



the **Messiah** **messenger**

...to gather, nourish and send disciples
to bless and love the world.

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ANNUAL MEETING, PART 1

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Constitution of Messiah Lutheran Church of the first part of the annual meeting to be held on Sunday, December 2, 2018, at 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The business to be brought before the congregation includes the following:

1. Election of five members to the Call Committee. (C13.05 and C12.01.02)
2. Election of four members to the Congregation Council. (C12.01.02 and C12.02)
3. Approval of a budget for 2019. (C10.01.02)
4. Approval of a transfer of a Right of Way to the City of Knoxville. (C5.03 i)

The names and biographies of the nominees for the Call Committee and for the Congregation Council will be published before the time of the meeting. Information about the Right of Way offer is posted on the bulletin board located on the main hallway.

Call Committee Update

The Nomination Committee will present a slate of nominees to be considered as members of the Call Committee. The Call Committee will have seven voting members, five of whom will be elected by the Congregation on December 2 and two who will be chosen by the Church Council at their December meeting. The Congregational President will be an ex officio member of the committee.

Nominations may be made from the floor. It is requested that if you are going to nominate someone that you ask that person before doing so. The people who have agreed to have their names included on the slate are:

Mike Driskill
Doris Featherston
Jaelyn Levy
Jane Mason
Craig Stewart

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Pastor Larry K. Richardson

From the Pastor

Reverend Larry K Richardson,
Interim Co-Pastor

In November of every election year, I write a Pastor's column on politics in which I remind myself and my readers of the Lutheran understanding of our political obligations. Keep in mind, Luther lived at the very beginning of the

movement from feudalism to self-rule.

Luther wrote simply that we are called to be good citizens, wherever and whenever we find ourselves. In his time, that meant obedience to feudal powers. In our context, this means informing ourselves about the candidates and the issues and voting as best we can to establish a just and caring government; a government that treats all its citizens equitably; and insures that those who are most vulnerable are protected. "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" for all.

It is not the business of the Church to tell people for whom to vote, but it is the Church's obligation to denounce oppression and promote justice. Accordingly, any person who supports racism and/or seeks to deny any person their basic needs of food, shelter and emergency medical care is not doing what is acceptable in the eyes of the Church. Racism is particularly abhorrent to our Gospel as it denies that all people are equal in the eyes of God.

Of course, each of us has different understandings of what constitutes racism and exactly how we should care for those in need. So how do we find a common sense of what is right and what is wrong? We cannot do so unless we talk with each other, especially with those with whom we disagree. I encourage honest conversation.

And I believe that our congregation is precisely the place for such conversation. We don't need meetings or forums as much as we need to talk individually with people who might be of a different political persuasion. Respectful discourse begins at home, so to speak.

It is a cliché that one should avoid talking about politics and religion. In church, religion is our reason for being and is, therefore, always an acceptable topic. And since politics affects every area of our lives, that also should be a fit topic.

Finally, as you all know,, we are a diverse congregation that welcomes everyone; and that includes Republicans, Democrats, Independents and non-voters; with respect for all.

So, vote early and often and many happy returns!

Pastor Larry Richardson

Office Computer and Messenger Update

About the computers...

In August, our administrative assistant's computer hard drive failed. Within two weeks, the parish nurse's hard drive also failed. This prompted a hard look at our overall computer needs. Thanks to Andrew Jurbergs, Bruce Hayes and Steve Hess for their help in sorting our needs and setting a plan to bring our office computer equipment up to standard.

Two new Dell computers have been purchased and installed. THANK YOU to those of you who made contributions to this effort!! The data on Kristin's hard drive has been recovered and we are very hopeful that Mary Sophia's data can also be recovered.

We are now looking into back-up systems to prevent this from happening in the future. We are also looking into our wi-fi access points and how we might better manage those.

About the Messenger...

Because of our computer failures, this is the first *Messenger* we've been able to produce since August. It is packed full of information. Please read through it carefully.

This issue will be followed closely by the December issue, the deadline for which is Thursday, Nov. 15. Please consider your groups, committees and organizations' holiday schedules and submit your information accordingly.

Thank you for your patience with us while we navigated without our normal computer efficiency!

the Messiah Messenger

Deadline for the December Issue is November 15, 2018

Your contributions and suggestions are welcomed.

The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

Messenger Staff

Editor: Kristin Kennedy

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday — 8:30 AM–5:00 PM
Friday hours vary.



Update on Transition Checklist*

(to be completed *before* forming a call committee)

as of November 12, 2018

Administrative

04. in process The constitution of the congregation, bylaws and continuing resolutions reviewed and updated as needed.

Still in process

05. completed Website review, updated and maintained.

Completed

10. in process Demographic data reviewed.

Will be reviewed by call committee.

11. in process Create/revise policies as needed (i.e. Budget, Alcohol Use, Safety, Facility Use, Weddings, Columbarium).

Task force being established.

Financial

14. in process Stewardship program reviewed and conducted/ongoing.

Currently in process.

15. in process Financial records audited; budget reviewed.

Financial review task force hard at work.

Discerning God's Call

18. completed Involving the whole congregation in claiming a clear identity in God's call and mission. A 4-part series for the congregation.

Completed on Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018.

19. soon Spiritual Gifts.

On-going.

Note: Omitted numbers are either completed or not yet begun.

Update as of 11/12/18

**This "Transition Checklist" is adapted from the Florida-Bahamas Synod Transition Checklist – updated 4/2016 for use by Messiah Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN.*

Morning Prayer
Tuesday mornings
7:00—7:30 AM

Morning Prayer
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7:00—7:30 AM

Need a great way to start your day? Join us Tuesday mornings from 7:00-7:30 AM for a brief service of morning prayer. We join in the liturgy of matins, listen to scripture, and offer intercessory prayer. All are welcome!



WORSHIP

We believe **worshipping** God is central to what we do. We lift up traditional Lutheran liturgy as the best way for this community to worship.

Advent Sunday Services

Sundays: A very special liturgy for the Advent Season will be introduced this year. “Everlasting Light” by Pastor David Eck from Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Fairview, NC. This setting of Holy Communion is based on traditional carols of the season, including *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*, *Angels We Have Heard on High* and *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. However, these tunes will be used with paraphrases of the traditional liturgical texts we all love.

The choirs will sing every Sunday during Advent.

Hymn Survey 2018 Results

Joan McGinnis, Director of Music

149 total hymns submitted

29 people participated

95 separate hymns chosen

A full list of the hymns is posted on the bulletin board outside the music room at the end of the main hall.

Thanks to everyone for participating!

Title	ELW Page Number	Number of times
Amazing Grace	779	7
A Mighty Fortress	405	6
How Great Thou Art	856	5
Beautiful Savior	838	4
Blessed Assurance	638	4
Borning Cry	732	4
Here I Am, Lord	574	4
Battle Hymn of the Republic	890	3
Holy, Holy, Holy	473	3
Lift High the Cross	660	3
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	858	3
The Church's One Foundation	654	3

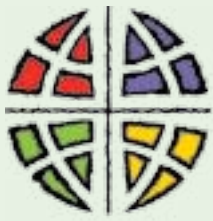


Advent Mid-Week Worship Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 PM Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, & 19

This Advent series for traditional worship focuses on the ways in which God is with us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Each week will focus on a different word picture of the coming Christ found in the poetic and prophetic words of Isaiah. Services will reveal how Christ continues to be present with us even now. The theme verse for the entire series is: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)” (Matthew 1:23). Hymns in the series include *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*; *Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People*; *Once He Came in Blessing*; *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*; and *Prepare the Royal Highway*.

- Week 1: Our Potter (Isaiah 64:8): God is with us as our Potter, who shapes us according to his will.
- Week 2: Our Shepherd (Isaiah 40:11): God is with us as our Shepherd, who carries us close to his heart.
- Week 3: Our Living Branch (Isaiah 11:1): God is with us as our Living Branch, who died and rose to give us eternal life.
- Week 4: Our Guide (Isaiah 2:3): God is with us as our Guide, who leads us according to his Word.

We will begin our evenings with our traditional soup supper at 6:00 PM, followed by worship and opportunities to deck the halls and decorate the church for the season.



DISCIPLE

We believe **discipleship** and the faith formation of all generations is central to our purpose as a congregation and we hold in very high regard the development of faithful children, youth, adults, and families.



Pastor's bible study in November

"In the beginning..." These three words lead us into the biblical story of creation. On Sundays in November, 9:45-10:45 am, we will study Genesis 1-3. This will be an interactive bible study led by Pastor Richardson. Look for us in the fellowship hall.



Mike Driskill, Coordinator - mwdriskill@gmail.com

You are invited to join Messiah's Book Group which meets every other month in the church library at 7:00 PM. Discussions are always great and all are welcome.

Upcoming dates, leaders and books:

November 19 - Connie Cole:

Nothing to Envy -Barbara O'Keefe Demick

January 21 - Becky Breeden

Small Great Things -Jodi Picoult

TBD - 2019 Book Selection Party



Third Thursday Theology Pub

Thursday, Dec. 20

7:00 PM

**at Pero's on the Hill
7706 S Northshore Drive -
Knoxville**

Larry Moeller, Coordinator

Theology Pub is an informal gathering of Messiah members and friends who gather to discuss culture and faith in a PUBLIC setting. Participants gather on the third Thursday of the month from 7:00-9:00 PM.

The December gathering will meet Thursday, Dec. 20 at 7:00 PM at Pero's on the Hill, 7706 S. Northshore Drive. Our topic for conversation will be *Keeping Christ in Christmas: Family Traditions Which Help.*

All are welcome!

Please RSVP to Larry Moeller Lmoe@risenindeed.com

Third Thursday Theology Pub Upcoming Schedule

For any of these events, please RSVP to Larry Moeller
Lmoe@risenindeed.com

January 17, 2019

Location: Aubrey's at Papermill
6005 Brookvale Lane, Knoxville

Topic: The Gods We Worship

February 21, 2019

Location: Sullivan's at Rocky Hill
7545 S Northshore Drive, Knoxville

Topic: For God So Loved the World



CARE

We believe that **caring** for one another during the milestones of life is integral in forming and sustaining this faith community.



OWLS (OLDER WISER LUTHERANS) Gathering

Thursday, November 15
Lunch served at 12:00 NOON
Guest Speaker at 12:30 PM

The OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans) meet for lunch and a program on the third Thursday of the month. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Bring a friend and enjoy a great lunch and a program just for you!!

On November 15, the OWLs will host our Jewish neighbor from Heska Amuna Synagogue, Rabbi Alon Ferency, as our speaker.

Rabbi Alon has worked for the Peace Corps, been involved in the world of entertainment in LA, and served as the rabbi in residence at the Bonnaroo music festival. Certainly a man of many talents, he even held a role in a movie when he portrayed a rabbi in a brief scene in the recent Burt Reynolds movie *The Last Movie Star*, which was filmed in part at Heska Amuna.

We look forward to meeting this multi faceted man and getting to know more about his work here in Knoxville.

Lunch at noon. Rabbi Alon to follow.

Join us for a fabulous Soup Luncheon. We will have Chili, Chicken and Wild Rice Soup, and Minestrone. Fresh Bread, Pumpkin Pie, Pecan Pie, Apple Pie and Ice Cream will round out our meal. Lunch at 12:00 NOON. Program to follow. Suggested donation is \$2 per person.

RSVP to Doris Featherston—djfeather@comcast.net.

Need a ride? Contact Nancy Schowalter at 693-0322.

Health Fair Update Across The Life Continuum

After member input and requests, I am excited to update you on the status of our health fair! In keeping with our Community Cares events, the health fair has been restructured into several events. These events will promote transitions across the life continuum, and bring in people of all ages. We will be utilizing speakers as well as Messiah members to provide learning and fellowship. Specific dates will be included in future Messengers, with an outline below.

Late February 2019

Infant Care Education and Car Seat Testing

May 2019

Parenting School Age and Teens; Wills

August 2019

Transitions; College and Young Adult;
Wills and Savings

November 2019

The Middle Age Squeeze:
Parenting Adult Children and Parents; Wills

March 2020

Anticipating Retirement; Financial Planning;
Determining your Calling during the Retirement Years;
Will Changes

Late May 2020

End of Life Planning

All of these events will promote our faith, and there will be opportunities at each event for Messiah members to have fellowship with our guests. I hope you are as excited as I am!



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Health Notes from the Parish Nurse

Mary Sophia Hawks,
RN, BSN, FCN - Parish Nurse



The body of Christ has many members. If one member suffers, the whole body suffers. We all know this familiar text from the Bible. Messiah's body of Christ ministers to suffering members so well. However, I know there are times when we just don't know how to help. The upcoming holiday seasons are a time of joy, and for some, a time of grief and remembrance.

Our body has many members who have lost loved ones, battled loneliness and depression, and just don't know where they fit. How do we help? What should we say? More importantly, what should we NOT say?

Albert Hsu, PhD from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School has written a book called *Grieving A Suicide*, and an article, "A spiritual discipline of community after suicide." Albert's father committed suicide early this year. I will share some of his article with you. My husband committed suicide in 2009, and Dr. Hsu's article resonated with me. Many of these statements pertain to anyone who has suffered from a death.

"Healing rarely comes in isolation. We may be tempted to retreat from the world and hide in our pain, but when we draw on the resources of those around us, we will find that we are not alone in our grief. We need to be open to the healing that comes from relationship. All human beings were created with two distinct relational needs: we were designed to be in relationship with God and in relationship with other people. Following a tragedy, our soul feels as if it is full of holes. There is a hollow emptiness in our chest, an inner ache of pain and loss. To find healing and restoration, we need to fill that empty hole with both love from God and love from others. We do so through the parallel spiritual disciplines of solitude and community. In solitude we draw near to God and receive his comfort, grace and reassurance. In community we build relationships with other people who can provide tangible support and kindness.

"We need both kinds of love to bring us back to wholeness and health. If we look only to God as our source

for restoration, we will withdraw from people and nurture a private, inward looking grief, which is not healthy. God created us to be in relationship with other people. Likewise, our relationships with people are most helpful when they point us to God. While there is great benefit in talking about our experiences and feelings we also need spiritual content, time shared in prayer for one another and in Scripture, and other spiritual resources. Otherwise we are merely relying on ourselves rather than turning to the power and comfort of God.

"Just as the human body has the ability and capacity to heal its own wounds, so too the body of Christ can heal itself when one part is injured. The body of Christ has the life of Christ dwelling within it. While we each draw life and hope from God as individuals, we also experience the healing and recovery that come from being a part of his body. God is the source of life, and that life-giving healing Spirit is experienced most fully when we are living in relationship with other parts of the body of Christ.

"What can friends of survivors of suicide do for them? Pray. Listen. Send cards. Provide company. Help with practical details, funeral arrangements, food, phone calls, and so on. If you don't know what to do, far better simply to say, "I don't really know what to do or say," than not to do or say anything at all. That simple admission itself communicates care and concern. In some small way, the fact that others are at a loss about what to do provides a point of identification with suicide survivors who may feel completely at a loss. Presence, not platitudes provide what survivors need."

My favorite part of Dr. Hsu's article is his list of Do's and Don'ts. If you are not sure what to say, say "I'm so sorry."

continued on page 8



CARE

We believe that **car**ing for one another during the milestones of life is integral in forming and sustaining this faith community.



Health Notes *(continued from page 7)*

Things Not to Say

“She’s in a better place now.” (How do you know for sure? This feels like an empty platitude.)

“I know how you feel.” (No, you don’t. You know how you feel, not how I feel.)

“All things work together for good” or “Everything happens for a reason.” (Anything about God’s will or secret plans feels like a pat answer and attempted quick fix.)

“God never gives you more than you can handle.” (Not biblical.)

“What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.” (Catchy Kelly Clarkson song notwithstanding, this comes from Nietzsche, not Scripture. And it hurts to be reminded that my loved one wasn’t strong enough to live.)

“Let me know if there’s anything I can do to help.” (Actual helping in concrete ways, like cleaning the house or providing meals, is more appreciated than mere words or promises.)

Any joking about people killing themselves, like “Oh, if I fail this test, I’m going to kill myself.” (Please don’t joke like that. Suicide is not something to make light of.)

Things to Say

Nothing. (But be present.)

“I’m so sorry.”

“I don’t know what to say or do.”

“Do you want to go out for coffee?”

“Tell me what you want to remember about him/her.”

“Tell me your story.”

Two of my friends really understood this. One showed up on my doorstep and said, “I’m going to cut your grass this week and next.” Such a blessing! My other friend called me three days a week and said, “Go get in the shower, get dressed and put on your makeup. I’ll be there in an hour and we’ll go to lunch.” Those were the only days I got out of my dark basement and took care of myself.

This holiday season, consider those who have lost loved ones this year and years previous. Show up with dinner, invite singles to share your dinner table at Thanksgiving or Christmas, take someone out for coffee, show up with cookies or coffeecake. Most of all, be present. Ask them to tell you their story. Please mention their loved one by name. My mother’s biggest hurt was that my father’s name was never mentioned anymore. It’s okay if it makes the survivor cry, those will be tears of joy for your remembrance.

May Messiah’s body of Christ experience healing and community this holiday season and always.

Merry Christmas and good health to you,

Mary Sophia Hawks

Parish Nurse



SERVE

We believe we should intentionally reach out to our local and global community to do God's work in the world. We

do this through direct **service** by members, by giving our resources to those less fortunate, and by our membership in the ELCA.

Need maintenance around the house? BAM can help!

Are you a senior or disabled? Do you (or someone you know) need maintenance around the house? Painting, clean-up, yard raking, or mowing? BAM (Brothers At Messiah) is a new group of Messiah men looking for service projects like this. Call the church office (865-588-9753) or contact Doug Mason (wdmason7@ptd.net; 570-417-6675) and let us know how we can help.



What is BAM?

BAM (Brothers at Messiah) is a group of men who attend Messiah and gather once a month for fellowship. BAM also performs service projects throughout the month for our neighbors in need

in the community.

BAM started meeting in June and so far they have invested 201 man hours working on various service projects. One example is exchanging books at McKay Used Books for credit. Messiah member John London donated a large number of excellent books which BAM picked up at his home and transported to McKay's. They received \$1,590 in book credits which they donated to the Great Schools Partnership, a non-profit that is currently doing great work at 17 partner elementary and middle schools in Knox County, and the YWCA.

All member and non-member Messiah men and their neighbors and friends are welcome at their meetings. Doug Mason is the BAM co-ordinator. He can be reached at 570-417-6675 or wdmason7@ptd.net.

Next meeting

Wednesday, Dec 5 - 5:30. Location to be determined

Gift cards for our Neighbors in Need



Messiah's Benevolence Team is collecting gift cards to be distributed to our neighbors in need during the upcoming holiday season. Recipients of your gifts will be neighbors who are either walking with Messiah's Benevolence Team or who have walked with us in the past in an effort to move beyond their current situation of need.

The Benevolence Team suggests gift cards from the stores listed below in any increment. These are stores which our neighbors frequent or are restaurants that are open on all holidays.

WalMart, Food City; Kroger's
IHOP*, Waffle House*, any fast food chain*

**Cards for restaurants or fast food should be sufficient to cover a complete meal for an individual.*

Cards can be dropped in the offering plate or given or sent to Kristin in the church office.

Thank you for your support of our neighbors in need!



Donations for Serenity House

Serenity, a ministry of KARM, is a residential recovery program for women seeking restoration from the effects of addiction, domestic violence and/or homelessness. Serenity is located in a beautiful, private home in downtown Knoxville. A Serenity client receives individual and group counseling, addiction recovery, mentoring, life skills classes and spiritual support. Messiah can assist these women on their journey by donating the following:

- stamps
- dryer sheets
- conditioner
- deodorant
- body wash
- eyeliner/mascara
- hairspray/mousse/hair gel
- shaving cream
- new panties (all sizes needed)
- new socks
- non-drowsy cold medicine
- cough drops

Please place your donated items in the donation box on the coat rack in the fellowship hall labeled "Serenity". THANK YOU Messiah for helping these women!



To OWLs Assistance Team

Thank you ever so much for your monetary assistance in my rehabilitation. It has greatly been appreciated.

Kari McCluer

October 2018

Dear Messiah Family,

Thank you so much for your cards, calls and hugs of encouragement! They are helping my heart and soul heal.

Again, thank you.

Peace,
Anne Driskill

October 6, 2018

Dearest Family and Friends at Messiah,

Thank you are not nearly the right words to express my deep gratitude to you for your very tangible support for Ray and for me during his illness and at his death.

We were aware of your prayers surrounding him and caring for him. He knew about each card sent and the pictures drawn by the children! Your love and kindness comforted him and me.

God's peace,
Georgia

10/8/18

Messiah Lutheran Congregation,

I am sadly writing to let you know my dad, David Holmes, passed away on July 18th after a brief cardiac episode. He left this earth full of humor, faith and love. We are having a celebration and burial on Wednesday, Oct 10th, at United Lutheran in Crystal Falls, MI. Thank you for your love and blessings you gave my parents.

Lynn Haralson
PMB 363
3060 N. Lazy Eight Ct. Ste 2
Wasilla AK 99654

10.12.18

Dear Staff and Members of Messiah Lutheran,
Many thanks for contributing towards a much needed wheelchair for a senior in our community. For many years we have appreciated our partnership with Messiah Lutheran!

Thanks again,
Susan Bradford
Senior Care Specialist
Community Action Committee (CAC)/Office on Aging

Nov. 12, 2018

Bob and Debbie Hampstead thank our Messiah family for providing food, expressing condolences and especially prayers. Bringing food to our home was extremely generous and very much appreciated. It was so nice to be able to spend time with family and friends without worrying about preparing dinner.

Debbie Hampstead



We invite you to share items of interest and noteworthy news in this column. Submit information to Lois Sherman or send to:
office@messiahknoxville.org

GORDON BURGHARDT was the speaker at the Spirit and Truth Fellowship of Knoxville Science Cafe at Ijams Nature Center on October 21. He spoke about reptiles.

MARY SOPHIA HAWKS was pictured in the October 21 News-Sentinel. She is a new member of the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) Leadership Class of 2019.

WENDELL and MEREDITH LIEMOHN enjoyed a 16-day river cruise with Grand Circle Travel in late October and early November. They traveled in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Luxembourg and Switzerland.



“I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God’s great mystery.” Colossians 2:2

Thank-you

Messiah Women of the ELCA thank you for your offerings collected on WELCA Sunday. We received \$50 which is designated for Lutheran Disaster Relief.

Quilting for LWR

Thanks to all of you who join us for quilting. We are busy making quilts for the 2019 distribution. Our next work day will be Friday, December 7 beginning about 9:30 AM until about 1:30 PM. You are welcome to join us for an hour or all day. There are many tasks to do and no experience required.

In August, we completed a quilt for Hilda Pruitt (Anne Tinker’s aunt.) She provided two quilt tops which had been given to her. The quilters finished one which was sent to LWR and the other was returned to her. Hilda writes, “I would like to express my gratitude to you for taking the pieced quilt top and making a quilt for me. It will always remind me of my polyester days. Thanks for your good works and I pray God will bless each of you.”

Wee Care Fall Schedule*

Wee Care has resumed on Saturday mornings. We invite you to join us as we sew and smock gowns for neonatal units for area hospitals. If interested in learning any of the sewing skills, there are ladies willing to teach.

Gatherings continue to be on fourth Saturdays at 9:30 AM in the lower level conference room as follows:

November 17 - due to Thanksgiving

December 22 - should be short due to packing for deliveries

*Schedule is subject to change.

Looking Ahead:

December 3 - Advent Tea (Watch for further details.)

Report from Southeastern Synod WELCA Annual Meeting

Debbie Hampstead

I was blessed to be able to attend the Annual Meeting at Lake Point State Park in Eufaula, Alabama, September 14-16 as a voting delegate representing Messiah. Saturday attendance was 145. A huge thank you to our generous members who donated items for the Silent Auction, Wiregrass Children’s Home, Katie’s Table, and Days for Girls.

New Officers for 2019 are Patti Austin (St. John’s Atlanta) President; Karen Andrews (St. Stephen Decatur) Treasurer; Terry Chongulia (Nativity Bethlehem Georgia), Sissy Gifford (Triumphant Cross Dothan) and Shirley Connelly (Trinity Lilburn) Board Members.

Notable attendees included: Laura Kreuger (Churchwide Representative), Pastor Kathryn Love (Keynote Speaker), Bishop Julian Gordy, Pastor Beverly Brown Shaw (Chaplain), Dana Lee Smith (Music Director), Connie Walker (Bible Study Leader).

Workshops included: Advocacy (Jordan Slappey), Constructing a Sacred Space (Dr. Santha Jetty), Disaster Readiness (Pastor Morgan Gordy), Listening for God’s Call (Laura Krueger), Irresistible (Pastor Trina Petersen).

Exhibitors included Lutheran Services of Tennessee, NovusWay Ministries, Southeastern Synod Advocacy Team, and Southeastern Synod Disaster Relief.

There was a prayer tree in the lobby and we prayed for all requested. Katie’s Table sold jewelry for \$1 and earrings for 50¢, SE WELCA sold lots of logo items. The Love Offering was for ELCA Disaster Relief. Next year it will be for Southeastern Synod Disaster Relief.

Worship services were Friday evening out-of-doors and Sunday at the close of the convention. What a powerful experience. I hope we can have a terrific turnout next year.

The facility was awesome. Food delicious. Lovebugs invaded us and alligators were entertaining.

The 2019 Annual Convention will be at Music Row Hotel in Pigeon Forge, September 20-22. Cluster 6 (East TN churches) dressed as Dolly Parton, a moonshiner, a country music singer, Elly May Clampett, and Davy Crocket and performed a skit inviting attendees to the next convention.

If you want to see pictures from the convention, go to Facebook and “like” Southeastern Synod Women of ELCA.

A Message from your Council President

Beth Ford, 2018 Council President

If you know me at all, you know that I LOVE making lists. I get a great deal of satisfaction out of checking things off the lists. There is nothing more beautiful than a checkmark. Sometimes, I have been known to put items on the list just so they can be checked off, things like “Get up.”

I thought that it might be helpful if I made a list for our next few months here at Messiah, and here is what I came up with.

1. **Pray.** That is always a great way to start. We could pray for our Messiah family that we love each other and that we follow God’s way in discerning who we are and where God wants us to go. We could pray for those among us who need God’s healing care. We could pray that we have God’s guidance in making the many important decisions ahead of us.
2. **Celebrate.** We have so much to celebrate. In the last months, we have opened our doors to the community with the Church Safety seminar, the Caring for Caregivers retreat, and to our fellow Lutherans in a discussion of the Women and Justice proposed social statement. We hosted a clothing swap/give away for the Transempowerment group. An Open House was hosted by the Invite Team. We fed many of our brothers and sisters at KARM and at the YWCA Keys of Hope housing program. The Brothers at Messiah (BAM) group has moved toward identifying what they can do in the world in addition to the wonderful fellowship that they have enjoyed. What are we going to do next? See #1.
3. **Participate.** There are so many opportunities for us all, from one-time events up to year-long projects. Watch the bulletin for needs in the community. Volunteer to run for the council. It is almost that time. Express an interest in planning Community Care events. Mark your calendar for December 2 between services when we will approve a budget, elect a call committee and council members, and consider an offer by the City to purchase a right of way. Try something new, or start something new. See #1.
4. **Love.** This is one that everyone can do and check off every day. It makes no difference what your age is or what your gifts are. We can all love.

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About the Alcohol Use Policy

Beth Ford, 2018 Council President

Thank you to everyone who spoke to a council member or sent a comment about the proposed alcohol policy. Thank you to the task force which worked hard on a draft and then worked harder to consider and incorporate the thoughtful comments which were made by the congregation. Lastly, thank you to the Council for their respectful discussion of the proposed policy.

It is important to remember that before now we have not had a policy, other than what random references were made to alcohol in other policies and minutes of the Council. This was the first time that a comprehensive look was taken at the use of alcohol in our community. The addition of a policy is a positive in that it provides concrete guidance to the congregation. Nor should the adoption of this policy result in any increase of alcohol use at congregational events, particularly since advance notice is required.

The Council approved the policy which follows this article. There was one major change made in the proposal that the task force made. It was decided that for the time being non-church organizations, those without a connection to the congregation or a member of the congregation, would not be permitted to serve alcohol. That part of the proposal may be reconsidered at a later date. The proposal was also amended to clarify that “designated adult supervisors” must be at least 21 years of age.

Please let a council member know if you have any questions.

Messiah Lutheran Church, ELCA

Alcohol Use Policy for Church-related Social Events

The use of alcohol in our society has long been a source of controversy both in and out of the Church. We know that alcohol in and of itself is not wrong or sinful. Jesus told us this (Luke 7:34), and his first miracle was transforming water into wine, about 150 gallons worth (John 2). Moreover, Jesus instituted Holy Eucharist with the blessing of the sacramental Passover wine (Mark 14, Matthew 26).

We also know that alcoholic beverages can easily be abused, leading to potential suffering because of the effects of addiction and the serious damage done under its influence.

Because of the great amount of damage, sin and brokenness caused by the abuse of alcohol in our society, there is a pressing need to deal with it with special caution and for the Church to set an example of using it responsibly (Ephesians 5:18-20), 1 Timothy 3).

In addition, while the social use of alcohol in moderation is acceptable, we have a responsibility to those who choose to abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages, particularly for those in Alcoholics Anonymous and similar groups (Romans 14).

In light of this, the following policies will govern the use of alcoholic beverages at Messiah:

- 1) Anyone wishing to serve alcohol at the church shall present a written request to the church office with a minimum 30-day notice of the intent to serve alcoholic beverages. The organization shall specify the beginning and ending time that alcoholic beverage will be made available. The Pastor and Executive Committee may approve the event, or may refer the matter to the Congregation Council, for further consideration. Among the factors to be considered are whether other events are scheduled during the event in question.
- 2) Alternate non-alcoholic beverages are to be offered to participants at any function with equal emphasis and hospitality. Suitable alternate beverages might include non-alcoholic sparkling wine, punch, soft drinks, fruit juice, coffee and/or tea. Food must be present when alcohol is served.
- 3) Any beverage containing alcohol shall be clearly labeled as such. Alcohol for approved events may be stored at the church no more than 24 hours before the approved event and must be in a locked room.
- 4) A tasteful and appropriate identifying card shall be placed alongside any bowl of punch containing alcohol.
- 5) No minor shall be served alcohol, even by parents or guardians.
- 6) Groups or organizations sponsoring an event where alcohol will be present are responsible for persons who may become intoxicated and must provide alternate transportation in such cases.
- 7) Drunken behavior shall not be permitted. Care must be taken to ensure that responsible persons are in control of the service of alcoholic beverages.
- 8) No alcohol shall be present at functions exclusively designed for persons under age 21.
- 9) Alcoholic beverage service must be supervised by an adult at least 21 years of age.
- 10) Designated adult supervisors, at least 21 years of age, must be willing to refuse service to persons appearing to be intoxicated.
- 11) All groups, organizations or individuals serving alcohol must comply with all federal, state and local laws and ordinances pertaining to the use of alcohol.

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November

Birthday wishes to...

Nov. 1 **Bonnie Pederson**
Nov. 3 **Sharon Fox**
Lori West
Katie McLaughlin
Nov. 7 **Wendy Valentine**
Jaimie Georg
Nov. 8 **Jake Miller**
Nov. 11 **Burt Wagner**
Nov. 12 **David Wilson**
Nov. 13 **David Mnzava**
Nov. 14 **Michelle Wilson**
Rachel Lauber

Nov. 16 **Lydia Jurbergs**
Nov. 21 **Charlotte Linge**
Anders Pearson
Nov. 24 **Jane Livingston**
Meredith Liemohn
Nov. 25 **Linda Clarke**
Christopher Wood
Nov. 26 **Bruce Hayes**
Nov. 27 **Scott Pederson**
Nov. 30 **Illy Wood**
Anne Driskill

Happy Anniversary to...

Nov. 3 **Bob & Sue Tobey (51)**
Marilyn Vann Galyon
& John Galyon (8)
Nov. 15 **Ed Shoemaker & Paula Voss (38)**
Nov. 18 **Tom & Connie Cole (46)**
Nov. 22 **Jim & Jan Poluse (28)**
Nov. 25 **Norm & Doris Featherston (23)**