

Messiah Messenger

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

August 2023
Volume 61
Issue 8



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

"Gray Lady II" (my 2009 Toyota Tacoma pickup ministry partner) and I were on one of our travels across town to church. I was feeling a bit sad for her. Our time together has been a little less over the past months. You have probably noticed that she is not in our parking lot as often as she was. I have been driving my wife's vehicle more to try to keep some wear and tear off "Gray Lady II". It is not that I do not enjoy her company, in fact, it is just the opposite. I want to keep her around as long as I can. She is not only a nice ride, but also quite useful.

When I bought her, both the dealership and my mechanic, said that she could last "forever." I would hate for them to be wrong. My plan is that they be right. So, I am letting her rest during the week. She shows her excitement to be doing something when I put her key into her ignition. I think I hear her purring with joy when I turn the key into the start position. I have a sense of pleasure also as we pull out of the driveway and head out to where ever we have to go. She especially gets excited when I tell her we need to pick up our granddaughter. Our granddaughter's car seat is securely fixed in "Gray Lady II's" backseat. There is a great view from that child seat as we venture about around our community.

I not only feel comfortable riding in her front seat behind the steering wheel but I also feel she provides safe travels for me and my passengers. I maintain her and keep her fuel tank full, ready for any adventure which befalls us. To have a long and worthy relationship it takes a seriousness of appreciation and care. I do not take "Gray Lady II" for granted. I listen and take in her messages to me so we both can have a great relationship.

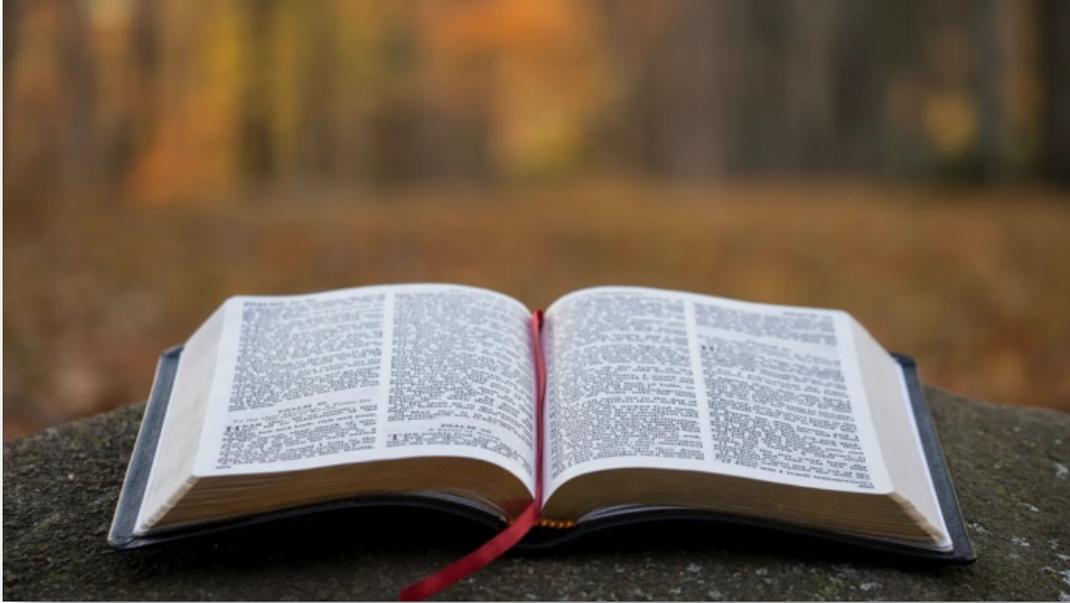
Upon reflection, as we coming to the church, I mentioned to "Gray Lady II" that I thanked her for being so dependable and caring. I think she blushed a little. Hard to tell with a black interior. And it made me think of the Psalmist and his deep appreciation for his relationship with God. That relationship was supported by a faithful knowledge by the Psalmist that God had promised to carry him through life, eternally. And that for that relationship to be strong, the Psalmist would have to institute and maintain a firm implanting of the will of God.

Listen to the verses from the Psalmist: "Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them." (Psalm 119:129) and "Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes." (Psalm 119:135). These words speak so reverently and thankfully the way of a faithful person in a relationship with his Lord. They are not half-hearted words casually thrown out but words from the heart which longs for the peace only available in a full loving relationship with the One who wants to be always available for that full loving relationship.

As I said in my opening remarks, I feel a confidence in my relationship with "Gray Lady II" that to the best of her finite abilities and my good maintenance of her, that my feelings are set free. It is so also with my relationship with the Lord, as I live day by day through all the expected and unexpected happenings, that I am at peace and free of ultimate catastrophe. Jesus after telling the disciples that He is the light of the world, shining brightly even in the darkest niches of our world, that they should be at peace in Him. He tells them that the "Truth" (Him) will set them free from all that would befall them. "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Amen to that.

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

August Scripture 2023



August 6th

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 13th

1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 20th

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

August 27th

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

<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 2nd Tuesday this Month at 6:30 pm</p> <p>MLC Women (No meeting in August) 2nd Saturday of the Month at 9:30 am</p> <p>Sew & Share (No meeting in August) 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"> • Stephanie • Dotty Dahl • Pat Baca & Family • George Holly • 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... August 2023 ~Exciting News for Our Neighbors

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Monthly meetings of the MLCW began again this month on Saturday, January 8, 2022. There will be **no** meetings in **July and August**. When we start meeting again it will be 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

We have been in contact with them in July to get ready for the next school year. We are getting some items needed for Tomasita and Edna at Kennedy said she would get back to us. We will be giving a lot of new socks and shirts about the time you receive this newsletter.

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: Brian Osterloh
V. Pres.: Ron Kulju
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 have a second camera up and running for their streaming service of their worship.

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 will no gatherings in August, the next gatherings will be September.
They decided this past year to make quilts for the **Linus Project**. The theme of the Linus Project is “Covering New Mexico with Love.” Their quilts of different sizes will go to children in crisis in Bernalillo County. You are invited to participate in any way you feel you are able to assist in this project.
- 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) 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 met on Tuesday, March 7, at 7 pm, at Messiah. **A main topic was “Geographic parishes and sharing ministries.”**
- 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 will be before September beginning our practice gathering. 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 will be replacing the storm glass window for the Southeast Altar Stained Glass window (for the second time this year). 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 last month's newsletter) We will try to get someone to talk to us this Fall at a worship service and fellowship time. The MLCW is already looking into supporting them with help providing one of the "Welcome Baskets."

- 8) **Messiah and RSCC Clothing Drive and Swap/Give-A-Way: Saturday, September 16, beginning at 8:00 am.** We are collecting used clothing and shoes for a local community Give-A-Way. There are collection boxes in the Narthex and a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help. It will be in the Messiah Church parking lot and it is a "no money" exchange.

August 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 not be meeting this month.</p> <p>MLCW Bible Study will not be meeting this month.</p> <p>Council meeting will take place Tuesday, July 11th this month at 6:30 p.m. (On Zoom)</p>
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Treasurer Report June 2023

YTD/MTD	MTD	YTD
Income	\$6,047.55	\$64,348.74
Expense	\$7,374.31	\$42,595.85
Net	-\$1,326.76	\$21,752.89
Balances	Beginning of Month	End of Month
Checking	\$141,615.75	\$137,548.57
MM	\$18,648.64	\$18,648.80

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
			9:30 am Bible Study			
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am		6:30 pm Church Council	9:30 am Bible Study			
13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am			9:30 am Bible Study			
20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am			9:30 am Bible Study			
27.	28.	29.	30.	31.		
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am			9:30 am Bible Study			

Messiah Lutheran Church

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