



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH - KELLER, TEXAS

# Messiah Messenger

**“Behold, I am making all things new.”** by Rev. Thomas Chryst



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, by the time you receive this, another Christmas Day will have come and gone, along with all the services, carols, and family gatherings. Even though the Christmas season lasts 12 days, the public decorations soon disappear and the world’s attention turns to the changing year. 2019 is a big one because it’s a “rollover year” – nineteen rolls over into twenty. Although the strict mathematicians will (rightly) disagree – the ‘zero’ year is the tenth, the last of the decade – it will be celebrated far and wide as the start of a new one. There will be new everything – hats, streamers, noisemakers, balloons – even the plastic “2020” sunglasses will have a marvelous symmetry. And the newness doesn’t stop with the calendar – as the world will tell you, 2020 is going to be the time for you to renew yourself!

You’ve heard it before: “New Year; New You!” Make a resolution. Improve your beauty. Lose some weight. Learn a new language. Travel. That’s what the world will suggest - and the only thing keeping you from becoming that better you, is your fear, or your lack of confidence. Maybe I have overstated it, but that is the message of the world in a nutshell. New Year; New You!

So...how do you think that will work out for you? Will every promise the world makes come true? Certainly not. And it shouldn’t surprise anyone. “Change and decay in all around I see...” says the hymn writer, and it happens to each of us. Even when we do learn something new, or experience something that changes us for the better, it does not ultimately change the big picture. It doesn’t undo the work of the devil, and sin, and death. Sin’s wages always come due, and we all pay.

It seems dark and depressing, but there is hope for everyone. There is hope for every person because God, our Father, has sent his Son in human flesh to rescue us from all the evils of this world, from the devil, and even from our own sinfulness. He has sent Jesus Christ in human flesh to defeat death, to take the penalty for our sin and our sinfulness upon himself. Christ did that, dying on the cross, and three days later he rose from the dead! And the Father and Son together send the Spirit to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify us in the one true faith along with all other believers in Christ, his holy church.

#### Inside this Issue:

Braille Dot Campaign	3
Christ Academy/North Texas Free Conference	4
Church Council Corner/NLSW	6
Community Storehouse/Youth Night	8

*That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of God, and that by believing  
you may have life in His name. —John 20:31*

And this hope is not for this life only, it is a promise of even better things to come. On the Last Day, Christ will raise each and every one of you and all the dead, and give eternal life to you and all believers in Christ. Behold, he will make you – and all things – new. It will be unlike anything we’ve ever known and better than anything we’ve ever imagined. The world exhorts you to make yourself into a ‘new you’ every New Year, but the Lord’s promise to you, delivered by his gifts of Word and water, body and blood, promise a *forever you*. Forgiven of all your sins by Jesus, you have life and salvation, and that means you have the hope of everlasting life. No matter the disappointments of this broken world, no matter the things others have done that have hurt you, no matter even the things you have done to yourself, you are forgiven by the blood of Christ, and you have hope.

New Year; New You? No thanks... for in Christ, you have new life as his beloved children, forever.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Chryst



Our beloved Kantor—Vicki Main—will be retiring at the end of this month.

Make certain to join us for her retirement dinner, **Sunday, January 26 at The Bowden**

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## ***2020 Flower Chart***

*Messiah Altar Guild*



**THE 2020 ALTAR FLOWER CHART** is up in the Preschool hallway outside the copy room. As you may already know, the flowers that adorn the altar each Sunday are donated by congregation members. The Chart serves as a means for members to choose the date that they would like to contribute flowers.....Simply write your name next to the Sunday date that you desire. An occasion may be designated such as a birthday, baptism or wedding anniversary, or in memory of a family member or friend.....or to the glory of God! The donor and occasion are noted each week in the bulletin. Each Sunday’s flowers (2 vases) cost \$50. You may write a check to Messiah and designate “flowers” on the memo line and put it in the collection plate on Sunday morning. If you choose to pay in cash, please be sure it is in a sealed envelope with your name and “flowers” on the outside. Donors may take the flowers home

following the second service on Sunday. If you choose not to take them, they may be delivered to members who are hospitalized, ill, or our shut-in members.

We appreciate and thank all those who have so generously contributed to the beautification of the altar with flowers in the past, and hope and encourage everyone to consider participating in this means of sharing God’s wonderful creations in our worship services.

Lutheran Braille Workers, located in Yucaipa, California, has launched its new Buy-A-Dot campaign to help purchase a new machine which produces the plates used in creating Braille Bibles, as well as related expenses.

As one of Lutheran Braille Workers' Ministry Production Centers, we know how important it is to produce Braille and Large Print materials for people who are Blind or Visually Impaired who may not have other access to God's Word.

Every single volume produced is given away free of charge to tens of thousands of people each year. To make this happen, we rely on volunteers and donations!



**Will you Buy A Dot and help us share God's Word?**

Please join us as we start the new Buy-A-Dot campaign. Stop by the tables on January 12 and ask questions, gain more information about our Braille Ministry and the new campaign. Even better, come tour the center today and see the Braille books production in action. There are two opportunities in January to help create these valuable books.

**BUY A DOT**

**Join Us in Helping People Who Are Visually Impaired Touch the Word of God**



**LUTHERAN  
BRAILLE  
WORKERS**

**Sunday, January 5 after the second service for Adults**

**Sunday, January 12 after the second service for Youth**

If you are interested in learning how to support this campaign through your time or gifts, please contact Barbara or Erasmo Pinero by phone at 682.552.3622 or e-mail at [bpinero@frontier.com](mailto:bpinero@frontier.com).

Thank you and blessings,

Barbara



Using online posts from Cambria Stame (CUI), Ethan Gillespie (CUW), and Christ Academy (FaceBook)



Christ Academy went off campus today to joyfully serve the Fort Wayne community. It takes one minivan, one 12-passenger van, and four 15-passenger vans to get all of these young men and women off-campus. Many hands make light the work! Soli Deo Gloria! —Christ Academy FB

Then, since Saturday was Service Projects, the group I was in went to an organization called Just Neighbors which takes care of homeless families. There we unboxed a shelf, scrubbed tables, washed chairs and cleaned off vents. —Ethan Gillespie FB

A kaleidoscope of events color the Christ Academy's nighttime hours. Favorites included watching the proctors suffer through an appetizer of lemonade powder mixed with onion dip at the annual Chopped competition, dressing up as eclectic old church ladies at the yearly Phoebe Fashion Show, and watching the Fort Wayne Tincaps bat and run at the local ballpark. Even though the Tin Caps were completely creamed, we still had fun. —Cambria



In unorthodox feminine fashion, the Phobes power washed a house for their weekend service project.



Other evening events include ultimate Frisbee, scavenger hunt, Foosball, Ping-Pong, pool, bowling, Karaoke hymn sing, talent show, CA baseball, and movie night.

## *Creation, Faith and Christ in The Old Testament*

**Saturday... January 25, 2020**

God's Word is powerful. God brought everything into existence by the power of His Word. Furthermore, God's Word proclaimed that a Savior will come. This promise was fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ. God's Word directs us to honor those in authority. But when government commands us to sin, then we must obey God. God's Word is our guide and our light pointing us to Christ alone.

Dr. Steinmann will show us from the book of Genesis that God created everything in six days (Gen 1). Nothing exists apart from God's creation.

Dr. Steinmann will also talk about obedience and disobedience to government in the Book of Daniel. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faithfully served Nebuchadnezzar. But when Nebuchadnezzar commanded that all people worship his golden statue, then the three youths did not obey the king's command. God protected them from death in the fiery furnace (Dan 3).

Finally, Dr. Steinmann will talk about the promise of the Savior in the book of Genesis and beyond. The Old Testament repeatedly mentions the prophesies of the coming Savior who will save and redeem God's people. The New Testament shows how Jesus fulfilled these prophesies in His life, death, and resurrection.



Andrew Steinmann is Distinguished Professor of Theology and Hebrew at Concordia University Chicago. He holds a B.S. from the University of Cincinnati, a M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from the University of Michigan.

He has served as a parish pastor, a Bible translator, a nursing home chaplain and as a professor at several institutions. His research interest include Hebrew and Aramaic languages, apocalyptic literature, wisdom literature and bible chronology, and the book of Genesis.

Dr. Steinmann is the author of numerous articles in national and internationally recognized academic journals as well as seventeen books. He also served as a consultant for *The Lutheran Study Bible* and contributed to *The Apocrypha: The Lutheran Study Edition* and *Lutheran Bible Companion*. He is a regular guest on the radio

program "Issues, Etc." and on KFUD in St. Louis.

***Faith Lutheran Church (LCMS)***  
***1701 East Park Blvd., Plano, TX 75074***  
***972-423-7447***

### **Schedule of Events on January 25**

8:00 am	Matins
8:45 am	<i>"Obedience and Disobedience to Government in the Book of Daniel"</i>
9:45 am	Break
10:00 am	<i>"Creation in the Book of Genesis"</i>
11:00 am	Break
11:15 am	<i>"The Promise of the Savior in Genesis and Beyond"</i>
12:15 pm	Responsive Prayer I, page 282
12:30 pm	Lunch in the gymnasium

### Notes from the Council Secretary

The Messiah Church Council Met on December 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 pm to 8:20 pm. Here are some highlights:

**Treasurer:** Herbert Herrmann reports general fund offerings continue strong. Herbert will re-work the spending plan to accommodate the increased benefits cost.

**Elders:** Pete Hibbs reports that he will step down from his role as Head Elder. Steve Latham will be the new Head Elder. Everyone is reminded of the Retirement Dinner for Vicki Main.

**Evangelism:** Angel Tree delivery went flawlessly. MLC volunteers provided gifts to 35 families.

**Trustees:** Trustees are investigating possibility of installing washer/dryer to MAC to facilitate Swaddling Clothes Ministry.

**Stewardship:** Budget planning for FY21 is in work. All Board Chairmen to have draft budget data to the Board of Stewardship by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**School Board:** MLCA welcomes returning Art Teacher Marcia Huebel for the Spring Semester.

### General Notes:

A six-month contract extension for our HR services was approved through June of this year. This will align with our fiscal year.

The nominating committee is seeking leaders for the New Year. Please contact Chris Aguilar or Jason Allen.

There will be a Voter's Assembly on January, 26<sup>th</sup> after the second service.

The next council meeting is January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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## Church Mailboxes

by Church office staff

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The church mailboxes will be re-alphabetized in January.

We have been blessed with so many new members this past year! What a wonderful “problem” to have that our mailboxes are not alphabetized properly. To fix this, all members will be receiving a new family name label and possibly a new location in the proper alpha order.

We apologize in advance for any confusion this might cause.

Thank you for understanding!



National Lutheran Schools Week provides the network of 1,950 LCMS preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work in Lutheran schools.

In this, Lutheran schools thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children they serve and for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with students and their families.

National Lutheran Schools Week gives schools the ability to proclaim these great blessings within the communities they serve. Lutheran schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love through Christ by teachers and students alike.

"Joy:Fully Lutheran" is the theme for the 2020 National Lutheran Schools Week celebration. The associated scripture verse is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 which says:

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it."*

**January 26 through February 1, 2020**

**MLCA Choir will sing in the second service on**

**February 2, 2020**

**JOY:FULLY  
LUTHERAN  
1 THESS 5:16-24**



*Messiah Lutheran Church & School*  
*The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Academy Office: (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Thomas Chryst, Pastor

[www.messiahkeller.org](http://www.messiahkeller.org)

## Community Storehouse

By Jinel Munoz



A huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Spread the Warmth! campaign in December.

The Community Storehouse in Keller still needs our help this winter. The pantry will be in need of new food items now that the holidays are over and families needed those extra pantry items to get through the Christmas break.

Please consider providing any kind of canned good or other shelf stable pantry item to be donated through the month of January.

All donations are greatly appreciated!

## Youth Events at Messiah

By Vera Sweet

On Sunday January 5, 2020 we had two events at Messiah. First was the "Messiah Fun Day" for Confirmation 1 through high school students. Students from Messiah and Victory in Christ in Haslet enjoyed lunch, games, a fire and made smores. Mrs. Pinero taught us about Braille and we made one complete book. Mrs. Brooks and Mrs. Sweet were the sponsors. Ashley Brooks was a big help too. We thank all who attended and are making plans for our next event.



On Sunday, January 5, 2020 young adults from this region gathered at Messiah. A total of 44 people were present which included small children and their mothers. The following pastors were present, Bramich, Holy Shepherd, Haslet; Chryst, Messiah, Keller; Odom, Beautiful Savior, Arlington; and Schielke, Victory in Christ, Newark. Pastor Schielke conducted the bible study on the three Christian Creeds. Evening Prayers were conducted by Pastor Chryst and Pastor Bramich, Miguel Ruiz playing the organ.

Participants enjoyed a camp fire, ice breakers and a brain challenge as well as the Bible study and worship.

Plans are under way for our next event. If you are interested, please contact Vera Sweet at [vsweet328@gmail.com](mailto:vsweet328@gmail.com)

