



Messiah Lutheran Church May 14th Update

Fellow saints,

“I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:3–6)

There are people in our lives that we treasure. Perhaps it was the carpenter who first showed us how to build a cabinet. Perhaps it was the boss who taught us how to work hard and get along with our co-workers. Maybe it was your dad who showed you by his actions how to treat the women in your life. Or, just maybe it was a friend who taught you a hobby that you enjoy to this very day.

Of all the people we give thanks for, the ones that we truly treasure are the fellow Christians who taught us by word and action how to live for Christ. They showed us what true humility was. They taught us how to praise God with our voices and with our lives. They taught us what it meant to work for the Lord – engaging others in talks about Jesus, giving generously so others can do the same and gathering together with other believers to support them and praise God.

In a very real sense, we are all partners in the Gospel. That’s why Messiah Church exists. As I look at your efforts for the Gospel during this pandemic, I echo Paul’s words ***“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”*** Your support, words of encouragement and willingness to wait to worship publicly out of concern for the health of others is a real testament to God’s sustaining love! It is truly a great joy to serve our Lord with you.

May we thank God humbly and joyfully together soon.

- **When can we worship in church again?** With all the confusion about state and county orders, we’ll wait until we have the green light from our government to gather publicly. Until then, your church council is formulating a basic plan to guide us in worship. When a date has been set to gather again, we’ll send out a letter detailing dates, times and updated guidelines for worship.
- **What about Confirmation?** With the ban on gatherings larger than 10, we’ve had to postpone our public confirmation service here at Messiah. As soon as we can, we will host a confirmation celebration worship service here at Messiah. For now, we’ll just wait patiently.
- **First 25th anniversary celebration Sunday May 31st** has been cancelled. We’ll focus our energy on our final two celebration services, one in October and the big one in November.
- **"Meditations"** are available at church inside the front door under our canopy for you to pick up from 8:30-12:00 noon Mondays to Thursdays until they are gone. The front door will be unlocked during that time. If you would like us to mail you a copy of Meditations, please call the office (465-6013). There are also a limited number of “Forward in Christ” at church as well.
- **Bible Information Class** - We’re hosting a new online Foundations of Faith Bible information class. Whether you’re looking to review Bible teachings or would like to become a member at Messiah, this is the class for you. The class will meet online on Wednesday’s at 6:30 pm beginning May13th. Contact either of the pastors to get started.

- **Lawn mowing schedule** – If you would like to volunteer to cut the lawn, please call church (465-6013) for an open week. Thanks.
- **Work Day Scheduled** – Your property committee has scheduled a work day for May 23rd from 8am to noon. We'll practice social distancing as we spruce up the church grounds and prepare the building for worship when we are able. Please bring your garden tools and enthusiasm! Of course, please make sure you're healthy and follow your conscience when it comes to personal protective gear. If you've had your cleaning spot cancelled because of the virus, why not take some time to help out on this day?
- **Graduates in your family?** We'd like to recognize our members who are graduating from high school or college this year. Please send their name, the school they are graduating from and the degree earned if attending college to our church office – office@messiahgb.org. Thank you!
- **Sermon-based Bible study** - Instructions on how to join, Bible study and leader guide are all available online at messiahgb.org/worship. Contact Pastor Schultz with questions.
- **Messiah's pastors are here to help** – Are you struggling and would like someone to talk to? God has called your pastors to offer comfort, spiritual guidance and support to you. Contact us so we can offer our help.

Regulations and directives are changing almost on a daily basis. I pray that the Lord brings clarity to our state soon, so that we might move forward with the mission Jesus gave to us. ***“Go, and make disciples of all nations.”***

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Stephen Sauer and Pastor Aaron Schultz

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