

God Wants Us To Get Along!

Fall greetings to all from Pastor Nancy. Let us start with a prayer:

Dear God, with your unconditional love and grace, and by your power, help us grow in loving our neighbor, loving those whom we agree with as well as those with whom we disagree. Amen.

From the August 30 online sermon, you might recall my message based on Romans 12. The writer, Paul, gave advice regarding the conflict between Jewish and Gentile Christians. Tensions were inevitable between the two Christian groups with US versus THEM thinking. So Paul writes, "Love one another with mutual affection, bless those who persecute you; no cursing under your breath. Live in harmony. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with one another."

We can imagine Paul saying, "We are called to be ONE in Christ, which actually starts with everyone dying to ego, dying to self. In Galatians 2:20 Paul encourages this attitude: "I have been crucified with Christ, the life I now live is IN Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." This idea of dying to self is also evident in the gospels when Jesus invites us into the paradox, "When you lose your life for Jesus, THEN you find real life."

Attitudes differ on how best to handle racial inequality, COVID-19, presidential elections, fires, floods, etc. What if we agree on more than is highlighted on the news? For examples, almost everyone agrees: burning down a grocery store is never a good thing; selling a home or offering a job to a white person instead of a black person because of skin color is not equity; slander is wrong. Body trauma experienced by police and body trauma

experienced by those wrongly accused by police are both real.

In Romans chapter 12 are timeless guidelines to use for how to live. The writer sums it up by saying:

*Run for dear life from evil.
Hold on for dear life to good.*

There will always be evil forces that pull us down and the Holy Spirit who helps us take the high road. Please join me in admitting when you fail, as we all do. And let us recommit to following the way of Jesus in how we live our everyday lives:

- 1** Don't quit following Jesus. Pray all the harder. Don't be sucked into following the culture. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind-Romans 12:2.
- 2** Help the needy. From whatever occupies our thoughts, let's redirect our mind and ask, "Who is negatively affected by COVID? How can I help?"
- 3** Be inventive in hospitality. If your friend, family member or neighbor happens to be from the opposite political party and is hungry, give them something to eat! Be creative with political tension and with the pandemic. Look for new ways to connect. Try having Faith Five with either someone under your roof, or with someone on the phone.
- 4** Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who are rejoicing and grieve with those who are grieving.
- 5** Find beauty in everyone instead of demonizing. In the book, *Jesus Outside the Lines, a way forward for those who are tired of taking sides*, theologians R.C. Sproul and Billy Graham disagreed on how to be saved. They disagreed! And yet, they also were

able to hold each other in high esteem. Recently, we hear about the relationship between Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Justice Antonin Scalia. They held strongly opposing views and at the same time, maintained a decades-long, deep friendship. Ideological opposites, they were still able to appreciate and even admire each other, travel together, share loves of family, opera, travel, food and academic rigor.

6 What might unify us? Sadly, sometimes tragedy opens our eyes. Read how Michele described the people who attended a benefit event in her honor in *The Throbbing Moon and The Three Season Tango*. This

new book is by Washburn's Michele Wheeler who died in June, 2020, after a nine-year cancer battle. "...Living in this community means respecting each other just as we are. Before we are boss or employee, before we're Republican or Democrat, before we're mine supporters or fighters, before we're black or white or red or any shade of brown, before we're male or female, we're all just people. And we have much to offer each other through the common threads of our joys and pains, in our fears and hopes. I felt tightly woven into the fabric of us, wrapped up and held by it."

Love in Christ, *Pastor Nancy*

Many, MANY Thanks...

To all who give garden produce to friends, neighbors and strangers!

To those back to work at the ABC Thrift Store.

To you behind the scenes. In the photo collage you see **John Peterson** visiting his dad by using a cell phone, standing outside **Jack Peterson's** window.

To Messiah quilters: **Charles Motiff** says: "Thank you so much for the thoughtful gift and all the time and work that went into it. I'm excited to use this quilt for many years to come. Thanks again! Wishing you all the best!"

To Messiah's faithful givers. Enclosed is an envelope for your monthly offering. Thank you for your financial gifts as well as your gifts of time and prayer. Keep asking for God's guidance as we live through this pandemic. Pray that we can grow in faith even during COVID by deepening our justice work, kindness and humility! (Micah 6:8)

To Messiah's Steady Volunteers: **Bob Leis** tending flowers, **Bob Follis** checking the grounds as well as mowing in front of church highway sign, and **Cheryl** doing all church bookkeeping. **Bill Luckenbill** keeps the bathrooms clean.

To Keith Holm who will be moving back to Arizona this fall. Other snowbirds, be sure to give Pastor your forwarding addresses if you would like a note sent to you while you are away. We are so thankful that Keith will continue to maintain Messiah's website, even while living in Arizona.

To Don and Audrey Swedberg for receiving a Thrivent Action Team grant so we can help youth ministries with materials during COVID.

To all who serve on the council. They pray and ask for God's wisdom. They want to represent the whole congregation, so give them your thoughts about how we can best love God and our neighbors during a pandemic! Especially, we pray for ways to stay connected and grow in faith and service.

Weekly Bible Readings

September 27: Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

October 4: Philippians 3:4-14, Matthew 21:33-46

October 11: Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

October 18: 1 Thes. 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22;

October 25: Romans 3:19, John 8:31-36.

Bulletin Board

Parking Lot Radio Church @ 88.5fm

Please join us for a COVID-safe half-hour worship service at the Washburn Elementary School, 9:00am on September 27 and October 11. Bring your own bread and wine, or you may receive pre-packaged Holy Communion. Read council notes on page 5 to see ideas for possible in-house worship!

Sept 27 – BLESS HUNTERS, ANGLERS & GATHERERS

There will also be the baptism of **Jane Myers**. We are the body of Christ and want to rejoice when there are things to rejoice about!

Oct 11 – NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY

The guest speaker **Dee Sweet**, is a retired, tenured university professor. She will tell us about Native American values and spirituality.

Women of Messiah

These meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month by Zoom from 6-7 pm using a DVD series, *Women of the Bible, Life-changing Stories for Women Today*. Next lessons include:

Woman With the Issue of Blood: When Persistence Pays Off; Elizabeth, How to Win the Waiting Game; and Anna, How to Live a Life Devoted to God.

The Zoom ID is #302 023-9435. New people are always welcome.

Senior High Youth Group

Thursdays @ 7

Former Luther Park Bible Camp counselor and Vacation Bible School director **Kaari Ashland** co-leads this group with Pastor. The teens are using Augsburg-Sparkhouse material called *Dialogues on Race*. Parents are welcome to view any of this material. Let Pastor Nancy know if you want to see the DVDs before your kids view them.

The Zoom ID is #845 1388 1476.

WWW/GIFT October 7 *rain date: October 14*

Students and parents meet outdoors on the church lawn at 5:00 pm. Bring rakes, gloves, and window-washing supplies if you have them. Starting with prayer and greeting, each family will receive the address of a yard. Then, families will stay together, drive to a yard and rake, then return to church lawn to receive a sack meal. Call the church at 373-5378 if you know of someone who needs raking, window-washing, or other outdoor maintenance. Thank you!

Finance / Stewardship Committee EXCITED!

We committed to participating in a Zoom training focusing on stabilizing giving to Messiah and expanding a culture of generosity. So far we've had two sessions and learned a lot. As a result, our annual stewardship will be somewhat modified. The "why and how" will be described in October. For now, prayerfully consider Jesus's words from Matthew 6:21: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." We want to make this year's stewardship appeal spiritually renewing and not just a means to an end. The appeal is ministry – less about money and much more about our hearts connecting with Messiah's ministries. –Karen Novachek

Donate to Support Wildfire Survivors

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) works with social services agencies and five synods to determine the best ways to respond. Needs may include food and other necessities, as well as emotional and spiritual care for those who have been traumatized. Gifts to "U.S. wildfires" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires, until the response is complete. Write your check to Lutheran Disaster Response and mail it to: ELCA, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA, 22116-8009.

Or call 1-800-638-3522 to donate with your credit card.

More Bulletin Board items on the next page

Sr. High Parents Faith Five

This group meets every Sunday from 9:00-10:00am by Zoom ID 302 023 9435. We open with prayer, share highs and lows, listen to how scripture informs us, then close with praying for one another. New people are always welcome.

Whatever You Do Videos on Youtube.com

On YouTube search for First and Messiah Churches. Once you find a blue circle, that's it. Open the list of videos to see all our sermons. Plus, members share their hobbies. *Episode 1* includes **Bob Leis, Jared Myers, Joyce and Davey Olson, Karleen Tjepkema and Leann Hess.** *Episode 2* includes **Cheryl Follis, Carol Salminen, Jan Bergman, Don and Gail Jenicek, Jamie Welsh, Craig Schowalter, and Pastor Nancy.** Both start with **Kate and Emma Myers** singing. Invite Pastor Nancy to come to your home and film you! With your help we will keep making videos.

Heaven's Helping Hands

...will offer the sharing tree for Angel Tree kids. Call **Bob and Linda Leis** at 715 373-0187 if you plan to buy a gift. They will have their list sometime in November.



A Message from Kent Nerburn

Kent is the author of *Neither Wolf Nor Dog*, and was originally scheduled to present a program here in May.

Hello to all my friends back in Wisconsin. I haven't forgotten about you; in fact, I think of you and our beautiful north country often. Sadly, circumstances conspired to keep my visit to your area from happening when we had planned. But that just means it is put on hold and will be ever more precious when it does happen.

I hope you are well during these strange times. In some distant way, this will have been a good time when we look back on it, if we survive without too much loss. Young people around the world will have been part of a common event that will forever be a reminder that they are all in this life together, and that life is bigger than just their own personal experience. In some way that we cannot yet understand, they will live with a more global view of our human responsibility and an undeniable humility before the great forces surrounding us.

Hard times teach good lessons if we have the ears to hear. I think these times have got our attention, and I think we are all listening. My best to you all until we meet in person. I'm looking forward to it.

- Kent Nerburn

Messiah Lutheran's First *Pasty Fundraiser!*

Take a break from cooking this winter and stock your freezer with these "Yooper Delicacies." We are teaming with the Fat Radish in Cornucopia for this fundraiser. 100% of the profit will go to families in need during the holidays.

Don't Miss Out!

Orders must be received by October 18.

Please send this order form with a check made out to Messiah Lutheran Church, 231 West 5th Street, Washburn, WI, 54891.

Name _____

_____ Meat and Vegetable Pasty (chuck roast meat)

_____ Vegetarian Pasty

All Pasties \$6 each

Phone # _____
(to coordinate pick-up and delivery)

Questions? Call Jared Myers at 715-685-8020.

Messiah Lutheran Church Council Minutes

September 15, 2020

Jared called meeting to order. Pastor opened with asking everyone to reflect upon, "Where have you seen God during this pandemic?" We also shared highs and lows. In attendance: Jared, Bev, Bob, Cheryl, Carol, Heidi, Jeff, Julie, Kelly, Travis, Pastor, Tom Mitchell Absent: 0

KEY: M/S/C = motion made, seconded and carried.

Secretary's Report – M/S/C to approve August 18 council minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Year to date: Messiah is \$10,346 in the black due to the money received from the PPP. For the month of August, Messiah was \$686 in the red. M/S/C to receive treasurer's report.

Stewardship & Finance Report – Karen Novachek and Jeff are taking a Zoom class designed for churches to create a culture of generosity. Messiah will have Intention Sunday on November 8. Jeff will report to council what they are learning. Feel free to contact those involved including Jeff, Karen, Jared and Pastor.

Pastor's Report – Kaari Ashland is volunteering as a co-leader of the Sr. High weekly Zoom meeting. Preaching in the Purple Zone discussion tabled. Messiah's Youth Ministry Team wants council approval for upcoming events. A few suggested the Youth Ministry Team does not need council approval. "We trust your decisions."

Jared shared ideas with council about selling pasties and hosting a bless the hunters event.

Parsonage Report – A second coat has been applied to red garage. More needs to be done to complete the job. Pastor Nancy will talk with Kelsey, the property manager, to make sure the job is done.

When will we be back in the church building?

Each council member gave feedback to the return-to-church proposal. Several are ready for in-house worship with precautions. A few said that due to COVID, they do not think being inside the church is a safe idea. Carol reminded us that Bayfield County now has 69 (up 31 from last month's 38) confirmed

COVID cases and the activity level here is HIGH. Everyone shared. Bob Leis made a motion, "Continue parking lot worship for at least another month. Create a back-to-in-house-worship team who makes a comprehensive plan to be voted on at the October 20 council meeting." This plan will answer questions such as: *Who will do the cleaning? How often will there be in-house worship? How to handle the possibility of someone coming down with COVID after attending our worship. Who will handle reservations and how? What is the maximum COVID-friendly capacity?* This motion was unanimously approved.

The council did not discuss small groups meeting inside the building. There will be no small group meetings until the October 20 council discussion.

Parking lot worship feedback – We are hearing only positive feedback for this and are so grateful.

All on council are asked to keep this question in their hearts, "How can we help parents, children, singles, elderly, etc. experience God's love while they are physically distancing with COVID?"

The meeting adjourned with prayer & blessing at 7:35pm. The next meeting is October 20 at 6:00 pm.

– submitted by Pastor Nancy,
to be approved at the October 20 mtg

Church Council

Pastor Nancy – 715 209-1100

Jared Myers – 715-685-8020

Kelly Beirl – 715-373-0334

Bev Dehn – 715-209-3886

Cheryl Follis – 715-373-2133

Heidi Harvey

Bob Leis – 715-373-0187

Tom Mitchell – 715-209-5433

Jeff Olsen – 715-892-4338

Carol Salminen – 715-373-0113

Travis Tulowitzky – 715-209-5841

Julie Vadnais – 906-458-4507

Dear God,



Use us

to help the next generation



come to know and love Jesus.

