JULY, 2021

# Messiah Messenger

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

## Summer Time Worship

We are planning to maintain current Sunday morning worship times through the summer:
**10:30am worship at Messiah**
**JULY 4TH will be a Radio Broadcast Only, on Wild 102.**

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

**CONTACT US:**
Messiah Lutheran Church
502 9th Ave NE
P.O. Box 298
Roseau, MN. 56751

**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

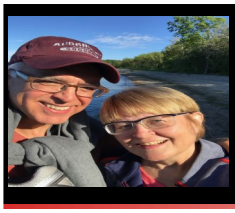
**OFFICE HOURS for Office Administrator:**
Tuesday – Thursday (9:00AM – 3:00 PM)

**REMINDER!**

**As you do your spring cleaning, please keep in mind the Messiah quilters and Bell Choir. The quilters are replenishing their supply of sheets and fabric and donations can be left at the church office or put on the shelf just off the Sunday school wing.**

**"JUST LOVE" 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 request 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,

Mother Nature is unpredictable, as we all know! And although we can't control Mother Nature, we always hope for those "Goldilocks days" when everything is "just right!" Those days when the wind is light, the sky is clear, the temperature is perfect, and there's enough moisture to keep everything lush and green. Unfortunately, sometimes the combination of heat, wind, and lack of rainfall bring an extended dry spell that stretches into drought. We fret and worry. We watch and wait. We wonder how long it will be until we experience the refreshment of rain!

Abram and Sarai knew a bit about dry spells. In Genesis 12, God spoke to Abram, telling him to go out into the world, far away from home and kinfolk. God told Abram "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." To Abram and Sarai, God's promise of descendants and a land to call their own must have made everything seem "just right!"

To fulfill the promise, God brought Abram and Sarai out from Ur to Haran, a distance of 650 miles. Then God called them out an additional 400 miles until they finally reached the Promised Land. Between these places lay vast miles of desert and years of tiring travel by foot in a dry and dusty land! There must have been plenty of times Abram and Sarai strained and waited to hear God's voice in the wilderness. In these desert years, you can imagine them feeling as dry and lifeless as the arid landscape around them.

We all experience stretches of time in life when our faith feels dry and we strain to hear God's voice as our feet plod along through a dusty wilderness. Whether due to sadness, doubt, or boredom, dry spells often come upon us gradually, until we wake up one day and feel as if we are in a desert. We long to hear God's promises of blessing, of new life, of rest and renewal where everything seems "just right."

In times like these, we need to remember what Scripture tells us: that we walk with a faithful God who is able to make springs break out in desert places!

> *17 I the Lord will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.*
> *18 I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys.*
> *I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs.*
>
> *Isaiah 41:17-18*

That's good news we all can use! In June, our sermon series shared ways we can become "Disciples in Action." We spoke of the importance of seeking after and listening for God's voice. We spoke of the value of practicing God's presence in prayer. During the month of July, we thought we'd offer everyone an opportunity to do just that!

Included in this month's newsletter is a scripture journaling exercise that we suggest using on the four chapters of Philippians. The journaling exercise is called **S.O.A.P.** and it follows the pattern of reading **S**cripture, writing **O**bservations, **A**pplying what you've read, and **P**raying for God's guidance. We advise breaking each chapter into 2 or 3 smaller sections. Then use the **S.O.A.P.** method of journaling to reflect on what God's Spirit may be guiding you to consider in daily living.

As you journey through Philippians, we pray that our gracious and surprising God would renew your faith with refreshing new vision and vitality!

*Grace and peace from the Swongers*

# Messiah Messenger

## *A message from the Church President*

Hello Messiah Congregation!

I hope you all are enjoying our summer! I encourage all of you to check out the outdoor worship service on Wednesday evenings led by Jay and Chris. You can do this in person or on Facebook live. You will be blessed!

I am excited to give you an update on where we are with the video/audio project. The cameras were installed in June and have enhanced the livestream experience. Pastor Dave and Deacon Joanne have new microphones which has improved the sound. The new audio system is yet to be installed. Here is a report of where we are financially.

Income:

| | |
|---|---|
| Council Funds | 2,562 |
| Donor | 5,000 |
| Women's group | 1,500 |
| Bell Choir | 5,000 |
| Donations | 10,840 |
| Total | 24,902 |

Expense:

| | |
|---|---|
| SounDesign | 23,605 |
| Computer | 2,104 |
| Total | 25,709 |

Balance: -807

Thank you all that have donated. The project is not done yet as the audio control board still needs to be installed. We will continue to have a donation account for our audio/video needs. Please continue to consider a donation.

We are also looking for more volunteers to work in the sound booth. If you are interested or want to check it out on a Sunday, contact Marty, Paul or Bob. They would be more than happy to show you what they do on a Sunday morning.

Blessings to you,

***Karyn***

Karyn Santl
242-3912
santl.karyn@gmail.com

# Messiah Messenger Announcements

**"Alive in Christ"**

Messiah's North Yard
7-9 PM

Wednesday, July 7th
Wednesday, July 14th
No gathering on July 21st
Wednesday, July 28th

- Yard Games Galore beginning at 7 PM
- NEW GAME! 4 Square meets Volleyball in CROSSNET!
- Campfire Songs & Worship at 8:15 PM
- Smores, Hot Dogs, and Beverages all night long

## Messiah's Financial Update

| | Check Book Balance | YD Cash Inflow | YTD Expenditure | Ending Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| YTD thru May 2021: | $ 94,827.23 | $ 76,540.62* | $ 97,589.87 | $ 73,777.98 |

*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 Announcements

## Oh My Gosh Becky! Look at that Sale!

# MESSIAH BELL CHOIR RUMMAGE SALE

# 502 9th Ave NE, Roseau

**Wednesday July 28th**
**Thursday July 29th**
**7am - 5pm**
**Friday July 30th**
**7am - noon**

Furniture and lots of miscellaneous items, **no clothes.**

***Don't Miss this Sale!***

**Proceeds will be used for Bell Choir supplies/Messiah major projects**

# 60th Anniversary

# Joile and Joyce Hulst

HELP US CELEBRATE THEIR LONG-LASTING LOVE

Saturday July 17th from 11am-2pm
31235 408th Ave, Roseau MN

Your gift of time is present enough!

No gifts please

# Messiah Messenger
# Council Minutes

**Messiah Lutheran Church Council Meeting - June 15, 2021**
Approved via Email on 6/19/21

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

Members Present: Karyn Santl, Bonnie Delmore, Ashley Filpula, Stu McFarlane, Keith Okeson, Marty Trangsrud, Kevin Wensloff

The meeting opened with introductions and Karyn led devotions.

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

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

**Business**

- Tin Cup Designation
  - Kevin made a motion to approve Tin Cup offerings for July and August are designated for the Moessiah Day Camp and Tin Cup offerings for September and October are designated for Trunk or Treat, second by Ashley, unanimously approved.
- Lifting of Covid Restrictions: With current attendance counts during the summer months, we will leave the ropes in place to encourage social distancing.
- Parsonage: Discussion will continue at the next council meeting about developing a task force to discuss options/future plans for the current parsonage.
- Pastor Dave & Deacon Joanne will be on vacation June 28 - July 5th. Elaine has also requested vacation for the same week, so the office at Messiah will be closed during that time period.

**Upcoming Dates**

- Moessiah Day Camp is scheduled for August 2-5, 2021.

Stu made a motion to adjourn, second by Marty, unanimously approved.

Devotions for July: Stu

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 @ 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Filpula