

Messiah Messenger

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

November 2023

Volume 61

Issue 11



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

"Gray Lady II" (my 2009 Toyota Tacoma pickup ministry partner) is very dear to me. She has been so dependable and agreeable. We have been out driving in the various weather conditions of New Mexico and Colorado. Often, during the week, she sits out in the sun, on the driveway, when we are not out about doing different things. She knows the trip across town to Messiah quite well. She could probably drive herself to the church.

She is kept in the best maintenance condition for which I am possible to give to her. The basics are never forgotten, such as: regular oil changes, full fluid of the accessory mechanics, a new battery and cleaning. Admittedly, she does not get spiffed up as much as she should. Yet, there are things which get overlooked because they are not used frequently or consistently reviewed as they should. One case in point is the condition of the windshield wipers. They just sit there on the sweeping arm quietly aging. It is at the time when we need them, we find out that the rubber has disintegrated and the swiping off of rain is not as efficient as it should

be. At that moment, we realize that we should have been in touch with the condition of the wipers. We come to grips with how important they are when we are driving and want to be able to see out our windshield safely. So, now they get the attention they deserved and are replaced immediately.

Sometimes I wonder if we place the Lord's graciousness into a similar state in our lives. We people of faith know how valuable He is to us but yet when we have so many other things calling for our attention. We tend to forget to regularly call upon Him. We know He is our ever-present help in our time of need. When things get rough and we are at a moment which calls out for help, we fall on our knees. Otherwise, even with our best intentions to keep in touch with Him, we let the days pass. It is not that we intentionally put Him aside but we fall short of consistently being at one with Him.

We may even place forth good intentions to regularly worship or read the Scriptures, but things of the world grab our immediate attention. He is our help in all present dangers but also smiling along with us during our joyous moments. Our faith needs regular and diligent maintenance. Not unlike every function and particular part of "Gray Lady II" needs our full attention, so does our relationship with the Risen Lord. He has promised to be with us always. And it is true, even if we do ignore Him at times, He is not apart from us.

A solid relationship of any kind needs devoted attention. It also needs attentive and dedicated communication. That is why daily reading of Scriptures, worship and prayer time is so important. When we are doing those things earnestly our Risen Lord and others of faith communicate with us. There are so many times when the Risen Lord would like to speak to us and we have not answered His call. He is always listening to our concerns, even if we do not recognize it. So, diligently keep focus on your faith maintenance and know you are at one with your Savior.

May the Lord's peace be with you each and every day.
Pastor Doug

November Scripture 2023

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>November 5th</u></p> <p>Micah 3:5-12 Psalm 43 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 Matthew 23:1-12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>November 12th</u></p> <p>Amos 5:18-24 Psalm 70 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>November 19th</u></p> <p>Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>November 26th</u></p> <p>Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95:1-7a Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46</p>

November 2023 NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

<p>Messiah Lutheran Church Women Women Officers President: Rosemary Butler Secretary: Irene Aldredge Treasurer: Dotty Dahl</p> <p>Mission Lead Ladies Growth: Lorraine Davis Action: Charlotte Moritomo Community: Dotty Dahl Historian: TBD</p>	<p>Sew and Share will meet November 7th and 21st</p> <p>MLCW Bible Study will meet November 11th</p> <p>Council meeting will take place Tuesday, November 14th this month at 6:30 p.m. (On Zoom)</p>
<p>Sew and Share :“We need batting (only two bags left) and someone to sew squares together for tops. (Sharon has the squares already cut) and we have the sewing machine someone could use.”</p> <p>We will be hosting Bishop Jim Gonia at our worship service on Sunday, December 3, 2023.</p>	<p>We will be providing food for 10 families from Kennedy Middle School for Thanksgiving. Please bring nonperishable food items (and paper products like toilet paper and facial tissues) and leave them under the east window in the Narthex. We will also accept cash, especially for perishable food we will be providing. We will package the donations on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 11:00 am, at Messiah and then bring them over to Kennedy. Please come and help package and deliver. Thank you.</p>

<p>Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Onsite and Zoom) Fellowship following service</p> <p>Weekday Bible Study Wednesday's at 9:30 am</p> <p>Council Meeting 3rd Tuesday this Month at 6:30 pm</p> <p>MLC Women 2nd Saturday of the Month at 9:30 am</p> <p>Sew & Share 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month</p> <p>Craft Class Up and running Contact for meeting time</p> <p>Rising Sun Christian Community 11:30 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>Pastor Doug Mathison office@messiahbq.org</p> <p>Director of Music Katherine Alexander kalex@unm.edu</p> <p>Building & Grounds Carlo Bachechi</p> <p>Church Office office@messiahbq.org 505-299-3311</p>	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby Athena • Carol Hartenberger • Harlan Wilson • Stephanie • Dotty Dahl • Pat Baca & Family • Irene Aldredge • Carole Baker • Loring Emery • Jacen Hoyt <p>Serving In the Military</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Braund • Daniel Vickers (Navy) • Micah Kesatie (Army Reserves)
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For the Love of Our Neighborhood... **November 2023 ~Exciting News for Our Neighbors**

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Monthly meetings of the MLCW began again this month on Saturday, January 8, 2022. We will be meeting on Saturday, **November 11, 2023**, at 9:30 am in the Messiah Conference Room. The Bible study from the W-ELCA magazine "Gather" will be used.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The study meets every Wednesday morning at 9:30 am. We usually meet in the Conference Room at Messiah, unless we need to be at appropriately socially distanced. The study is traditionally a study of the upcoming Sunday's Gospel lesson and other designated lessons. You can bring your own Bible, otherwise, there will be handouts of the scripture made available to you.

KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL and TOMASITA GRADE SCHOOL NEWS

Edna and pastor are working on doing the 10 families for Thanksgiving. **We ask you to begin bringing non-perishable groceries to the church and put on the east wall of the Narthex. We will be packing the groceries on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 11:00 am, at the church. Then we will deliver them to Kennedy Middle School.**

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Thank you to the newly elected officers for their willingness to guide us through the next year in doing the Lord's work.

President: Ron Kulju
V. Pres.: Brian Osterloh
Secretary: Pat Baca
Treasurer: K. D. Pass
Fin. Sec't.: Cecelia Pepper
At Large: Kristi Adams
At Large: Debra Hoyt

(The Church Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. We have been meeting in person at the church and on ZOOM.)

RISING SUN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

They are still meeting in our building and enjoy being with us on Sundays. They have been having fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall. They joined us for the "Sway Meet" on Saturday, September 16. That was a good day. They joined us for the annual Trunk or Treat event on Monday, October 30, from 5-6:30 pm. **We have made a quarterly arrangement to see to keeping paper and cleaning supplies up to date. Our upcoming quarter is October, November and December. Please bring in supplies to donate to the keeping up our supplies.**

WORSHIP AT MESSIAH

We are worshipping in the church building and doing ZOOM for those not in the building. We pray that this keeps us in touch with the Word of the Lord and each other. We have also been emailing or mailing a weekly exposition of the weekly worship and lessons. We are having fellowship time following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Most of our eats are prepackaged, but some people bring in treats. Please pick and choose what works best for you and your health. Thank you to Brian and Cassandra Osterloh, KD Pass, Rosemary Butler, Debra Hoyt, Ron Kulju, Steve McHenry, Gene and Irene Aldredge, and Tony, for their extra assistance in making worship happen during this unusual time. We are having Holy Communion during the service with special directives for practicing social distancing and health concerns. We started using unleavened bread for the Sunday services, beginning April 24, 2022.

Thank you to Carol Hartenberger and Lee Danielson for making the communion bread we are presently using. If others would like to make the bread, we have a recipe available for you.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT MESSIAH

- 1) **Sew and Share**—They will meet of the first and third Tuesdays of each month. They will meet in the Conference Room, at 9:30 am, with some food and fellowship following. Come and have a great time putting together quilts and working with other members of the church. There had been no gatherings in August, the next gatherings will be **November 7 and 21**. They decided this past year to make quilts for the **Linus Project** and **Saranam**. The theme of the Linus Project is "Covering New Mexico with Love." You are invited to participate in any way you feel you are able to assist in these projects.
- 2) We are in need of volunteers to help our worship services: PowerPoint/ZOOM (run the system); Offering Counters (count, record and deposit the offering); Altar Guild, Fellowship time treats and other activities throughout the year. Please sign up on the volunteer sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
- 3) **VISION COMMITTEE:** We have a great opportunity to be in conversation with Holy Cross Lutheran Church. A few members from our church council and vision committee and some similar from Holy Cross will meet on November 15, 2023. It is exciting to be consider this association with that congregation.
- 4) **Flowers:** We are looking for people to bring flowers to adorn our flower shelf behind the altar. There is a flower chart on the big bulletin board by the Narthex Door if you would like to pick a certain Sunday.
- 5) **Choir.** We would love to have more members as part of our choir. We practice after services on Sunday morning in the Conference Room.

- 6) **Property:** We need to fix the landscape at the southeast corner of our parking lot. We are in the process of hiring a new custodian.
- 7) **Saranam:** This is a caring facility for homeless families, not too far from Messiah. It is on Eubank and they provide housing, education, and community opportunities. Pastor has been in contact with them and is looking in to how we may be able to support their efforts. (See the write up in this month's newsletter) Tracy and Diane will be at our worship service and fellowship time, Sunday, October 1, 2023. The MLCW will help by providing for two of the "Welcome Baskets."
- 8) **Messiah and RSCC Trunk or Treat was on Monday, October 30, from 5-6:30 pm in the parking lot.** It was wonderful, with seventeen vehicles and a whole lot kids in costume enjoying the treats. Thank you to everyone who made this a success.
- 9) **Church Council** nominees for 2024 are needed.

Treasurer Report September 2023

YTD/MTD	MTD	YTD
Income	\$9,069.16	\$88,570.26
Expense	\$7,335.44	\$61,591.63
Net	\$1,733.72	\$26,978
Balances	Beginning of Month	End of Month
Checking	\$144,375.57	\$147,266.43
MM	\$18,648.95	\$18,649.11

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Sew And Share

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Saranam Success Stories: Doralee (part 2): "Believing in her inherent capabilities has given her confidence to pursue a fulfilling career and face unexpected challenges. Guided by new purpose, her life has a bigger meaning. As mentor to her peers and guide for her kids, she is a beacon of optimism and encouragement. Her daily faith practice gives her assurance that the new life she envisions is possible. I have made significant changes in my life in alignment with Biblical teachings, and as a result I have witnessed the love and the blessings in so many ways. From her darkest hours to her highest dreams, faith is Doralee's bedrock."

I would like to thank all the participants and the donors of candy and money for the event. It was quite a success! We had 14 vehicles participate and over 100 kids and parents attend.



November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1.	2.	3.	4.
			9:30 am Bible Study			
5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am		9:30 am Sew and Share	9:30 am Bible Study			9:30 am MLCW Bible Study
12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am			9:30 am Bible Study 11 a.m. KMS Food Packing and Delivery			
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
9:30 am Worship & Potluck Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am		9:30 am Sew and Share 6:30 pm Church Council		Happy Thanksgiving		
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.		
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am			9:30 am Bible Study			

Messiah Lutheran Church

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