

MESSIAH MESSENGER

Caring for and serving others so all may share in God's love.



APRIL 2020
VOLUME 58, ISSUE 4

Rides with "Gray Lady II" A Message from the Pastor

The month of March had presented itself in a very unprecedented way in our most recent time. It had been quite eerie the last weeks of March for "Gray Lady II" and my travels across town. There were so few vehicles on the road we could make our journey from home to church in a shorter time.

At the time of this writing, we live most definitely as a people of faith. We truly do not know what is ahead. The stock market has daily been losing financial value which affects everything from cash flow to retirement funds. Schools across the nation, the world, initially closed for two to three weeks; some completely for the rest of the school year.

The COVID-19 has been and will be for a time as serious health concern for many in our country and internationally. As of March 18, all the states of our country had at least one positive test case. The last state to report said case was West Virginia.

Who could have anticipated that a virus could spread communally so easily and cause such changes to our communities and individual lives; yes, even our blessed churches. Places of employment have fallen to emergency health protective directives. Would you ever have thought that you would not be able to go out to eat to eat in at one of your favorite social clubs (bars & breweries) or restaurants? Would you ever have considered how quickly and in an over-arching way that so many people would be out of work? Maybe you have been one of those people or fear it could happen to you any upcoming day.

"Gray Lady II" and I were supposed to go to the dentist office a few days back, but they closed their doors for two weeks. My daughter is a physical therapy assistant and is concerned in a couple of ways that her clients will choose to not come to their appointments. Yes, she worries about the fact no clients, no work, no income for the near future. But even more concerning many of those clients are post-surgical and the immediate work on range of movement exercises is crucial for a good outcome in the future from the original surgery. They could do some of the therapy at home, but professional assistance and encouragement is a great aid to their success. She is also concerned about whether the daycare service she uses will stay open, causing another concern.

This illustration is shared with you because you probably in your own way, home, family or professional, know it so well. It would probably cause less angst to us if we could foresee the future. We deal well with the common cold and flu, we have history for which to give us strength to persevere as they run their course. But, living in the unknown causes great worry and panic.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 a.m. - Worship Service

10:30 a.m. - Fellowship

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays ~ 9:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

2nd Tuesday ~ 6:30 p.m.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN

CHURCH WOMEN

2nd Saturday ~ 9:30 a.m.

SEW & SHARE

1st & 3rd Tuesdays ~ 9:30 a.m.

CRAFT CLASS

Every other Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

RIISING SUN CHRISTIAN

COMMUNITY

Weekly Service

Sundays ~ 11:30 a.m.

Pastor Doug Mathison

pastor@messiahbq.org

Director of Music

Tony Carson

tony@messiahbq.org

Building & Grounds

Carlo Bachechi

Church Office

office@messiahbq.org

505-299-3311

We live in a moment of time with unbelievable or every known changes to our known time. Who ever heard malls shut down, sporting events cancelled, church services suspended, people hoarding paper products and avoiding other people—friends and strangers alike. Even during the Great Depression people could gather, sharing concerns of their day. I remember my mom's parents having Friday card parties amongst their friends, with a different house hosting. They had drinks, card tables, crackers and cheese, and with each others support, they made it through with great appreciation.

Bob Clark from KKOB called our situation as living with the great unknown. A local funeral home has opted to video funerals for their services to grieving people not able to or choosing to not be around groups of people ; or are not able to fly or travel to Albuquerque. We live through not alone this period of great unknown period and we will have to pray and ask the Lord to help us be there for each other in any way possible. If you are able to be out and about, keep in touch with your neighbors to run errands for them and the discouraged provide them with empathy and strength.

In Luke, chapter 12, we have the wonderful words from our Lord, Jesus Christ, addressing our worries about the present and the ultimate future, Jesus knows us so well and our angst about what we do not understand is have power over. Can we be a people to patiently and faithfully trust in our Lord's presence to walk with us in times of trouble. Luke 12:22 states, He (Jesus) said to his disciples , "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you wear....and yet God feeds them.""

These last words should be our prayerful chorus as we live through this challenging time—"yet God feeds them." If you let me, I read that word "feeds" to not only provide food but all that we need to get through life here on earth and onto eternity. We are not nor will we be a forgotten people before our Lord. Keep strong in your faith. Keep strong in your witness of hope and love. Keep away from the fears of today and trust them to the care of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Let me close with John 14:1, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." This and the following chapters of John emphasize that God does not leave us "orphaned" but we are in His every concern.

God Bless,

Pastor Doug Mathison



April 1, 2020

Beloved in the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, said at our Churchwide Assembly in August: “We are not a dying church. We are a changing church.” The threat of COVID-19 has pushed the church into an unsettling place of change over the last several weeks. Suddenly, we understand that “church” does not mean “building.” It means people. And we are connecting in ways never before imagined.

Because of COVID-19, we are grieving what we treasure most as church: gathering together as the embodied people of God, who are the hands and feet and voices of Christ, made alive in the world. We long for the time when we can gather together again to sing, and to pray, and to embrace as people who genuinely greet one another with the peace and presence of Christ.

Yet this we already know: that the church remains vital and alive, even while our buildings are silent. We are, all the more, *better together*.

As people of faith, what might it mean to practice generosity in the midst of a pandemic? As a synod team, we acknowledge that the uncertainty of this time may impact your household’s capacity to give financially to your congregation. We also know the ministries in our synod will continue and need our continued support. Our Rocky Mountain Synod Executive Committee has made a commitment to continuing their generosity through regular giving to their congregation. Monetary giving is one of many ways to practice generosity. Prayer, spiritual practice, and extending care to others in appropriate ways are all important expressions of faithful stewardship.

Indeed, ministry is continuing through your congregation in spite of the challenges posed by COVID-19. Your church and synod leaders are acting in faithful, innovative ways every day as they discern how best to support the needs of the community and the wider world. Your financial gifts make possible the important work that will continue happening through all three expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (congregations, synods and churchwide) as well as through an abundance of ministry partners. The Gospel is still being proclaimed in many and various ways during this pandemic.

Please identify one of the following means through which you can facilitate continued generosity at any level in your ministry context.

- Mail a check to your congregation on a consistent basis.
- Contact your bank to set-up automatic financial giving that comes out of your banking account and is mailed to your congregation on a regular basis.
- Connect with your church leaders and request that online giving be an option. We as the ELCA have [partnerships with both Vanco and Tithe.ly](#), who both offer special rates for ELCA ministries.

We do not know how long the threat of COVID-19 will interfere with our ability to gather together in person. But we do know that Christ is present nevertheless: yesterday, today, and forever. As you live out these challenging times that are marked by grief for what has been, be gentle with yourself as you embrace the gifts of grace and gratitude that are already ours.

In faith,

The Rev. Jim Gonia
Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop

Earline Bohling
Rocky Mountain Synod Vice President

Thank you to everyone for understanding the need for us to cancel our services and other activities at this time. We are working to have alternative ways in which we can all engage together. Some of this will take times of adjustment and learning, and I appreciate your patience. We will continue to keep you in the loop as we make these adjustments.

There are many changes and uncertainties in life right now, and, unfortunately, we know that this will be the “norm” for awhile. I feel like I want to share my story from the past few weeks and hope that if others are so inclined, please reach out and share.

Alex and I were in France, beginning March 8. Around 2am, Thursday, March 12, Alex received a text from her boyfriend that said President Trump had just announced flights from Europe would not be able to fly into the U.S. beginning Friday, April 13. She woke me up, and we began researching this and flights home. In the meantime, I started getting messages from Brian saying the same thing. Initial research showed flights to Albuquerque would cost \$3500 a person. Not feasible. So, I began checking other airlines and destinations, especially looking at destinations that would be close enough for us to drive home, if necessary. I got us flights to San Francisco through Dublin at 10am that same day. And then Southwest flights from San Francisco to Albuquerque.

So, we started packing and heading out to the airport—walk, Metro, train. After waiting 45 minutes in the Aer Lingus ticket line (short and calm compared to other airlines, which were sheer chaos), we got our boarding passes (no checked bags for us), and headed to our first flight. Once in Dublin, we went through U.S. customs, which meant we would not have to deal with this once we reached San Francisco. Wow! No one in line, no issues once we reach the U.S. Nice! Next was out 10.5 hour flight to San Francisco. It was packed (unlike our flight to Paris). People were a bit on edge but friendly and polite. Most of us were in the same situation.

After we landed in San Francisco, I turned on my cell phone, and the first thing that popped up was that our Southwest flights were cancelled and we wouldn't be able to fly home until later the next day. Alex immediately said, “Let's drive”. So, we rented a car and drove home. We stopped in Los Banos CA, Flagstaff, and then finally home, being extremely careful to have as little interaction with people as possible .

The first thing we discussed when we got in the rental car was how thankful we were to God for keeping an eye on us and helping us navigate the craziness of the past 20+ hours. We were thankful for each other and our family and friends, as well as the ability to be able to make swift changes to our travels. We were sad that we had to leave France 6 days early but appreciative of the time we were able to spend there and with each other. We had wonderful conversations during our 17 hour drive home, many of which came back to the fact that we didn't what was in store for us but how much we had to thank God for.

Once we returned to Albuquerque. Brian met us at the car rental place with our car and the keys and a wave from afar. We were now in self-quarantine, and Brian stayed with friends until that time ended. Two weeks without going out expect to take walks. Short visits from Brian, Nate, and my parents (all through the front door). We've been out of self-quarantine for one week, and I've gone to the grocery store twice and that's it. Interesting changes out there.

Now I'm working from home, Alex has work and school from home, and Brian is essential personnel at the City, so has to go into work each day. Alex, along with other seniors, will not have a senior prom and other senior activities, and probably not graduation. She is doing okay with it, but saddened to end her high school time this way. Otherwise, our spirits are high and we continue to thank God for all we have and ask Him to help those around us. We have been watching the Great British Baking Show on Netflix every night, and Alex has been trying her hand at various bakes. Her puff pastry is amazing. We're going to get fat!

Please know that you all are in my daily thoughts and prayers. If you need anything, even to just talk, please reach out.
With much love, Cassandra Osterloh

WORSHIP NOTES - APRIL

April 5

Matthew 21:1-11
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66

April 12

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10

April 19

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 26

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Cassandra Osterloh

Vice-President: Dave Hartenberger

Treasurer: Lee Danielson

Financial Secretary: Steve McHenry

Secretary: Ron Kulju

Members-at-Large:

Debra Hoyt

Rosemary Butler

Carlo Bachechi

KD Pass



Council meetings take place the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Our next meeting is April 14 via Zoom.

If you have any concerns or questions, please talk with any council member.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD ASSEMBLY FOR 2020

The Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly will be held by video coordination May 1 & 2, 2020. Messiah is assigned two delegates who are members of our parish to represent us. If you would be interested in attending and representing us, please let Cassandra or Pastor Doug know as soon as possible so we can get you registered. Thank you.

Roadrunner is able to put to use people who want to volunteer in the packing of boxes so the food sites which need that food. It is possible that Storehouse may be in the same situation. Call ahead and see how your volunteer desires may be put to use.

We need to be alert for the needs of our neighbors. Take time to call and be in touch with people who are not able to get out for important needs. Also, we need to let them know we socially have needs for conversation and know they are remembered. Steve McHenry and Dave Hartenberger would be willing to run errands.

Prayers need to be an every day practice. If you have a special prayer you want specifically offered before the altar at Messiah, call the church number and leave a message—299-3311. You can also email to office@messiahbq.org. May God's grace fill you with strength and hope.

PRAYER GUIDE

Please keep in your prayers our family and friends who are in need of our prayers this month. Prayer requests can be made by contacting the church office.

Carole & Bill Baker
Barbara Bachechi
Loring Emery
Marian Kulju
Helga Lindner
Robert Maranville
Charlotte Moritomo
Toby Carson (Tony Carson's brother)
Bill Buffo (Lee Danielson's older brother)
Joseph Patrick Lawler III (Hazel Mella)
Shawn and Athena Richmond (Steve McHenry's Daughter and Son-in Law)
Kathy Adams (Kristi Adams' Sister)
Rodney Justice, (Rosemary B.'s Brother)
Pat Baca and Family
Irene Aldredge
Kellen Tetrault
Robert and Kumi Romero (Eric Hauge's parents-in-law)
Gerald Kruger (Betty Hauge's brother)

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Matt Braund
Allen J. Tetreault (KAFB)
Daniel Vickers (Navy, Eloise Kesatie's grandson)
Micah Kesatie (Army Reserves, Eloise Kesatie's grandson)



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MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

11515 Lomas Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112
505-299-3311
messiahabq.org

