



THE MESSENGER

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD (LCMS)

Rev. Trevor A. Mankin, Pastor
Rachel Robins, Office Administrator

FEBRUARY 2018

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From the Desk of Pastor Mankin

Greetings in our coming Lord and Savior,

On behalf of the Mankin family, please accept our thanks for the gracious Christmas gift we received from the members of Messiah. It was truly appreciated and most humbling.

Last month, we began a new series about the Lutheran liturgy with the Invocation. This month, I would like to explain Confession and Absolution.

Historically, the practice of Confession (Corporate Confession) and Absolution was not a part of the Divine Service. It was something that would have been handled privately with the pastor prior to the service. However, over the years as Private Confession fell into disuse, it was added.

Confession and Absolution are the right way to begin our service, because it offers us the assurance that we enter God's presence free of all sin through Christ Jesus. Despite our status as God's saintly children, we still have the devil, the world and even our own sinful flesh working against us. With sin still clinging to us, the condemnation of God's Law must still confront us, so that we do not delude ourselves in thinking we might have something to boast about before our mighty judge.

Above all else, Confession and Absolution keep us honest, both before God and ourselves. The act of confession is not a work we lay before our Father's throne. Rather, it is the acknowledgement that God's Word is true and right, and when we measure our lives against God's righteous expectations, we are found wanting.

God's Word Says, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16) But the reality

is we have lied, gossiped and slandered our neighbor. So, the Christian confesses, "Lord, Your Word is true; I have sinned in thought, word and deed."

The three basic ways we handle sin and guilt. First, we ignore or minimize them, which we have all been tempted to do from time to time. Second, we institutionalize them, especially the guilt part. After all, if you keep people feeling just guilty enough, you can keep them coming back for more.

Thirdly, we give sin and guilt their proper due, and then silence them through God's absolution. Because, with His forgiveness, our sins are removed from us as far as east is from west.

Christians know this, but they also need to hear it often. We need to be reminded that those familiar words, "I forgive you all your sins," are not just some impersonal announcement. They say what they mean and accomplish what they promise. Jesus himself said to his disciples that the sins they forgive are forgiven (John 20:23).

Through Confession and Absolution, we are being readied for our appearance before Christ on the Last Day. And hidden behind those comforting words that our sins are forgiven is the invitation, "Come, you who are blessed by my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 25:34).

When our Lord speaks those words to us at the Last Day, Confession and Absolution as we know it will cease, for we will then bask in the eternal absolution of the Lamb.

Next month we will be looking at the Kyrie and the Hymn of Praise.

In Him,
– Pastor Mankin

FROM THE OFFICE

THE NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE IS:

February 19, 2018

Please ensure your announcements/articles arrive at the church office by the date above if you would like them in the next Messenger. The Messenger deadline is the 3rd Monday of the month unless there is a holiday. Please place all messages and articles in the office mailbox located in the choir room or email them to office@messiahseattle.org.

2019 SERVICE SCHEDULES: Don't have access to the internet, but still want access to the Jan – June 2019 schedule for your volunteer service? Fret not! Near the emergency exit perpendicular to the Sacristy door, a wall file folder has been installed. There, all service schedules for all ushers, elders, readers, etc will be found in the appropriately marked folders. Otherwise, all schedules will be updated and reposted periodically.

BORROWING ITEMS: Please ask permission from the church office before borrowing any church property, from anything from silverware, to folding chairs to tables. If you have any borrowed items from home, please return them.

LENTEN SERIES INTRODUCTION

"Behold the man!" proclaimed the unwitting preacher Pontius Pilate in one of the shortest yet most profound sermons ever recorded. This will be our endeavor this Lententide and Easter Sunday. Behold the man, God in human flesh, Jesus. His incarnation will provide the basis for our meditation and proclamation on His Passion. And His real bodily suffering and death will provide the basis for our full-throated proclamation on Easter morning of a bodily resurrection, not just of Jesus but also for His saints. Real bodies that have suffered, wept, bled, prayed, eaten, hoped, and more will be those raised incorruptible from their graves on the day of Jesus' return.

We will fix our eyes and our preaching on the man Jesus, contemplating the inescapable fact—indeed the most important fact in the course of human history—that God became man. The Second Person of the eternal triune God, whom we confess in the Nicene Creed as "God of God, Light of light, very God of very

God . . . of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made," became a living, breathing, flesh-and-blood human being, a man.

In some ways, you can understand that the first heresy the Christian Church had to contend with was that of Gnosticism, the hyperspiritual religion that held that because no man could be God, the Christ could not be God. Gnosticism is alluring because it tidies everything up, gives Christianity a more attractive spiritual veneer, and pulls its adherents out of the mire of this world and gives them something otherworldly to strive for.

Considered correctly, it becomes pretty hard to spiritualize Christianity—a religion that bases its existence on the enfleshment, the incarnation, of God—into the mess of disembodied, matter-rejecting, hyperspiritual Gnosticism. When God has flesh and blood, skin and teeth, cells and nuclei, DNA and RNA, it's difficult to contend for the disembodied spiritual against the material. If God has a body, bodies must matter.

In case you aren't convinced of the pervasiveness of the second-century heresy of Gnosticism, even in our twenty-first-century context, attend a funeral. If you hear talk only of heaven with nary a word of a bodily resurrection, you've witnessed firsthand modern-day Gnosticism. If the preacher doesn't deal with the body in the casket as the real person whose death has assembled the mass of grieving relatives and friends, if he talks only about the bodyless soul in heaven, he hasn't preached a genuinely Christian funeral. In other words, if he gives preference to the spiritual over the material, he succumbs to the Gnostic heresy the earliest generations of the Church sought to guard against by preaching the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus.

This Lent, we will consider what it means that God became man. In preparation for the celebration of a real, bodily, flesh-and-blood, bone-and-sinew resurrection, the resurrection without which our faith and our preaching are all in vain, consider the body of Jesus that exists in order to be nailed to a cross. The spiritual, bodyless Son of God became the embodied, enfleshed, incarnate Son of Mary. In Jesus, God has human flesh, a body, just like you. What could be more profound?

Each week, we'll consider a different aspect of the body of Jesus Christ. What does it mean that, in Jesus, God has hands, feet, lungs, lips, eyes, and ears?

LENTEN SERIES SCHEDULE

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS: Our overall theme is "Behold the Man!" The accompanying devotionals for this series can be picked up from the usher station at the rear of the Sanctuary beginning February 17th.

LENTEN SCHEDULE: Below are the details for this year's Lenten series.

March 6th – Ash Wednesday, 7:00 PM

"A God Who Hungers"

Readings: Joel 2:12–19; 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

March 13th – Midweek I, 7:00 PM

"A God Who Prays"

Readings: Hebrews 7:20–28; John 17

March 20th – Midweek II, 7:00 PM

"A God Beaten"

Readings: Isaiah 52:13–53:12; John 18:19–24

March 27th – Midweek III, 7:00 PM

"A God Exposed"

Readings: Genesis 3:7–21; John 19:1–5, 23–24

April 3rd - Midweek IV, 7:00 PM

"A God with a Mother"

Readings: Revelation 12:1–6; John 19:25–27

April 10th - Midweek V, 7:00 PM

"A God Who Thirsts"

Readings: Psalm 22:12–18; John 19:28–30

MINISTRIES OF MESSIAH

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES: Join us for the celebration of Lutheran Hour Ministries on Sunday, February 3rd. Also, starting March 6th, Lenten Devotions, People of the Passion, will be available to read online, as a podcast, or can be received as an email subscription through LHM.org.

MEN'S NIGHT OUT – *Brian Danforth*

The next Men's Night Out will be held on Monday,

February 4th at 6:00 pm at Ram Restaurant and Brewery, located at 2650 NE University Village. Please RSVP to Brian Danforth, 206-363-5654.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML) NEWS – *Margie Longan*

Ladies' Guild Meeting

Ladies' Guild will be meeting February 13th at 10:00 am. Coffee, tea and a sweet roll will be served. Please remember to bring your "Mites for Missions" money. All women of Messiah are cordially invited to attend!

Quilting Days

The next Project Day will be Wednesday, February 27th from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Come join in on making quilts for Lutheran World Relief and/or lap-robe blankets for nursing residents. Please be sure to bring a sack lunch. As always, all congregational women are cordially invited.

Olympic Zone: Lutheran Women Missionary League invites all women of Messiah to attend the Zone's annual prayer service, Saturday, March 2nd, 2019 at Lamb of God Lutheran Church at 12509 27th Ave NE, Seattle. Time to be determined.

VALENTINES DAY CARDS: Looking for the perfect card for your Valentine? Look no further! We've got a wonderful selection out in the Narthex. At \$1 each, it seems like a no-brainer solution, eh? Pick yours up today!

DO YOU NEED A TIME OUT? Ladies Night Out is going to Time Out Greek and American Restaurant on Monday, February 18th, 6:00 pm. Time Out is located at 5807 244th St SW, Mountlake Terrace. Please RSVP to Bev Edmon, bevedmon@gmail.com, (425) 773-3711. You can text me or leave a message.

LUTHERAN MINISTRY SERVICES NW

The Annual Gathering will be held February 24th at 1:30 pm at Pilgrim Lutheran in Bellevue. There will be an update on outreach ministries and an opportunity to help assemble CARE PACKAGES for the homeless. The packs will include scarves, gloves/mittens, socks, hand warmers, warm hats, energy bars, bottled water lip balm, kleenex and a simple explanation of Christianity. You are invited to participate in this event

by attending and/or contributing items for the packages. You may place any of the above mentioned items on the Social Ministry table by February 24th. In addition, due to the GENEROUS response of men's clothing for the inmates at MCNEIL, additional donations are on HOLD until they have an opportunity to process all they have received. Thank you!

GROWING TOWARDS 8TH GRADE! Concordia is adding on a 6th grade in Fall 2019! Our plan is to add 7th in 2020 and 8th in 2021!

COMMITMENT TO IMPROVEMENT! Concordia elementary teachers have started on a professional development journey to improve our personalized learning program. We are committed to having each student thrive socially among peers in their multitage teams with being challenged academically at their personal level.

AMAZONSMILE: Are you an Amazon customer? Did you know you can have a small portion of each purchase donated to Messiah Lutheran Church if you order via AmazonSmile? The merchandise and prices are exactly the same as Amazon.com—but the benefit is that .5% of your purchase will be donated to a charity of your choice. You can set Messiah Lutheran Church as the beneficiary. Go to Amazon.com, and do a search for AmazonSmile to learn more about this program.

EQUIPPING THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's subjects include: Does God Change His Mind?, The Idea & Practice of a Christian University, The Presentation of Our Lord, Media Coverage of Religion, Daily Bread and more. You can listen live or at your convenience at www.issuesetc.org and on the LPR mobile app.

HUMAN CARE

DONATION UPDATE—*Jackie Wold*

In the month of December, we collected the following items for Immanuel Lutheran Community Services and Compass Cascade Women's Center: 55 toothbrushes and 11 toothpastes. Thanks for helping those in need. In January, we collected 75 razors, 9 shaving creams, 5 aftershaves. **In February, we will be collecting baby items.** Please place your items in the Cry Room lounge basket across from the coffee bar. Updated collection announcements will be in the Sunday collection area.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF – *Dorothy Bellin*

We are collecting the following items for Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief:

- Light-weight bath-size towels (20-27" wide and 40-52" long), dark color recommended
- Adult-size toothbrushes
- Metal nail clippers
- Bath-size bars of soap (4-5 oz.) in original wrapping

Please see the flyer on the wooden table in the narthex. Items may be placed on the table by the end of March.

Lutheran World Relief sends Personal Care Kits to people in need throughout the world. Last year LWR sent our kits to Ethiopia. If you have questions about this project, please contact Dorothy Bellin.

NEED FOR FOSTER PARENTS: The State of Washington has a critical need for foster parents. If you are interested, go to: www.fosteringtogether.org.

FELLOWSHIP

VALLEY CAMP RETREAT – *Jean Mindemann*

Are you thinking about summer? Our annual retreat to Valley Camp in North Bend will be July 19-21. You can use the sleeping accommodations in the lodge or bring your own tent or RV. More information to follow.

CURRENT & UPCOMING BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS

WHAT: The Ten Commandments
WHEN: Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
TEACHER: Pastor Mankin

BASIC LUTHERAN TEACHINGS (formerly AIC)

WHAT: Intro to Lutheran Christian Faith
WHEN: **Spring 2019**
WHERE: Room 202/204
TEACHER: Pastor Mankin

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

WHAT: The Book of John
WHEN: Thursdays, **10:00 am**
WHERE: Room 202/204
TEACHER: Jim Grant

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & OFFICIAL ACTS

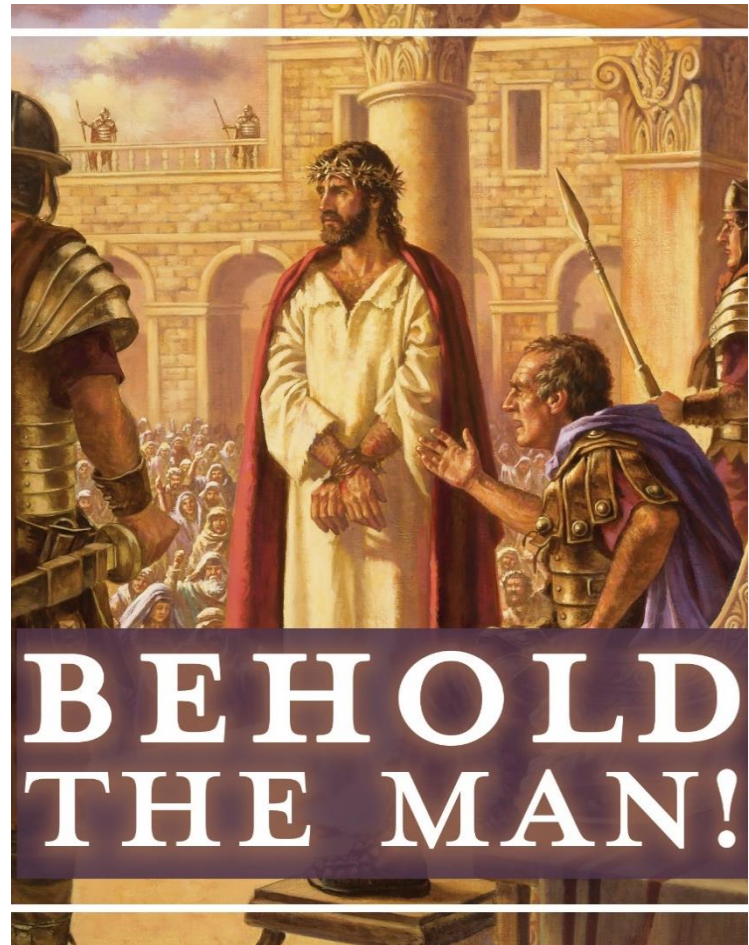
BIRTHDAYS

Isaac Lindstrom	2/03
Neil Strege	2/03
Bob Zimmerman	2/04
Dianna Altena	2/06
Karen Johnson	2/06
Charlie Janssen	2/08
Henry Petro	2/08
Alex Knudson	2/09
Gene Johnson	2/10
Nancy Bourn	2/14
Cheryl Gagne	2/14
Todd Quammen	2/14
Jeri Valentine	2/14
Evelyn Admons	2/17
Tammy Linden	2/18
Tiana Bourn	2/22
Pyper Cox	2/24
Carol Davidson	2/27
Steve Anderson	2/28
Kimi Janssen	2/28
Marjorie Longan	2/28

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Robin Melvin	2/01
James Pemberton	2/03
Kim Strege	2/03

Carter Petro	2/06
Peter Boomhower	2/07
Michelle Keller	2/07
Chloe Sholdt	2/07
Shelley Tennant	2/08
Billy Gard	2/10
Tiana Bourn	2/13
Andrew Melvin	2/14
Robert Lund III	2/16
Rilee Pesce	2/16
Makaela Schultz	2/16
Ed Johnson	2/18
Craig Kohring	2/18
Henry Petro	2/21
Erin Goodnow	2/22



**This Lenten series starts
Ash Wednesday, March 6th!**

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 ELDER INSTALL. 8:00 am Divine Service 9:30 am Fellowship Hour 10:45 am Divine Service 4:00 pm Confirmation	4 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	5 7:00 pm Youth board meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir	6 7:00 pm Ensemble	7 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir	8	9
10 8:00 am Divine Service 9:30 am Education Hour 10:45 am Divine Service 4:00 pm Confirmation	11	12 7:00 pm Council meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir	13 10:00 am Ladies Guild Meeting 7:00 pm Ensemble	14 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir	15	16
17 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 8:00 am Divine Service 9:30 am Education Hour 10:45 am Divine Service 4:00 pm Confirmation	18 PRESIDENT'S DAY <i>Offices will be closed in observance of the holiday.</i> 6:00 pm Ladies' Night Out	19 MESSENGER DEADLINE 7:00 pm Exec board meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir	20 7:00 pm Ensemble	21 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir	22	23
24 8:00 am Divine Service 9:30 am Education Hour 10:45 am Divine Service 4:00 pm Confirmation	25	26 7:00 pm Elder's meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir	27 9:30 pm Quilting Day 7:00 pm Ensemble	28 10:00 am Bible Study		

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

*If you would like to fill an **OPEN** or **VOLUNTEER** spot, please call the church office at 206.524.0024.*

ACOLYTES

8:00 am
3 Lena Witt
10 *volunteer*
17 Destiny Aguayo
24 Lena Witt

10:45 am
Jack Knudson
Addie Clark
Will Strege
Peter Grimm

USHERS

8:00 am
3 Jim Mendes
10 Lee Cohrs
17 Terry King
24 Harry Edmon

10:45 am
Steve Miller
Dave Paeth
Curt Colbert
Dan Lassman

GREETERS

8:00 am Upstairs
3 Terry King
10 Sharon Christiansen
17 Jim & Sue Hewitson
24 Frieda Johnson

8:00 am Downstairs
OPEN
Jack & Donna Holdridge
Larry & Nancy Bourn
Jack & Donna Holdridge

10:45 am Upstairs
Maya Martin
Sharon Christiansen
Jim & Sue Hewitson
Dorothy Bellin

10:45 am Downstairs
Dan Lassman
Dorothy Bellin
Ann Melvin
Sharon Christiansen

READERS

8:00 am
3 Harry Edmon
10 Lee Cohrs
17 Harry Edmon
24 Albert Lirhus

10:45 am
Curt Colbert
Dave Miller
Neil Strege
Sue Hewitson

TRANSPORTATION

3 Sharon Christiansen
10 Joanne Warner
17 **OPEN**
24 Jane Krueger

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

3 Lee Cohrs
10 Pastor Mankin
17 Jill Petro
24 Lee Cohrs

ELDERS

8:00 am
3 Harry Edmon, Lee Cohrs
10 Lee Cohrs, Andrew Petro
17 Lee Cohrs, Andrew Petro
24 Andrew Petro, Michael Boomhower

10:45 am
Neil Strege, Jim Grant
Jim Grant, Josh Pemberton
Josh Pemberton, David Miller
David Miller, Neil Strege

ALTAR GUILD

3 Shelley Tennant, Sharon Christiansen
10 Jean Mindemann, Joyce Lucas, Jack Holdridge, Donna Holdridge
17 Shelley Tennant, Dianna Altena
24 Stephanie Colbert, Joyce Lucas, Jack Holdridge, Donna Holdridge