The Messenger

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

Volume 28, Issue 6

June 2024

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 Sun. July 28 – Wed. July 31 5:30 PM Brown Bag Lunch 6:00 PM Story Time & Music 6:25 – 7:45 PM Activity Stations 7:45 – 8:00 PM Closing Story Wed. July 31 – Final VBS Day 	God is a friend who loves.	5
 5 PM – Picnic/Noisy Change Offering 6 PM – Music with Wed. Worship 6:25 – 7:45 PM Activity Stations 		



Sundays & Wednesdays this summer

In reading the Psalms, we find a book full of praise, worship, adoration, repentance, frustration, confusion, longing, doubt, and whatever else people felt comfortable pouring out of their heart to God. Join us this summer as our worship services dive into "The Psalms of Summer,"

(Additional Details on Pg. 3)

This June Issue of The Messenger is sponsored in honor of Charlotte Fatland's Birthday on June 3rd. Because of this gift, we are able to share the enclosed information with you, our church family!



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The Messenger
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Confirmation 2024

Holy Spirit, strengthen Elaina with your gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, and Knowledge. As a disciple of Christ, fill her with the joy of your presence. Increase in her the fruit of your Spirit. Help her lean on your guidance today and every day. Show her ways to help others and to share your love with our world and with each person she meets. Come, Holy Spirit! Come!



Summer Bible Study • Revelation—Extravagant Hope

NEW Bible Study with Pastor Laurie Revelation: Extravagant Hope by Margaret Feinberg Thursdays at Noon + June 6 – July 18 (no class July 4)

The Book of Revelation may seem daunting at first glance, with its imagery of bloody dragons, flying creatures, and the ominous mark of the beast. However,

what if, amidst these unsettling visions, God is reserving something extraordinary for the end? Revelation isn't merely a foreboding prophecy. It's a beacon of hope for those enduring hardship—a roadmap for the suffering, a treasury of promises for the persecuted, and a rallying cry of encouragement for the downtrod-den. Its message transcends time and circumstance, offering solace and guidance to individuals across generations, including you. Please register at the church office. \$15 for participant study guide.

To Register for the Book Study: Call 701-237-6770 or Email: AdminAssist@MessiahFargo.com



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A Message from Pastor Laurie Exploring the Timeless Relevance of Psalms

I am excited to embark on our journey through the Psalms this summer. Few books in the Bible resonate with the human experience as deeply as the Psalms. These ancient hymns and prayers have traversed time and culture, offering us a profound glimpse into the heart of God and the depths of our own souls.

For me, diving into the Psalms is like encountering God in vivid technicolor. His presence leaps off the pages, revealing both his might and his intimate closeness. Moreover, within the Psalms, I find a mirror reflecting my own emotions and experiences—a reminder that God meets us wherever we are, in all our highs and lows.

Here are a few compelling reasons to join us in our exploration of the Psalms this summer:

Revealing God's True Nature: In the Psalms, we encounter a multifaceted portrait of God's character. Yes, he is mighty and majestic, but

he is also tender and compassionate. Delve into the Psalms, and you'll discover the depth of God's love and the richness of his grace.

Understanding Our Emotions: Whether you're grappling with fear, anger, doubt, or joy, the Psalms provide a safe space to explore and express your emotions. They remind us that it's okay to bring our raw, unfiltered selves before God, knowing that he hears and understands.

Cultivating Thankfulness: As we gain a deeper understanding of God's character and faithfulness, gratitude naturally wells up within us. The Psalms teach us to give thanks in all circumstances, guiding us to find praise on our lips even in the midst of life's challenges.

Learning Practical Truths: Beyond their spiritual depth, the Psalms offer practical wisdom for navigating life's complexities. From relationships to work to personal struggles, the Psalms illuminate the path of faith in our everyday journey.



Inspiring Creativity: Throughout history, the Psalms have sparked the imagination of artists, musicians, and poets. Their poetic beauty and evocative imagery continue to inspire creative expression, enriching our worship and deepening our connection with God.

I invite each of you to join us as we delve into this treasure trove of spiritual wisdom. The Psalms are not relics of a bygone era. They are living, breathing testimonies to the enduring power of faith and the resilience of the human spirit. As we immerse ourselves in their timeless truths, may we find renewed strength, hope, and inspiration for the journey ahead.

> See you in church! ~ Pastor Laurie



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Sunday May 12: Senior Recognition for: Justin, Ethan, Liam & Jarrett

The Messenger

<image><image>

Harry E. Olson Scholarship

The Harry E. Olson Scholarship fund was created with a gift from the estate of former pastor, Rev. Harry E. Olson who served as Senior Pastor from 1961-1976. Pastor Olson was called to Messiah as a church builder. He was also an excellent pulpit minister and a national speaker. In 1967, he was the driving force in establishing a regional TV ministry, The Hour of Worship, from Messiah's sanctuary.



The Scholarship Committee is now receiving applications. Students must be a member of Messiah Lutheran and are eligible for a one-time award of \$1000. Applications with complete criteria are available from Sharon, our Parish Administrator, and are due by July 1, 2024.

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Hearing the Call by Myrna Wells-Ulland

Hinneni. "Here I am, Lord."

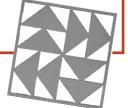
According to Jewish author, Scott Volk, the Hebrew word *hinneni* has two parts: one is the response of those who hear the call from God. "Here am I, Lord." Yet, there is a second part to *hinneni*. It's when God says, "I'm here. Ask me whatever you will. I'll walk with you."

Years ago, I heard a call from God to start a quilting ministry to support Lutheran World Relief at my church. The call was clear and continuous. And it wasn't my idea. *Hinneni*. There was no quilting ministry in our congregation, and I knew no quilters there. I didn't

own a sewing machine, and I had never made a quilt. God works in revealing ways, and suddenly I was connected with a woman who wanted to donate fabric. Word got out, and the Piecemakers Quilters of Living Water was born.

We're now a group of a dozen women. Using three knots per tie, "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit," we've now made hundreds of quilts, most designated for LWR. *Hinneni*. Here we are, Lord. We've heard your call.

Excerpted from "Heeding the call" by Myrna Wells-Ulland from the May 23, 2022, <u>blog</u> of the Women of the ELCA. Myrna is the current President of Churchwide WELCA.



Messiah Ladies of All Ages...

Would you be interested in a "dinner club" that would meet at 5 p.m. the 1st Tuesday and 2nd Thursday of each month?

Watch for a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. If you have questions, call Linda at 701-261-5452.





A Note from your Council President

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Congratulations to our high school and college graduates; and to the preschool, elementary and middle school students advancing to new schools. Congratulations and Best Wishes for a fun and adventurous summer. Please be sure to keep in touch with Bud, and join the fellowship and activities throughout the summer.

Parents: you have my admiration for 'surviving' another school year and my best wishes for spending quality of and quantity of time together with your families this summer. At all times, know that your Messiah Family is praying for you and your children.



"...Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

Luke 11:9 (NIV)

Messiah Lutheran remains vibrant and busy with worship and fellowship opportunities. Your families are important to Messiah. Connecting with family and friends – old and new; worshipping; making a joy-ful noise; fellowshipping; volunteering; and sharing God's Love. That is the Messiah experience.

Your Council strives to provide positive and faith-building experiences for our youngest through our 'experienced' members. Together we will nurture future generations while we celebrate and embrace our rich history of sharing God's Promises.

"My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you — I whom you have delivered." Psalm 71:23 (NIV)

> Your Faithful Servant, Doug Nasset Council President

Recent Topics of Messiah Church Council:

Synod final review of Messiah Constitution • Facilities care: HVAC maintenance; repair of sanctuary windows; repair of fireplace; lawn equipment tune-up; parking lot sealing & striping. • Digital church directory • Visioning for Messiah's future with Pastor Laurie • Long-term facilities & budget planning • Discussion of church teams • Planning for Christian Education for Fall 2024 • Use of Messiah facilities by all groups and related fees. • Monthly review of budget and giving.

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6	PUT ON YOUR "COUNTRY" AND COME TO Medora	
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA	TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27-28, 2024	
	Medora Musical! Pitchfork Fondue! Gospel Bru \$370 per person (double occupancy)	nch!
	\$470 per person (single occupancy)	
	Cost includes transportation, event tickets, and lodging at the Badlands Hotel. Hosted by Pr. Laurie Neill. Sign up by July 24 by contacting Messiah Lutheran Church or calling 701-237-6770.	Carlo Maria
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Sign up in the office and Bring a \$100 Deposit to Save Your Spot!

and you will

know the

and the truth

will set you

Who Told You That? "I am Who My Creator Says I Am."

How do we know what is true? <u>Go to God's Word</u>. In God, we have the promise that we are a new creation.

Our thoughts determine our behavior—not only our actions, but also our emotions. Choose to say truthful things about yourself to yourself. When you hear yourself saying something negative about yourself, stop. Say aloud: "Who told me that?" Put on the armor that God has given you and defeat the enemy.

You are a Child of God...a new creation in Christ.

Who Told You That? God did.

From Sermon Series/Book Study with Pastor Laurie: Who Told You That?



From Council: Be on the lookout for something new! We are going to be implementing a "Digital Church Directory!" This is an online directory that members or staff can update as needed. You will also be able to print a paper copy. We are working out the details.

Watch for information later this summer.

Bethany Retirement Living Did You Know...

that – in addition to nearly 550 human residents – Bethany Retirement Living is home to several animals. Over the years, dogs, cats, birds and fish have been an important part of the whole-person care provided to residents. Countless studies have shown the positive impact of having pets around to pro-

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Bethany retirement living

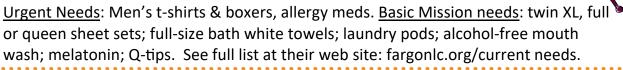
vide entertainment, activity and improvement to a variety of health factors – as well as an opportunity to give and receive a little LOVIN'. Bethany's pets are cared for by employees and volunteers. If you'd like to help, please contact Community Life at 701.239.3246.



In-Kind Donations are Lifesavers 1902—3rd Ave. N. Fargo, ND (701) 235-4453

New Life Thrift Stores

221 - 19th St N Fargo 5556 - 51st Ave S Fargo Donations always Welcome!



Churches United: "Here for Every Neighbor"

There are 3 areas we serve the community: Housing, Food, and Healing. We are in critical need of blankets, men's pants, small battery alarm clocks and hygiene products. <u>Complete</u> <u>Listing of Current Needs</u>: www.churches-united.org



Safe Shelter, Stable Housing, Nutritious Food and a Path Toward Healing

Churches United Donations can be dropped off at Micah's Mission • 1901 1st Ave N, Moorhead • 8 am-7 pm Daily

Fit & Strong and Tai Ji Quan® This Summer at

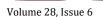
<u>Fit & Strong</u> and <u>Tai Ji Quan</u> will be at HeartSprings this summer. **Fit & Strong** is an exercise program for older adults and especially those with osteoarthritis. It is a <u>FREE</u> 12-week class that meets once a week for 60 minutes of exercise and 30 minutes of education about fall prevention, management, and life style changes. **Tai Ji Quan** is a movement practice for anyone wishing for better balance and mobility. It is a <u>FREE</u> 12-week class that meets twice a week for 60 minute sessions.





HeartSprings Community Healing Center's mission is to provide complementary therapies that enhance health, hope, healing, and vibrancy for those with chronic and life altering conditions.

Heart Springs Contact Jan or Barbara at HeartSprings for class details. heartspringsed@gmail.com 3 Phone 701-261-3142









Lord, we ask you to be with our Messiah families and kids this summer.

Bring them joy in all they do, and may they watch for your presence in each of their days. Be with them as they enjoy time with friends and family from the start to the end of this season.

Freddy, Colton & Arthur "Goodbye 5th— Hello 6th Grade!!" (Emma Oelke, Not Pictured)





Be with our Messiah kids throughout each day: in their down time and in their play. Be their protector and guide



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in all things whether they are with friends or alone. Lord, this summer, bless our Messiah families with joy and love wherever they may go. Amen.

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Why Is Stewardship for You? (Part 3)

Stewardship is what we as stewards do. It is faith in action. Stewardship is the living out of our faith through our serving, giving, witnessing, and relating to others. It is the faithful use of our time, talents, and money in doing God's will. It is our faithful response of gratitude for God's gift of forgiveness and salvation. As God's stewards, we are called by Him and governed by His Word. God's Word gives us motivation, direction, and purpose for our stewardship. Prompted by the Holy Spirit through God's Word, we freely and joyously commit all that we are and have for His purpose.



Simply put, stewardship is good for us, helps others, extends God's kingdom, and gives God honor and glory. We as Lutherans ask, "What does this mean?"

Stewardship is good for us because it helps us focus on the intimate relationship Jesus wants to have with each of us. Until we have such a relationship with Jesus, our lives have no value, direction, or purpose. God wants us to be stewards of our relationship with Jesus, others, ourselves, and our creation. The relationship that we have with Jesus is the most important and the most joyful.

<u>Stewardship is good for us</u> because it helps us give our lives purpose and meaning. Through faith, we understand that our gifts and blessings are to do more than just provide for our needs and pleasure. We have a purpose to use all things in His service by helping others and extending His kingdom.

Stewardship is good for us because it helps us to be content. The things of this world can easily become overly important to us, and we become discontent focusing on acquiring more things. Jesus said, *"You cannot serve both God and money."* (Matthew 6:24) The giving of money is an antidote to our natural desire to be selfist and self-reliant. Acknowledging that our money has been entrusted to us by God and using our money for His purpose helps us put out material blessings in perspective. We become content by being thankful for the blessings God has given us.

You are amazing and we appreciate you. Thank you for your faithful giving. Together, we are Messengers of God's Grace.

Messiah's QR Code for Electronic Giving

Our new QR Code works with the Simply Giving App through Vanco.



When it opens, choose the fund to which you wish to give and follow the prompts. Messiah will be charged processing fee when you give by card. *Please consider giving a little extra to cover these fees.*





Messiah Lutheran acquires building site at 2010 Elm Street North

When Pastor Harry Olson drove north on Elm Street after his arrival in 1961, he spotted a large open area sprinkled with For Sale signs. A large white sign advertised the large, 220' deep lots as "Prestige building sites, with Country Living in the City." The VA Hospital until this time was located outside of city limits. Meanwhile, the City of Fargo slowly inched northeast in development. After approaching the realtor and receiving permission from the two homeowners who had already built on the lots, the church purchased lots between 20th and 21st Avenues and broke ground in March 1963.

This picture from the early 1960s shows the path of 20th Avenue, which ends just past 2nd Street behind St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (red building in the background). Those evergreen trees lining the south parking lot sure have grown!



(Compiled by Erik Eide)

Prayers and Support for Andy VanZanten · Waco, Texas

Mark and Mary Hartje's son-in-law, Andy, has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma (DCLBL). Andy will begin chemo treatments the week of Memorial Day. His doctors tell him this is very treatable. Andy is married to Mark & Mary's daughter, Katie. Pray that they receive good insurance coverage for everything. At this time, donations for medical expenses can be made via their GoFundMe page; or they can be sent directly to Andy via Venmo.

Andy's GoFundMe page >>> https:/gofund.me/4ce1e663

Andy's Venmo link >>> @andyvanzanten





June Birthdays

1 Kelly Braaten Ian Eickman Lois Meyers

2 Evie Gorder Sveta Grindeland Wayne Wermager

3

Charlotte Fatland Jessi Holen **Dottie Stegman**

4 Rebecca Keller Silas Asleson Dahlia Larson

5

Nanci Qualey

6 Ace Schuck

7 Ace Nasset Jon Steinmetz **Rachel Swanson**

8 Eleanor Bergene Gradyn Johnson Leyton Johnson

9

Jonathan Huber **Ray Peterson Dwight Radcliffe**

12 Maryn Braaten Mason Carriere

13 Dane McEvers

14 **Brittany VanHorn** 15 **Devin Meyers** Patti Wentz

16 Carey Fry Phillip Gorder

17 Matt Artz Sue Eider Tessa Pfarr

18 Nels Backman Sharon Mischke

19 Connor Griffin

20 Norman Ramsholm Jarrett Steinmetz

21 Karis Asplin Arya Naasz

23 Patricia Odegaard

24 Adam Kahler Matthew Labernik Jessica McEvers

25 Freddy Fiechtner Cambree Ingersoll

27 **Rodney Swenson**

28 Camille Anderson Jack Holm Sherry Kemper Autumn Seeger

29 Sandra Miles **Emily Swenson**

30 Bella Jangula



You won't want to miss this...

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 am Coffee Hour Men's Choir Youth Chevra	8:30 am Aerobics 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm Came to Believe	1 pm Staff Meeting	8:30 am Messiah Quilters 9 am Men's Bible Study		8:30 am Aerobics Summer Hours: Office Closes at Noon	
2 pm Girl Scouts		Just for Kix		Just for Kix		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 EaND Synod Assembly
2 9 am Worship EaND Synod Assembly	3	4 6 pm Exec 7 PM VBS Team	5 6 pm W.O.W. (Worship On Wed.) East Lawn	6 <u>Noon</u> : Revelation Study w/Pr. Laurie	7 Friday Summer Office Hours: 9 am to Noon	8
9 9 am Worship	10	11 Circle Bible Study 9:30 am Rachel 6:30 pm Anna	12 6 pm W.O.W. (Worship On Wed.) East Lawn	13 <u>Noon</u> : Revelation Study w/Pr. Laurie	14	15
16 9 am Worship	17	18 HeartSprings Seminar 7 pm Council	19 6 pm W.O.W. (Worship On Wed.) East Lawn	20 <u>Noon</u> : Revelation Study w/Pr. Laurie Swedish Society Midsummer	Messenger Deadline 21	22
23 9 am Worship 9 am Worship 30	24	25 7 pm Women's Book Club	26 6 pm W.O.W. (Worship On Wed.) East Lawn	27 <u>Noon</u> : Revelation Study w/Pr. Laurie	28	29



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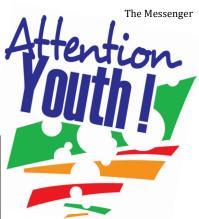
Messiah Youth Summer Events

Join Youth Director Bud and your friends for a fun-filled, faith-fueled summer. Check out the happenings, get them on your calendar, and plan to bring a friend—or two!!



Sat.-Sun. June 22-23 Messiah's Summer Lock-in

Pizza, night games, movies, and more. *8 attendees & 3 volunteers (+ Bud) required.

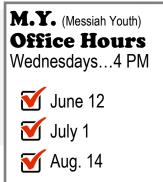


Wed. July 24 Worship with Rachel in the Park

Join other Fargo churches for worship at the Rotary Shelter at Lindenwood Park. Enjoy hymns, Rachel's music, and a good ol' Lutheran pot luck. (6 to 8 PM)

Bud's Email > YouthDtr@MessiahFargo.com





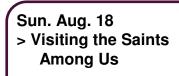
Fri. July 26 Day at the Lake

Take a mini-road trip for a day of swimming, aquatic sports, a picnic and an affirmation of your baptism! Reminder to bring your sunscreen!



Calling all Youth!! July 28-31 Contact the office today...tell Pastor Laurie > "I want to help with VBS!"

Get ALL the details in the Youth Summer Brochure!!!





Sun. Aug. 30 Paintball!!





Fri. Aug. 9 Golf-N-Grow 2.0 Volunteer at Farm in the Dell in the morning...

...and end the day at Thunder Road.





Fri.-Sat. Sept. 20-22 > EaND Synod Youth Gathering Castaway Bible Camp

Messiah's Music Sunday 2024

Thank you to our Music Director, Jim Gurney, Pastor Laurie, and all the choirs for a beautiful service.



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Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church of Fargo

June 2024

2010 Elm ST N Fargo, ND 58102

Phone: 701-237-6770 www.messiahfargo.com

Mission Statement:

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church is a Messenger of God's Grace.

Vision Statement:

...to nurture a deep spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ inspiring all people to Christ-like maturity, equipping them to do His work, and to celebrate and experience His love.

Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Laurie Neill Email: SeniorPastor@messiahfargo.com

Parish Administrator: Sharon Syrdal Email: ParishAdmin@messiahfargo.com

Youth Director: Bud Schenk Email: YouthDtr@messiahfargo.com

Bookkeeper: Trudy Eide Email: bookkeeper@messiahfargo.com

Administrative Assistant: Karen McCloud Email: adminassist@messiahfargo.com

Organist/Director & Coordinator of Music: Jim Gurney Email: jimqurney@messiahfargo.com

> Contemporary Worship Leader & Joy Ringers Director: Trudy Eide Email: teide01@aol.com

Projection & Sound Technician: Erik Eide

Children's Music Director: Lindsey Thorstad

Wedding Coordinators: Amanda Leichtenberg Kimberly Groszhans

Council

President:

Doug Nasset

Vice President:

Susan Langerud

Secretary:

Katelynn Norman

Treasurer:

Jan Lundgren

Council Members:

Suzanne Sheldon Dan Oberholtzer Melissa Mocol Jon Steinmetz Melody Holen

Stan Andrist

Information

Summer Schedule Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

W.O.W. begins June 5 W.O.W. (Worship On Wed.) 6:00 p.m. W.O.W. On the East Lawn

Summer Office Hours

Mon/Tues/Thurs 9 a.m.—4 p.m. Wednesday 8 a.m.—5 p.m. Friday 9 a.m.—Noon

The Hour of Worship TV Schedule & Online Options

Messiah's The Hour of Worship can be seen on WDAY-TV, Channel 6 at 11 a.m. on Sundays. It will also be available on Vimeo[®] and by links on Facebook[®].

The Messenger Deadline

5 p.m. on the 15th of June for the July Edition. No copy for the newsletter will be accepted after this time.

Find us on Find us on and G

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED