



The Whole Armor of God

by Rev. Thomas Chryst

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God... **Ephesians 6:10-17 English Standard Version (ESV)**

The Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy theme verse for the 2019-2020 school year is above, from Ephesians 6. The "Armor of God" is one of the most beloved Pauline pictures – an extended metaphor the apostle sets forth for our encouragement and instruction. Here are some pastoral reflections on this magnificent analogy of faith:

The Enemy: Paul teaches us that the enemy, the TRUE enemy we all face as Christians is not one of flesh and blood, but a spiritual enemy. The Devil, along with all of his forces of evil, is our true opponent. The "rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers" are various ranks of evil spirit which do his bidding and mean us harm. This should both comfort and terrify us. It's a comfort to know that the real enemy is NOT my fellow human, as annoying or perturbing, or even as fearful as he may be. Though we often slip into a mindset of enmity with other people, we can say with the Psalmist, "what can

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Church Council Corner

by Bill Brandt—Secretary

Notes from the Council Secretary

The Messiah Church Council Met on August 28 from 7:00pm to 9:15pm. Here are some highlights:

Treasurer: Chairman, Herbert Hermann, Jr.

FY 19 closeout has been accomplished. Combined church and school revenue exceeded expenses. (This is exclusive of the Heidorn bequest.) A final accounting of FY19 revenue and spending is posted on the bulletin board. Herbert Herrmann Jr. is developing a spending plan for church and school to insure we stay both within budget and within revenue!

Elders: Chairman, Pete Hibbs

The Confirmation Program for this year is complete. John Sweet is teaching

Confirmation 1. We have no Confirmation 2 students. Deaconess Buhler will assist confirmands requiring special attention. Pastor Chryst's day off is Monday. Mr. Ruiz will lead Chapel on Monday. Holiday service to be the same as last year, Christmas Eve at 5pm & 7pm, and 10am Christmas Day. **Additional Ushers needed.**

School Board: Chairman, Clay Brandt

The school year has begun and all staff and faculty are working hard and harmoniously. We have 85 children enrolled and the board is grateful for the trust of the parents of these children of God. Upcoming events are **North Texas Giving Day** in September and **Trunk or Treat** in October. If you ever want to see

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*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*



man do to me?" On the other hand, it is truly terrifying to think that an entity as powerful as Satan himself is out to get us! Scripture says he's a roaring lion looking for someone to devour! It also pictures him as a fearsome dragon. Surely he is powerful, devious, and has many devices and tactics with which to do us harm. Surely he wants us to suffer, to die, and ultimately to be finally condemned to the Lake of Fire as he and his angels will be. Misery loves company, I guess. But God provides us help, protection, defense in this great spiritual struggle and warfare. Put on the whole armor of God! That is, make use of, take comfort in ALL the blessings God affords you:

The Belt of Truth: Truth is the foundation of everything we believe. Jesus Christ himself claims to be the truth (along with the way and the life). There is no falsehood in him, or in the Word of God in which we trust. God will never deceive you, unlike the Devil, the Father of Lies. And this belt, fastened around us, holds everything together.

The Breastplate of Righteousness: The breastplate covers the vital organs, including the heart. The enemy would love nothing better than to get at your heart, darken and harden your heart to sin, or steal faith from your heart if he could. But the righteousness of Christ covers you. It keeps your life safe in him. He who was pierced for your transgressions will keep you from the piercing accusations of Satan, and present you holy and blameless at the end.

Shoes- the Gospel of Peace: Interesting that Paul doesn't just say "the Gospel", but the "Gospel of peace". He emphasizes one of the chief benefits of the Good News of Jesus – that it brings peace. Peace with God – for in Christ we are reconciled to the Father. And peace with one another, for that ministry of reconciliation is reflected in and among us. But in this grand war-time metaphor, the Gospel of peace reminds us that wherever we go, even into battle with the enemy, we are ready – because we have peace – a peace that passes understanding. A peace, unlike the world gives. A peace that matters more and supersedes all the battles that rage in this world of sin and death.

The Shield of Faith: The shield of faith gets a little more ink. It is "able to extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one". Yes, the devil would assail you with doubt. But faith stands the tests, absorbs the darts of doubt, and shields us from the old evil foe. Since the beginning the devil has been sowing doubt, and asking, "Did God really say?" But faith clings to God's word and trusts in his promises.

The Helmet of Salvation: Just as important to protect the heart and vital organs, so also the head. To top off this divine armor is salvation – the salvaging, or renewing and refurbishing that only God can do. Paul wrote about this transformation of the mind earlier in Ephesians 4: "Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds....[but] be renewed in the spirit of your minds," (vv. 17,23)

The Sword of the Spirit: It has often been mentioned that the only offensive weapon in this ensemble is the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Of course, the Word is our best weapon for defeating Satan, as even Jesus himself relied on the Word when contending with the devil in the wilderness temptation. To each of Satan's temptations, Jesus responded, "It is written..." and quoted the Holy Scriptures. If such a reliance on the Word is good enough for Jesus, it's surely good enough for you and me!

The depth of our Christian faith is such that no single metaphor or analogy can exhaust its riches. But thanks be to God for this wonderful word-picture in which we can meditate upon the manifold blessings that we receive from our good and gracious God. May he continue to preserve us in all our battles with the evil foe, until we see the final victory and all warfare is ended. In the meantime, fight the good fight with all your might! Put on the whole armor of God, and stand firm to the end.

Christian Education Rally Day

by Elaine Hall—Sunday School Superintendent



Christian Education Sunday/Rally Day was a great celebration. The Board of Christian Education would like to thank **Pastor Chryst** for the special readings and powerful sermon. The board would also like to thank **Vicki Main** and her special musicians and music for the service. The Rally Day part of the day was well attended. Thanks to **Bill Brandt** for and his assistants for handling the grilling task. Also, thanks to **Vera Sweet**, there was a bounce house that the children enjoyed along with the snow cones which **Meredith Sifford** provided. Thanks also to the many helpers who provided side dishes, desserts, and assisted with set up, serving, and cleanup. It was a great day of worship followed by food, fellowship, and fun.

Community Storehouse donations

by Jinel Munoz

Messiah Lutheran Church and Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy support the Community Store House of Keller's food pantry. We want to increase our pantry food donations to the Store House more regularly by collecting food throughout the year and not just focus on seasonal giving. Every week students and members are asked to bring in a "Chapel

offering". Their Chapel offerings could be any pantry item, but during the month we will focus on special items for the Store House's greatest need. For September we are collecting **soup and jelly**. Any pantry items are appreciated for donation, but soup & jelly are the special items for September. Our regular giving of Chapel offerings is a wonderful way to instill in our

children the constant need to serve others and regular giving to the Church. We appreciate your support of this program and look forward to a wonderful school year of service.

*And they faithfully brought in the contributions, the tithes, and the dedicated things.
2 Chronicles 31:12*





**Torie
Stephens-
Bonty**

**Preschool
Teacher**

Have you ever met a person that you just feel richer for knowing right away? That statement applies to our new 3's preschool teacher on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Torie is an amazing person, she has a PHD., is the mother of six children and is one of the nicest people I have ever met. As we were talking the other day she gave me this beautiful gem of wisdom about parenting that I just have to share. She said she just stopped trying to control everything because that wasn't her job as a parent, God is in control. She also said that she and her husband take time every evening to recall and celebrate their childrens' successes whether great or small. What wonderful parenting insight.

Torie and her husband Tyson , have six beautiful children.

Make sure to stop by and introduce yourselves to Torie.



Molly Bell

**Preschool
Teacher**

We are so blessed to have the Bell family at our school. This year was an extra blessing as Molly Bell joined our staff as the 3's preschool teacher. Molly is passionate about making sure the children in her class not only receive extraordinary care, but also Molly stresses developing the whole child. In one of the pictures below two of Molly's students are learning not only to share but to serve one another.

Molly and her husband Brian have three beautiful children: Madeline who is in 7th grade, Hudson is in 2nd grade and Lucy is 4 years old.

Join me in welcoming Molly to the MLCA staff.



Heather Heitmann

**Academy Administrative Assistant
Kindergarten Aide**

We are so happy to have Heather Heitmann back with us here at Messiah. Heather was with us before working in our preschool. Now she is back working in the Academy in whatever way she is needed to best serve the families here at Messiah.

Heather has been married to her husband Mike for 18 years. They have two children: Bailey who is a senior and Logan who is a sophomore in high school.

Join us in welcoming Heather back with us at MLCA.

some of the fruit of this work, come to Chapel!

Trustees: Chairman, Paul Lara

Interior and exterior upgrades and maintenance are in progress! New Exterior Lights are LED. Painting in church and school is underway. New flooring was completed in two preschool rooms. The parking lot requires attention and the Trustees are evaluating pothole maintenance and lot sealing. Pastor's office remodel will not be as extensive as planned. The MLCA upper floor HVAC issue may be resolved – A faulty thermostat is the likely culprit. However, the entire facility's HVAC equipment is due for an upgrade.

Stewardship: Chairman, Bill Stone

Financial Peace University is enrolling for MLC. The final distribution from the Heidorn Estate was completed for \$61,107. The Stewardship Committee is developing a range of option for use of the Bequest and will provide a recommendation to the Council at the September meeting. The Council will provide a recommendation to the Voters at the October Voters Assembly. The committee is reviewing budget development for the 2021 budget.

Evangelism: Chairman, Bruce Dana

Swaddling Clothes Ministry is accepting, organizing, and distributing clothes for babies at the Messiah Activity Center. Church internet marketing is working through Google AdWords and Facebook. Barbara Brewer is stepping down as Angel Tree Director. We need an **Angel Tree** leader.

All Council members are planning to update their board's status and the with term ending and vacancies no later than September 7 to the Church Council Secretary.

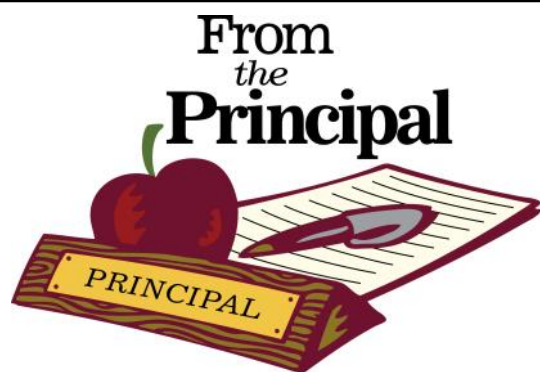
Next Council Meeting is **September 25th**!

Messiah's church council is in need of an interim chairman for the **Board of Christian Education**. This board oversees Sunday school, Bible classes, the library and all educational programs and opportunities for the church. If you are interested or able to help, please see Pastor Chryst or council president Jason Allen for more information.

President, Jason Allen
Vice President, Chris Aguilar
Secretary, Bill Brandt

Notes from the Principal

by Alison Smith—Interim Principal



The Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy began its 2019-2020 school year on Wednesday, August 14. The faculty and staff were blessed to see so many returning and new faces come through our doors. This year our school verse comes from Ephesians 6:13

*"Therefore take up the whole armor of God
that you may be able to withstand in the evil day,
and having done all to stand firm."*

We look forward to a school year of learning, growing, and outreaching to our students and their families. Thank you for your continued prayers for our teachers and students.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Communities Foundation of Texas' 11th Annual
North Texas Giving Day will be

Thursday, September 19, 2019!

This year's funds will be used for the development and creation of a Resource Room and for other education support needs.

Please consider donating during this event. Thank you!



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Board of Stewardship

by Bill Stone—*Chairman*

What is a steward? Most people will say a steward is a manager.

That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner's property on the owner's behalf.

We are God's stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him:

"For we brought nothing into this world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1 Tim. 6:7)

Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner.

This is not only because He created all things; He is also the redeemer. He has redeemed – that is, purchased – and won all things. Therefore, it all belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege.

Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage his possessions on His behalf here on earth.

And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

But what a responsibility!

"Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required" (Luke 12:48b).

We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what He desires and wills for His property.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God?

We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will is for all of His gifts. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing we have that doesn't belong to Him.

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

God informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – managers and custodians – are to manage His property.

And that is stewardship. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us.

As St. Paul said,

"Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness" (Rom. 6:13).

So, let's dive into God's Word, and listen to what He desires from His stewards.

Let the music begin . . .

Adult Bell Choir
Tuesday, September 3rd
7:00 p.m.



Youth Bells
Tuesday, September 10th
6:00 p.m.

This is the week rehearsals start . . .

Questions? Cares? Concerns?
Contact Vicki Main -
940-391-8593/
vickinotes@msn.com

Adult Choir
Wednesday, September 4th
7:00 p.m.



Festival of Church Music

Sunday, October 13, 2019,
7:00 p.m.

Meyerson Symphony Center,
2301 Flora Street, Dallas, Texas

Featuring a 400-voice choir,
children's chorus, brass, and
organ, the chorus comprised of
singers from churches throughout
North and East Texas.



Eric Nelson,
Professor at



Cynthia Nott,
Artistic Director



Bradley Hunter Welch,
Artist-in-Residence

To purchase tickets

1. Order online at
www.churchmusicinstitute.org
2. Call Church Music Institute
(214) 751-7669
3. Order by mail using the
order form in the church
office.
4. Purchase tickets at a
participating church.

For more information,
please see Vicki Main



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



YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO SIGN UP!

**BEGINNING MONDAY 09-16-2019 and ENDING MONDAY 11-11-2019
FROM 7:00-8:30 PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

COST TO JOIN THE CLASS IS \$109

SIGN UP AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

Fpu.com/1093111

DON'T LET FEAR OR WORRY ABOUT MONEY BE YOUR ENEMY

alzheimer's  association®

Alzheimer's and other dementias cause changes in memory, thinking and behavior that interfere with daily life. Join us to learn about 10 common warning signs and what to watch for in yourself and others.

The one-hour program covers:

- » Typical age-related changes.
- » Common warning signs of Alzheimer's.
- » How to approach someone about memory concerns.
- » Early detection, the benefits of a diagnosis and the diagnostic process.
- » Alzheimer's Association resources.

Thursday, September 12 | 7 p.m.

**Crown of Life Church
Colleyville, TX**

RSVP at djung@crownoflife.org

817.421.5683

Visit alz.org/CRF to register online and explore additional education programs in your area.

The Stephen Ministry Team at Crown of Life Lutheran Church
would like to invite anyone from Messiah who is interested to also attend.

If you have any questions, please contact
Sharon Asbury at sasbury@crownoflife.org or 817-421-5683 ext 400