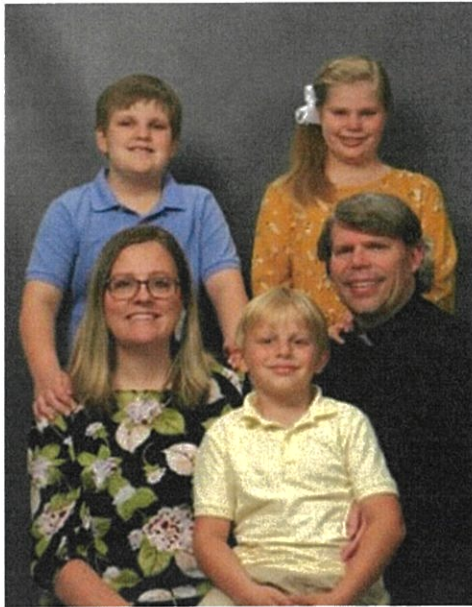


MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH - KELLER, TEXAS  
**Messiah Messenger**



(Please see last month's article, "What's a Vicar?" or important background)

As most of you have seen, Messiah has indeed been assigned a vicar for the 2021-2022 year. Jeremy McDonald of Memphis, TN will be starting here as of July 1<sup>st</sup> (installed on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>). He will be joined by wife Dana, who works from home for United Healthcare, and children Madlyn, Connor and Nathan, who will be attending MLCA in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades, respectively.

Jeremy is a former insurance salesman who later in life has entered into seminary training. But his path is a little unusual. He became ordained as an LCMS pastor through a special program called "SMP", which stands for "Specific Ministry Pastor". To make a very long story short, this is a sort of fast-track to ordination that the LCMS instituted fairly recently in order to serve congregations in special circumstances. Rather than have laymen performing the role of pastor, it was decided to ordain and train men somewhat more quickly than the usual residential seminary track. An SMP pastor has about 1/3 the formal training as a traditionally trained pastor. SMP pastors are also limited in the breadth of their service to the church, and are supposed to serve under the supervision of a "regular" pastor (called a "general ministry pastor"). There are some other limitations and provisions.

I'll let Jeremy tell the whole story to you sometime, but the short version he told me is that after being ordained through SMP he quickly realized he needed more training to serve as a pastor. And so, with the encouragement of some faithful pastors and professors he had gotten to know, he decided to go with the traditional seminary course after all. He enrolled at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and has now completed his first two years of classwork and is heading our way for a traditional 3<sup>rd</sup> year vicarage assignment. But in this unusual wrinkle, he is already ordained and rostered as an LCMS pastor! The seminary vicarage director told me this is the first time he's had a situation like this.

So what does this mean? It means, for Messiah, that we are still getting a vicar, but with some "bonus features"! Normally, a vicar has minimal experience in the field, but Jeremy comes with some measure of experience serving as a guest/pulpit supply pastor already. Also, normally, a vicar, who is not ordained, is not

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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*

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



permitted to consecrate the Lord's Supper. However, in this case, the church has already ordained and recognized him to do so – and he may do so here.

Likewise, I would not normally send a vicar to visit someone at home and bring them the Lord's Supper, but in this case it would be permissible. Normally a vicar preaches (up to half the time), and Pastor McDonald will certainly be coming to us with a measure of experience in this realm as well, ready to hit the ground running.

But on the other hand, **Pastor McDonald** (as we will address him), is still coming here as a student. He will serve under my supervision and will act as my assistant. The term "vicar" means "stand-in", and so he will serve under the authority of the pastoral office in this place, and with my blessing in what I assign him to do. So this is a very different thing from an Associate or even Assistant Pastor role. He will be evaluated periodically by myself and certain members of the congregation. He will be given certain tasks and projects that are meant to expose him to different aspects of life in the congregation. He is at all times a student. And like a "normal" vicar, we will treat him with the same kindness, patience, and forbearance we would an un-ordained man in the position. He will make "rookie mistakes", and we will give him room to do so. He will grow in his skills. This is part of the program, and we will bear with one another in Christian love. If you have any questions about the vicarage program, or the particulars of it here at Messiah, please let me know and we can discuss it!

Please join us for Pastor McDonald's **installation on July 4<sup>th</sup>** (both services). Be on the lookout for further details about the welcome we are planning for him and his family. We are excited for the year ahead, and the chance to serve the church at large in helping with the formation of a pastor. We thank the Lord for the blessings Pastor McDonald will surely also bring into our midst.



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### ***Bible Study Groups***

*Board of Education*

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**Men's Breakfast Bible Study** ~ Resumes this Fall.

**JOY group** ~Tuesday at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall - will break for summer with last class on May 25th.

**Confirmation 1:** Sundays at 9:30am, continues on Sundays on the second floor of MCLA.





### Messiah Lutheran Church – Stewards Under The Cross May 2021

St. Paul teaches us: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:13–14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them. And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites? Moses records this: “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always” (Deut. 14:22–23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?” If it does, ask yourself: Is the church’s job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites’ job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).



**Retirement and Estate Planning Workshop turned out to be a successful and packed event.**

The Board of Stewardship sponsored a Retirement and Estate Planning Workshop on Saturday, April 24. We had almost 40 people in attendance and the presentations were well-received by everyone. Many thanks to Michelle Simpson, Luke and Bridget Palmer, and Brian Bisdorf for putting together and presenting extremely informative and interesting presentations. Plans are in the works for a follow up presentation to cover in more detail Social Security, Medicare, and end-of-life planning. Stay tuned



## Life Team—Tool Kits Now Available!

Lutherans For Life



Life Team is a Gospel-motivated group of church members that communicates and shares the abundant love of Christ, in life issues within the church, and outward into the community. Members are equipped through specialized training to be a relational conduit of expertise and practical resources pertaining to the multifaceted aspects of life ministry.

These teams are designed to help the pastor with what otherwise might be an overwhelming task. Life Teams are unified, trusted teams that the pastor can utilize to provide life-issue expertise, consistent initiatives, and access to dedicated resources. A Life Team will also help the pastor engage and inform the congregation from the pulpit, through Sunday school, and through youth and adult education about the importance of protecting the sanctity of human life at all stages. To find out more about starting a Life Team, contact Dr. Barbara Geistfeld, Regional Director of Texas, at [bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org) or 830.388.8640.



## ***Church Council Corner ~***

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### **From the Pastor:**

- \* Lots of people seem to be returning to church after a long time away – many because they are now vaccinated.
- \* Holy Week and Easter services were well attended
- \* Preparing for the assignment of a vicar.
- \* Ascension Day is coming up.

### **From the Boards:**

**Education** – VBS and Summer Sunday School planning underway.

**Elders** – Vicar has been assigned. Continuing to make plans for return to “normal”. Some families that have moved but haven’t responded to our letter with their new church to be removed at Voters’ Meeting.

**Evangelism** – Working on Swaddling Clothes, Braille, Support for Seminarian, and Issues, Etc.

**MLCA** – Mrs. Smith has been appointed as Principal. Enrollment running ahead of this time last year. Spring Auction April 29<sup>th</sup> was a success.

**Stewardship** – Held a successful Estate and Retirement Planning Workshop. More like this will be offered in the future. Planned the 2021-22 FY Budget for Council/Voters.

**Trustees** – Removal of dead bushes, possible foundation repair, flat room repairs, plans for shifting offices around to prepare for arrival of vicar.

### **Other Items of Business:**

- \* Taking a second look at policy for reimbursement of sales taxes.
- \* Preparation of 2021-2022 Budget

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## ***Messiah News and Upcoming Events ~***

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**Crosses and Airplane Hangers:** Mike and Bob Lemmon are making 30,000 crosses for a pro-life event on Wednesdays from 10 AM - 2 PM. If you want to join the fun or have more questions, ask someone in the picture or send an email to [vsweet328@gmail.com](mailto:vsweet328@gmail.com).

**School Closing Program:** May 26th

**MLCA Chess Camp:** June 14th-18th from 1pm-4pm. For more details go to [MLCATexas.org](http://MLCATexas.org).

**District Convention:** June 10th - 12th. Pastor Chryst and Bill Stone are delegates for the Texas District.

**Installation of Pastor Jeremy McDonald:** July 4

**Vacation Bible School:** July 12-15, 9am—noon. For more information Vera Sweet at [vsweet328@gmail.com](mailto:vsweet328@gmail.com).



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## MLCA Raised Over \$10,000!!!

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Many came out to support MLCA at our recent "Night at the Academy". We were able to exceed our goal of \$10,000 for our Spring fundraising push. Thank you so much for everyone that joined us for the program and donated to the fundraiser either by an online donation or a winning silent auction bid.



It was so nice to see everyone together again! Special thanks to London Bonty (8<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Evelyn Lambert (5<sup>th</sup> Grade). London assisted with the program's choreography and Evelyn accompanied on the piano!

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## MLCA Announcements ~

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**1st and 2nd Grade Piano Recital & Art Show:** Thursday, May 13th at 9am.

**Science Presentations:** 5th and 6th grades—May 17th at 9am.

**Fine Arts Program (Piano, Strings & Art):** 3rd-8th grade, Tuesday May 18th at 6:30pm

**Nasa Field Trip:** 4th—6th grades are planning to go to Nasa, May 20th—21st.

**Fort Worth Zoo Field Trip:** May 21st—leaving school at 9am and expected to return back around 2:30pm.

**School Closing Program:** Kinder—8th Grades at 6:30pm. Dress—Uniforms.

**Last Day of School:** May 27th—Field day, Kona Ice Truck and noon dismissal!! (No PM extended care).

**MLCA Chess Camp:** June 14th-18th for more details go to the [MCLATexas.org](http://MCLATexas.org).



# Youth Group Activities and more!

Deaconess Buhler

Stay connected by putting the following upcoming youth events on your personal calendar:

**English Country Dance Lessons: May 14<sup>th</sup>** –Come learn to dance from 5-10pm, bring \$5 for entrance fee. First timers are Free! Bring a friend, you both get in Free! Next lesson: June 11<sup>th</sup>

**Braille: Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>** from 12:15-3pm. Bring \$5 for lunch!

**Game Day: May 22<sup>nd</sup>** from 5-10pm. Bring a game, bring a friend, and bring \$5 for dinner! Stay tuned...We will begin with either Volleyball or Archery in the Barn. (April Pie-face Winner: Morgan Chryst)

**Potluck Picnic w/ Volleyball: June 4<sup>th</sup>** from 4pm-9pm at MLC. Come help organize this years Garage Sale items while we have a little fun. Families are invited to unpack, organize, and label items in the Barn. When we are finished, we will play some volleyball and enjoy a picnic-style, potluck dinner. Who wants to do some grilling!??

**Garage Sale: June 5<sup>th</sup>** from 7am-3pm (set up 5:45-7am)

**Pool Party: TBD**

**Christ Academy: June 20<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>** (Going: James & Matthew)

**Higher Things Conference: July 27-30<sup>th</sup>**



## Messiah Youth Room Needs

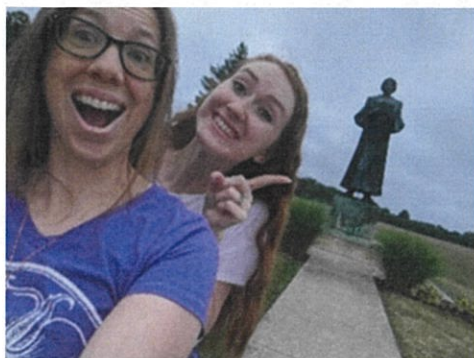
Deaconess Buhler & Chad



Our youth rooms down in the MAC are being renovated. Do you have items lying around the house collection dust *bunnies*? Would you like to donate something to help spruce up our youth rooms? The following items are examples of what we could use: ping-pong table, ping-pong balls & paddles, games, projection screen, Bocce, Badminton, video game console or Wii, cornhole, Tiki Toss ring and hook, frisbees, frisbee golf discs, cards, or— shelving, curtains, soda, water, snacks, paper goods etc.

## Christ Academy ~ June 20—July 3, 2021

Deaconess Buhler



Would you like to join **James Buhler** and **Matthew Palmer** for two-full-weeks of fun at Christ Academy? May is the last month to register for this event. Christ Academy High School consists of three important elements: confessional catechesis, liturgical worship, and fun activities. Whether you are interested in a Career for Christ or are just interested in theology and having a great summer with like-minded Christians, Christ Academy is the event for you! Contact Deaconess Buhler at 972-342-7697 for registration details.



Students/young adults from Texas met students from Oklahoma at the OU LCMS-U Campus ministry at Trinity in Norman, Oklahoma. The conference theme was "Teaching and Expressing the Faith" and it showed us how hymns enrich the Life of the Christian.

We also heard the brief history of Trinity's 1909 Hinners - Opus 1024 tracker organ (the oldest in Oklahoma) and enjoyed an organ recital. The speaker of the conference and recital organist was Professor Dr. Craig Sprout from University of Oklahoma. He is also the Director of Music at St. John's Lutheran Church in Moore, Oklahoma.



**SAVE THE DATE**

### UPCOMING EVENTS!!!

**Saturday, May 15, 6:30 PM:** Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet at Bear Creek Park in Keller. This is a Free Event with Food Trucks.

**Friday-Sunday, June 3 - 6:** Retreat "God's Great Treasures" in St. John, Galveston. For more details contact Vera Sweet at [vsweet328@gmail.com](mailto:vsweet328@gmail.com)

*WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!*



AGES 18-30

*God's Great Treasures*

YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

JUNE 4-6, 2021

REGISTRATION AT 5 PM

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
GALVESTON, TX