



“The Ascension of our Lord”

by Rev. Thomas Chryst

“God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.” Psalm 47:5

So for this month’s newsletter, I want to talk about something NOT related to the Coronavirus! So this is the last I’ll mention it here! I promise!

May 21st this year is a date in the church calendar that often gets short shrift – Ascension Day. 40 days after Easter, and always therefore falling on a Thursday, it marks the day when Jesus ascended into heaven. We read about it in both Luke and Acts (although John’s Gospel references it obliquely). Here’s the Acts account:



The Ascension

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:6-11 - ESV)

Over the years, interest in this celebration (especially in America) seems to have declined. Though, from what I understand it’s still a national holiday in Germany. We may speculate that because of it falling somewhere mid-week, it gets lost in the shuffle. Also, many churches have therefore taken to a sort of “Ascension Emphasis” on the Sunday in the Easter season that falls closest to the actual day (we call that “transferring”), that is the Sunday right before Pentecost.

In any case, we thought this year we would offer an Ascension Day service at Messiah on the actual Thursday. It’s still my intention to do so, though we will

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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*

have to wait a bit to determine the exact details and logistics (you know, under the circumstances). One practice I’ve enjoyed in the past is a short hymn-sing re-telling the life of Christ, and tracking the Festival half of the Church Year. So we would start with an Advent hymn, then a Christmas hymn, then an Epiphany hymn, perhaps Transfiguration, then Lent, Holy Week, and of course, Easter. This rehearsing of Christ’s life on Earth among us is a nice way to acknowledge the Ascension as a capstone and conclusion of this phase of our Savior’s work.

Christ’s ascension is one more important step in his saving work for us. It is part of his “state of exaltation”, as he now more fully exercises his divine powers. He’s taking back what’s rightfully his, but even in this, he does so for us.

Having “run his course”, he now returns to his rightful place on Heaven’s high throne. There he reigns and rules all things for the benefit of his church. And from there he will one day come to judge the living and the dead. It’s really the second-last-stop on the timeline according the Apostles’ Creed.

What a comfort to know we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ – the propitiation for our sins – who pleads always on our behalf. What a peace knowing that Christ reigns, and will eventually put all enemies as a footstool under his feet. What a joy to know that every knee will bow and every tongue confess Jesus Christ as Lord and God, and that we will even have a share in his reign, when he comes again to judge the living and the dead. So stay tuned – plans will be shared as soon as we can.

Luther on the Lord’s Supper

(submitted by) by Vera Sweet

Luther on the Lord's Supper

June 23, 2020-June 25, 2020

Dr. Naomichi Masaki



Dr. Naomichi Masaki is Professor of Systematic Theology, Director of the PhD in Theological Studies Program, and Director of the Master of Sacred Theology (STM) Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), Indiana. He joined the faculty in the spring of 2001. The areas of his teaching include dogmatics, Lutheran Confessions, Luther studies, and liturgics. While his particular interest remains in the doctrine of the proper distinction between Law and Gospel, the Lord’s Supper, and the Office of the Holy Ministry, his sense of appreciation for the legacy of Dr. Luther and the vitality of the Book of Concord is ever growing.

LUTHER ON THE LORD’S SUPPER

Let the Sacrament remain whole.” Such was the evangelical understanding of Dr. Luther on the Lord’s Supper. This course will attempt to hear Dr. Luther’s clear and pure confession of the Lord’s Supper out of his writings, lectures, sermons, liturgies, and catechisms. We will learn to confess with Dr. Luther the abounding wholeness of the Lord’s Supper as His precious gift and our treasure.

This course is taught by Fort Wayne Seminary Professor Dr. Naomichi Masaki and is open to Pastors, Professional Church Workers and Lay Persons. The cost is \$150.00

Current Course Location

Faith Lutheran Church 1701 E. Park Blvd. Plano, TX 75074

It is possible that this event will be streamed instead of in person. Details will be posted as soon as they are known.

Contact Pastor Chryst or John Sweet if you have questions.

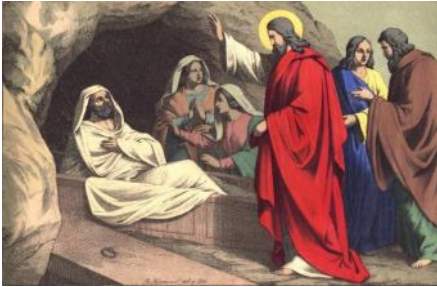
Dear VBS Leaders and Supporters,

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



Youth Summer Trip

Due to COVID-19, the Higher Things conference in Knoxville, TN has been cancelled.

Hopefully the youth will be able to do something together this Summer, but nothing has been decided yet.

If you made a down payment for the Higher Things event, please be patient. We are working with Higher Things to get at least a partial refund. More information to come.



Below is a summary of two meetings: Church Council on April 22nd and the regular quarterly Voter's Assembly from April 26th. Both meetings were completed via Zoom.

For the Church Council meeting all members were present except Paul Lara. Pastor Chryst opened with a devotion.

Pastor's Report:

We successfully navigated the COVID lockdown and still managed to finish Lent, Holy Week and Easter. We've added a new midweek service, a virtual coffee hour, and I've been doing the usual classes (confirmation, Sunday Bible Study, and Pastors Class) via Zoom. Soon some of those will end and I may look to add some other virtual opportunities. Stay tuned. I've also been making Bible Story videos to cover what we would have in chapel for the MLCA students.

We've implemented a new mass Email provider, Constant Contact. It should improve look/feel but most importantly gives us more control and reliability of delivery. So far good feedback especially from people who weren't on the list before and now are. Also allows church staff to collaborate more easily, which is helpful especially during work-from-home. Please call the office if you're not getting regular emails!

Flooring project – Many thanks to Dave Schultz

Elder's Report:

Messiah will not receive a Vicar for the 2020 – 2021 school year. The new organ acquisition briefing is planned at the April Voter's meeting. Elder's will formulate and implement a plan to offer Communion soon.

Evangelism Report:

April 18th New Member Dinner cancelled. Swaddling Clothes Closed.

Christian Education Report:

VBS is on schedule for June 8-11. However, depending on the continuation of the Governor's Emergency Order it may be cancelled. Sunday School is being conducted via Zoom.

MLCA Board Report:

Per Governor Abbotts orders school will not be held on-site the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Teachers are continuing to provide Continuing Education/Home Based Learning packets.

We anticipate minor personnel changes for the 2020-2021 School year, primarily preschool staff. Current Enrollment – 82 students enrolled all grades combined.

Enrollment for next year remains 47 students. Anticipating updates on enrollment over the next few weeks.

The School Board is receiving and reviewing requests for release from Tuition Contracts, primarily from our Pre-School side. These individual cases are being reviewed and handled accordingly.

North Texas Giving Tuesday will be May 5th. This is an additional fundraising opportunity for our School. We are advertising this event via Social Media as well as email notifications to our contacts.

Stewardship Report:

Monitoring offering trends in view of current lockdown. Continuing to monitor impact of current market fluctuations on MLC investment account. No changes recommended

Revised Q1-21 interim budget/spending plan submitted for discussion/consideration. Budget development is hampered by the uncertainty associated with the apparent Covid19 epidemic.

Board of Trustees Report:

ABC Home and Commercial Services rep Mr. Mendez may have found a termite infestation in the cabinetry of the teacher's lounge by the sink as he was applying pesticide on church properties. A future detailed inspection is in the works.

Door floor sweeps have been installed onto the Fellowship Hall's south doors. That should limit bug or possible mice entry. Other doors in need of door sweeps will be addressed also. When cold weather abates, the church grounds will need flowers to brighten up the main entry and the South school entries.

The Floor Store of Keller will install three transition door strips for PK rooms and possibly the copy room. Currently the sanctuary floor is being prepped for refinishing by our own Dave Schultz before we return to worshipping at Messiah in fullness. Sharon Currie has repainted the altar area walls and taped/bedded wall joints that were cracking/unsightly. Bumper pads were also added to the back of the altar seats to prevent rubbing of the walls. In the near future, the roof apex beam bolts that have stains will be cleaned and repainted. Angie Richmond will be notified when that project begins. Other sanctuary walls will be examined for possible repaint of.

Ninja Court construction continues. We will move the Classical Academy's storage building away from the basketball court to do repairs when the ground dries out more.

We solicited bids from Janitorial Service providers. We will meet late May (TBA) to study the offers.

Budget: Due to the unavailability of a Vicar this year no funds will be budgeted for a vicar in the proposed interim budget. The goal is to have an approved plan to meet known obligations so we can execute contracts and have time to assess giving levels through May and possibly June.

April 26th Voter's Assembly via Zoom

27 Voters present. (Quorum met)

January meeting minutes were provided via email all board reports were provided by email. These reports generally matched the Council reports above. Unless noted there were no questions about a board report.

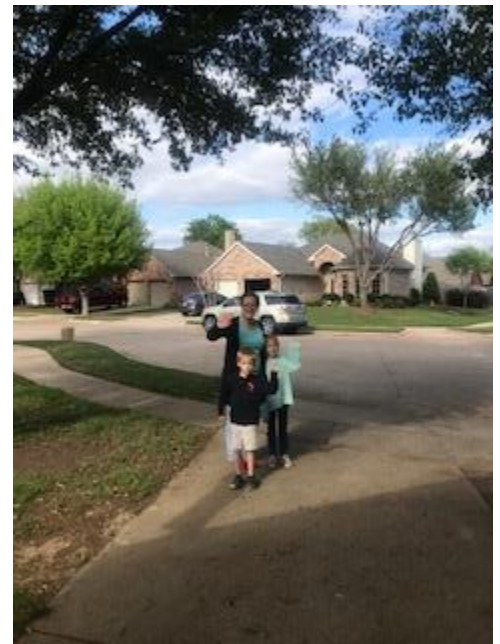
Board Chairman Steve Latham responded to concerns about the commencement of Communion services by noting that the Elders did not take this decision lightly without deep consideration of risk. All are to take measure of their own risk calculation and be prudent. No Elder judgment will occur with respect to any person's judgment about their risk or subsequent decision to abstain from in-person worship.

Old Business: Presentation by Miguel Ruiz to purchase a new organ. Several options were presented. One option preferred by Kantor Ruiz was to purchase the organ that was capable of handling added mechanical pipes. The Organ Fund has sufficient monies to accomplish this purchase. The Voters passed a motion to make the purchase and maintain the option of adding used pipes.

New Business: Approve interim FY21 Budget. The following motion was approved by the voters.

"Resolved that the budget submitted be adopted and, be it further resolved that the President shall convene a Voter's Assembly to consider a complete budget as soon as possible after the pandemic restrictions make a normal gathering possible, but in no case later than the last Sunday in July."

The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.



Thank you to our parents and students for their resilience during this time of distance learning. During this time of “Shelter in place” our teachers have been working very hard to continue the quality of education that our students deserve by getting materials ready to pick up, having classroom Zoom meetings so the students have a chance to see each other, and organizing “drive by” birthday celebrations for some of the students.



The teachers of Messiah love and miss the students very much and look forward to seeing them again in person very soon.



 **heartfelt
Thanks**



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817-431-5486

Do you love your school? Know someone frustrated with their current school for their children? Why not recommend MLCA as the solution?

Did you know you can get a referral credit towards YOUR tuition if you refer a new student to our school?

Contact the school office with questions.

Streaming information

Our first service 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 at any time before the next service.

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.

The **Men's Bible Study** group has also resumed via Zoom. That meeting ID is **878-8469-8888**; password is **pastor**. This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 8am to 9am.



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

Thank you!

(photos by Vera Sweet)

Worship services during the COVID-19 outbreak have been very different from what we are used to. However, the love that Jesus has for us is still very present in the work that is being done here at the church during this time. We look forward to the services resuming soon so you can enjoy the beautiful "new" sanctuary.

Thank you to Dave Schultz for all his hard work these weeks to refinish and replace the flooring in the Sanctuary.



Thank you also to all our acolytes and elders who served in these services and for Miguel and Pastor as they faithfully continued to serve the Lord and present His word to the congregation via the internet.



We look forward to all being back together soon.

The LAMB is our SHEPHERD!

For the Lamb
in the midst of the throne
will be their Shepherd,

and He will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Revelation 7:17