

Messiah Messenger

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

February 2023

Volume 61

Issue 2



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

The other day, "Gray Lady II" (my 2009 Toyota Tacoma pickup ministry partner) and I were having a conversation about sunrises. Many mornings during the week she and I travel easterly toward the Sandia Mountain on Menaul. Our traveling time in the mornings is about sunrise, depending on the season of the year. She asked me, "Have you noticed over our trips across towns in the morning that the sun does not peak above the mountain in the same place?" I think she was trying to test my observatory skills."

I said, "yes." I told her that during certain months I have to pull my hat way down so the brim blocks the rising sun over Menaul. Other times, we are at the church before the sun rises above the peaks or it is coming up more to the north. That was the part which really caught her interest—where the sun came up with deference to what month it was. It would come up more to the northern side of the Sandia Mountain in the summer and gradually move southerly at its rising in the winter.

I told her how I first really noticed such an impressive constant event was when I was in my parish in rural Northeast Iowa. We lived on a hill in a two-story high parsonage. The upstairs hall eastern window looked over the fields to the east across a wide

horizon vista. The sun in mid-December would be way on the south horizon when it came up in the morning. Then through the following months up to mid-June, it would gradually move at a more northern point until it reached the steeple of the St. John Roman Catholic Church, a few miles northeast of our home. Then it would move smoothly back across the horizon until it would get to its most southerly point.

"Gray Lady II" asked me if there was a feel of constancy in the rising sun movement. I told her, "Yes." I also pointed out that I could see the same movement of the sun at dusk. The sun moves and then sets either a little below our house or farther northwest of our house, depending on whether it is winter or summer. But yes, being a person that is very routine orientated, I feel a constancy in the behavior of the sun during the year.

The fact is that I am a mere mortal and live daily by the effects of a world which seems to be everchanging and filled with promises difficult to be kept. I dream of wonderful possibilities yet fall short in unmet realities. Not unlike Paul, I wish to do the good but somehow the bad works its way in to that which I have to deal. So, a constancy which is based on goodness and mercy is that to which I cling. That constancy is the immortal Risen Lord which has promised through His Spirit to intervene in my daily mortal life.

This constancy of a grace filled relationship with the Risen Lord gives me hope and strength. A hope and strength which is more than just a sense that putting a key in "Gray Lady II's" ignition and hoping that she will start when I turn said key. It is a hope and strength that I am able to live in the promise that the Lord gave to all believers. As I (we) live, I (we) live in that promise that He is with me (us) always. That daily He works to bring me (us) into His Kingdom and live with (me) us within this earthly one. That is an unfailing promise because it comes by the power of the everlasting and never changing Lord of the universe. There be my (our) constant. That constancy which comes from the Risen Lord gives me (us) an internal peace that is never affected by the whim of the world or the poor efforts of its people.

The mighty Lord has been the same from the creation, today, and forever more. God be praised. Thank you, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His power through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

February Scripture 2023



<p><u>February 5th</u></p> <p>Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12] Psalm 112:1-9 [10] 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16] Matthew 5:13-20</p>	<p><u>February 12th</u></p> <p>Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Sirach 15:15-20 (alternate) Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37</p>
<p><u>February 19th</u></p> <p>Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 Psalm 99 (alternate) 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9</p>	<p><u>February 26th</u></p> <p>Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11</p>

<p>Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Onsite and Zoom) Fellowship following service</p> <p>Weekday Bible Study Wednesday at 9:30 am</p> <p>Council Meeting 2nd 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@messiahabq.org</p> <p>Director of Music Katherine Alexander kalex@unm.edu</p> <p>Building & Grounds Carlo Bachechi</p> <p>Church Office office@messiahabq.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"> • George Holly • Irene Aldredge • Carole Baker • Loring Emery • Marian Kulju • Helga Lindner • Jacen Hoyt • Dotty Dahl • Pat Baca & Family • Barbara • Bernadette and Trudy • Andy • Katherine • Rebecca Hauge • Mike and Tyler • Steve McHenry • Dennis Milks • Stephanie <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...

February 2023 ~ EXCITING NEWS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Monthly meetings of the MLCW began again this month on Saturday, January 8, 2022. Our next meeting will be **Saturday, February 11, 2023**. We will meet 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

Thank you to all who donated to the "Mitten Tree." The MLCW saw to dividing out the sizes so that both schools received your kind largesse.

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Those who volunteered and were chosen at the Annual Meeting of the congregation for the year are: Ron Kulju, Kristi Adams, Debra Hoyt, Brian Osterloh, Cecelia Pepper, Pat Baca, and K.D. Pass. At the upcoming February Council meeting, there will be a selection of those officers for the particular offices required by the constitution. Thank you to them for willingness to guide us through the next year in doing the Lord's work.

(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 meeting once again in our building (and with a digital format for those outside the building). They have been having fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall. They have a second camera up and running for their streaming service of their worship.

WORSHIP AT MESSIAH

We are worshiping 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. Sadly, our ZOOM experience has had its hiccups. Please understand that we are trying but it does not always perform as well as it could. 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. The next gatherings will be **February 7 and 14, 2023.**
- 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, and other activities throughout the year. Please sign up on the volunteer sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
- 3) We have formed a “Vision Committee” to review and look into what is ahead for worship and other activities at Messiah. Presently, the committee consists of Ron Kulju, Steve McHenry, Cassandra and Brian Osterloh, Chuck Danielson, KD Pass, and Pastor Doug. They are interested in visiting with members of Messiah, as we look ahead being a worshiping center for our Lord. **Vision Committee will meet again on Monday, February 6, at 7 pm, at Messiah.**
- 4) **Mitten Tree:** The MLCW distributed to Tomasita and Kennedy the wondrous gifts from the tree.
- 5) **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.
- 6) We will be having the installation of the officers of the congregation and MLCW on Sunday, February 12, 2023, during the worship service.
- 7) **Baptism:** Abigail Rose Sarfaty, on Sunday, February 5, 2023, during the worship service. May God be with her in her baptismal journey.

- 8) **Ash Wednesday** is February 22, 2023. We will be having a service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at the two services—11:00 am and 7:00 pm. (We plan to have the 7:00 pm service on ZOOM). We will not be having evening mid-week Lenten services at 7:00 pm, but we will have them at the 11:00 am services on Wednesdays through Lent.
- 9) **Choir:** They will be singing an anthem during the Sunday, February 19, 2023, worship service. There is an open invitation to anyone who would like to sing in the choir for any of our anthems. We practice following the worship service and fellowship time, in the Conference Room.

February 2023 NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

<p>Messiah Lutheran Church Women Women Officers</p> <p>President: Rosemary Butler Secretary: Irene Aldredge Treasurer: Dotty Dahl</p> <p>Mission Lead Ladies</p> <p>Growth: Lorraine Davis Action: Charlotte Moritomo Community: Dotty Dahl Historian: TBD</p> <p>Vision Committee will meet Monday, February 6th, at 7 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church.</p> <p>Installation of Messiah congregation officers will be on Sunday, February 12th, during the worship service.</p>	<p>Sew and Share will be held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. - February 7th - February 21st</p> <p>MLCW Bible Study will meet on Saturday, February 11th at 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Council meetings will take place Tuesday, February 14th this month at 6:30 p.m. (On Zoom)</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Services will be held on Wednesday, February 22nd, at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion will be offered during both services.</p>
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Treasurer Report December 2022

YTD/MTD	MTD	YTD
Income	\$6,114.00	\$101,526.72
Expense	\$9,185.56	\$87,035.26
Net	-\$3,071.56	\$14,491.46
Balances	Beginning of Month	End of Month
Checking	\$120,945.73	\$118,846.97
MM	\$18,647.71	\$18,647.97

February 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 Baptism of Abigale Rose Sarfaty Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am	7 pm Vision Committee	9:30 am Sew & Share	9:30 am Bible Study			9:30 am MLCW Bible Study
12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Installation of congregation officers) Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am		6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	9:30 am Bible Study			
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Choir Anthem) Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am		9:30 am Sew & Share	9:30 am Bible Study 11am & 7pm Ash Wednesday Service			
26.	27.	28.				
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am						

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