

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

Fellowship Opportunities

by Vera Sweet

Young Adult/College Gathering—Saturday events—Fellowship Hall

5:00 PM Meet, greet, ice breakers

5:30 PM Bible Study

6:30 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Board Games

The next event is **Saturday, March 7th.**

Also, this group meets on two Thursdays of the month in the school lunchroom from 7pm to 8 pm, to study the book ***Echo***, by Jonathan Fisk. The leader is Marvin Wilken. Come Join us!

March dates are the **5th and 19th.**



Mommy + Me

Moms, dads, grandpas, grandmas, any care giver is welcome. We are planning to meet on these remaining Mondays in the Fellowship Hall:

March 9 and April 13, 2020 from 10 am - 1 pm

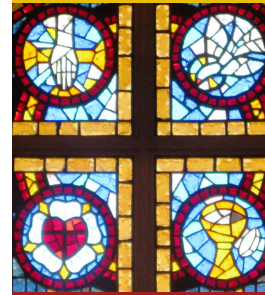
Objective: Exchange of ideas on child raising and Bible teaching to young children

Playground time and light lunch are part of the plan.

Questions? Talk to Vera Sweet or Carie King.

Volume XL
Issue III

March 2020



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH - KELLER, TEXAS
Messiah Messenger

“The Trees of Scripture”

by Rev. Thomas Chryst

Sometimes it's instructive to study a topic in Scripture in a sideways-fashion, looking across the many books and chapters to see how a word or concept is used. We might do a word-study on “anger” or look at all the ways Scripture treats motherhood. It's a different approach than simply starting at one point and reading a chapter or two at a time.



One interesting study someone recently suggested to me is to look at the various trees that appear in the Bible. They appear often, and play quite a role in many stories.

Consider: The Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. (Genesis 2 and 3) These two trees, planted by God in the home of our first parents in paradise – show us both God's intention for us (life) and the sad reality of sin when Adam and Eve transgressed and chose the forbidden fruit.

Noah's ark was made of gopher wood (Genesis 6:14) and he received the olive branch (see Genesis 8:11).

Abraham sat under the oaks of Mamre (Genesis 18:1).

Moses stood barefoot in front of the burning bush (Exodus 3:2–5).

Joseph simply is a tree, or branch (Genesis 49:22).

Absalom died when his hair got caught in a tree (2 Samuel 18:9).



The temple built by Solomon was constructed with cypress and cedar wood. The ark itself was made of wood, and covered with gold.

Psalms 1 compares the man of God to a strong tree planted by the water.

The promise of the Messiah is pictured as a “shoot from the stump of Jesse” (Isaiah 11:1)

Zacchaeus climbed the sycamore fig (Luke 19:1-4). The blind man saw people as if they were trees walking (Mark 8:24).

The disciples gathered on the Mount of Olives – where olive trees still grow today (Luke 22:39).

Jesus compares believers to trees and their fruits as their works: “So, every healthy tree bears good fruit,

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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*

“The Trees of Scripture”

(continued from page 1)

but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.” (Matthew 7:17)

Paul wrote that Christians are like branches grafted into Israel’s tree trunk, with roots that help us stand fast and firm no matter what troubles come our way (Romans 11:17–18).

And there are many more examples. **But there is no more important tree in all of Scripture than the tree on which Jesus died – the cross.** Paul writes in Galatians 3:13, “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”

Yes, the curse came to us by way of a tree, just as the reversal of the curse comes by way of another tree – Jesus, the Second Adam, restores what was lost through the first Adam. The serpent, who once overcame us by a tree, is now himself overcome by the tree of the cross, as the Seed of the woman crushes Satan’s head. And the fruits of Jesus’ cross, his own body and blood given and shed for us there – are now received in the blessed Sacrament.

And so the Revelation to St. John, when depicting for us the vision of our eternal home in Heaven, the Holy City of Jerusalem, shows us the reappearance of the Tree of Life, with leaves for the healing of the nations, and fruits that are always in season. Life is perfectly and eternally restored to us, God’s people, and we will enjoy those fruits forever.

Thanks be to God in Jesus Christ our Lord!

WE ARE
FREE TO BE
FAITHFUL

“The free exercise of religion extends beyond the practice of our faith in houses of worship. We must be free to put our faith into action in the public square and, in response to Christ’s call, demonstrate His mercy through our love and compassion for all people without government penalty.”

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



Heritage House

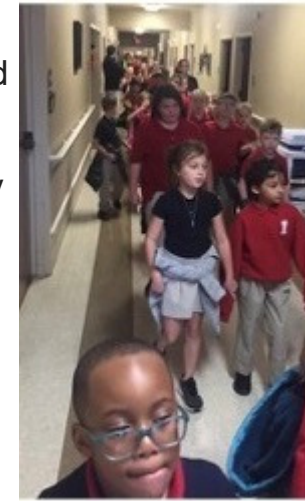
by Kris Carter



Our students’ hearts were so full of love and joy when they got to share Christmas carols and ornaments with the residents of “Heritage House.” As the children caroled up and down the halls, residents and staff



stopped what they were doing to join in.



It was wonderful to witness how God’s message brought **JOY** to all.

National Lutheran Schools Week

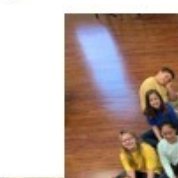
by Kris Carter



Thank you so much
Parents!

We had a great time during Lutheran Schools Week
Thank you for coordinating ,crazy socks, jerseys,
reaching out to other parents to coordinate for twin day and
helping our youngest and sweetest students look 100.

With love MLCA teachers and faculty



The council met at 7 pm on February 19th. All members were present except Trustee Chairman Paul Lara. Council President Chris Aguilar had previously instructed all board chairmen to submit 2020 goals as part of their monthly board report.

General goals will be to increase communication within our congregation. To that end all boards will create an annual calendar with a detailed 3 month look ahead.

This note will detail the broad goals that each board is pursuing in 2020.

Elders 2020 Goals:

Update Elder Manual, Update Elder Task Matrix, Calendarize Task Matrix.

Evangelism 2020 Goals:

Increase communication regarding the Evangelism Board – (Example: quarterly articles in the Messenger), Revamp of the Fellowship – (Example: add a specific spot for contact data for visitors.), Increase supply of clothes donated for Swaddling Clothes Ministry.

Christian Education 2020 Goals:

Successful implementation of VBS, Develop and Implement new summer Sunday School format.

MLCA Board 2020 Goals:

Create 18 Month Rolling Board Calendar, Conduct Board Governance Refresher Training, Align Classical Vision and Practice.

Stewardship 2020 Goals:

Complete development, review, adoption and implementation of FY21 Budget, Plan 1-2 Stewardship-themed events per year.

Board of Trustees 2020 Goals:

Conduct annual MLC Cleanup on March 21, 2020, Complete support of Ninja Course, Continue normal maintenance of all MLC property.



Happy Birthday Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

On April 26, 1847, twelve pastors representing fourteen German Lutheran congregations met in Chicago, Illinois, and officially founded the new church body, the *German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States*. C. F. W. Walther became the fledgling denomination's first president.

Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy
Presents

Dinner & Auction Event

Red, White & **SOLD**

Saturday, May 2, 2020 at 5:30 PM

Messiah Fellowship Hall

An evening full of fun, fellowship,
food & fundraising!

More information to follow!

Vacation Bible School 2020—*Jesus Blesses the Little Children*

by Vera Sweet—*Director*



Vacation Bible School will be held June 8 through 11, 2020 from 9am to noon. All children 4 years old to 5th grade are welcome to attend.

The theme for this year is
Jesus Blesses the Little Children

Bible stories include: The Good Samaritan, The Good Shepherd, Jesus Raises Lazarus and Jesus Blesses the Little Children

Please contact Vera Sweet if you want to volunteer or help in any way. Thank you!!

Vera Sweet phone: 817/988-3521 or email vsweet2000@verizon.net

Using online posts from Cambria Stame (CUI) and Christ Academy (FaceBook)



Christ Academy celebrates its 20th birthday this year. Many of its original students are now pastors and professors in the LCMS, and their parishioners are now attending as students. That is why it is called a tradition rather than a summer camp. Christ Academy doesn't tailor its classes to the changing tides of culture. Their classes are hewn from the ancient lectionary and cut from the same material that seminarians work with. No other vocational discernment program is quite like it.

Just imagine if we took the regular pattern of our lives as seriously as Christ Academy does with its young people. Hymns would be on our tongues and in our hearts all throughout the day. Those hymns dig channels of Scripture so deep into our hearts that the words flow forth naturally when we tap into them during hard times. Psalms 4, 91, and 121 (spoken at Compline) become long-term memory even if repeating them was mundane and old-fashioned. Yet again, we shouldn't be surprised at such activities. That's what happens when the Word is sown into high school ears four times a day.

Now that you've read my grand apology, go up to that young Lutheran man or lady at coffee hour, poke them in the shoulder, and start badgering them about applying to The Grand Lutheran Tradition That Is Christ Academy. Or stand on a table and sing a hymn from memory, telling them that they could be up there on that table with you if they learned "Love Divine All Loves Excelling" at Christ Academy. Or give them five minutes to make a Lutheran meme or else they have to go put in some reps reciting Luther's Small Catechism. Or, actually, don't do anything that I'm telling you. Just be a normal human being who kindly points their young people to an experience that becomes a way of life, a seminary that becomes a home, and students and proctors that become family. —Cambria

To clarify even further, Christ Academy is designed to mimic the two main vocational programs here at CTSFW and we want you to give it a try!



Christ Academy 14 Day Tally
Services attended: 53
Hymns sung: 110



Christ Academy Wants YOU!



We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and [a] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Tim 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW TAGLINE: **STEWARDS UNDER THE CROSS**