choice Dollars are funds designated to eligible Thrivent Members, based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Choice Dollars can be directed to thousands of nonprofit organizations nationwide, including local congregations.

*If you would like to designate Choice Dollars to Messiah but are unsure how to do so, please contact our local Thrivent Financial Associate:

Luke Erickson at 463-3573

Messiah Messenger Council Minutes

Messiah Lutheran Church Council Meeting - July 13, 2021

Approved via Email on July 21, 2021

President Karyn Santl called the meeting to order - "in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

Members Present: Karyn Santl, Ashley Filpula, Stu McFarlane, Keith Okeson, Bonnie Delmore, Bob Tuttle, Katie Gunderson, Marty Transgrud, Deacon Joanne Swonger, and Pastor David Swonger

The meeting opened with introductions and Stu led devotions.

Keith made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the July 2021 meeting as presented, second by Bob, unanimously approved.

Stu McFarlane presented the Treasurer's Report. Bonnie made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, second by Katie, unanimously approved.

Stu McFarlane presented the Audit Committee Report as written. This audit was completed regarding the General Fund and no discrepancies were found.

Karyn Santl presented an update regarding the financials for the media upgrades. Marty shared that the equipment has been ordered and will likely be installed in late July or early August.

Reports

- Property: The property committee held a work day and small projects were completed. The organ is not currently working and repairs have been scheduled. The committee will schedule another work day to install lights and complete other projects/repairs.
- Stewardship: No report.
- Ministerial Team Report: Pastor David and Deacon Joanne presented their report. Visiting and worship opportunities are increasing at Oak Crest and Lifecare Manor. Pastor David has been working with the confirmation students. Deacon Joanne has been working with updating the confirmation program at Moe and updating the calendar to be prepared for the fall months.

Business

- Plans for Rally Day (Sept. 12, 2021): Moe and Messiah will join together for a joint worship service to kick off the new Sunday School year.
- Discussion of Worship Schedule: At this time, the Executive Council is recommending to continue with the current worship schedule.
- COVID Update - Ropes, Coffee, and Hymnals: Coffee/fellowship time will resume in August at 10:00am before the worship service. Once Sunday School resumes, coffee/fellowship time will be at 9:30am. The ropes in the sanctuary will be removed and hymnals will be returned.

Upcoming Dates

- Moessiah Day Camp is scheduled for August 2-5, 2021
- Rally Sunday is Sept 12, 2021

AUGUST, 2021

Messiah Messenger Council Minutes

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Katie, unanimously approved.
The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Devotions for August: Bob

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 @ 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Filpula