



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

# Our Debt Was Paid

 by Pastor Glenn Huebel

In these perilous economic times, most of us are very concerned about our growing national debt. The astronomical figure staggers the imagination. No doubt one of the reasons why some are complacent about it is because the number, trillion, is extremely difficult to comprehend. An H and R Block commercial shows a man putting \$500 on every seat of a large stadium. This is an effective way to show what a billion is, especially when it is noted that this money would have to be placed on every seat of every professional football stadium in America. Now multiply that by 1000 to get one trillion. Hard to conceive isn't it? And THAT is only 1/17 of our national debt!

The debt is over \$50,000 per citizen in the USA (babies included). How will this enormous debt ever be paid back? Can you imagine a person wealthy enough and generous enough to pay our national debt off? Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to start over with a clean slate?

Our national debt will not be erased in our life-times, and perhaps never, but we have a far more significant debt to be concerned about – the debt of sin. As difficult as it is to think about the consequences of a national financial collapse and the horrendous pain it would bring, the consequences of sin's debt are infinitely greater. Sin brings God's wrath, which has both

temporal and eternal consequences. We have seen enough of God's temporal wrath in Scripture to know that we do not want to test His eternal wrath. The Great Flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah are held before our eyes as a taste of what is to come on the last day when the full debt

payment of the world comes due. The terror that seizes the hearts of even the arrogant on that day defies description. What kind of fright causes one to beg for mountains and hills to cover him from the face of God? (Luke 23:30). It is truly a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God, from Whom no one can deliver us.

The really frightening thing about the debt of sin is that it cannot be ignored forever. It MUST be paid and it will be paid. "God has fixed a day in which He will judge the world by the man He has chosen" (Acts 17:31). Paul writes, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Cor 5:10). Jesus shows us the terror of the day when accounts are due through a parable in which a man owed his king more than 10 million dollars and had nothing to pay. The king commanded that he and wife and family be sold, together with everything he owned. Such a fierce judgment brought the man to his knees trembling for mercy. The king heard his prayer, took pity on him, and CANCELLED all his debt (Matt 18:23-27).

*(Continued on page 2)*



Lucas Cranach the Elder, 1503

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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*

This is a wonderful picture of the law and gospel at work in our lives. Like this man in the parable, we owe God a debt that we cannot possibly pay. Our sins have separated us from God and the law requires payment. “The wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23). Can you imagine having to stand before the throne of the holy, all knowing, all seeing God to give answer for your life? Not even your best works would pass the holiness test, for all our “good works” are as filthy rags **b e f o r e** G o d (Is 64:6). Can you imagine the Holy One peering into the deep and dark recesses of the heart and mind which Jeremiah calls “desperately wicked”? We confess with the Psalmist, “If you Lord should mark iniquity, who can stand?” (Ps 130:3). But He **MUST** mark it! The debt **MUST** be paid, for the Law requires

it. Does this judgment not lead you to cry out like the man in the parable, “Lord, have mercy!”? That is called repentance. And the good news is, “a humble and contrite heart (God) will not despise” (Ps 51:17).

God has **CANCELLED** our debt in the Gospel. But how? Must not the Law be fulfilled? Must not the debt be paid? How can God cancel our debt without sacrificing justice? He can do this because our debt **WAS PAID**. It was paid in full by Jesus who fulfilled the law by His perfectly obedient life in our place. It was paid in full by Jesus, who, though He was rich, became poor for us that through His poverty we might become rich. No single person has enough money to pay our national debt, but the Son God was rich enough to pay the debt of sin, not only for our nation but for the

whole world. The Law always accuses us and continually reminds us of the debt we owe, but the cross of Jesus reminds us that we have been redeemed, paid for, not with gold or silver, but with the precious blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God. The resurrection of Jesus is our receipt from God. Our debt **HAS** been paid. “It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns?” (Rom 8:33-34)

As we journey penitently through another Lent and reflect upon the price paid for our redemption, let us also remember that it all ends with a victorious cry from the cross, “It is finished!” Jesus paid our debt in full. How will you now live?

Blessings,  
Pastor Huebel

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## Schedule for Holy Week, April 13—20

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### **Palm Sunday, April 13**

8:00 am: Early service begins outside with processional  
10:45 am: Late service has special children’s processional

### **Maundy Thursday, April 17**

7:30 pm: Maundy Thursday Communion Service

### **Good Friday April 18**

7:30 pm: Good Friday Tenebrae (Darkness) No communion

### **Holy Saturday, April 19**

8:00 am—7:00 pm: Prayer Vigil  
7:30 pm: Service of Confession

### **Easter Sunday, April 20**

7:00 am: Easter Sunrise Communion  
8:00 am: Easter Breakfast  
9:30 am: Sunday School  
10:45 am: Festival Worship Communion

Stewardship is the use of one's gifts from God in a manner appropriate with His giving. For several years our church has struggled financially. As many have noted, we simply cannot achieve our organizational financial objectives as a church without better financial performance by our school. How can our school do better financially? The answer is simple, more students. How can we get more students? Enhance the quality of the experience, and make the experience more affordable. The enhancement is taking place. We've completed initial accreditation, started an athletic program and begun a technology plan. The next step is the arrival of Mrs. Erika Mildred in June to assume duties as Headmaster. She brings a clear vision of what a Classical Lutheran school should be and a determination that all three stages of the Trivium be included.

This is a crucial success opportunity. In order to grow, we need to make the opportunity at Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy more affordable. To facilitate each of these objectives the Voter's authorized the establishment of a funding effort to:

1. Fund the portion of the Headmaster salary that exceeded current budget realities, and
2. Expand the Tuition Assistance program to get more students in our school.

### **Why do this?**

Because this opportunity exists now to generate full classrooms under the dynamic leadership of Mrs. Mildred. Because our schoolchildren and families will become part of the light. Because if we don't, the whole financial viability of the church is at risk the next time there is a significant economic downturn. We simply can't live on the financial knife-edge we've been teetering on the past six years.

### **How will the Headmaster Support and Tuition Assistance Fund work?**

This fund will consist of pledges from members or others connected with Messiah Lutheran Church or MLCA to make a monthly contribution for two years. These contributions will be over and above the tithe that is already contributed to support the Lord's work here at Messiah. **Please don't consider**

**making a commitment if there is any question of it impacting your tithe.** There will be a bulletin insert every week beginning the month to communicate your commitment.

### **What are the fund goals?**

The goals are to raise \$50,000 every year for the two fiscal years, 2015 and 2016.

### **How will the fund be managed?**

The fund will be managed by the Treasurer and the School Board. The School Board will allocate all or a portion of the fund for tuition assistance. If the tuition assistance generates enough revenue to remove the requirement to supplement the Headmaster's salary expense then it will all be devoted to tuition assistance. If not, a portion will be retained sufficient to cover the salary above the budgeted amount. The portion allocated for tuition assistance will then be apportioned according to the tuition assistance committee's recommendation.

Please prayerfully consider this crucial program. If you have questions please call me, 817-891-3708.

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## **Member News: Gary and Cyndy Tonniges**

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Greater Tarrant Chamber Press Release: TriQuest Technologies, Inc., an IT service provider in Dallas - Fort Worth receives the 2013 Greater Tarrant Business Ethics Award. This prestigious award recognizes TriQuest Technologies' adherence to ethical business practices across all of the information technology services the company provides to mid-size and small businesses in both the private and public sectors.

"We truly appreciate receiving this award from the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, because ethical business is so important to us," explained TriQuest Technologies CEO Gary Tonniges, Jr. "Every member of the TriQuest team supports our ethical company culture, which is based on a set of shared values that are at the core of everything we do. These values require our employees to have a love of learning while being trustworthy,

conscientious, persistent, honest, positive, humble, diligent, accountable for them. We don't use subcontractors or third parties, so our clients can feel confident that they always receive consistent, honest, and fully transparent work from every TriQuest team member they come in contact with. I can't imagine doing business any other way."

Congratulations, Gary and Cyndy!



**Messiah Lutheran Church & School**

*The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Early Childhood Center: (817) 431-6139

Classical Academy (K-8): (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

Mrs. Ellen Malzahn, Principal, Academy

Mrs. Vicki Main, Kantor

Mrs. Shirleen Simek, Financial Director

[www.messiahkeller.org](http://www.messiahkeller.org)

## Save the Date: Saturday, April 12!

We are bringing back an old tradition at Messiah—the annual, church-wide, spring cleaning.

This property, enjoyed by us all, is also the responsibility of us all. We have a janitorial service, but their job is to keep it all neat on a daily basis—not deep cleaned. Our Trustees, all of whom have other jobs and families, do a whole lot—more hours than most people know. But we have a big facility and lots of people coming in and out each day. Critical repairs get done, but others quickly mount up.



So, it's time for the whole family of Messiah to gather together and give some loving attention to our wonderful facility! If you sit in a pew, use a restroom, attend a class, enjoy fellowship time in the parish hall—this day is for you!

We will provide opportunities for your whole family to work together for a special spring cleaning and repair of our facilities and property. There will be projects for children and adults, in all skill levels. We will even feed you lunch!.

So, mark the date, watch your email and the bulletin for times, and plan to come! At the very least, come to clean off “your” pew! **See you on April 12th!**



# Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy

A ministry of Messiah Lutheran Church (LC-MS)

1308 Whitley Road - Keller, Texas 76248

**TWO YEARS OLD - TENTH GRADE**  
Small class sizes, Music, Visual Arts, Latin

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Sunday, March 23, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
Come and meet our new Headmaster!

[www.mlcatexas.org](http://www.mlcatexas.org)

**817-431-5486**

Bring this newsletter with you, and we will waive your \$50.00 online application fee!