



A New Era of Pastoral Ministry

— by Pastor Glenn Huebel

Our congregation has now entered a new era of ministry with the filling of our Associate Pastor vacancy. Pastor Chryst and his family have moved in to their new home and his service of installation will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 17, at 4:00 p.m. We have prayed and planned for this important transition for several years and now we must implement as patiently, carefully and prayerfully as we planned it. The Elders and Call Committee have set forth a preliminary division of duties for the two full time pastors of the congregation. Pastor Chryst and I have already spent several hours in discussion of this topic. We have also included Pastor Cholak in some of this discussion, since he will continue to serve as our part-time Assistant Pastor. The Elders, Call Committee, and pastors realize that none of these detailed plans for division of duties are set in concrete. We know that the realities of ministry require flexibility and all three of the pastors are prepared to adjust to those realities to suit ministry needs. The division does not mean that I will never lead a topic at a youth retreat or that Pastor Chryst will never bring communion to a shut-in. We anticipate a certain amount of overlap in activities. We will remain in close counsel with the Board of Elders as adjustments are made. We certainly anticipate that the main ministry goals will not change.

The division of duties is generally as follows: Pastor Chryst will be primarily focused upon the ministries of caring for young families and I will remain focused upon the ministries that have kept me occupied for the past two years, such as calling on shut-ins, counseling, administrative duties, etc. We will share the preaching and liturgy duties equally and divide the hospital visits and other activities as they occur, probably in relation to our preaching schedules. Normally, only two pastors will serve on Sundays. Pastor Cholak will be preaching every 5th Sunday of the month (once per quarter), and will also serve as liturgist during vacations and other

circumstances where one of the full time pastors is absent. Pastor Cholak will also continue to teach the Youth Sunday School class and aid Pastor Chryst with such ministries as our Youth Ministry and VBS, as well as fulfilling his duties as School Chaplain. As the School Chaplain, Pastor Cholak will continue to plan the school chapel program and to lead three chapel services per week. Pastor Chryst and I will each serve as chapel leader one day per week. I will remain the only pastoral member of the School Board and assume responsibility for that ministry in its relationship to the church. Pastor Chryst will assume full pastoral responsibility for the Boards of Education and Stewardship. Pastor Chryst and I will attend the Elders Meetings, and Pastor Cholak is welcome to attend them if he desires and is able to do so. All three of your pastors remain fully aware that pastoral responsibilities are not limited by job descriptions and that in certain circumstances we all might be serving in areas which do not fit these general parameters.

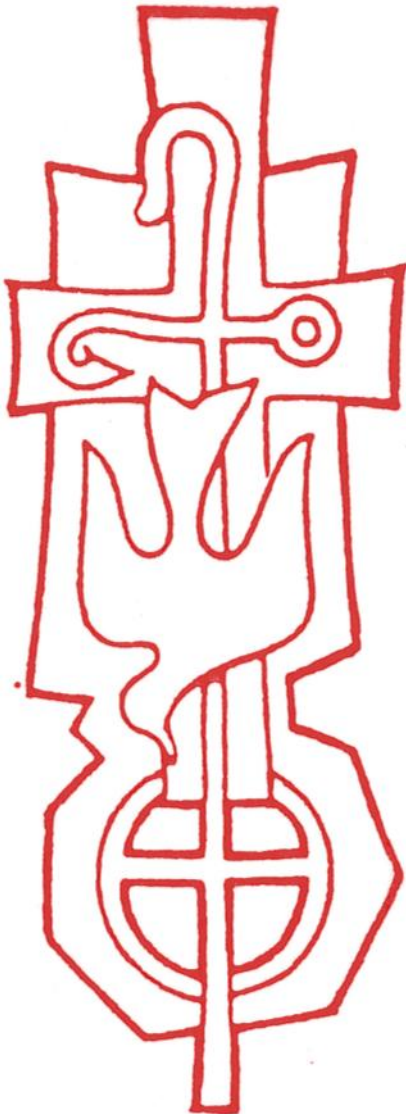
The members of the church must also make adjustments as we continue in ministry with two full time pastors and one part time assistant pastor. Any called and ordained servant of the Word has the authority to administer the full range of pastoral care. The call of additional pastors means that pastoral care is distributed, not multiplied. Generally the distribution of care is decided by the principles outlined above, not by personal preference. It is not a game of “choose your favorite pastor” to serve you in individual circumstances. Nor is it now a matter of expecting all the pastors to be involved in every case of pastoral care. A member in the hospital should not expect a visit from every pastor. A member in the nursing home should not expect communion visits from every pastor every month, or an equal distribution of visits from all the pastors. Every pastoral act is equal in validity and importance, no matter what

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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



human instrument God uses in each particular case. On the other side of the coin, members are not obligated to invite participation of every pastor in every circumstance of pastoral need. We don't need to have three or even two pastors participating at every wedding or every funeral or every baptism. While there may be circumstances where a family may genuinely desire and request more than one pastor to participate, we three pastors want every member to know that our feelings will not be hurt if we are not invited to participate in every occasion. The default expectation is that only one pastor will serve in these kinds of events. Exceptions, of course, always occur. We pastors believe that things will settle into a natural course over time, but the transition period may be a little unsettling for some. The pastors may be referring members to another pastor on specific requests or questions. We will try to observe reasonable distinctions where possible until the culture of the congregation adjusts to the new circumstances of ministry.

Finally, on the matter of adjusting to transition, let me note that we do not plan to announce preaching schedules. It is not appropriate or healthy for members of a congregation

to decide if and when they will come to church on Sunday mornings on the basis of who is preaching. The third commandment calls us to hold preaching and God's Word sacred, not the preacher. Jesus commands us to CONTINUE in His Word (John 8:31), and the writer of Hebrews warns us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25). Preaching styles will naturally differ because God's servants of the Word have different gifts and personalities, but all your pastors have pledged to uphold the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as defined by our confessions, and we will all preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified. On that, there is not a hairs-breadth difference between us. The doctrine of the call leads us to acknowledge that GOD wants these men to be His instruments in this place for these people. That means that God intends to speak to you through all three, whether for instruction, rebuke, correction, or training in righteousness. What God intends to say to you at any specific time and circumstance may not come through your "favorite" preacher. God just works that way. He that has ears to hear, let him hear.

Blessings,
Pastor Huebel

**Installation of
Pastor Thomas Chryst
Sunday, May 17, 4:00 p.m.**

**Dinner to Follow
RSVP to the church office.**



Our 2015 Confirmands:

**Hannah Blaschke
Amanda Buhler
Max Hedman
McCade Kirk
Zane Parker
Aidan Richmond
Ethan Schultz**

Messiah Action Teams by Pamela Buhler

Thrivent would like to take this opportunity to share some incredible volunteer stories and thank the servants of Messiah who volunteered or participated on a Thrivent Action Team over the past 4 months.

- Angel Tree Thrivent Action Team (service event)
- Christmas by Candlelight Thrivent Action Team (\$1300)
- Braille Center Thrivent Action Team (\$1000)
- Baby Bottle PH4U and Paint Swaddling Clothe Room Thrivent Action Team (\$2700 & service event)
- Project New Orleans Thrivent Action Team (painted 6 rooms, laid one floor, washed house)
- Christ/Phoebe Academy Lent Dinner Thrivent Action Team (\$350)
- Seminary Support: Brent Keller Lent Dinner Thrivent Action Team (\$460)
- Swaddling Clothes Lent Dinner Thrivent Action Team (\$360)

A big THANK YOU to Helen Vacha for leading three of our dinner teams this Lenten season and all the people who have joined a team to help others. By applying for Thrivent

Action Teams over the past 4 months, Thrivent has donated \$2000 to help Messiah members live generously. Each adult household member can apply to lead 2 action teams per calendar year.

How does it work?

It starts with an idea powered by your passion. Bring a team together to make an immediate impact on a cause you care about. We'll help get you started. It's easy!

Think about an unmet need in your community and how you could help. Apply to lead your volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 90 days.

Bring together a volunteer team of friends, family and people in your community to have a bigger impact. It's not a gift or a grant. It's seed money (\$250), and it's an investment to help get your project started or gain awareness for your cause, rather than directly giving the money to (granting) or purchasing items for (gifting) your cause.

How can you make a difference?

Come up with your own activity or ask how you can help. We have plenty of suggestions:

Lead a group to:

- build a Swaddling Clothes Drop Box, or be willing to purchase the materials for your action team.
- embroider burp clothes to hand out at our Swaddling Clothes Ministry
- help the elderly fix up their yard, house, or fence, check smoke detectors, change batteries and light bulbs
- take youth to fix up Camp Loan Star, Christ's Haven,
- teach youth about money management (Dave Ramsey course for high schoolers)
- serve at Christ's Haven, Habitat for Humanity, Thrivent Build, Haven's Horses, Feed My Starving Children
- host a dinner, dance, cook off, bowl-a-thon, 5k, talent show, blood drive
- teach children about CRP, self-defense, cooking, couponing, internet safety

What's your passion?.... You can make a difference!





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

***This year's last
Dining For Dollars:
Tuesday, May 19,
at the Roanoke
Twisted Root,
5 p.m. to close***

MLCA Update by Erika Mildred, Headmaster

Wonderful Year!

Our theme for this year was "Rejoice in the Lord," and we have been doing just that this year. The scholars have been working hard and loving their teachers and the learning process. We have only a few weeks left in the school year and are rejoicing in the many gifts God has bestowed upon MLCA this year.

Now Enrolling!

We are now enrolling for the 2015-2016 academic year! Classes are already beginning to fill, and space is limited to the first 18 scholars per class. This year, our program includes 2-year-olds through 10th grade.

Upcoming Events

You are cordially invited to attend our end-of-the-year events. We hope you will attend!

- Friday, May 15, 6:30 p.m. Night at the Academy (formerly known as History Faire)
- Thursday, May 21, 11 a.m. Preschool Closing Program
- Sunday, May 31, 1 p.m. 1st Annual MLCA Golf Outing
- Thursday, May 28, 9 a.m. 1st – 2nd Grade Piano Recital
- Friday, May 29, 7 p.m. Spring Instrumental Concert (3rd – 9th grades)
- Thursday, June 4, 7 p.m. Closing Program

God's blessings to all of you in 2015! Thank you for all you do for YOUR Lutheran day school through prayers and support. MLCA truly is a mission about which we can all be excited here at Messiah!

Rejoicing in the Lord,

Erika Mildred
Headmaster



Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy

A ministry of Messiah Lutheran Church (LC-MS)

1308 Whitley Road - Keller, Texas 76248

**NOW ENROLLING
TWO YEARS OLD - TENTH GRADE**

Classical Education ... Christian Worldview

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