

September 2019 Newsletter

Messiah Lutheran Church

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2019 Council

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Worship Ministry: Colleen Bowen
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Our Mission Statement:

“Through the hearing and sharing of God’s Word, we, as a worshipping community, encourage a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In faith, we reach out with Christ-like caring for the community and the world in which we live.”

Romans 12:1-2

When I was an adolescent, away from home I got letters from my parents (some from my father, but mostly from my mother), and at the bottom of the letter she always added a scripture passage. I remember a time when this offended me . . . (too much preaching), but with time I found a more gracious understanding. These were thoughts my mother wanted me to think about. Mom and Dad cared deeply for us children. And in response, I decided to memorize what I received in each letter.

As a young person, there were a lot of voices “out there” calling to be heard (and of course there were a lot of inner voices and wishes as well). At the bottom of those letters I discovered “thoughts that were not my thoughts . . . and ways that were not my ways” (Isaiah 55:8) and it challenged me to evaluate where I was going.

Romans 12:1-2 was one of those scriptures at the bottom of a letter: “Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - which is your true and proper worship. Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Conforming to the world . . . that is pretty easy, and in many ways, that is how we often seek to be “accepted”, and even to gain “status” in our time. For a shy, insecure person, that had some strong pull. To do otherwise could sometimes be lonely.

Last week I heard a comment on CBC news that I found interesting. The news reporter in talking about issues of the day made a statement that referred to “the dysfunctional” time in which we live. I was surprised by the statement (and particularly its source). And giving it an interpretation of being “credible” it struck me that “conforming” to our world is sometimes to conform to that which is “dysfunctional.”

I expect that is precisely what Paul was talking about as he addressed those early Christians in the great empire of Rome. In the Roman world, the places of entertainment were often filled with the excitement of violence . . . gladiators fighting to their death, humans in contest with animals . . . violence mixed with the excesses and chaos of self-indulgence and the attractions of power. It was a pluralistic culture where everything was accepted as long as there was submission to the authority of Rome.

That scripture at the bottom of a letter to a young adolescent carried words that challenged the Christians in Rome in that first century, and I would suggest they are challenging words to walk into our own lives in the twenty-first Century as God’s people.

As Lutheran Christians we hold in all our documents that the scriptures are the sole authority for life and faith. How important is the study of the scriptures for us, and for our children to nurture and equip us to evaluate that which we see and hear in our own time. I expect we will find that the instruction that comes through God for us; His children, will help us deal with a lot of stuff that is a part of the real world in which we live, and just maybe will shape God’s children into lives hands and voices that will be the source of hope and renewal even in the “dysfunctional times” in which we live. And in walking God’s instruction into life we likely discover “it is real” and equips us to deal with the real world in which we live. Enjoy the journey. Amen.

Council Update

Wonderful news – a call was extended to Pastor Fran Schmidt following the Congregational Call Meeting on Sunday, August 25. AND, **Pastor Fran said ‘yes’ to the call to Messiah joining us at the beginning of September.** Pastor Dan will preach on Sunday, September 1, although Pastor Fran has indicated she plans to attend worship that day and her first service at Messiah will be on September 8.

The September potluck will be held that day (the 8th), and the congregation is also invited to bring a little something to contribute to Pastor Fran’s new pantry / home.



Thanks to Bishop Sid Haugen for his guidance and support, the Call Committee for their work, and to Pastor Dan Haugen for his ministry over the past six months.

Council meeting – August 20:

- Pending approval by Messiah congregation, reviewed and recommended the Letter of Call and Employment Agreement for Pastor Fran.
- Education Ministry has prepared an information piece for distribution to the congregation asking for:
 - a) Volunteers to teach Sunday School
 - b) A volunteer to coordinate the Sunday School classes
 - c) Asking about a 10 – 10:30 am time rather than during the church service.
- Property Maintenance will be completing zero-scaping work on the north east / east sides of the building.
- The PowerPoint schedule (Sunday service) has been prepared for the fall months.
- Copies of the ELCIC 2018 Annual Report are available on the information table.
- Received an update from Pastor Dan regarding visitations during the past six months, and expressed thanks for his ministry since Pastor Iris’ departure.

The next Council meeting is Tuesday, September 17 @ 5pm.

We Need Sunday School Teachers and We Hope You Can Help!

As we do not currently have a coordinator for Sunday School here at Messiah, we are looking for volunteers to teach a class or two each month. We have curriculum and so it won't involve a lot of preparation time. Members of the Education Committee on Council will have the materials ready for each class.

- Are you willing to volunteer to teach a Sunday School class for one or two Sundays a month? (Of course, you can teach more if you want!)
- Are you interested in the role of Sunday School Coordinator?
- Do you know of someone you think would be a good candidate to teach Sunday School or be a Sunday School Coordinator? If so, let us know and we can start a conversation with them.
- Are there Youth who would like the opportunity to help with a few Sunday School classes?

Class Times Discussion

Council discussed the possibility of having Sunday School prior to the Church Service (10:00-10:30).

- Parents of Sunday School Children, would this change in time work for your family?
- Congregation, would this time work better for you if you want to volunteer to teach Sunday School?

To volunteer or provide feedback you can contact any of the people listed below:

Jean Meyers in person or at jmeyers@sasktel.net,
Donna Deobald at messiah@sasktel.net or (306) 763-7374,
or any member of Messiah Church Council.

