

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)

## Fellowship Opportunities

by Vera Sweet

### Mommy + Me

Moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, any caregiver is welcome.

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 Carie King or email [king.cann@yahoo.com](mailto:king.cann@yahoo.com)

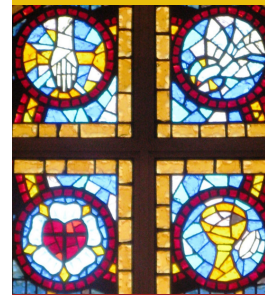


## Happy Birthday Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

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.

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MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH - KELLER, TEXAS  
**Messiah Messenger**

## “Certainty in the Midst of Uncertainty”

by Rev. Thomas Chryst

Dear Messiah Family,

I often read articles and sermons from other LCMS pastors. From time to time I even draw inspiration and ideas from them. As they taught us at seminary, there really is “no new theology”. Once in a while, however, I find something I like so much I want to share in its entirety. Please enjoy this excellent newsletter article from my friend and faithful LCMS pastor in Tacoma, Washington – Pastor Jeff Ries. Tacoma is one of the hotspots of the recent virus outbreak. Consider well, with Easter on the horizon, Pastor Ries’ encouragement about the certainty that the Resurrection of the Body gives us in days like these. – Pastor Chryst

### The Resurrection of the Body: Certainty in the Midst of Uncertainty

This Lent (and soon Easter) season finds us facing some rather unsettling uncertainties. What will this virus mean for the future of our world, our nation, our community, and our own families? Nothing puts us off balance more than the aspects of life which we cannot control.

Uncertainties are very real sources of fear for us. Even if one hasn’t faced medical uncertainties, it is unheard of to live as a fallen creature in this fallen world without having encountered some sort of uncertainty. Job loss or a pay cut causes questions about how long one will be able to pay the bills before the collectors come. A serious conflict with a loved one or a sin committed by or against them causes uncertainty as to whether or not the relationship can be restored.

But thanks be to God in Christ, that we are given a certainty of blessed eternity which overcomes all the uncertainties in this life – yet so much more than that! **For the merciful, forgiving, and restoring work of God in Christ also overcomes all the certainties of this fallen world!** Sin and death and all the evils that come with them are unavoidable certainties in this life. But all find their end in Christ! **“In the World you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33b)**

Revelation 21 paints a beautiful picture of the results of Christ’s overcoming the world. A new heaven and a new earth! The dwelling place of God coming down to be with us! All tears wiped away! No more mourning, crying, or pain! **“Behold, I am making all things new.” (Rev 21:5)**

This is what we celebrate in Holy Week and Easter! This is what we confess when we proclaim in the Creed, **“I believe in the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come. Amen!”** We find this certainty given to us in God’s Word and Sacraments!

For many already impacted by this virus, there are certainties; dismal certainties. As of this writing there have been over 25,000 deaths worldwide from this virus; almost 1,400 of those in the US. Thousands of families who are mournfully certain not to be able to hug or hold their loved one any longer in this life. Further, and more generally, it is a sad certainty in this fallen world that many broken relationships will never be repaired, not everyone seeking a paid job will find one, and some will forever be wrestling with some trial or other. But we’ve got a greater certainty; a certainty which comforts us in our grief, meets doubt with truth, and gives hope for us to endure! It is found in the *“living and active, sharper than any double edged sword”* Word of God.

Peter might well put it the most poignantly in the first chapter of his second letter. He begins by describing his firsthand experience on the mount of Transfiguration; writing of how he, James and John actually beheld Christ in His glory. *“We were eyewitnesses of His majesty.”* (2 Peter 16) You will recall that this is where they saw Jesus in His glorified body speaking with none other than Moses and Elijah. Peter further describes actually hearing the voice of God *“borne from heaven!”* Yet, after sharing this most mountaintop of all mountaintop experiences, Peter writes, *“And we have something more sure,”* (2 Peter 1:19a). More sure than being firsthand eye witnesses to Christ, Moses, and Elijah glorified and conversing together on a mountaintop? More sure than hearing firsthand the voice of God the Father booming his confirmation that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? Yes! The most sure thing of all sure things! *“The prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,”* (2 Peter 1:19b). The Word of God through which comes faith (Romans

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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*

“Certainty in the Midst of Uncertainty”

(continued from page 1)

10:17). For “faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1) Uncertainty and doubt are great contributors to the fallen frailty we experience in this life. They cloud our vision and darken our world so that we often cannot see the world unfolding ahead of us. But God’s Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. The light of Christ the Word made flesh is not overcome by any darkness (John 1:5), but shines ahead and over the shadow of this world to the hope of the life to come.

Through Holy Baptism, through Holy Absolution, through His Holy Supper, through its ongoing proclamation, God’s Word continually delivers Christ, His Cross, and His Resurrection. Through these means, the Holy Spirit makes use of the Word to hold us steadfast in faith. In this Word we find redemption and life eternal; life where the perishable has put on the imperishable, and the mortal has put on immortality. (1 Cor 15:53)

We may never in this world be able to have any certainly whatsoever concerning the health and wellbeing of loved ones, nor of our own plans for “success” in this life. But, **We believe in the resurrection of the Body** (cf. 1 Cor 15:12ff). We know for certain that, for all of us who are in Christ, health and wellbeing will be restored, and every last cell of our frail flesh will be restored, but then indestructible. The brokenness between people in conflict may well remain in this life. But all brokenness will be repaired, as the full realization of our oneness in Christ will be fully revealed at His return.

If the healings and restorations for which God’s people pray do not come to pass in this fallen world, still we know that the Lord Christ, in whose blood we have the forgiveness of sins, likewise makes all things new. This is what we celebrate this Holy Week and Easter, and every Lord’s Day, and every moment of every day as we live out the vocations into which God has called us.

It is with the cross and resurrection of Christ in view that we rejoice and pray with hope and certainty, these words of the Psalmist, “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your sin, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's . . .” (Psalm 103:1-5)

~Pastor Jefferey Ries  
Zion Lutheran Church (LCMS)  
Tacoma, WA  
Shared by permission

And Take They Our Life

by Pastor Wolfmueller

Article submitted by Vera Sweet

A new book by Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller.

Martin Luther had a robust theology of martyrdom, calling it the “pattern of the true Christian life.” Luther expected a martyr’s death, and was ready for such a death. This essay digs into Luther’s theological understanding of Christian suffering and death, and preaches Christ to fainting hearts, so that we too would joyful face persecution, suffering, and even death, knowing that Jesus waits for us.

In this book, Pastor Wolfmueller explores Luther’s understanding of faith that pushes through suffering and arrives, with joy, on the threshold of eternal life.

BUY ON AMAZON

Paperback (\$9.99)  
Kindle (\$2.99)

Audio/video book coming soon!



Read Across America

by Kris Carter



MLCA celebrated "Read Across America" with a variety of fun reading activities. Each class enjoyed "Mystery Readers" who were volunteers from their class that came in and read their favorite books to the class. The students also enjoyed dressing up as their favorite book character and sharing a little bit of their favorite book.



The building was a buzz celebrating all the fun and exciting authors that God has blessed us with.



MLCA Hosts Lent Dinner

by Kris Carter



Thank you Messiah Lutheran Church for your continued support of **Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy**

MLCA was able to host one of the two dinners that we were able to have during the Lenten season. For the Lent dinner, the MLCA families hosted a Pasta Meal.

The meal seemed to be a real hit. Families enjoyed fellowship with one another and a great deal of pasta, bread and salad

we're consumed.

MLCA took a free will offering to aid in tuition assistance. We raised \$500.00 with this event.



Notes from the March 26<sup>th</sup> 2020 Church Council Meeting and the Special Meeting on Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>.  
By Bill Brandt

### March 26 Meeting

The council met at 8 pm on March 26<sup>th</sup> via the Zoom App.  
Pastor Chryst opened with a devotion.

### Elder's Report:

The elders have requested a suspension of our in-person worship services due to the possibility of spreading a serious health threat as well as the directives of the County government. They will re-evaluate this to provide Communion as soon as possible. Confirmation is postponed until June. The new organ acquisition briefing is planned at the April Voter's meeting.

### Evangelism Report:

April 18<sup>th</sup> New Member Dinner cancelled. Swaddling Clothes Closed.

### Christian Education Report:

VBS is on schedule for June 8-11. Sunday School is being conducted via Zoom.

### MLCA Board Report:

School Closed until May 4<sup>th</sup>. Home School support in progress. Tremendous effort by all staff to generate work-at-home projects. 47 students re-enrolled.

### Stewardship Report:

Primary focus is budget development. Incorporated plan for Vicar support. Receiving input from Board Chairmen.

### Board of Trustees Report:

Annual Spring Clean-up was cancelled. Normal maintenance projects proceeding.

### Special Announcement:

Chris Aguilar, congregation President, announced that the April 26<sup>th</sup> Voter's Assembly would be held via Zoom.

### April 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting

A special meeting was called by Chris Aguilar to consider the April Voter's Assembly and the best method of proceeding with a budget for this very uncertain time.

Two motions were considered and passed and one information item was coordinated.

The Church Council recommends an interim budget for 1Qtr FY21 plus annual funding for a vicar as previously authorized by the Voter's Assembly. Such budget will extend all church operations and personnel in place on April 5th through 1QTR FY21.  
When the "Stay-at-Home" order is lifted the president will call a special Voter's Assembly to consider and pass an annual budget.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Fiscal Year 21/22 Budget Approval to be accomplished by email vote occurring between April 19th and April 26, 2020, ending at 10:45 AM as well as voice vote during the 10:30 AM Zoom Voter's assembly.  
Email votes to be addressed to [wpbd77@yahoo.com](mailto:wpbd77@yahoo.com).

David Schultz has volunteered to re-stain the flooring in the sanctuary and donate the labor and materials to do so. Pastor Chryst noted that it might be a good idea to replace the carpet in the chancel with hardwood. This will enable easier maintenance and improve acoustics. Dave did a cost estimate following measurement and determined that the materials would cost about \$4,000. He would donate his labor. The schedule would be to begin the Monday after Easter. The council agreed that this should be done. Money will be provided by applicable special funds and donations.

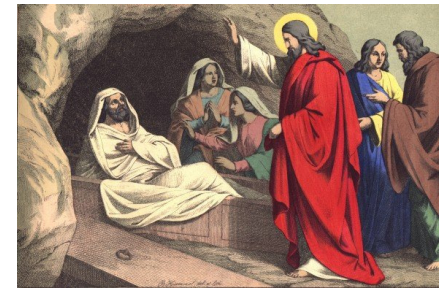
### Dear VBS Leaders and Supporters,

Here is the skeleton for our VBS this year. Will you be the flesh covering the bones?

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

The first big planning meeting and fundraiser breakfast will be after Easter.

Are you able to volunteer? Do you have a friend that you would like to bring with you to volunteer? Can you help in ANY way? Please contact Vera Sweet and let her know your availability so she can begin the planning process for this VERY important mission.



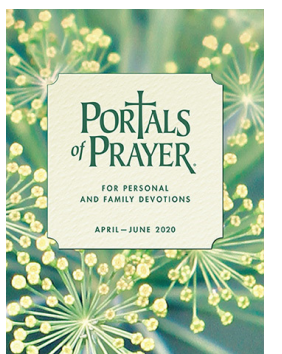
**Vera Sweet**  
**phone: 817/988-3521**  
**or email**  
**[vsweet2000@verizon.net](mailto:vsweet2000@verizon.net)**

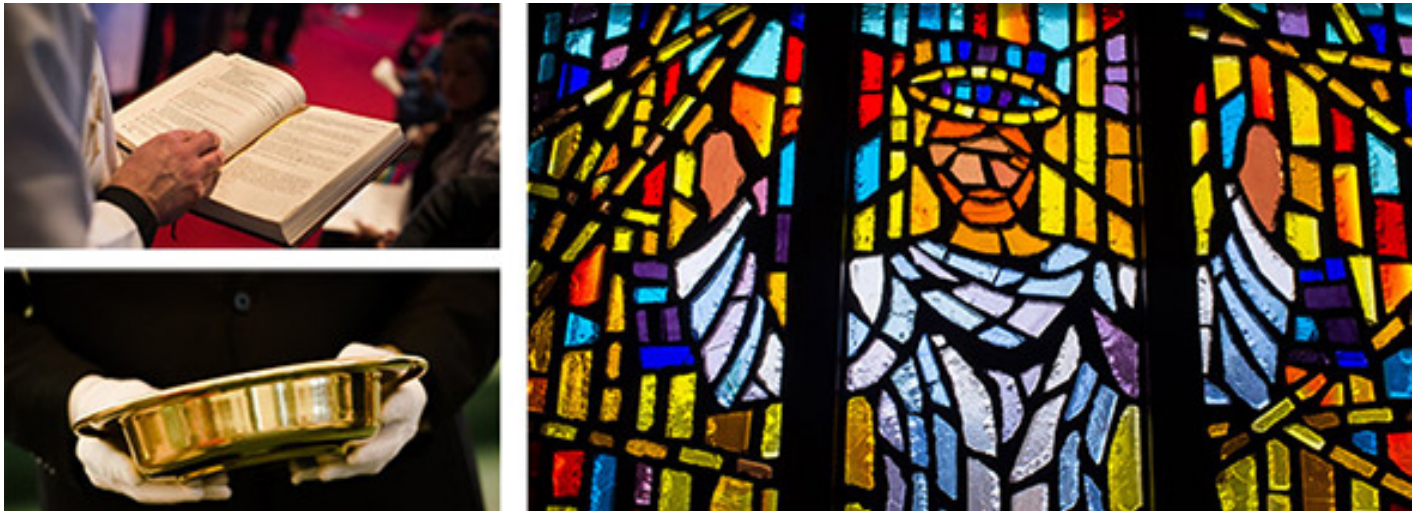


### Portals of Prayer—April 2020 to June 2020

The newest Portals of Prayer is available now in the Narthex. If you are able to come to the church to pick up your own copy, please do so. If you would prefer to have your Portals of Prayer mailed to you, please email Tamarra Liddle at [churchoffice@messiahkeller.org](mailto:churchoffice@messiahkeller.org) and the requested number of copies will be mailed out to you.

~ Thank You!





On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church.

The most common question: “How much should I give?” But what they really mean is this: “Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?” So, let’s look at why you should or should not tithe.

Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians *shouldn’t* give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn’t tithe because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no “Thus saith the Lord” and no “should” for giving a tithe to your congregation.

Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe.

Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

And there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won’t have enough to get the things they use, want, or need.

Following are some reasons for why Christians *should* give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the *Small Catechism’s* Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There, is after all, no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I’d expect that conversation would be something like this: “I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.”

This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It’s not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you’re giving when you’re giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.

**PLEASE REMEMBER: MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEEDS YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT DURING THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD. YOU CAN GIVE ONLINE BY GOING TO THE CHURCH WEBSITE AND USING THE ONLINE GIVING LINK TO MAKE YOUR REGULAR CONTRIBUTION. YOU MAY ALSO DROP OFF YOUR CONTRIBUTION AT THE CHURCH OFFICE [please call first to make sure someone will be there when you are planning to stop in].**

**THANK YOU AND BLESSINGS TO ALL!**

**Board of Stewardship**

Streaming information

All the services will be streaming live via Facebook. Don’t have Facebook? Don’t worry! The stream will also be posted to our website. You can view the service there.

Also, a new “**Virtual Coffee Hour**” will be held weekly via Zoom as long as there is interest and the state mandate to Shelter in Place is active. The day is **Wednesday**, the time will be sent from Pastor in his “A Look Ahead” email. The meeting ID is 725-439-253; password is pastor.

Another “**Coffee Hour**” meeting will be held between the service and Sunday School. That meeting ID 685-993-535; password is pastor. Sunday School will be a continuation of this meeting.

If you are looking for another bible study, **Pastor’s Class** meets **Thursdays from 6:00pm to 8:00pm**. Anyone is welcome to join! The meeting ID is 399-811-879; password is pastor. This class is working through the Small Catechism.