

Ministry Staff

Pastor
Rev. Richard R. Rice
 DCE
Inese Dahl
 Pre School Director
Gretchen Thigpen

Support Staff

Secretary
Barbara Lee
 Administrative
 Assistant
Julie Juell
 Custodian
John Mazzei

Board of Directors

President
Leonard Damm
 Vice President
 Open
 Treasurer
Julie Young
 Secretary
Lorna Helick
 At Large Members
Gretchen Thigpen
Ruben Helick
Shannon Brady

Mission and Ministry

All Former Committee
 Chairs

The scenes of Lent are familiar. The Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the halls of Pontius Pilate, and the hill of Golgotha—these are the places we remember when we meditate on our Lord’s Passion. Yet when Jesus enters a place, He never leaves it as He found it. The most troubling places in our lives become the most amazing places of God’s grace when Jesus visits them.

For this reason, in our midweek Lenten series, we will read and contemplate Luke’s account of our Lord’s Passion. Each week, we will read a different section of the story; and Luke will take us to a different place, the places of the Passion.

Our focus will not be on these physical places. Instead, we will gaze in wonder on the spiritual work that our Lord does there. Jesus will share His strength in our times of weakness. He will fill us with His praise in the midst of our sorrow. Week after week, we will enter the places of the Passion only to discover our Lord . . . waiting for us . . . willing to share with us a love that was set in place before the foundations of the world.

Plan to come to our Lenten services this year. Prepare to enter into these places of devotion, for there, your Lord will meet you, sharing with you His wondrous love that saves a fallen world.

TEXTS

- Ash Wednesday: “A Place at the Table for You” (Luke 22:1–13)
- Midweek of Lent 2: “The Upper Room: A Place of Service” (Luke 22:14–38)
- Midweek of Lent 3: “Gethsemane: A Place of Strength” (Luke 22:39–46)
- Midweek of Lent 4: “The Betrayal: A Place of Eternal Love” (Luke 22:47–53)

Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday
 February 10, 2016
 Services: 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm

<u>In this Issue</u>	<u>Page</u>
<i>Places of Prayer</i>	2
<i>Lent Schedule</i>	8
<i>UCSC/Young Adults</i>	7
<i>Announcements</i>	3

Places of Prayer

You might have already heard or even been involved in the conversations about worship happening lately at Messiah Lutheran Church. From the conversations among our Board of Directors, leaders and feedback from phone interviews with MLC members, worship has been identified as the one most important area which we would like to grow and enrich.

Board of Directors, staff and worship life team have been brain-storming and dreaming. The areas of focus will be music, presentation of the message and the addition of more experiential and interactive elements in our worship services. We know from research that people learn in different ways – through hearing, touching, seeing, discussing, and even smelling. As we grow in our worship life, we would like to include more of these ways to connect with God.

We agreed that the season of Lent, when we focus on Jesus' love, sacrifice, death and resurrection, is a perfect time to renew our passion and commitment to worship life. The theme for this Lent is Places of Prayer. It reflects the need for us personally and as the congregation to honestly stand before God and ask for His guidance, wisdom and strength as we walk towards Easter.

So, this Lent we invite you to experience a Prayer Walk. It is a very personal and touching way to connect with God. You will walk through various stations and have an opportunity to pray for something specific at each station. You will touch, hear, feel and meet God in new ways. It will also include a labyrinth in the Chapel. You will see an addition of an evening Lenten service on Feb.17 which will happen in Johnson Fellowship Hall around the dinner tables with the meal and sharing time included. During regular Sunday services, we have added a "connection moment" that will be led by DCE Inese and include interactive and experiential introduction to Pastor's message (think the old children's message that is geared towards all of the congregation). We will also set up various prayer stations for each Sunday. Last, but not least, we are bringing back Passover Seder meal for Maundy Thursday. Expect food, storytelling, Scripture, songs, and candles. It will bring to life the miracle of God's great deliverance.

As we enter this process, we would like to ask for your prayers, support, and patience. We realize that changing something so sacred as worship service can be uncomfortable and even scary. At the same time we strongly believe that, in order to connect with new and younger people, we have to be willing to "speak their language" in ways that are relevant and meaningful for them. We know we will make mistakes. We know we will not get it right with the first try. But please come, please participate, please dare to try new things and see how they enhance your worship experience. Please ask questions and give feedback speaking truth in love. Pastor Rick, DCE Inese, and our worship experience team members (Gretchen Thigpen, Cindy Gustafson, Jonathan Mueller, Nancy Ganschow and others) are all great people with whom to engage in conversation about this.

May God bless us as we worship Him in our church and, even more importantly, in our lives!

Pastor Rick & DCE Inese



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Congregational Members,

As most of you have learned that I have recently resigned as President of the Board of Directors of Messiah Lutheran Church, the position I have held for almost four years. Additionally, I served in the position of Treasurer for four years and as property committee chairman and finance committee chairman for added years

I celebrated my eighty-seventh birthday on January 17 this year and decided it was time for me to step down and turn duties over to a younger generation that will serve Messiah as I have had the pleasure of doing for the past many years. I have enjoyed every minute of my time serving the members of Messiah.

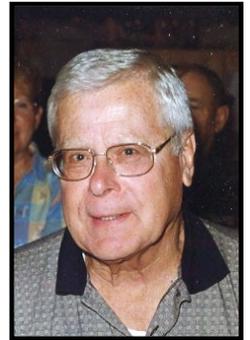
However, you are not free of me that easy. I will still be noticeable and obvious serving the Lord at Messiah Lutheran Church.

I want to thank everyone for their ideas, suggestions, comments and advice you have given me while serving you as President of the Board. I appreciate very much your interest in improving the experience of worship, fellowship and outreach at our church.

I had two favorite entertainers while growing up. One was Bob Hope and the other Red Skelton. Bob Hope closed his show with "Thanks for the memories" and Red Skelton closed with "God Bless".

So I say to each and every one of you, "Thanks for the memories and God Bless!"

Jim Baker



Season of Epiphany is all about Jesus revealing Himself to us, and often in small, daily ways. May God grant us eyes and hearts to notice them! Here is one such way shared by Marlena Dufresne.

"Well, even a potato can remind us that 'God is Love.'" We found it at the Eating with Jesus (Homeless Feeding Ministry) potato chopping task last week at Messiah kitchen."

Welcome to Messiah Class!

February 20, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

What does the Bible teach? What do Lutherans believe? And how do we at Messiah Lutheran Church put it into practice? At the end of the class, membership is offered if desired but not required. Everybody is welcome to attend. Please call the office to register. 423-8330

Office Visitors:

Mary Elizabeth Bellizzi of Thrivent and Samson





Seeking new volunteers for a labor of love with ***EATING WITH JESUS (EWJ)*** mission.

Our mission feeds the homeless residences of Santa Cruz Homeless Center (HSC) on weekends due to recent budget cutbacks. Together with other local churches we provide 200 meals for each Saturday Breakfast and Dinner meals.

TWICE a MONTH (EVERY OTHER WEEK) Messiah Lutheran needs volunteers for preparation, cooking, serving and cleanup of 200 meals for each meal at HSC. Excess food from each meal is covered and served the following days (Sunday, etc) by HSC staff.

Thursday night preparation includes Brown Paper Bags (BPB) which are stuffed with Peanut Butter&Jam Sandwich, Hard Boiled Egg, Etc. With a Bottled Water, we inform street homeless of incoming Storms so they can weather the worst weather events. Clean/dry socks, unused salt/pepper and mustard package (2oz), clean plastic trash bags for rain protection.

Two hours labor can:

- Cut and cook potatoes Thursday night (5-8 pm) at Messiah's Johnson Hall Kitchen for Saturday Breakfast. Stuff BPB for street homeless.
- Prepare Saturday Breakfast (5-7am) and/or Dinner (3-5 pm) meals.
- Serve Saturday Breakfast (6-9 am) and/or Dinner (4-6 pm) meals.
 - Cleanup Saturday Breakfast (7-9 am) and /or Dinner (4-7 pm) meals.

SEE JULIE OR DEAN OKINS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Phone: (831) 423-2512

Email: okinsjulie@sbcglobal.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Teacher Gretchen's Preschool Kinder Korner

We finished up the month of January with a Family Movie Night on January 29, 2016. The children each made a "car" to sit in for movie night out of old boxes and recycled materials and then we explained to them that years ago people use to go to drive in movies together! It was a simple event with great food and fellowship.

During the month of February we will transform our writing area into the MLP Post Office. All the children will make mailboxes for themselves and the children will enjoy making/delivering/receiving mail for their families and friends. A great pre-writing and pre-reading activity as well as a confidence builder.

Looking ahead to March the preschool has a Parent/Staff Beautification Brunch scheduled for Saturday, March 12, 2016 from 9 am - noon. This is a new event this year. We are attempting to combine our parent/staff work day with an appreciation brunch for the MLP parents and staff. So the tentative plan is we will work from 9 am - 11 am doing cleaning, gardening, general repair and maintenance of the facility and then enjoy a simple brunch together. This date is also a UCSC Study Hall date so weather permitting we will have lunch on the lawn area and will need to bring food that is already prepared since we will not have use of the Johnson Hall. I think we can make this all work. Anyone wanting to support this event please contact me in early February.

Also looking ahead the MLP/MLC Spring Carnival is scheduled for May. We could sure use some new energy and ideas for this great event so if you would like to be a part of this true day of fun, please contact me.

Pastor Rick will be out of the office from February 11 – February 16, 2016.
Please contact DCE Inese or Jonathan Mueller in his stead.



A lovely card we received from Jacob's Heart.
Thanks to all the workers at Wines of the World 2015
And our 5th Sunday offerings!
MLC donated \$4,700.00 to Jacob's Heart!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating Jim Baker's Birthday
Messiah Lutheran Style
Happy Birthday, Jim! Thank you for
all you do for MLC.



If you signed up for the Louisiana Bake Sale: Please pick up your baked goods for the month of February on Sunday, February 14 and check your name off the list. Thank you for supporting our youth in going to the National Youth Gathering!

We have reached our fundraising goal. Thank you for your support! We hope you are enjoying your baked goods!

Youth Get-togethers

Baking for Louisiana Purchase Bake Club
Friday, February 12 from 5.30 to 9pm
@ Messiah Lutheran Church



UCSC CAMPUS AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY



Food for Thought

Sunday, February 7 after the 10:00 am worship

Lunch and conversation about living the Season of Lent as the people of Resurrection

Ash Wednesday Services on UCSC Campus

Wednesday, Feb. 10

12.15pm (shortened version) and 7pm

Place TBA

Co-sponsored with Newman Catholic Center

Prayer Walk

Friday, February 19 at 6pm

Start off the Season of Lent with an experiential and personal prayer walk. As you move through the prayer stations, you will have an opportunity to pray for yourself, your loved ones, and the world. Dinner provided.

Kick Back Dinner

Saturday, February 27 at 6.30pm

Join us for a home-cooked meal and time to kick back before you enter the final stretch of the winter quarter (or, if you are not a student, into March 😊)



Weekly Bible Conversations

Tuesdays at 5.30pm

Abby Coffee Shop at Vintage Faith Church

Contact DCE Inese for a ride from Campus

Join us for **LENT**

Lent starts 40 days before Easter. It is a season of reflection, repentance and renewal as we contemplate Christ's suffering, death and resurrection for us.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES: Wed., Feb.10 noon & 7pm
Worshippers are marked with ashes as a powerful reminder of our dependence on God for forgiveness and salvation.

PRAYER WALK AND LABYRINTH:
*Week of Feb.10 to Feb.17, W,M,F 4-8PM,
SAT.& SUN.noon-3pm, the Sanctuary and Chapel.*
Self-guided, experiential and family-friendly. Experience God as you move from one prayer station to the next.

DINNER AND EVENING SERVICE: Wed., Feb.17 at 6.30pm
in the Johnson Fellowship Hall. Eat, talk, share, play and pray together. Rides available. Starting February 24, mid-week services will be on Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel.

PASSOVER SEDER SUPPER:
Thursday, March 24 at 6.30pm
The story of God's great deliverance comes alive through interactive stories, song, and meal.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES: Fr., March 25 at noon and 7pm

NEW!!!
PRAYER STATIONS and CONNECTION MOMENTS
for children and adults
Sundays, 10am worship services