



MESSIAH MESSENGER

April 2024



GREETINGS FROM PASTOR DAN

Adiaphora, Unity Worship & Fellowship, and the Merger Talks

There's a concept in theology called Adiaphora which simply means "Not different." We apply it to God's Word in matters where God neither commands nor forbids certain activities.

For example, the Bible does not command you what to eat or not to eat for breakfast. In fact Jesus declared all foods clean (Mark 7:19). This was not true if you were an Old Testament Israelite where they could not enjoy Zach Anderson's bacon from the Easter Brunch this past Sunday.

Adiaphora applies to many areas in our lives: what we wear, what jobs we get (as long as they are legal), what schools we send our children to, even the order of worship.

Now Adiaphora does not mean you can do whatever you want. God called doctors to take care of you and if your cholesterol level is high then eating Zach's bacon would be wrong, albeit still delicious. (See 1 Corinthians 6:19-20) If a job conflicts with your Christian faith like working as a prostitute, then it would be wrong even if the activity is legal. (See the 6th Commandment) And while Scripture does not lay out a specific order of worship we are commanded to read Scripture (1 Timothy 4:13), preach the Word (2 Timothy 4:2), sing hymns (Colossians 3:16), confess sins (James 5:16), pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1) and offer the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-26) among other things. And if we agree as Lutherans to adhere to a confession of faith, then a rough order of worship is good adhering to 1 Corinthians 14:40 to keep peace and order within our body of believers.

So as you can see even in areas where God does not command nor forbid we still need to establish the reasons for doing what we are doing or not doing. This absolutely requires wisdom.



*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own
understanding. In all your ways
acknowledge him, and he will make
straight your paths. Be not wise in
your own eyes; fear the LORD, and
turn away from evil.*

Proverbs 3:5-7 ESV:

Now there is another way you can support Messiah Lutheran Church and our mission to spread the Gospel.

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Adiaphora, Unity Worship & Fellowship, and the Merger Talks

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Simply put this means that we listen, read, and inwardly digest the Word of God, then use it to help us resolve issues we may have in life. When we do this, then God's will will be clear for doing what is right.

God wants us to be humble by putting away our fears, anxieties, pride, and hubris to "Be still" as Psalm 46:10 advises, and know that He is God.

When we do this then the more complicated matters like whether or not we should merge with our fellowship LCMS sister congregations will become apparent. Our reasoning can be backed by Scripture. The wisdom from God's Word will glorify the risen Jesus.

So, we have an opportunity to really live this passage of wisdom from Proverbs 3:5-7 by worshipping together and being in fellowship with St John's and Trinity.

Please plan on attending St. John's (1000 Bluff) on Sunday, April 14 at 9:00 a.m., Trinity (1850 Cranston) on Sunday, April 21 at 9:00 a.m., and Messiah on Sunday, April 28 at 9:00 a.m. These will be the only services all three congregations will offer for these three weeks. I will be preaching a three-week sermon series called: "Where do we go from here? Seeking God's Wisdom."

We will worship first, then get to know each other better during the fellowship time to follow. It is an act of showing unity of faith, and an opportunity to get to know our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ better. I guarantee you will meet new people and/or get reunited with people you haven't seen in a while.

We will have a chance to listen, share, and care. I pray everyone will see God's love and wisdom to be blessed and be a blessing for each other, regardless of the outcome of the merger discussion.

See you in worship, fellowship, and service each week in April at St. John's, Trinity, and Messiah.

In His Wisdom,

Pastor Dan

Calendar of Events

- April 7, 2024 (Sunday, 9 AM and again at 11 AM) - Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion
- April 7, 2024 (Sunday, 10 AM) - Sunday School and Fellowship
- April 7, 2024 (Sunday, 11 AM) - Sunday School Children ring Handbells
- April 7, 2024 (Sunday, 12:15 PM) - Lay Elder-Deacon Meeting
- April 7, 2024 (Sunday, 2 PM) - Merger Consideration Committee meeting with St. John's and Trinity at Messiah in Fellowship Hall.
- April 9, 2024 (Tuesday, 7 PM) - Parish Planning Meeting
- April 13, 2024 (Saturday, 9 AM) - Men's Group – Downstairs Conference Room
- April 14, 2024 (Sunday, 9:00 AM only (no 11:00 a.m. service at Messiah)) - Joint worship at St. John's, 1000 Bluff St. with joint fellowship discussion following worship. Worship Theme: Seeking God's Wisdom in Reconciliation. How to resolve conflict to leave the past in the past.
- April 18, 2024 (Thursday, 5:30 PM) - Ladies Bible Study Class Downstairs Conference Room
- April 21, 2024 (Sunday, 9:00 AM only (not 9:30 a.m.) (no 11:00 a.m. service at Messiah)) - Joint worship at Trinity, 1850 Cranston Rd with joint fellowship discussion following worship. Worship Theme: Seeking God's Wisdom in Unity. How to express our Lutheran Confession of Faith in fellowship with each other.
- April 28, 2024 (Sunday, 9:00 AM only (no 11:00 a.m. service at Messiah)) - Joint worship at Messiah, 1531 Townline Avenue, with joint fellowship discussion following worship. Worship Theme: Seeking God's Wisdom in Evangelism and Outreach. What is your role in telling and showing Christ to our families, friends, and community?

God's hand has provided blessing after blessings for Messiah's Food Pantry.

"For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you" (Isaiah 41:13).

We know that it is not our work that saves us. But we also know that our works allow us to display and share our faith with others.

Recently former members made a huge donation to our pantry.



Rockie and Connie Plomb shared their blessings.

We also have donations from outside sister church donors, as well as our church members. *All praise be to God's hands.*

Thrivent has supported our efforts with a Thrivent Action Team card to purchase a new tent/canopy and more for outreach community events. Be sure to watch for more news!!

PANTRY NEWS



Messiah Lutheran Church
Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is located at 1531 Townline Ave, and is open on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm for all residents of the Greater Beloit Area!





Thank you to all who participated in the Midweek Advent and Lenten Services in which we meditated on all 9 Fruit of the Holy Spirit. If you missed a piece of fruit, please let Pastor Dan know and we will get you what you don't have. Thank you to Lance and Gabe Bukove for making the "fruit" magnets and the colored tree itself.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another," Galatians 5:22-26 ESV

A note from Jim and Susie Waters:

We would like to invite all boards and church members to be a part of our church newsletter. If you know of upcoming events, have inspirational quotes, great recipes for the upcoming month, or have any other church or community news that you think would fit well with our congregation please let us know by email (Messiahlutherannewsletter@gmail.com), and we will do our very best to get your news entered in as soon as possible.

Thank you and God's blessings to you all.

April Birthdays



Kayla Washburn	4/5
Cindy Nimz	4/6
Lance Bukove	4/8
Chad Dressler	4/9
Jennifer Beaumont	4/10
Patricia Lockwood	4/10
Samantha Swanson	4/11
Susan Bukove	4/12
Joey Goff	4/12
Scott Cleveland	4/14
Adeline McCannon	4/14
Brenda Dautermann	4/15
Brent Whitman	4/16
Bobbi Jo Wilkins	4/16
Debbie Borre	4/17
Mary Borgwardt	4/18
Garrett Cook	4/18
Keely Thurman	4/18
Kathy Wood	4/19
Kira Altenberg-Hoppe	4/21
Brooklyn Anastasi-Altenberg	4/22
Daniel Chitwood	4/22
Marie Gilbertson	4/22
Tia Cleveland	4/23
Kailey Hessler	4/25
Nolan Swanson	4/25
Lynsey Burzinski	4/27
Donald Kempf	4/27
Keith Ingham	4/29
Mark Yates	4/29
Janice Totten	4/30

April Anniversaries



Jim & Susie Waters	4/7/2001
Larry & Vicky Kreyer	4/21/2001
James & Pam Kirk	4/22/2017
Bill & Lori Beaumont	4/24/1982

All Are Invited!

LWML ZONE 20 SPRING RALLY

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church
300 High St.
Clinton, WI



Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Registration: 8:30-9:00 AM

Rally Begins: 9:00 AM

Light Luncheon served following the Rally

Bible Study: "How am I like Abigail, David's Wife?" A Study of 1 Samuel 25

Rev. Dan Eddy
Zone 20 Counselor

Program:

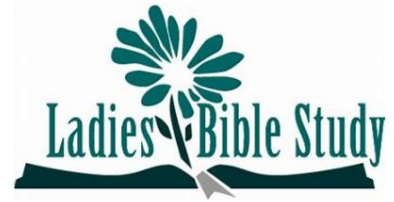
Choszen Donations of Beloit: An'Drea Marie, Speaker

We encourage you to RSVP to Christ Lutheran church office (608) 676-4994 by Sunday, April 21.

Ingathering/Gifts from the Heart for Choszen Donations :

Hygiene items requested:

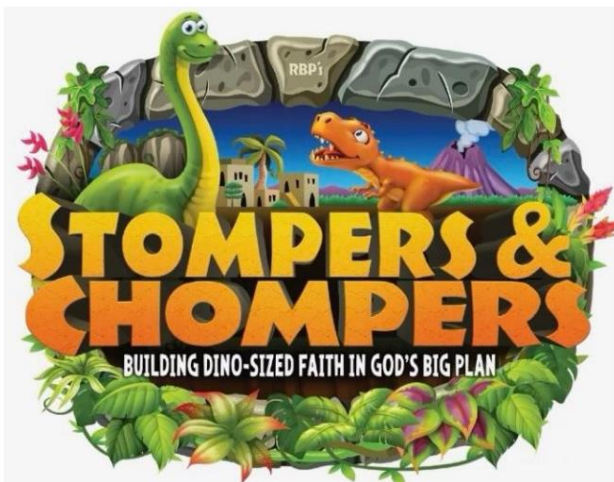
Soaps, shampoos, toothpastes, toothbrushes, mouthwash
bandaids, washcloths, tissues



What a blessing! The Ladies' Bible Study Class continues to meet and grow at each class!

The discussed topic was how to discover and maintain daily joy in our lives. We shared a great meal sponsored by Cindy Zimmerman.

We missed your important input to the discussion. Won't you please join us on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 5:30pm?



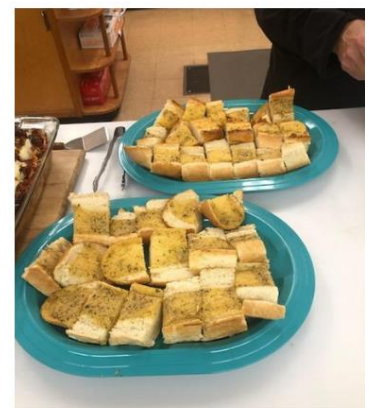
**VBS, Sunday, July 21 through
Wednesday, July -24 5-5:30pm Dinner;
5:30-7:30pm**



Thank you to the Fellowship and Youth Committees for helping to make sure this Easter Brunch go so well. We are grateful for the over 75 Messiah members and friends who attended. Your support of our youth group is much appreciated!



Thank you to all the Messiah families, groups, and committees who hosted the Midweek Lenten Suppers. We also appreciate all who dined. We had more people attend this year than last year enjoying homemade food and fellowship.



If you noticed, we have new speakers in the Fellowship Hall and Comfort Room (Just off the Narthex). Also, the organist and keyboard operator have a monitor, too. Now we have live audio in the Fellowship Hall and better sound in the Comfort Room. This was part of the phase 2 audio installation done with the help of Knapton Muzik back on Saturday, March 9. Thank you to them and Joe Goff, Zach Anderson, Garrett Cook, Joe Laidig, Eldon Kolander, Joel Steinke, and Tim Battist for their help. Everything sounds better now at Messiah. Praise be to God.



A huge thank you to all who participated with this year's Friday Fish Fry Dinners. During the six-week period over 20 different Messiah members and friends helped with the dinners. Around 110 meals were served each week. Thank you to all who donated their time, talents, and treasures. Over \$4000 was raised for Evangelism and Outreach efforts. Thanks for all who donated their Thrivent Action Team cards to help pay for expenses.





Our Altar Guild along with the help of Joel Steinke work very hard to make sure the altar area is ready for worship on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.



Joel Steinke put up the red veil curtain before Ash Wednesday then added the Crown of Thorns and Black Veil before Maundy Thurs. Then he took it all down after Good Friday services and put up the white veil. John and Dorothy Helms put up and took down the Last Supper Ceramic display donated by the late Dot Hanson, long time member. They make sure that it is properly stored. By the way, Dorothy made new black paraments this year for our Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services.



Terry Zimmerman made sure the candles for the Good Friday Tenebrae service were position just right. And his leadership on Altar Guild is to be commended.



The other Altar Guild members, Janice Totten, Ruth Komprood, and Karen Battist, check to make sure there is plenty of oil in the candles and the paraments and banners are the correct color, and of course prepare Holy Communion.



Thank you to them and our full team of musicians, choir, soloists, acolytes, crucifiers, Lay Elder-Deacons, Ushers, and Streamers. You make all the Holy Services special. Your work is much appreciated.

Finally, we are grateful for the 31 Easter lilies and other spring flowers that adorned our Sanctuary Easter Sunday morning.

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS!



We acted out the lesson Jesus cleanses the temple. When Jesus went to the temple, He saw lots of things he did not like. There were men selling animals and changing money right inside the temple. People were trying to make money from others' desire to worship God. Sometimes we need to remove unhealthy things from our lives. Our bodies represent temples which must keep clean as Jesus did his Father's temple. Sometimes we need to remove unhealthy things from our lives.



We studied Nicodemus who was a Pharisee and an important Jewish leader who visited Jesus at night to ask questions. Among other things, Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be "born again" to enter the kingdom of God. Being "born again" means having a new beginning with the Holy Spirit, God and Jesus. Jesus used the wind to explain the Holy Spirit so we made pinwheels. Sam led us in singing a John 3:16 song. We also made apple smiles because we are happy that God loves us so much that he sent his one and only Son, Jesus to die on the cross, so we can have eternal life.



Easter Fun!

