

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH - KELLER, TEXAS
Messiah Messenger



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

Rev. Jeremy McDonald, Vicar

www.messiahkeller.org

F.A.Q.s

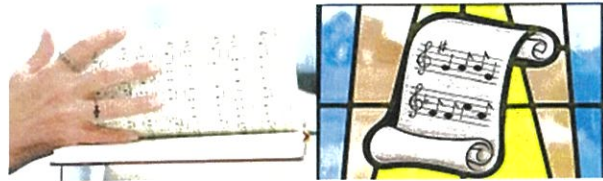
Rev. Thomas Chryst

This month I'm starting a new series of articles called "FAQs", that is, "Frequently Asked Questions", based on a series that was published on our synod's website, LCMS.org. Some of these "Q & A's" are borrowed, some are updated, and some I have written myself over the years along the same format.

My hope is to address some of the common questions about doctrine and practice that come to pastors. As is often said, if someone asks a question, chances are good someone else is wondering the same thing. And even if you aren't, perhaps these "Q & A's" will give you a new perspective.

If you'd like to submit an FAQ topic, simply drop me a line with your question and I'll put it toward the front of the line!

-Pastor Chryst



Q. Why do we chant?

A. Though there is great freedom when it comes to whether and when to chant, there are many good reasons for pastors and laypeople to chant parts of the Divine Service and the prayer offices of the church. You may also notice that our hymnal, Lutheran Service Book, encourages the use of chanting.

It has been said that "song is the language of heaven." There are hundreds of references to music, song and singing in Scripture, and it's clear that the worship of heaven is conducted in song. (Rev. 5:9) The command "sing unto the Lord" and similar injunctions, are found hundreds of times in the Bible. Yes, song is the language of heaven, and therefore the language of the church. And when we enter God's House for the purpose of receiving Divine Service we are, liturgically speaking, leaving earth and entering heaven. What could be more appropriate?

Another little saying is that, "One who sings, prays twice". In this way, chanting is an elevated form of speech. It is not something we are used to hearing elsewhere in our daily lives, but is a form of speaking that is reserved for sacred occasions and purposes: our Divine services and prayers in the presence of God.

The trademarks of Christian worship are goodness, beauty, truth, dignity and reverence. Chanting is beautiful, reverent and dignified.

Chanting is not only a sacrifice of praise to God, but it also aids us in concentrating on the words which we speak. Especially when listening, chanting texts and hymns allows us to focus more clearly and intently on the text.

Chanting in worship is for both pastor and layperson, adult and child, man and woman. Through chanting in the liturgy God speaks His Word to us.

Continued.....

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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*

Such sacred melody never leaves us. When the troubles of life make us so distressed that we don't even have the wherewithal to form a prayer, then the songs of faith never leave us nor forsake us. This is why St. Paul advises in Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

Q. Isn't chanting something that Roman Catholics do?

A. Chanting may happen to be done in many Roman Catholic churches, as well as others who hold to a traditional liturgy. But Rome doesn't "own" the practice. Chanting is an ancient Jewish and Christian art. By so doing, we are not so much "acting Roman Catholic" as we are uniting with the church universal and the church eternal.

It has long been a Lutheran practice to chant things such as the introit, gradual, prayers and even the scripture readings. It is a uniquely Lutheran practice for the pastor to chant the Words of Institution - words which, before the Reformation, were never heard by the congregation, only mumbled silently by the priest (in Latin, no less!) The Reformation gave the Word and Sacrament back to the people of God, and so we gladly chant or sing the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei, and our responses as a congregation frequently, just as the earliest Christians once did.

From place to place and in different times, the practice of chanting in Lutheran churches has come and gone. Often it has been due to pastoral preference or musical inclination. Sometimes it has been the influence of other Protestant churches, seeking to avoid all that is associated with Roman Catholicism.

Your pastors and the Board of Elders carefully consider the use of chanting in our Divine Services. While we don't chant the entire service, or chant every time the hymnal affords the option, we will continue making use of this ancient and beautiful (*and very Lutheran!*) tradition to enhance our worship here at Messiah – to the glory of God and for the benefit of His people in Christ.

Q. What does it mean when we pray in our communion liturgy, "...Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name..."?

A. In the Lord's Supper we can certainly say that we are with the Lord, or perhaps better, to say that the Lord is with us as he comes to us in his body and blood. And as we come into his presence in which he feeds us, we certainly lift up our voices in praise and thanksgiving for his mercy and grace.

Now think of it from the perspective of the saints in heaven. They are also with the Lord. In the Revelation to St. John we read, "They are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple" (Rev. 7:15) Standing in the presence of the Lord, their song of praise, like that of the angels, never ceases.

The common denominator in all of this is Jesus. He is the one Lord, both of the faithful in this world and of those who already enjoy the life of the world to come. When we speak of "laud and magnifying" God together with the whole company of heaven, it is probably best to say that our worship here on earth is being joined to that heavenly, ongoing worship which has no end. In this sense, we are joined with those who have preceded us in glory.

It isn't helpful to take this analogy too far lest we get bogged down in details that the Scriptures don't reveal. Yet, the reality is that in the Lord's Supper our Lord accomplishes a miracle as he brings all of his faithful followers into communion with himself and, hence, with one another.

Bible Study Groups

Board of Education

Men's Breakfast Bible Study ~ Resumes this Fall.

JOY group ~ Resumes this Fall.

Confirmation 1: Resumes this Fall.



Messiah Lutheran Church – Stewards Under The Cross July 2021

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1).

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties – the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what we believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness – a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents to provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God's servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

A Letter From the Brewer Family



Dear Messiah Family,

Barbara and I wanted to thank everyone for all the love and support since Jacob was struck by lightning almost a year ago. There were many times we were struggling, and the congregation shined a light into our lives with prayers, food, kind letters, donations, or just lending an ear to listen. When Jacob and Ashley weren't there to be confirmed, the church made sure they didn't feel left out and helped us plan for them to be confirmed later. When we wondered how we could come home from Chicago in ten days to a house that wasn't ready, our church family helped make it happen. When we wondered how to fund another week of treatment or special medical equipment, more donations came. When we were exhausted from everything we need to do in a day, someone would show up with a beautiful meal.

As I write this, Jacob is finishing 80 sessions of hyperbaric chamber treatment combined with physical therapy that he has been working hard at for the better part of six months. Jacob is still paralyzed from the waist down, but he has come a long way. Some complicated medical issues have resolved. Recently, he started being able to contract the muscle above his right knee voluntarily - it's a slight movement, but something. We were also very encouraged to learn in a recent evaluation at a rehab center in Florida that at least some motor signal is reaching below his hips (back in October, there was zero signal)!

So, this brings us to the next chapter in our journey. The facility in Florida is the only place in the country with a relatively new piece of high-tech equipment that we are hopeful can help Jacob continue in his recovery. The nerve signal they found was enough to qualify for the program. It's a vigorous therapy - five times a week for three months -, and we hope that it will help to continue strengthening those signals enough to activate muscles.

Please keep us in prayer as we travel to Jacksonville, Florida. Barbara and Ashley will head out July 1 with our van, and Jacob and I will follow by plane a couple of days later to start therapy on July 5.

During all of this, our family Bible verse has been Isaiah 40:31: But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

Thank You again, brothers and sisters, in Christ!



Upcoming Events:

- Vicar Installation: **July 4th**.
- Voters' Assembly: **July 25th**.
- Pastor Vacation: **July 12th – July 23rd**.
- Messiah Lutheran Annual Report will be published on **July 25th**.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

From the Pastor:

Updating Confirmation 3.
Adult Sunday School is studying "How we got the bible."
We had a successful Chess Camp!

From the Treasurer:

Church is on budget and planning for the year-end close.

From the Board:

Education:

VBS and Summer Sunday School planning is underway.

Elders:

Music Director Office almost complete. Thanks Trustees!
Vicar Office in progress. Thanks Trustees!
Completed Annual Report input

Evangelism:

Swaddling Close is operational.
New Member Dinner is being planned with September as the likely target month.
QR Codes are being added to the bulletin and the website for Visitors.

MLCA:

Mrs. Pinkston was selected as our new Pre-School Director.
Fall enrollment is 51 in K-7 and 12 in the Pre-School. We expect additional 15 without new prospects.
Pre-School marketing is commencing and the Sport Court renovation is in progress.

Stewardship: Current Investment Portfolio value is at \$211,567.85

Trustees: Trustees are engaged on the continuing maintenance of our facilities.

Messiah Upcoming Events ~

Chess Club: Every Thursday evening from 6pm—9pm through August 12th.

Youth Group Potluck: July 9th from 4pm—9pm

Youth Group Garage Sale: July 10th from 7am-3pm (set up 5:45-7am)

Potluck Welcome Party for Pastor Jeremy McDonald: July 11th

Vacation Bible School: July 12-15, 9am—noon.

School Back in Session: August 18th

Messiahs Chess Camp 2021

Chess Camp was a hit this summer!
Pastor Chryst and Marty Hobson helped teach the
students how to play, compete and win at Chess!



Thanks to all of the volunteers and helpers who
made this week such a success!!



Youth Group Activities and more!

Deaconess Buhler

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

Pool Party: July 8th from 12pm-3pm. Mia and Ethan Salgado's family will be hosting a Pool party this Thursday, July 8th from 12pm—5pm. We are going to play pool volleyball, 4-court grass volleyball, corn hole and trampoline. Food and drinks will be provided and please bring a towel. Come join in the fun! For more information, contact Erin McComack at emccomack@gmail.com.

English Country Dance Lessons: July 9th —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: August 13th

Potluck Picnic w/ Volleyball: July 9th 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: July 10th from 7am-3pm (set up 5:45-7am) Come on out and support our youth to help raise funds for our summer trips to Christ Academy and Higher Things. These trips cost \$500 for each youth to attend these events, so your donations and help are greatly appreciated. Items are still being collected and can be placed in the big shed.

Braille Ministry: Sunday, July 18th right after the 2nd service. All youth are invited to serve in this ministry from noon until 2pm. Bring \$5 for pizza and come join in the fun! For more information email Ken Blume at kenblumemail@gmail.com.

Higher Things Conference: July 27-30th

Welcome Messiah's New Vicar—Pastor Jeremy McDonald

Pastor Chryst



Pastor McDonald was previously ordained through a special LCMS program called "SMP". In order to enter full-time ministry, he chose to enroll at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN and pursue a Master of Divinity. To that end, his third year of studies is a type of internship called "vicarage". Most vicars are not already ordained as pastors, and so use the title "vicar". However in this unusual situation, we welcome Pastor McDonald both as a pastor and a vicar.

A vicar serves at a congregation under the supervision of the pastor for one year, and then returns to seminary to complete a final year of class work. After than he is assigned by the seminary to his own parish. This is Pastor McDonald's intention as well.

We pray that Messiah will be a blessing to Pastor McDonald as he learns and grows this year, and that he would be a blessing to us as he serves among us.

His Installation was on July 4th.

In early June, Pastor Chryst and several Messiah Members participated in "God's Great Treasures", a young adults/college age retreat hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church, Galveston, TX. Participants represented a number of LCMS congregations, most from Texas.



Messiah Members from our Prayer List

Vera Sweet

We want to let our members from our prayer list know that we love you, pray for you and think of you often!

