



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH - KELLER, TEXAS

Messiah Messenger

Can the Gospel Survive in This Crazy World?

by Pastor Glenn Huebel

Almost every day it gets worse. The civilized world we once knew, or thought we knew, appears to be collapsing around us. Order is disintegrating. A few decades ago, the family structure was falling apart and many were crying out against rising disorder in the classrooms as inner-city schools were becoming drug havens and danger-zones for children and adult teachers. Violence and fear became a way of life, not only in unstable countries of the world, but in many neighborhoods and cities of the USA. The tyranny of atheistic communism was expanding into poor countries of the Western Hemisphere. Refugees were seeking sanctuary in stable nations of the Western world, especially in America. The government of our country was not exactly running smoothly (never has been), but bipartisan compromise for the welfare of all was possible. Today, that actually seems like "the good old days." The very foundations are shaking as all of our western presuppositions are being challenged. The Judeo-Christian ethic is no longer accepted as a given, and the philosophical vacuum created by its demise is terrifying. Professors in our universities are openly Marxist and anti-constitutional. Baby parts are being bought and sold as if they were being commercially farmed. Sexual perversion has progressed so far that the basic distinction between boy and girl is denied. Political correctness has reached a point of absolute absurdity, and yet it is being enforced through unjust and silly laws.

Children born and raised in the USA are running off to fight for ISIS or to marry ISIS soldiers. The rights of free speech and religious freedom are being openly and vehemently challenged. And terrorism is becoming a way of life even in America.

Can the Christian Church survive the collapse of Western civilization? A more basic question is whether the Gospel can survive in our present chaotic mess of a world. The general answer to that question is a confident and assertive YES! Jesus assures us in the Word that He builds the Church on a rock and that not even the gates of hell can prevail against it. He tells us that heaven and earth will pass away, but His Word will never pass away. The Bible reminds us that this world "wears out like a garment and all its inhabitants die like flies" (Isaiah 51:6), and history shows us that kingdoms rise and fall. And they ALL looked permanent and stable in their heyday. Yet the Gospel has remained through it all. It survived the great flood that destroyed every living thing except Noah, his family, and the creatures gathered on the Ark. It survived the Tower of Babel and the dispersion of nations. It survived the inability and impossibility of an old man and old woman to bear a son. It survived slavery in Egypt, unbelief in the wilderness, repeated idolatry in Canaan, the rise of Baal and the fertility idols, and the rise of heathen empires like Assyria and Babylon, Greece, and Rome.

Let us abandon the silly notion that the Gospel is fragile or that the Prince of Peace is a wimp. St. Paul tells us that "in the fullness of time God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law" (Gal 4:4). He reminds us here that God was controlling the times and seasons to reach this critical moment of incarnation. Indeed, Daniel clearly revealed in his day that God is the judge (Daniel means "God is Judge"). Daniel foretold the rise of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome, and indicated that all these empires were



(Continued on page 2)

Inside this Issue:

Latin for Lutherans	3
Sleep Mat-ters	5
News From China	6
Music Notes	7
Christmas Worship Schedule	8
Youth News	9
Marriage 102	10

*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*

Heaven, cont.

little more than warm-up bands for the real thing, the Kingdom of God ruled by the Son of David (Dan 2:33). And so He came, just as God had promised through the ages. He did not come with an army of powerful angels or clothed in fine raiment. He wasn't born in a king's palace. He came into this nasty, cold, evil world as an ordinary human being with no special privileges. He was born in a stable, persecuted by King Herod, given refuge in a foreign land, and raised in poverty and obscurity. He not only suffered the same sorrows and afflictions of every human being, but He took our infirmities and carried our sorrows. He knew that the Father sent Him to redeem those suffering under the wages of sin. He knew that He was the one and only Lamb of God, and that the Lord

would lay upon Him the sin of the world. He knew that when He journeyed to Jerusalem during the third year of His public ministry. He knew exactly what awaited Him there, the trial, the scourge, the crucifixion. He drank the cup of God's wrath against our sin so that we could be delivered, redeemed, reconciled to God. He defeated death by being swallowed up by death, and then swallowing death by His resurrection on the third day. He made peace through the blood of His cross, and then He sent forth His disciples to proclaim this Gospel to the nations, with the promise that He, with all power in heaven and earth, would be with them always.

The Church as a social institution often becomes comfortable and complacent in this

world, and thus fragile in the chaos of change and decay, but the Gospel is never weak, and can never be silenced. It is and ever will be the most rugged and powerful force in this dying world. It will survive until the end, and it will conquer all. The question is not whether the Gospel (and thus, the Church) will survive, but whether we will still have faith in it when He returns (Luke 18:8).

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

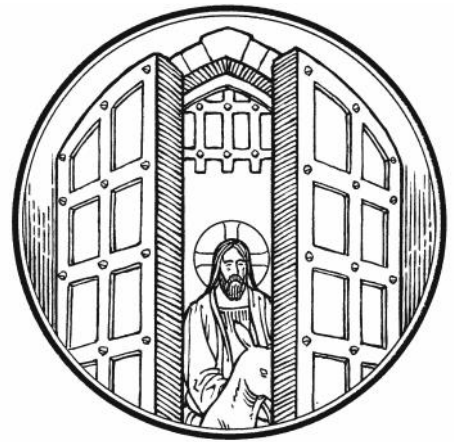
Have a blessed and joyful
Christmas!



Christ Our Prophet



Christ Our Priest



Christ Our King

Advent Midweek Services December 2, 9, and 16 at 7:00 p.m.

The services are flowed preceded by a supper sponsored by our Youth Group at 6:00 p.m.
Free-will donations will go toward the youth summer retreat.

A Brief Latin Glossary for the Lutheran Armchair Theologian

— by Pastor Tom Chryst

Lex semper accusat
Lex orandi, lex credendi
Simul justus et peccator
Ex nihilo
Sola scriptura
Sola gratia
Sola fide
Fides qua, fides quae
Ex opere operato
Quia and quatenus
Oratio, meditatio, tentatio
Soli deo gloria

“Sola scriptura”



“Scripture Alone” is the first of the three great “Solas” of the Reformation. Along with Faith alone and Grace alone (and sometimes also, “Christ Alone” and “Glory to God Alone”), these short phrases summarized some of the main theological emphases of Lutherans from the beginning. So the Reformers taught and believed, and so do we today.

Sola Scriptura is a principle that governs all our doctrine and life. Only Scripture has the final say in all these matters. As a source of authority, nothing over-rules or over-turns Holy Scripture, for it is the very written Word of God.

Now if you've been a Lutheran long enough, this may strike you as a no-brainer. “Of course we believe in the Bible as God's Word! Of course that means it's the final authority!” But not everyone sees it that way, nor have they. Perhaps Sola Scriptura is understood best in contrast with some of its main competing claims or approaches:

Vs. Rome

Roman Catholic theology, of course, gave the impetus for the corrections of the Reformation. Rome certainly denies Sola Scriptura. But what did they, and do they teach instead? For Rome, final authority rests not in the plain words of Scripture but in Scripture **and** Church Tradition. But this leads to no small degree of confusion. Perhaps the key element of Roman Catholic tradition is the office of the Papacy. And in some sense, it seems the pope is supposed to hold final authority. But even then it's not clear amongst their theologians whether and when a pope has ever used his ultimate power to speak with “infallibility”. Similarly, the traditions of the Church Councils over the years have often taught conflicting doctrines, as Luther often pointed out. Well did Jesus warn the church about teaching the doctrines of man and letting go the doctrines of God (Mark 7:8).

Vs. Rationalism

Just what is the place of human reason when it comes to Scripture? Along came Rationalism, a school of thought prevalent in the 17th and 18th centuries, which included thinkers such as Descartes, Spinoza and Kant. Rationalism emphasized human reason as the ultimate good, and the final judge of truth. The influence of Rationalism in the Christian Church led many to place human reason as an authority above Scripture itself. We call this the “magisterial use of reason”, to indicate that here reason “judges” Scripture. But faithful Lutheran theologians instead taught the “ministerial use of reason”, that sees human reason as a mere servant to the Scriptures. God gave us our brains, and wants us to use them, but not to over-rule his Word when it doesn't make sense or seems unbelievable. If Scripture and Reason seem to conflict, we hold, then Reason must give way.

Vs. Pietism

The cold, systematic rationalism of some gave way to an over-reaction called “Pietism” in the church. Late in the 17th century and onward, theologians such as Spener taught sought a corrective. For them, it wasn't the head, but the heart that matters most, and in some cases can even trump Scripture. One's own experiences and emotions now become the final authority, even over the clear word of God.

To some extent, the influences of both Rationalism and Pietism are with us in the church, even the Lutheran Church to this day. Sola Scriptura, however, is one healthy antidote to these wrong-headed approaches to doctrinal truth. Scripture never changes (1 Peter 1:25), is always clear, and provides its own interpretation. It is also sufficient – it holds all we need to be trained for righteousness and godly living.

Vs. Modern Critics

A new form of Rationalism came along with Biblical Criticism (Higher Criticism), which again seeks to dismiss difficulties from the Bible based on human reasoning, now even seeking to deconstruct and pick apart the text itself. In one outrageous example, liberal biblical scholars from the “Jesus Seminar” famously voted on which passages of the Gospels Jesus actually said or didn't say.

Likewise, Postmodernism presents its own challenges to scriptural authority, questioning even the very concept of truth itself! “What's true for you may not be true for me.” And therefore the truth of the Bible just might not apply to all people. If Jesus' death on the cross “works for you”, then that's fine, but don't bother me with your biblical truth. I'll discover my own truth for myself.

It shouldn't surprise us to see the

(Continued on page 4)

A Brief Latin Glossary, cont.

many and various ways God's Word has been attacked and twisted, for Satan has been at it since the Garden when he asked, "Did God really say...?" (Genesis 2). All the more reason we should stand firm on Sola Scriptura, Scripture alone, as our only reliable and trustworthy beacon in the world's darkness.

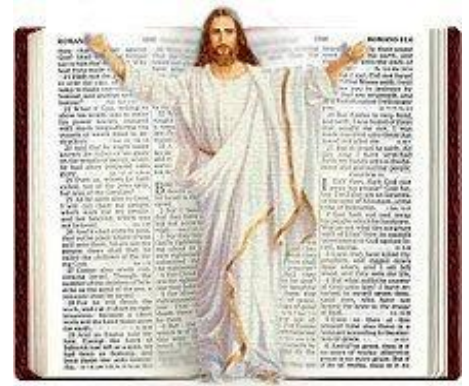
With Other "Norms"

Now, we don't mean to say that there aren't other authorities to which we subscribe. Some statements, or summaries of scriptural truth also have their place in the Church. The Lutheran Confessions rightly explain what the Holy Scriptures teach, and because they do, we also subscribe to them. Likewise, the 3 Ecumenical Creeds rightly and succinctly set forth Scriptural Doctrine. They are helpful, then, to also norm and guide our faith and practice. But we always remember that Scripture is the final authority. And if any other document, creed or confession is found to be in disharmony with Scripture, we cannot abide it. Therefore Scripture Alone is our ultimate source and norm, our final

authority, but its truths can also be rightly expressed in other supporting expressions of our faith.

Where Scripture is Silent

And finally, Sola Scriptura might remind us that when Scripture speaks, we must speak. But when Scripture is silent, we must remain silent! There are many mysteries which are not explained in Holy Writ. Adding to God's word is a dangerous business (Rev. 22:18). God has put us on a need-to-know basis. And he has given us all that we need for salvation in these inspired pages. But we should always caution ourselves about the dangers of speculations and extrapolations, which go far beyond God's revealed Word. There is much that has not yet been revealed (1 Corinthians 13:12). We are like children, who can only trust God our Father to know and do what is best and right. We don't bring in our own words, ideas, thoughts, feelings, or teachings, but simply thank God for the blessings he has given us therein.



Sola Scriptura and Christ

Sola Scriptura, then, also keeps our eye on the ball. For Jesus clearly tells us who the Scriptures are all about. "These are they that testify to me" (John 5:39). And so we read of the Savior who was long promised and long expected, who was born and lived and died on a cross, who rose from the dead and established and expanded his church by the Gospel. Scripture Alone means Christ Alone, for us, the only Savior from sin and death. And we treasure these words, the very Word of God, the written words which bring us abundant life in Jesus, who is the Living Word of God (John 1).



**Sunday of
Carols and Lessons
December 13, 2015
8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.**

Sleep Mat—ters by Ray Main

Having just celebrated Thanksgiving and looking forward to beginning our Advent journey, it's appropriate to pause a moment and reflect on our many blessings. God has indeed richly blessed us as a country, as a congregation and in many ways as individuals and families. Vicki and I experienced a real dose of reality today as we visited the Presbyterian Night Shelter in Fort Worth to deliver ten plastic bag sleep mats which Vicki has been working on since April of this year. This was indeed a humbling experience, and one that filled both Vicki and I with many different emotions. First off, it was absolutely eye-opening to observe the large number of homeless people right here in our own community, people that don't have much more than the clothes on their back, let alone a place to call home. I was initially struck with the fact that most of the individuals we came in contact with this morning were very upbeat and quite appreciative of our contribution and our concern for their welfare. The sleep mats we delivered were the result of hours and hours of labor on behalf of Vicki as well as the faithful donations of thousands of plastic shopping bags by many folks here at Messiah.

The process is quite simple: plastic shopping bags are collected; sorted and flattened out; cut into 1 ½ inch strips; looped together to make a large roll of "plarn" (plastic yarn); then single stitch crocheted into a 3'x6' mat which can be used as a sleep mat or a blanket for warmth. Each mat requires approximately 750 bags to complete. The finished product is incredibly beautiful and provides warmth and a measure of cushion from an otherwise hard sleeping surface, the ground or concrete.

We were **welcomed** at the Presbyterian Night Shelter by Harriet Willis, Volunteer Coordinator, Suzy Curley, longtime volunteer, and Shawmeeka Nolan, Veterans Programs Manager. Shawmeeka also oversees



the Patriot House, which is a shelter for those disadvantaged and needy veterans who so faithfully served our country. I can't even begin to describe our feelings. The level of excitement and enthusiasm exhibited by everyone we came in contact with at the shelter was truly amazing. Simple pleasures, a mat to sleep on!! WOW!! It really does make one stop and think. Yes, we have so much to be thankful for, up to and including the "basic" necessities, like a safe, warm place to sleep every night. In fact, the folks at Presbyterian Night Shelter and the Patriot House were so moved, they requested Vicki (and her driver J) to return in January and conduct a session for some of the residents to see if they could become productive and actually involved in this process. Depending on interest, this may become a regular program at the shelter. How special this could be to encourage their productivity.

All this being said, Vicki does not want to discourage any further participation in this project by the members of Messiah. Rather, she would like to encourage participation by conducting similar training sessions for y'all so that folks could be given the opportunity to become more directly involved in this worthwhile project. Saving and flattening bags, cutting strips, looping strips together (plarn), single stitch crochet.... simple stuff J. Your involvement with any or all of these stages would be greatly appreciated. I guarantee that if you could have witnessed the true joy in the faces of the folks at

the shelter and heard the reaction of all, you would be moved to serve. **"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."** (Matthew 25:40 NIV)

This idea originally came to us via a THRIVENT FINANCIAL publication, 101 ways to spark action in your community.

Blessings, Ray Main (aka, driver and project supporter J)

"BLESSED ARE THE MECIFUL"



Everything is going well. The winter months can get quite cold for all of us here given that there are no heaters in apartments, homes, shops, malls, etc apart from spot heaters. People walk around all bundled up and it is most common for everyone to wear 3 layers of clothes and often four. Down coats are worn in addition to the clothes. Inside, the 3 to 4 layers are worn, but the coats are used when they go out. I get by with 2 layers of clothes and jackets of various kinds inside for the most part, but I, too, often walk around in my apartment with my down coat on when it gets down to 40 degrees. It doesn't sound cold compared to much of the US, but really, when there is no heat, it is very cold. Plus, it is a very damp, wet cold.

My students are doing well and ever progressing, though quite slowly for the dyslexic kids. It is difficult for them because they are not only dyslexic, but they are learning English, too. The program I use is all about words... reading words and word phrases, creating sentences, and spelling words upon words... learning rules to help do these things effectively, etc. I focus on learning the vocabulary, but it is especially hard to make the many new words "memorable" given that so many are not accompanied with or used in short stories. Creating vocabulary picture cards is not even very helpful because there are simply too many for the kids to learn. The program is not designed for learning English vocabulary. It is assumed that most of the words are already known as most the children in the US who are taught to read and spell using this program are already first language English speakers. So they are already familiar with the vocabulary. One lesson can have as many as 200 new words! That is an incredible number of new words and really quite impossible given that dyslexic kids also have issues with short term memory and sequencing letters or numbers. So, I focus on as many new words as possible, but the

main aim is not to learn the vocab, but to be able to apply the lessons/rules learned in reading and spelling words that the children do know. The children are quite good at reading and spelling vocabulary in each lesson even though they don't know the meanings because they have mastered the concepts, rules, etc. So, it is helping them to read and spell, but at their own pace regarding vocabulary. As they learn more vocab at school and in life as the days and years go by, they will be able to continually apply what they are learning through this reading and spelling system to those new words.

Actually, kids who are dyslexic are highly discouraged from learning a foreign language. The parents of these kids have been told this. However, they want their children to learn English because Mandarin has no system or program in place that can be used to help dyslexic Chinese kids/adults learn to read and write Mandarin. The children were in public schools before and were humiliated and tormented by teachers and classmates alike. They were ridiculed and punished because they could not learn to read or write Mandarin... and this was already in K, Grade 1, and/or Grade 2. The children joined my former school, BCIS, for the simple reason that they wanted a place where they felt safe and valued even if they have a horrific time learning to read and write in English. At least English has a system/program they can use to learn to read and write... even if it takes longer than for first language English speakers. With learning English, they have hope of finishing high school and even attending university in an English speaking country. The children all have average or well above average IQs so they do have great potential as long as they can stick with the program for as long as it takes. It's a huge commitment on everyone's part... the children, the parents, as well as me.

There are only five of my students who are dyslexic. There are twelve other kids I tutor, but I meet with nine of them only once per week.

Between the dyslexic kids and the three other with whom I meet on a regular basis, my teaching hours are from 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Saturdays, I teach from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., with two hours free from noon—2:00 p.m.. Those are my actual contact hours with kids, but like any teacher, I also do lesson planning and pay careful attention to checking their work every day.

Some days I meet with the children's moms about the children, both in terms of their progress as well as their behavior. Four of the five dyslexic students are ADHD, and require a lot of attention to behavior and attitude. The fourth dyslexic student is mildly ADD and her IQ is 129. She is much easier to teach, so to speak. That being said, I truly love all of my students and give each one my best every day. The kids know that, as do their parents. I strongly believe that these children have a bright future and I don't believe that my hope for them (or theirs) is in vain.

God has me placed here for a reason and has placed this call to serve these special kids for a reason, too. A great bonus to teaching these kids is that I also get to have meetings with the parents (especially moms) not only about their kids, but also about Jesus, God's Word, and Christianity as a whole. The parents are open to me sharing with the children, too, and they are more and more excited about Jesus. Moms are now reading the Bible, attending worship, and talking with their kids about Jesus. Not regularly yet, except for one family, but I believe God is at work in them moving them to seek more of Him.

(Continued on page 7)

One of the moms was a Christian already for four years before she knew me... she is a very strong Christian. A few weeks ago, her 10 year old son (my student), her 22 year old son, and her husband were baptized in their Chinese government church. This mom also helps in speaking the truths of the Bible with the other moms. The moms share each other's burdens regarding their children. The group of five moms is especially close-knit, and I am very blessed to be a part of it and used by God in their lives, too.

The 10 year old (one of my dyslexic ADHD students) gave a fabulous little testimony when I asked him why he wanted to be baptized. He spoke of his sins and sited several of them bashfully, but

spoke then of how Jesus turns his black color to white, throws his sins into the deepest part of the sea, makes His home in his heart, is God's only Son, let others kill him on a cross so that all people can have their sins thrown into the sea and become white like snow, and go to heaven to live with Jesus when his body dies someday. Of the four ADHD kids I have, this boy brings me great joy. He loves to laugh and works hard. I can call his attention back to the task at hand and immediately, he gets back to business. And when I do call his attention back to doing the task at hand, he laughs and says the cutest things. He is always saying something cute and laughable. Every day when he comes to class, he almost always greets my

questions about how he is doing and how his day went at school or at home in the morning with the words "Great, Miss Nelson! Everything is great! And you know what?" And then he proceeds to tell me something he is happy about that happened either at school or at home... or something that is going to happen at either place. The boy is seriously always filled with joy... and has so much hope in spite of the fact that he struggles so hard to master the reading and spelling program we use. It is easy to tell when kids have a happy home life and when they have parents who spend quality time with them... and when kids come from homes that are Christian.

Continued blessings in Jesus!

Congratulations, Miss Newton!



We congratulate Miss Brittany Newton on her recent recognition by the LCMS Texas District as one of the top three Lutheran educators in the state of Texas in 2015. Her daily dedication to the MLCA scholars, her service to our church and the Keller community are a blessing to us all.

Music Notes by Kantor Vicki Main

What a delightful time of year as we anxiously anticipate the birth of the Babe in Bethlehem. And what an incredible amount of music is available for this season as well. We are so blessed to have such an abundance of musical talent within our own congregation - and a willingness to share it. I especially urge you to take advantage of the music that will be presented on **Christmas Eve** starting one half hour before the five and seven o'clock services. Plan to come early and spend that time listening, reflecting and preparing your heart to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Our annual **Sunday of Carols and Lessons** will be **Dec. 13th** at both services. It will be a glorious offering of music between special readings and meditations as we prepare for Jesus' coming. This is a musical gift to you from the Music Ministry of Messiah.

Blessings to you and yours as we worship together this Christmas season!



JOY TO THE WORLD

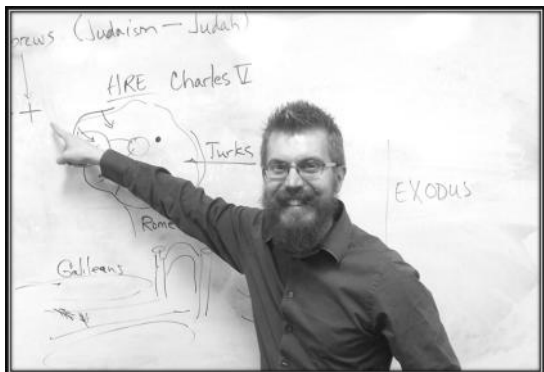
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:
5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Special pre-service music begins 30 min. prior to each service.

Christmas Worship with Holy Communion
11:30 p.m.

Christmas Day with Holy Communion
10:00 a.m.

Messiah Young Adults



Young Adult Bible
Study: Exodus

"By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night." (Exodus 13:21)

Pastor Cholak taught Exodus to the Young Adult Bible study group this last month. We learned how God protects us through the wilderness and leads us to salvation with the true Light, Jesus Christ.

"Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name; they called the Lord and he answered them. He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them." (Psalm 99:6-7)

Join the Young Adults in the MAC building on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. For questions about events, including Braille workshops and social outings, please contact Daniel Sweet at 817-454-7057.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted for project activities undertaken by the **Messiah Tech Committee**, technical knowledge desired but not necessary, just 2 hands and a smile. Please submit your name to Pete Hibbs

Help wanted for book covering and shelf-readers in the **library**. Work when you can. The book covering can be done in your home, at your convenience. Contact Marcia Huebel, email: marcia.huebel@messiahkeller.org

Help wanted for **Swaddling Clothes** workers on the second Saturday of each month. Sign up on the volunteer sheets posted in the narthex, for as many or as few Saturdays as you want.

Fundraising events for our 2016 youth trip to Higher Things Colorado by Pamela Buhler



Spaghetti Dinner & Trivia

We had an amazing turnout for our first annual Spaghetti Dinner Trivia Night. We had 6 teams compete for first place. It was a very close game through all 10 rounds of Trivia. Only 5 points separated 1st and 6th place! Our 2015 winning team consisted of Pastor & Mrs. Chryst, Mr. Sweet, and Mr. and Mrs. Fields. Second place team was only 1 point behind with Mr. & Mrs. Mildred, Mrs. Geffre & son, Ron, Miss Schultz, and Miss Newton.

Thank you all for your support and cash donations toward our Higher Things 2016 retreat. A big thanks to Messiah members who paid for our pastors and their wives to attend and for those who were thoughtful to donate even though they could not make the event!



UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

- Dec 2: 11th & 12th graders serve Advent Dinner: **Mexican**
- Dec 10: 9th-10th graders serve Dinner: **Soup and Sandwiches**
- Dec 13: Boys Only Event: **Laser Tag** @1:30pm
- Dec 13: Youth 9th-12th grade **Christmas Party** @6pm
- Dec 16: 8th-9th graders serve Advent Dinner: **Italian**
- Dec 18: Youth and Family **Dance** 7-10pm

Youth Bake—In

Our youth worked hard from 7am-7pm baking over 40 items to sell to our congregation. Thank you for helping us raise over \$400.



O Come, Let Us Adore Him

Thursday, December 17, 6:30 p.m.
Presented by the Students of
Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy



Marriage Retreat 102



Messiah Lutheran held its second annual marriage retreat at the Lemmon Farm in rural Oklahoma on the weekend of November 6-8. Most of the participants were also present in the 2014 retreat in November of last year. What do we do at a marriage retreat? We pray, read Scripture together, talk about serious things, talk about funny things, eat, walk in the woods, fish, eat, take off on four-wheelers, eat, cook, play card games (Pit mostly), shoot guns, laugh, worship together, eat at Braum's in Paris on the way back, and get to know one another pretty well. Good friendships between married couples begin and grow in this environment. We would love to have others join with us.

We plan to offer another marriage retreat in the Spring of 2016, reserving the Lemmon Farm for two weekends in April so that more couples can attend. We hope to have one or two veteran retreat couples at each event. Please consider joining us in this relaxing, fun, and edifying environment away from work and kids. You'll be glad that you did.

Kids dig this pig



Parents, Kids, and Money Matters

Tuesday, December 8
6:00– 7:00 p.m.

- Helps teach your 5—10 year olds about money management
- Learn about sharing, saving, and spending
- **RSVP by December 7**, with Wynona Phillips at 817-914-4528 or [wynona.phillips @thrivent.com](mailto:wynona.phillips@thrivent.com).



Parents, Teens, and Money Matters

Tuesday, December 15
6:00– 7:00 p.m.

- Helps teach your 11—16 year olds about money management
- Learn about stewardship and how to make intentional choices with money
- **RSVP by December 14**, with Wynona Phillips at 817-914-4528 or [wynona.phillips @thrivent.com](mailto:wynona.phillips@thrivent.com).



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. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Thomas Chryst, Associate Pastor

Rev. Steven Cholak, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Erika Mildred, MLCA Headmaster

www.messiahkeller.org

Give Thanks by Erika Mildred

MLCA spent November giving thanks to God for the many gifts He bestows on all of us. Our preschool thanked parents, grandparents, and special guests with a special morning for them, complete with hot apple cider, classroom crafts, and most importantly hugs and lots of love from our little Lions. Kindergarten, 5th, and 6th grade scholars participated together in the annual tradition of the Pumpkin Feast, complete with the carving of a paper turkey filled with popcorn and pumpkin treats galore! Other classes had class thanksgiving parties, and the entire school thanked God together in chapel for all our blessings.

Earlier in the month, we thanked God for a wonderful fall fundraiser: our annual Walk-a-thon. This year, we raised an all-time high of \$18,673.56 thanks to supportive parents, grandparents, family, friends, and Messiah church members! As a result of reaching our lofty \$18,000 goal,

the MLCA scholars were VERY thankful to get to watch their headmaster being showered with ice-cold water at the conclusion of our Walk-a-thon. (And I assure you...it was ICE-COLD; it took me all weekend to warm back up.)

I am truly thankful for our wonderful teachers and staff who serve our MLCA scholars and their families each day. I am also thankful for so many volunteers on our school board and in our church who do so much for our school. I also am so thankful for our MLCA families: the parents, grandparents, and children who attend MLCA. Finally, I am thankful for all of you: the members of Messiah Lutheran Church, who see our wonderful school as a beautiful outpouring of love to future generations. We are very thankful for all the support, prayers, and love from our Messiah church family. We wish your families blessings and joy as you celebrate Thanksgiving together.

