

Messiah Messenger

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

September 2021

Volume 59

Issue 9



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

I have been very fortunate over the many years of my ministry to have a dedicated ministry partner. The present ministry partner is "Gray Lady II." Her dedication to my need to be at particular places at specific times. Admittedly, she is only a vehicle with all the basic pieces which make her a vehicle of locomotion. She is adorned with wheels which roll (most of the time, nails and screws do their worst at times), an engine, driveshaft, axles, brakes, seats, and lights. I am quite devoted to her devotion to my and our ministry needs. It could be said that she is a blessing and could be heaped with adoration and praise.

Yet, like her three predecessors, it is important for me to remember that she is man-made, fallible, and not to idolized over other vehicles. I do try to keep her outer shell and inner cab looking nice for our travels. I know of others who do a lot more than my casual cleaning. There are some who speak of their vehicles all shiny and "adorned with accessories" with exaltation and reverence. "Gray Lady II" knows I will keep her up on all her maintenance and body needs, but she is not a goddess to me. I have to admit I do feel badly that she does not have a sheltered from the element's containment area. She may be a bit disgusted with me about that, but she continues to be a "trooper."

So, how did I become to be in this muse? Well, the other day, "Gray Lady II" and I were leaving the Thursday morning men's Bible Study and heading to go golfing. "Gray Lady II" and I have many conversations during our drives, and I was reflecting with her about a section we had read from the "Book of Acts." The reading brought thoughts to me about how easily people choose to make idols of various aspects of their daily living, and sadly, either lift them above their dedication to the Lord or push Him completely out of their thoughts. This idolization is not only set to physical structures, but anything which consumes their thoughts and efforts with a sense of being elevated.

We had just read from the "Book of Acts" the power exhortation provided by Paul to people of Athens, in the midst of the Areopagus. Paul acknowledged that the people were a seeking people of gods to worship but were missing being at one with the One and Almighty God, especially as known through His Son. He mentioned as he went about the area of Athens that he saw all kinds of objects devoted for worship. He found one which was kind of a catch-all deity entitled, "To the unknown god."

When we consider Peter's words, "to whom shall we go," we need to look away from our own devices and gods and look to the One who made all those things for which we try to create into an image or process to lift us above our mortality. I am going to conclude with Paul's address to the people of Athens from Acts 17:23b-29, "What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'in him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals."

Paul's words to those in Athens still apply to us today. There is only one Lord and Savior, and His name is Jesus Christ. Our prayers, devotion and worship should constantly and consistently be directed to His holy nature and for our salvation. Pray and live in the words from Paul moved by the Holy Spirit to invite us all into a grace filled relationship with the Holy of all holies.

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

September Scripture 2021



<u>September 5th</u> Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalms 146 James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17 Mark 7:24-37	<u>September 12th</u> Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalms 116:1-9 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38
<u>September 19th</u> Jeremiah 11:18-20 Wisdom 1:16--2:1, 12-22 (alternate) Psalms 54 James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37	<u>September 26th</u> Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Psalms 19:7-14 eyes. (Ps. 19:8) James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50

<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 Restart TBA</p> <p>Sew & Share Restart TBA</p> <p>Craft Class Restart TBA</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 Tony Carson tony@messiahbq.org</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"> • Dotty Dahl • Doreen Barelo • Pat Baca & Family Irene Aldredge • Kellen Tetrault • DeAnna Dahm • Carole Baker • Loring Emery • Marian Kulju • Helga Lindner <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...

September 2021 ~ EXCITING NEWS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

All monthly meetings are still postponed for the time being, except the Wednesday morning Bible Study (in person) and Church Council (in person and ZOOM). As soon as the MLCW knows when they will reconvene, it will be announced. (Prayerfully in September)

KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

They began the school year August 4, 2021. In conversation with Edna Torres things are coming along. The only thing they could use would be some full-size backpacks. They have some lighter weight, smaller ones on hand.

TOMASITA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We had the pleasure of donating Twenty-One POLO shirts (dark blue) to the school counselor, Ed Garcia, for student use. The gift from Messiah Lutheran Church was made possible by the generosity of Joanny Wilson, Cecelia Pepper and Linda Milks. Thank you.

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

President: Ron Kulju
Vice President: Debra Hoyt
Secretary: Rebecca Hauge
Treasurer: Lee Danielson
Financial Secretary.: Steve McHenry
At Large:
 Rosemary Butler
 KD Pass



(The Church Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. We are going to try to meet in person in the Fellowship Hall and on ZOOM.)

RISING SUN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Rising Sun Christian Community began worshiping in our building and with a digital format for those not in the building, on Sunday, August 8, 2021. Their "Praise Band" has been practicing on Saturdays at Messiah. Pastor Vangie and her congregation say hello.

WORSHIP at Messiah – 2021

We will continue doing our worship by ZOOM and with some in church worshipers. We pray that this has helped you stay in touch with the Word of the Lord and each other. We have also been emailing or mailing Exposition of the Weekly Worship and Lessons. We have been allowing members to worship on site, following all the appropriate health precautions. We are getting a nice group of worshipers at Messiah on Sunday each week. **We are now having a "Grab and Go/Stay and Chat" following worship in the Fellowship Hall.** We keep working to offer the best worship and Bible Study opportunities possible. Thank you to Brian and Cassandra, K. D. Pass, Rosemary Butler and Tony for making all this possible.

WORSHIP with our more traditional Holy Communion----Our plan was for the Sunday worship service on June 13, 2021, 9:30 am, to move closer to our traditional way of doing Holy Communion during the service. It went pretty well, and we had a large number of worshipers. Those of you who have been worshiping in the sanctuary know that for the past many months we have limited movement during the service and masks were mandatory. Well, the State of New Mexico has lessened the need to keep on masks on in public inside events, like worship. So if you wish to not wear a mask and have been fully vaccinated, you have that option.

Our worship services now-- when it is time to for the sacred elements distribution, you will be asked to come up around the altar, be before the altar railings or stay in your pew, and we will serve you. Please do keep in mind social distancing no matter what you choose.

Pastor will bring the bread (wafer) to each person and another person will follow with the trays of filled disposable wine cups (safely spaced away from each other on the tray). There will be no words shared and each person is to hold the elements until Pastor gets back in front of the ZOOM camera at the altar. Pastor will make sure all people are ready to receive the elements, both in house and on ZOOM, so we can receive the sacrament as a full

community of Christ. Then the Pastor will say, "The body of Christ given for you, amen," and everyone will eat the body, and then "The blood of Christ shed for you, amen," again all will drink.

Once all have received the Body and Blood, the Pastor will bless the meal. Those not in their seats will return to their pews, giving space for each returning and dispose of the cups in the trash can in the aisle. We are still trying to see how this all flows and when we will sing the Communion Hymn, while returning to their pews. It may take us a couple of weeks to get this all moving smoothly. God bless.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT MESSIAH (projected)

- 1) Wednesday Morning Bible Study – 9:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue to meet as long as we feel we are able to do so safely, while following state health guidelines. We ask that those attending to once again bring your own Bibles, and Pastor Doug will have copies ready for the appropriate text of study. (Of course, coffee will be made, and also, we ask those attending not to leave personal items in your vehicle.)
- 2) Sew and Share – has not set a getting back to quilt making at the church, yet.
- 3) Men's Morning Bible Study - No plans have been made to resume.
- 4) We are planning to have a social outing. A **Summer Fair**, on Saturday, September 18, from 10:00 am- 2:00 pm, in the parking lot. We would like to have something with a rejoice filled feeling for all in our neighborhood. (See flier in the newsletter)
- 5) We are in need of volunteers to help our worship services: PowerPoint/ZOOM for worship (and at other special times) and Sunday offering Counters (who would count, record and deposit the offering.) We will provide people who know how to do these things tutor volunteers.

Mark Your Calendars!

Let's celebrate God's grace with the community!

Messiah Lutheran Church with Thrivent Financial

Summer Fair

Saturday, September 18, 2021



10 am - 2 pm

Messiah Lutheran Church grounds, 11515 Lomas Ave. NE

Music Food Crafts Games Giveaways

Volunteers are needed for a variety of functions. A sign up sheet is in the church hallway, or call Debra to sign up. Much help is needed!

Donations are needed for snacks, water, drinks, prizes, and school supplies. A box for drop offs is in the church.

We will have a childrens' book table with free book giveaways. We will need **childrens' books** for ages 1 to 13. There is a box in the church hallway to drop off the books. New or gently used.

If anyone has a yard canopy we could use for the day, it would be greatly appreciated, as well as patio umbrellas. Also needed, a putter and 2 golf balls.

For more info, contact Debra, Rosemary, Andrew or the Messiah Church Council.

Debra Hoyt 205-9883 or dkhoyt0321@gmail.com

Thank you, everyone!

Albuquerque Refugee & Asylee Programs Donation List

Thank you for thinking of LFS for your donations of furniture and household goods! When a refugee family arrives, LFS secures an apartment and furnishes the apartment with all the basic necessities. We rely on donations of new and gently used items from the community to be able to give refugees a warm welcome! For large items and furniture we are able to pick-up Monday-Friday, but please understand that we are a small operation and so we are generally not able to pick up with short notice. Please call our office in advance to schedule. Thank you for your generosity!

We accept the following new or gently used items.

Furniture:

- Bed frame (twin/full/queen)
- Dressers or chest of drawers
- Small couches or loveseats
- Lamps and light bulbs
- Kitchen/dining table and chairs
- Living room chairs
- Coffee table/side tables
- Nightstands

Linens:

- Bath towels, hand towels, and washcloths
- Sheet sets (twin, full, queen)
- Blankets and bedspreads
- Pillows (new only)
- Curtains
- Shower curtain

Kitchen Items:

- Utensils
- Dishes (plates, bowls, cups)
- Glasses, mugs
- Pots and pans
- Bakeware
- Mixing/serving bowls
- Cooking utensils (spatula, wooden spoon, knives, serving utensils)
- Can opener
- Cutting board
- Tupperware (new only)

Cleaning Supplies:

- Dish soap
- Bathroom/kitchen cleaner
- Laundry detergent
- Sponges or cleaning rags
- Paper towels
- Waste baskets
- Trash bags
- Mop, broom, dust pan

Toiletries:

- Toilet paper
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Soap
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Personal hygiene items: deodorant, feminine products, shaving cream, razors)

Other:

- Home décor
- Small appliances
- Alarm clock
- Paper, pens, pencils
- Children's books and toys
- Baby items: baby food, clothing, diapers, car seats, cribs, strollers
- Gift Cards: a gift card to a local supermarket can be a life-line for a refugee waiting on their first paycheck.

We do NOT accept: king-sized beds, sofa beds, recliners, desks, bookshelves, entertainment centers, hutches, armoires, waterbed frames, grills, patio furniture, lawnmowers, appliances such as washers, dryers, stoves, or refrigerators, TVs, clothing.

Contact Information:

Community Engagement Coordinator
Lydia Monte | lydia.monte@lfsrm.org

Over the summer the Lutheran Campus Ministry Board at UNM and CNM had the task of finding and hiring a new pastor, after the departure of Pastor Bre Roberts to her new church in Maryland. After much discussion and searching, we have found a wonderful leader in Rhonda Newby-Torres, our new lay Pastor at Luther House. She began her work the beginning of August - getting to know the Luther House residents, the wants and needs of the Board and residents, the lay of the land at UNM and CNM, and more.

Rhonda Newby-Torres was born and raised in New Mexico and has also lived and traveled extensively outside of the state and the country. She lives on a farm in Tome where she and her husband are raising two children with lots of cows, chickens, cats, dogs, and room to roam. Rhonda graduated from UNM in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Religious Studies and spent 15 years doing community organizing in the International District in Albuquerque. She is currently finalizing her Master of Theological Studies at St. Norbert College.

Rhonda and the Luther House residents, along with others, hosted a table at the Duck Pond at UNM's Welcome Back Days, August 26-27, one of their first events of the school year. They also have put together a weekly schedule of events that anyone is welcome to attend (UNM, CNM, members of the public, etc.).

Wednesdays: Shared Meal at 6pm at Luther House followed by a time of prayer, study, dialogue, and spiritual practice.

Thursdays: Centering Prayer at 12 noon at the Duck Pond (UNM).

Fridays: Theology in the SUB- "What is Progressive Theology" at 12 noon in the SUB (UNM Student Union Building).

Saturdays and/or Sundays: Church visits, service projects, community outings and much more!

I am looking forward to hosting Rhonda at Messiah, as she makes the rounds of the Lutheran churches in the area. I will keep the MLC congregation up to date on her upcoming visit as well as any other news from Luther House. If you have any questions regarding Lutheran Campus Ministry, please don't hesitate to ask.

~ Cassandra Osterloh
(cassandra.osterloh@yahoo.com), Vice-
President, Lutheran Campus Ministry Board



September 2021 NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Council meetings will take place the 2nd Tuesday this month at 6:30 p.m. (On Zoom)

Messiah Lutheran Church Women Women Officers

President: Rosemary Butler

Secretary: Irene Aldredge

Treasurer: Dotty Dahl

Mission Lead Ladies

Growth: Lorraine Davis

Action: Charlotte Moritomo

Community: Dotty Dahl

Historian: TBD



**Join us Saturday,
September 18th as we
celebrate God's Grace with
the community through our
Summer Fest event.**

Trunk or Treat

When: Saturday October 30th

Time: 5 – 7 p.m.

More information to come!

Volunteers Needed!!!

- ZOOM/PowerPoint for Sunday Worship
- Counting, recording, and depositing the weekly Messiah offering

Sign-up on the volunteer board at MLC.

September 2021

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 following Rising Sun Worship 11:30am			9:30 am Bible Study			
12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
9:30 am Worship Fellowship following Rising Sun Worship 11:30am		6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	9:30 am Bible Study			10:00 am – 2:00 pm Summer Fair
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
9:30 am Worship Fellowship following Rising Sun Worship 11:30am			9:30 am Bible Study			
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.		
9:30 am Worship Fellowship following Rising Sun Worship 11:30am			9:30 am Bible Study			

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