

**From the Desk of Pastor Mark**

As we move into the end of winter, the beginning of Spring; the end of Epiphany, and the beginning of Lent, we acknowledge new times and different rhythms. There is a profound truth to Ecclesiastes when it states—“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). What season are you in now? What things seem to be at the forefront of your mind? Ecclesiastes is a book of wisdom that points out that the things we go through have a rhythm about them—even ultimate things like life and death. We go through weeping and laughing, mourning and dancing, seeking and losing, tearing and sewing, silence and speech, and many other times in our lives. Sometimes its important for us to remember that what is going on in our life will not last forever, but a new time/season will arrive. We do best to ask God to help us be patient as we endure a difficult and challenging time, and to be grateful when we feel like we are on the top of the world.

One piece of advice the writer of Ecclesiastes states in his writing is he thinks “there is nothing better for humans to do than be joyful and to do good as long as they live” (Ecclesiastes 3:12) He goes on to state that “Whatever God does endure forever, nothing can be added or taken away from it.” (Ecclesiastes 3:14). In our lives there is nothing assured except for change. Yet, in the life of God there is a pillar of unchangeableness. We can be fickle, loving one moment and hating the next, depending on circumstances. We can see our life as one thing and in the next moment due to death or injury, or something radically intrusive coming into our life, we are forced in a moment to experience life differently. Yet, God is a rock, not driven by change, emotions, or circumstances. There is a mystery in all of this with us, we can’t comprehend God

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**COUNCIL AND  
COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS**

**Thursday—7**  
 6:15 pm  
 Education Comm

**Wednesday—13**  
 5:30 pm  
 Youth Committee

**Sunday—17**  
 10:30 am  
 Outreach Team

**Wednesday—20**  
 7:00 pm  
 Council meeting

**PASTORAL ACTS****None***Continued from page 1*

fully, or at times even partially. Yet, if we believe, we are blessed by what God can give to us amidst the changing circumstances of our lives.

Ecclesiastes also reminds us of something I frequently say—life is but a vapor, its short. It is but a flicker in eternity. Yet, most of us assume we are going to live forever, especially when we are younger! What difference does your faith make in your life? If the description of life made in Ecclesiastes is true both for the believer and the unbeliever, what difference is there that you believe? What difference is there that you call yourself a Christian? Is the power of forgiveness more real to you? Do you think all things are possible for those that love God? Think about that question. What are some of the things that stand out for you that you believe?

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is Truth. Jesus at his trial was asked by Pilate standing right before him, “What is Truth?” What does it mean that we proclaim Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of the Most High, Living God as Truth? This is the question that in the change of life, is vital for us to ask ourselves.

I pray you have a meaningful Lenten season as we journey together in Lent. Blessing to all of you!

In Christ’s Love and Peace,

Pastor Mark

**STUDY/PRAYER OPPORTUNITY**

Beginning on Monday March 18 and following on March 25, following the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>, Mondays of each month I will be offering a study/prayer time from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. The format will be 45 minutes of study and 15 minutes of prayer time. The study time will comprise of different combinations of Bible study, topic study, and discussion. I plan on offering this September through May on these Mondays. The only reason it will not be every Monday is due to Women’s Bible study on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday and I have Lions commitments on the second Monday. I will be here at this time with planned material no matter if 0 people show up or 20 people show up. I hope to get a committed core going who want to learn, grow, and share. I’m looking forward to our time together! Pastor Mark



# Happy Birthday!



Mickie Danelke	3-1	Jennifer Cabaniss	3-14	Matt Long	3-23
Charleen Lesnau	3-1	Grant Lindquist	3-15	Colton Schmidt	3-23
Andrew Giese	3-5	Olivia Lindquist	3-15	Jared Frykman	3-24
Scott Dalum	3-6	Cody Torkelson	3-16	Dustin Gulbrandson	3-24
Nikki Paavola	3-7	Louise Larson	3-17	Brenda Olson	3-24
Cynthia Anderson	3-9	Jaime Johnson	3-18	Hazel Vestrum	3-24
Mandy Braaten	3-10	Scott Blehr	3-20	Sylvia Thorstad	3-25
Elsie Mahoney	3-10	Jordan Bruns	3-20	Beverly Yochim	3-25
Carmen Peterson	3-11	Sheila Lanners	3-20	Kyler Smith	3-26
Eldoris Bye	3-12	Sara Strunk	3-22	Christy Krusemark	3-28
Russell Gabrielson	3-14	Marlys Rollofson	3-22	Lynn Itzen	3-30
Jasmyn Mercado	3-14			Becky Meyer	3-31

## WORK SERVICE GROUP FOR APRIL

If you are in the April/October group (listed below) please sign up at the Welcome Center for a duty in April. If you do not sign up, a duty will be assigned to everyone to fill the spots needed. This is your chance to choose a date that works best for you. You can also call the church office to sign up. Thank you for your help.

Elmer & Jeanne Anderson, Dean Bergerson, Vonnie Brittin, Darlene Christensen, Jared & Tracy Frykman family, Russ & Delores Gabrielson, Jerald & Carol Hulzebos, Ken & Joan Johnson, Muriel Krusemark, Matt & Liza Long family, Vernal & Marlene Nelson, Carmen Peterson, Meghan Radford, Dennis & Wanda Saurer, Marilyn Schoephoerster, Donna Soderholm, Dieter & Megan Strobel family, Arlyn & Lynn Swenson, Mark & Laurie Torkelson, Dean Travland, Ray & Suzy Zeimer

## Remembering the Saints in Light

*Recognizing members who have gone before us during the month of their passing*

<i>Paul Stark</i>	<i>3-03-14</i>	<i>Elroy Anderson</i>	<i>3-4-16</i>
<i>Lloyd Christopherson</i>	<i>3-06-17</i>	<i>Ed Larson</i>	<i>3-10-15</i>
<i>Chris Spaulding</i>	<i>3-10-16</i>	<i>Yvonne Gunderson</i>	<i>3-19-14</i>
<i>Joanne Holl</i>	<i>3-21-15</i>	<i>Doris Christenson</i>	<i>3-22-15</i>
<i>Audrey Beuckens</i>	<i>3-24-10</i>	<i>Carol Sylskar</i>	<i>3-26-14</i>

**Messiah Lutheran Church  
Congregational Annual Meeting  
February 17, 2019**

Curt Stark called the meeting to order at 10:50 am in the sanctuary following the church service.

Pastor Mark led with a devotion.

Curt read the notice of the annual meeting.

A quorum was established with 57 members signing in.

A motion was made by Mark Starner and seconded by Gene Eblen to approve the agenda as printed. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Dennis Saurer and seconded by Ardis Stark to approve the 2018 annual minutes as printed. Motion passed.

Curt Stark presented the financial reports for 2018. A motion was made by Cindy Kloos and seconded by Wanda Sauer to approve the financial reports as presented. Motion passed.

Ken Johnson presented the proposed budget for 2019. A motion was made by Dean Bergerson and seconded by Mark Starner to approve the proposed 2019 budget. Motion passed.

Ken Johnson shared Council's concerns about the portion of the church's roof that is flat as the rubber membrane is shrinking. If it is not repaired or replaced it will lead to leaking and damage. A motion was made by Wanda Sauer and seconded by Lynn Swenson to allow Council to replace the roof if needed and also borrow money to replace the roof if needed. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Cindy Starner and seconded by Becky Meyer to affirm the new council and committee members. Motion passed.

Curt recognized and thanked Messiah's members and employees for their work and dedication this past year. He noted some of the challenges we will face in 2019, but knows we will thrive through careful budget monitoring and Pastor Mark's leadership.

Curt read aloud Messiah's Continuing Resolutions. Becky Meyer made a motion to accept the resolutions and it was seconded by Dennis Saurer. Motion passed.

Pastor Mark encouraged the congregation to be open to opportunities of growth and relationships as rural churches everywhere continue to decline in membership. He shared his passion, desire, and call to ministry in rural areas, especially his call to Messiah last year. Through the Holy Spirit he looks forward to new ways we can partner with other congregations who may be open to share and partner in ministry. Pastor also expressed his deep gratitude for Messiah's support of his family over the last year.

A motion was made by Rick Stark and seconded by Gene Eblen to adjourn Messiah's congregational meeting. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marisa Sabolik

## PICTURE DIRECTORY ON FELLOWSHIP BOARD

5

Did you have family pictures taken for Christmas?

We won't be having a picture booklet of Messiah members made, so we are trying to get pictures of everyone in our congregation to display on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. You can bring one in or ask Becky or someone on the Outreach committee to take one for you.

**Check out the pictures we already have and watch for new ones.**

## EASTER SCHEDULE

March 6	5:00-6:15	Lent Meal served by WELCA grp #3
	6:30	Ash Wednesday Service
March 13	5:00-6:15	Lent Meal served by Youth
	6:30	Lent Service
March 20	5:00-6:15	Lent Meal served by Churchmen
	6:30	Lent Service
March 27	5:00-6:15	Lent Meal served by Youth
	6:30	Lent Service
April 3	5:00-6:15	Lent Meal served by WELCA group #4
	6:30	Lent Service
April 10	5:00-6:15	Lent Meal served by Churchmen
	6:30	Lent Service
April 14	10:30	Palm Sunday Potluck Brunch
April 18	6:00	Lent Meal
	7:00	Maundy Thursday Service in Sanctuary
April 19	7:00	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
April 21	8-9:15	Easter Breakfast served by Churchmen
	9:30	Easter Festival Holy Communion

## SIMPLY GIVING

Simply Giving is an automated giving program designed to help you conveniently, consistently and joyfully give your financial gifts to help our congregation's ministry.

Simply Giving is a straightforward stewardship tool offered as a relevant modern-times option in response to the timeless gift of grace.

As you examine your own response to the boundless gift of God's grace, consider making a simple but profound choice about stewardship. The commitment to good stewardship starts with you. And the Simply Giving program helps your commitment take consistent shape. It allows you to share first fruits through planned giving and activates your stewardship into an on going, generous response.

To get started on this simple program, pick up a folder at the Welcome Center, or call Becky in the church office.

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
MARCH, 2019 CALENDAR**

***MISSION OF THE MONTH; LOCAL H-K FOOD SHELF  
MISSION ITEMS TO BRING: PERSONAL CARE ITEMS***

Sunday	3	Fellowship Coffee – Group 3
Monday	4	Martha Bible Study at 7 PM
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Meal – (WELCA Group 3) – 5-6:15 PM</b>
Thursday	7	Quilting Mission Fellowship at 1:30
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Lenten Meal – (Youth) 5-6:15 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Lenten Meal – (Men) 5-6:15 PM</b>
Thursday	21	Quilting Mission Fellowship at 1:30
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Lenten Meal (Youth) 5-6:15 PM</b>
Sunday	31	Fellowship Coffee—Group 3

**News Notes for March from Arlou Swenson and Sylvia Swenson**

The season of Lent reminds us to confess, to listen, and to prepare. We pray for God's guidance to make us wise followers, loving followers, prepared followers, forever followers. We pray for God's guidance to be all that we can be and do.

Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> we begin the Lenten Season with the Ash Wednesday meal served by Group 3. Please be prepared to offer to help if called. Weekly meals will be served throughout the Lenten season by the churchwomen, churchmen and the youth. This all is leading up to our Easter celebration on April 21<sup>st</sup> when the churchmen do the Easter morning breakfast.

Our March ***Mission of the Month*** is to support the H-K Food Shelf and provide items for the personal care kits. We will donate \$100 to that cause and ask that you donate food if you are able. There is a box in the Narthex at church to drop off items. We will also be looking to provide articles for personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief this month. These items are listed in your women's booklet. They are; hand towels (not white), washcloths, bars of soap (bath size,) toothbrushes, combs (wide tooth preferred), steel nail files or nail clippers with a file. We will put our mission basket in the narthex for you to put your donated items in. We will wrap the smaller items in a towel and fasten them with ribbon or yarn before we send them out. Anyone willing to help assemble the kits please let Arlou Swenson know, 986-2639 or Ardis Stark, 986-2768.

As we look ahead to April there will be a WELCA General Meeting on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and mission kits will need to be assembled, there will be a Conference 8 Gathering in April at United Lutheran in Elbow Lake. The date will be relayed to you in the April newsletter.

God's Work-Our hands.

**FINANCIAL REPORT—January 31, 2019**

<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$14,159.39</b>
<b>Expense:</b>	<b>\$17,876.19</b>
<b>Loan Amount</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

The Messiah Council would like to give a big thank you to everyone who contributed in paying off the loan needed to fix the parking lot. With your generosity Messiah was able to pay off the loan in December. In addition, we have started a fund to fix Messiah's roof with the extra money received. We currently have around \$5000 in a fund to fix the roof. Thank you.

**March Youth Group Schedule**

**Wednesdays**

<b>March 6</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade-6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	3:30-5:00
	Lenten Supper by WELCA	5:00-6:15
	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5:30-6:30
<b>March 20</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade-6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	3:30-5:00
	Lenten Supper by Men	5:00-6:15
	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5:30-6:30

***Messiah's Children***



**What's happening in March?**

\*March is Missions Month! We will be focusing on acts of kindness and how to help others in need.

**How can I help?**

\*Volunteer to teach Sunday School during our last rotation!

\*Come to Sunday School and have your child ask a friend to come along! All are welcome. There are many fun things planned each Sunday in March.

# GOD'S PEOPLE IN SERVICE—MARCH

## ACOLYTES

Sunday	3 & 10	Brooklyn Strobel
Sunday	17 & 24	Sophie Lanners
Sunday	31	Kaylyn Hedstrom

## SIDEWALK MINISTRY

March 1-15 Steve Strunk  
March 16-31 Mark Starner

## COMMUNION PREPARATION

March 3	Sylvia Swenson
March 17	Ardis Stark

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

March 3	Mark and Cindy Starner, Becky Meyer
March 17	Ardis Stark, Emily McGee, Kay Persons

## COMMUNION SERVERS—COUNCIL Rick Stark

## FLOWERS Lent

### WELCOME CENTER

### USHERS/GREETERS

March 3	Jennes & Arlou Swenson, Mark & Cindy Starner
March 10	Todd & Michelle Fick
March 17	Kayla, Damon, Owen, Piper Sanstead
March 24	John & Deb Starner, Jenny & Ariyah Cabaniss
March 31	Justin & Amy Puchalski family

If you are unable to serve  
your assigned spot on any  
Sunday, please find your  
own replacement and let the  
church office know who that  
is. THANK YOU!!

### VIDEO/TRAINEE

### PROJECTION/Trainee

March 3	Jaime Johnson	Annika Solemsaas/ Damon Sanstead
March 6 (Wed)	Jaime Johnson	Annika Solemsaas/DamonSanstead
March 10	Sophie Sanstead	Kaitlyn Sanstead/Damon Sanstead
March 13 (Wed)	Ashlee Bruns	Emma Swenson/ Damon Sanstead
March 17	Savannah Swenson	Jaime Johnson/Damon Sanstead
March 20(Wed)	Ashlee Bruns	Ireland Winter/Damon Sanstead
March 24	Quinten Winter	Anna Bergman/DamonSanstead
March 27 (Wed)	Emma Swenson	Savannah Swenson/Damon Sanstead
March 31	Quinten Winter	Brooke Anderson/Damon Sanstead

### ORGANIST

### SOUND/TRAINEE

### LECTORS

March 3	Bev Yochim	Ireland Winter	Ed Persons
March 6 (Wed)	Praise Band	Landon Long	-
March 10	Gayle Coleman	Quinten Winter	Sylvia Swenson
March 13 (Wed)	Praise Band	Landon Long	
March 17	Gayle Coleman	Emma Swenson	Ed Persons
March 20(Wed)	Praise Band	Landon Long	
March 24	Bev Yochim	Steve Bergman	Kay Persons
March 27 (Wed)	Praise Band	Landon Long	
March 31	Bev Yochim	Ireland Winter	Amy Puchalski

### COFFEE

March 3	Coffee served by WELCA group 3
March 10	<b>HAM DINNER SERVED BY OUTREACH TEAM</b>
March 17	Coffee served by Churchmen—Scott Anderson
March 24	Coffee served by Youth—Jacki Anderson family
March 31	Coffee served by WELCA group 3



# March 2019

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Pastor's Cell: 218-851-3153

Becky's Cell 320-815-1713

Pastor's E-mail: [rev@runestone.net](mailto:rev@runestone.net)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 7:30 Men's Bkfast Bible Study
3 9:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Coffee by WELCA #3 10:30 Sunday School	4 7:00 MARTHA Bible Stdy	5 9:30 Pastor at Barrett Care Cnt	6 10:00 Pr at Sr Liv 3:30-5 4-6th Yth 4-5 8th Confirm 5-6:15 Lent Meal 5:30-6:30 7 & 8th 6:30 Ash Wed Service 7:15 Choir	7 1:30 QMF 6:15 Ed Comm	8	9 7:30 Men's Bkfast Bible Study
10 <b>NOTE TIME CHANGE</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30-1 MEAL BY OUTREACH See last page for info	11	12	13 4-5 8th Confirm 5:30 Youth Comm 5-6:15 Lent Meal Served by Youth 6:30 Lent Serv 7:15 Choir	14	15 <b>NEWSL-SETTER DEAD-LINE</b>	16 7:30 Men's Bkfast Bible Study
17 9:30 Holy Communion Installation of teachers 10:30 Coffee served by Men 10:30 Outreach Comm 10:30 Sunday School 8:30-12:30 Pancake Breakfast fund raiser for Aiden Winter at Community Center	18 7:00-8 Study in Prayer	19	20 3:30-5 4-6th Yth 4-5 8th Confirm 5-6:15 Lent Meal served by men 5:30-6:30 7 & 8th 6:30 Lent Service 7:00 Council 7:15 Choir	21 1:30 QMF	22	23 7:30 Men's Bkfast Bible Study
24 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee by Youth 10:30 Sunday School	25 7:00-8 Study in Prayer	26	27 4-5 8th Confirm 5-6:15 Lent Meal Served by Youth 6:30 Lent Serv 7:15 Choir	28	29	30 7:30 Men's Bkfast Bible Study
31 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee by WELCA #3 10:30 Sunday School						

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## MESSIAH HAM DINNER

Sunday, March 10th

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Menu:**

Ham, Baked or Sweet Potatoes,  
Veggies, Roll, Desserts

**Cost:**

Adults \$8, Children 12 and under \$5

**PROCEEDS GO TO FUND MONEY FOR LOCAL MISSIONS**

**NOTE TIME CHANGE: SUNDAY SCHOOL IS AT 9:30**

**WORSHIP IS AT 10:30**