

# MESSIAH MESSENGER

*Caring for and serving others so all may share in God's love.*  
messiahbq.org ~ 505-299-3311

**FEBRUARY 2018**  
**VOLUME 56, ISSUE 2**



## **RIDES WITH "OLD SHIFTER"**

"Old Shifter" and I pray that your new year has started out nicely. It has been no surprise to hear that many of us have been suffering a bit (or even more so) with respiratory issues. Hopefully, you have been able to dodge the influenza virus which has encroached upon the daily lives of citizens in forty-nine of our fifty states.

Even though I could not remember the strain of flu virus so unkindly inflicting itself upon us, it is not kind, just the same. Fortunately for "Old Shifter" does not have to worry about such germs. I remember when I lived up in the Upper Midwest my vehicles did get a kind of fuel line ailment. Regularly during the cold months, as a proactive measure against fuel line freeze ups, I would have to add a bottle of "Heet" with my gasoline fill-ups. If not, she would be all stopped up. Diesel truck drivers and those with diesel tractors would have to take the same care with the type of diesel fuel they would get, possibly even adding an additive. The fuel would become gelatinous.

Now there is no law which says you have to be wise and take precautionary, proactive measures, but not to do so is done at your own consequences. That is so true with many avenues and choices we make in life. When driving about town "Old Shifter" and I do not have to follow the rules of the road. We can run red lights. "Old Shifter" can hum right along at whatever speed she enjoys going, but there are consequences.

Last month, "Old Shifter" and I were over at Helga's. Her son Eric was showing me some pictures from the home territory where she grew up and where he has family. One of the pictures I shared on the way home with "Old Shifter" reminding her we have obligations when traversing over our roadways. I should say, we have obligations and consequences.

The picture shown to me was from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania ("Old Shifter" would be impressed I got the state's spelling correct the first time, no spell check red squiggly line). The picture was of a sign put up by the city traffic folks and it looked like road direction signs one would see anywhere. It read, "Complete stop, FREE; Rolling stop \$154.38 (I do not remember the actual amount, so I came up with this one. You get the picture.).

Every day advice and directives are shared with us at some level of earnestness. We do have free will but it does not come without responsibilities and consequences. When I need to come to a stop at an intersection or coming up behind a vehicle, "Old Shifter" needs to apply the brakes when I push on the brake pedal. It is an imperative response to a consequential event. "Old Shifter" does have the option to not function at my request, but it would not be good for either of us.

I believe that our Holy Bible is the ultimate source and true directive as we navigate this world. As we study the Bible we receive such thought provoking insights and solid considerations for how we are to be faithful people of God, and for his creation. God speaks to us through those Holy Scriptures and challenges us to look to where we have been and where we are going. When the Bible speaks to us it does so in a way that fully knows us and our capabilities, good and bad.

As we read the Scriptures, we are exhorted to consider what does God expect of us. It also tells us healthy ways of choosing how we want to live out each day of our life. And even more so, if we listen as we read, especially if we ask God to help us listen to those holy words, it will speak to us. So whenever we get the time to study upon the Scriptures do so with appreciation for where they want to be a directing force for our lives and for the lives of those who we meet. May the Lord's peace be with you each and every day.

**~ Pastor Doug Mathison**

**SUNDAY SERVICE**

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.

**MESSIAH BOOK CLUB**

4th Saturday ~ 10:00 a.m.

**RIISING SUN CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY**

Weekly Service

Sundays ~ 11:30 a.m.

**Pastor Doug Mathison**

office@messiahabq.org

**Director of Music**

Tony Carson

tony@messiahabq.org

**Building & Grounds**

Carlo Bachechi

**Church Office**

office@messiahabq.org

505-299-3311

**Shrove Tuesday**

Tuesday, February 13

Pancake Supper, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.



**SHROVE TUESDAY**

**Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday, February 14

Worship services at 11:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

**Lenten Services**

Wednesdays, February 21 - March 21

11:30 a.m.: Lenten Service

12:15 p.m.: Soup Lunch

6:00 p.m.: Soup Supper

7:00 p.m.: Lenten Service

**Palm Sunday**

Sunday, March 25

**Easter Sunday**

Sunday, April 1

**SIGN UP FOR EASTER LILIES**

Sign up for Easter Lilies on the bulletin board in the hallway. The cost is \$15. Questions? See Irene Aldredge.

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN OFFICERS**

President: Hazel Mella

Secretary: Irene Aldredge

Treasurer: Dotty Dahl

**MISSION LEAD LADIES**

Growth: Lorraine Davis

Action: Charlotte Moritomo

Community: Dotty Dahl

Historian: TBD

Women of the  
**ELCA**

## WORSHIP TEXTS - FEBRUARY

### **February 4 ~ 5th Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 40:21-31

*The creator of all cares for the powerless.*

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

*The Lord heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 58:1:7)*

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

*A servant for the sake of the gospel.*

Mark 1:29-39

*The healing of Peter's mother-in-law.*



### **February 11 ~ Transfiguration of Our Lord**

2 Kings 2:1-12

*Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha.*

Psalms 50:1-6

*Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 94:6)*

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

*God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ.*

Mark 9:2-9

*Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son.*

### **February 14 ~ Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*Return to the Lord, your God.*

Psalms 51:1-17

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 95:5)*

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

*Now is the day of salvation.*

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*The practice of faith.*



### **February 18 ~ First Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 9:8-17

*The rainbow, sign of God's covenant.*

Psalms 25:1-10

*Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 69:54)*

1 Peter 3:18-22

*Saved through water.*

Mark 1:9-15

*The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days.*

### **February 25 ~ Second Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

*God blesses Abraham and Sarah.*

Psalms 22:23-31

*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. (Ps. 66:61)*

Romans 4:13-25

*The promise to those who share Abraham's faith.*

Mark 8:31-38

*The passion prediction.*



## **LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

At our 2018 Congregational Meeting held January 21, we were able to reflect on 2017 and turn our focus forward to 2018 and beyond.

Special thank you to Pastor Doug Mathison whose faithful and knowledgeable guidance has been invaluable. Thank you, also, to Dave Hartenberger who has now finished his Council term and to continuing members Ellen Dobson, Barbara Bachechi, Cassandra Osterloh, Ron Kulju, Carlo Bachechi, and Lee Danielson. Welcome to newly elected Council members Debra Hoyt and Kristi Adams.

The adopted 2018 budget projects operational expenses 8.2% below income, restores a portion of funding for music and facilities, and increases benevolence to 6.7% of income.

Most important, we conducted our business not under a cloud of crisis but in the bright sunlight, as Pastor Doug so eloquently stated, of hope and purpose. Hope and purpose that will connect us even more benevolently to each other and our community. I look forward to serving as your president another year and thank you for your ideas, support, and prayerful commitment.

May we traverse 2018 as we begin: Alive as a congregation and active as a community. Together.

~ Brian Osterloh

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## **REPORT ON NORTH NM W-ELCA CLUSTER EVENT**

The event was held on Saturday, January 20, 2018, in Albuquerque at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. Over 50 women attended this inspiring event titled, "Be the Light of the World - Celebrating Evangelism Everyday."

The questions posed during the event were:

- How do we reach the unchurched?
- How do you talk to those "outside" the church?
- How can we individually share our love of church and the importance of its influence on our lives?

Pastors Rachael Powell and Bre Roberts acted out mock scenes that portrayed examples how Christians may possibly be off-putting because of their excitement to speak about Jesus and their church. They also acted out mock scenes that may portray best practice methods of how Christians can create a more lasting relationship with unbelievers who in turn may want to find out more about our faith. After their presentation, the audience was asked to do the same exercise and were given three hypothetical scenarios. The women loved the exercise but some mentioned that they found it hard to evangelize without coming on too strong about their faith.

We had a special guest from Tennessee, Ms. Dolly (a.k.a. Rhonda Bentz) Parton, who sang "He is High and Mighty".

The event was very successful with lunch catered from Baggin's Gourmet Sandwiches. We were also asked to bring in-kind donations for the Storehouse and St. Tim's collection bin.

The committee is requesting that if any ELCA women are interested in participating in being part of either the 2019 Planning Committee and/or being a 2018 North NM Synod Representative to contact Rhonda Bentz at: 505-301-6662 or rhonda\_8588@hotmail.com.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE ~ FEBRUARY

	FEBRUARY 4	FEBRUARY 11	FEBRUARY 18	FEBRUARY 25	MARCH 4
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Lee Danielson	KD Pass	Ron Kulju	Ellen Dobson	Gene Aldredge
<b>Lector</b>	Lee Danielson	Ron Kulju	Hazel Mella	Debra Hoyt	Cassandra Osterloh
<b>Ushers</b>	Chuck Danielson	Brian & Cassandra Osterloh	Marianne Walck	Tom & Kristi Adams	Brian & Cassandra Osterloh
<b>Greeters</b>	Chuck & Lee Danielson	Ellen Dobson		Tom & Kristi Adams	
<b>Counter</b>	Gene Aldredge	Cassandra Osterloh	Ron Kulju	Kristi Adams	Cassandra Osterloh
<b>Create PowerPoint</b>	Lee Danielson	KD Pass	Ellen Dobson	Cassandra Osterloh	Cassandra Osterloh
<b>Operate PowerPoint</b>	Chuck Danielson	Cassandra Osterloh		Marianne Walck	Alex Osterloh
<b>Fellowship Snacks</b>	Adams	Ellen Dobson	Debra Hoyt	Dotty Dahl	Sandi King
<b>Fellowship Setup</b>	Aldredge	Aldredge	Aldredge	Aldredge	Aldredge
<b>Altar Flowers</b>		Ellen Dobson			
<b>Yard Work</b>	Chuck Danielson	Bonnie Jo Hunt		Tracy Gordon	

**Altar Guild:** Kristi Adams, Irene Aldredge, Mary Emery, Hazel Mella

The **FIRST** Sunday of **every** month,  
bring your loose change and place in  
the offering plate to be  
sent in for **World Hunger**.



### **Flowers Needed!**

Flowers are needed  
for the altar.

The sign up sheet is  
in the entryway. **Sign up today!**

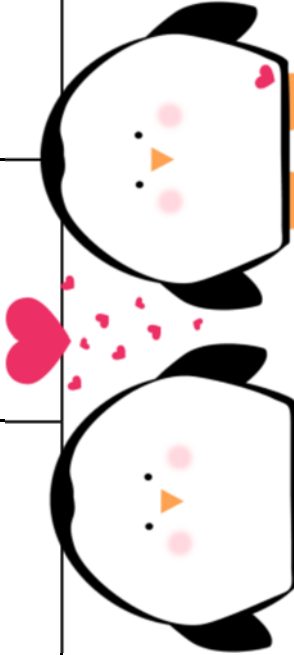
### **Interested in Singing in the Choir?**

Join us after the service on February 4.  
Questions? Talk with Tony Carson.





# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 9am Church Work Day
4 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Choir Practice 11am Worship & Music Meeting <a href="#">11:30am RSCE Service</a>	5	6 9:30am Sew & Share	7 9:30am Bible Study 6-8pm Craft Class	8	9	10 9:30am MLCW Bible Study
11 9:30 am Worship Service <a href="#">11:30am RSCE Service</a>	12	13 5pm Shrove Tuesday Dinner 7pm Church Council Meeting	14 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 9:30am Bible Study 11:30am Service 7pm Service	15	16	17
18 9:30 am Worship Service <a href="#">11:30am RSCE Service</a>	19	20 9:30am Sew & Share	21 9:30am Bible Study 11:30 am Service, Meal 6-8pm Craft Class 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Service	22	23	24 10am Messiah Book Club
25 9:30 am Worship Service <a href="#">11:30am RSCE Service</a>	26	27	28 9:30am Bible Study 11:30 am Service, Meal 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Service			

## **2018 CHURCH COUNCIL**

President: Brian Osterloh

Vice-President/President-Elect: Vacant

Treasurer: Ellen Dobson

Secretary: Cassandra Osterloh

Members-at-Large:

Kristi Adams / Lee Danielson

Carlo Bachechi

Debra Hoyt

Ron Kulju



**Council meetings** take place the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (The council will meet at 7pm in February, however, in order to cook & serve the Pancake Dinner.)

**All are welcome to come!**

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

## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE**

The Congregational Care Committee will be reconvening! If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please bring your ideas, energy, and/or questions to our first meeting on Sunday, March 4, after the worship service. If you have any questions, talk with Rosemary Butler.



February 2	John Jones
February 10	Darron Knight
February 12	Diana Stiefer
February 12	Bob Hauge
February 18	Marion Hoyt
February 20	JaLynn Knight
February 29	Loring Emery

## **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.

Bill Baker

Barbara Bachechi

Susan Bishop (JoAnn Hauge's mother-in-law)

Matt Braund (KAFB)

Al Burmeister

Toby Carson (Tony Carson's brother)

Max Corrie

Danielle Currier

Mary Emery

Bill and Joanne Eve (Betty Hauge's aunt and uncle)

Micah Kesatie (Army Reserves, Eloise Kesatie's grandson)

Marian Kulju

Joseph Patrick Lawler, III

Dr. Rev. Lincoln Leer

Helga Lindner

Robert Maranville

Arlene Mickelson

Charlotte Moritomo

Laura Ross McHenry

Brian Selby (Betty Hauge son-in law)

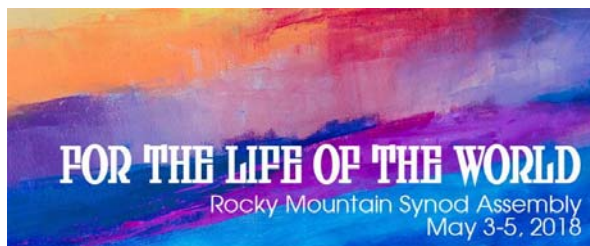
Allen J. Tetreault (KAFB)

Daniel Vickers (Navy, Eloise Kesatie's grandson)

*Pray* **WITHOUT  
CEASING**

## **AN INVITATION FROM BISHOP JIM GONIA**

Every year at our Synod Assembly, a common refrain is heard among first-time voting members: **“It’s so inspiring to be here. We had no idea how much our church does together!”** In anticipation of our 2018 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly, we are inviting those of you serving as congregational voting members to an exciting new opportunity. In addition to preparing for and participating in the Assembly, you will be commissioned as a **Church Together Ambassador** for the next year.



What does this mean?

- You will **serve as an advocate** of our shared life and witness as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America until we meet in Assembly in 2019.
- You will **receive monthly materials** containing stories or insights about why our life as church together matters; these materials will highlight ministries of our congregations, partners, synod and wider church.
- In coordination with your pastor, **you will share these stories and insights** with your congregation monthly, ideally in worship.
- You will be **encouraged to network with other Church Together Ambassadors** and seek additional ways to share the energy and enthusiasm generated when we gather in Assembly.

Thank you for your commitment to our life as Church Together! Bishop Jim Gonia

**NOTE: Let Pastor Doug or a Council member know if you are interested in attending the RMS Assembly.**

Registration begins February 1, due by March 23. The RMS Assembly will be held at the Westin Hotel in Westminster, Colorado, Thursday, May 3 - Saturday, May 5.



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### **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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