



# MESSIAH MESSENGER

May 2024



## GREETINGS FROM PASTOR DAN

### What Happened to Your Clothing?

Sometimes the best lesson in life is a visual reminder of something we should know instinctively.

Near the end of February member James Shellenberger and I worked on a lesson for the Confirmation class to really cement a visual image of our sinfulness, God’s forgiveness, and the purity Jesus gives us through faith in Him.

Now our confirmands have been taught from their Sunday School days (as many of you have) that we can do nothing to earn Heaven. Our sins overshadow our good works, all the time.

To help the Confirmands remember this we gave them pure white tee shirts. Then we went through the 10 Commandments and every time they recognized that they broke a Commandment they marked their shirts up with a permanent marker, writing down the number of the specific Commandment they broke.

Pretty soon their tee shirts were polluted with black, red, and other marks.

Then we challenged them to take their tee shirts home and try to remove all the stains. Jim and I even encouraged them to use bleach to make them white again. I even texted the parents to let them know about the lesson and to do their best to get rid of the stains.

Well, when the confirmands came back the next week, all the shirts were still marked up. No pure tee shirts. Jim then explained all the good works we do can not make up for all the wrong we have done, no matter how persistent our efforts. The confirmands got the point.

Now the question was how to get back the pure shirts they had before? They needed to be replaced. So we gave them a new tee shirt. Nothing could be more visual than that.

This set-up the perfect example of what Jesus had to do from the cross for all of us. His suffering and death getting rid of the old sins by replacing them with His righteousness. We wear the fabric of Jesus when we show our purity in living His commandments of love.

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*Jesus said: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”*

Matthew 5:8 ESV



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# What Happened to Your Clothing?

One of the questions I ask the class frequently is **“If we don’t get to Heaven by following the Commandments, then why do we obey God?”** And the four-word answer: **“To show our faith.”** Amen.

That led to all our confirmands participating in the next week’s Children’s Lesson during worship where they were my visual aids in explaining all of this to the children there. They came up with the dirtied tee shirts. They left momentarily and returned wearing the pure shirts. Point seen. Jesus’ love remembered.

May the Lord put His beautiful picture of His grace and mercy in you, so you can see the value of showing His love to others.

See you in worship, fellowship, and service.

Pastor Dan



## The Road Signs of Faith

### *Hebrews 2:1-3 ESV*

*“Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?...”*



Pretend for a moment that you are going on a road trip vacation to Miami. You're driving down the interstate with your friends and family and the music is turned up. All of you are playing the best air band performance anyone's seen. In the middle of your epic air guitar solo, someone shouts "You missed your exit!!". Now, because you missed your exit, you are in the middle of big city rush hour traffic where your car overheats and can't be driven any further. Vacation OVER!

In these verses of Hebrews, the writer tells us that we need to pay closer attention to our relationship with God or we will drift away. Like the story above, sometimes we find ourselves so distracted with other things, that we don't pay attention to what matters most. It's very easy to give an excuse as to why we don't have time for devotions, reading our Bible, or going to church. We have tee times that can't be broken, TV shows to watch, and football teams to cheer for! Can you imagine if God was too distracted for us?! What would the world look like? It might look like a road without any stop signs or road signs to tell you where you are headed. It's not hard to imagine the consequences of a road like that. God's word tells us what the consequences are for our sin: an eternity of death and suffering. Even worse, eternity outside of His presence!

So how do we avoid this absence of God? By believing in and reflecting on Christ's sacrifice for us. His Word does tell us about the consequences of sin, but it also tells us about how He sent his Son to bear those consequences for us. Even so, we can't expect a life overloaded with sin to lead us to heaven, the same way we can't expect to get to our vacation destination without paying attention to the road signs on the way.

Luckily, God has given us the "signs" to follow within the pages of the Bible. All we need to do is follow those signs "down the road", and He guarantees an eternal vacation in His presence forever!

We Pray:

Heavenly Father, thank you for our salvation through Your Son. Sadly, we do not deserve this gracious gift, but we know that Your Word guides and teaches us how to live in a way that pleases You. As we carry out our days, help us to seek Your will through studying and reflecting on Your Word. Amen.



- Zach Anderson  
Head Lay Elder/Deacon

# Calendar of Events

- May 7, 2024 (Tuesday, 7 PM) - Parish Planning Council Meeting Downstairs Conference Room
- May 8, 2024 (Wednesday 7 PM) - Divine Worship Service with Communion
- May 9, 2024 (Thursday, 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM) - Food Pantry Open
- May 11, 2024 (Saturday, 9 AM) - Senior Choir Practice – Sanctuary
- May 12, 2024 (Sunday, 9 AM and again at 11 AM) - Mother's Day Service
- May 12, 2024 (Sunday 10 AM) - Lay Elder Deacons hosting Mother's Day Brunch Sunday between services
- May 15, 2024 (Wednesday, 7 PM) - Mother's Day Service
- May 16, 2024 (Thursday, 5:30 PM) - Ladies Bible Study Class Downstairs Conference Room
- May 18, 2024 (Saturday, 9 AM) - Senior Choir Practice – Sanctuary
- May 19, 2024 (Sunday, 9 AM and again at 11 AM) - Divine Worship Service with Communion
- May 19, 2024 (Sunday, 2 PM) - Merger Consideration Committee at St. John's
- May 22, 2024 (Wednesday 7 PM) - Divine Worship Service with Communion
- May 23, 2024 (Thursday, 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM) - Food Pantry Open
- May 25, 2024 (Saturday, 9 AM) - Senior Choir Practice – Sanctuary
- May 26, 2024 (Sunday, 9 AM and again at 11 AM) - New Member Sunday: Welcoming in two new members at 9am service with celebration following worship during Fellowship and celebration
- May Birthdays.
- May 29, 2024 (Wednesday 7 PM) - Divine Worship Service with Communion
- May 31, 2024 KFUE.org Radio's Thy Strong Word - Pastor Dan co-hosting on Proverbs 23:19-35

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](mailto: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.



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

# Cheesy Tater-Tot Breakfast Bake



## Ingredients

- 4 Slices Bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1lb. Ground Breakfast Sausage, no casings
- 2-1/2 cups shredded Sharp Cheddar Cheese
- 2 cups Whole Milk
- 2 ex. Lg. Eggs
- ½ tsp. Onion Powder
- Pinch (1/8 tsp.) Salt
- 2 lbs. frozen Tater-Tots
- 3 Tbs. freshly chopped parsley for garnish

## Optional Ingredients

- Green Onions chopped
- Sour Cream
- Diced Tomatoes or Salsa

## Directions

1. In a large skillet, cook sausage on medium high heat, breaking up the meat and browning it. Once cooked through, drain and layer onto the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking pan. Evenly sprinkle 2 cups of cheese over cooked sausage.
2. In a large bowl, hand-whisk together the milk, eggs, pepper, onion powder, and salt. Once mixed, pour evenly over the cheese and sausage in baking dish. Layer top with frozen tater-tots. If not baking right away, cover tightly in foil and chill in refrigerator until the next morning.
3. When ready to bake, set oven to 350°, place casserole in oven for about 35 minutes. Top with additional ½ cup of cheese, cooked/crumbled bacon, and bake for another 5-10 minutes or until sides are bubbling and top is golden brown.
4. Garnish with chopped parsley, let rest at room temperature for 10 minutes before serving.

Serve with Green Onions, Sour Cream, Diced Tomatoes or Salsa!

# May Birthdays



Traci Pingel	5/1
Rod Burzinski	5/3
Pamela Thompson	5/3
Belynda Herstad	5/4
Julia Marie Wendt	5/4
Jennifer Delaney	5/5
Cole Gerber	5/5
Rebecca Sennett	5/5
Gabe Bukove	5/6
Ronald Derry III	5/6
Teresa Queirolo	5/6
Kyle Treptow	5/8
Ryan Wachsmuth	5/9
David Beighley	5/10
Dan Hessler	5/10
Ashley Stocker	5/11
Janette Alf	5/12
Vickie Dansbury	5/14
Cindy Pingel	5/18
Andrew Dautermann	5/19
Mary Eddy	5/19
Angel Juarez-Melendez	5/19
Kendall Shellenberger	5/21
Margret Hogan	5/22
Glendon Sears	5/24
Brett Fawcett	5/25
Hunter Martindale	5/26
Lincoln McCannon	5/26
Bruce Peterson	5/29
Kirk Stolarzyk	5/29
Daniel Gahl	5/31

# May Anniversaries



Terry Morgan & Lori Bakke Morgan	5/5/2006
Hank & Kathy Baumann	5/6/1978
David & Christine Erickson	5/11/1985
Mark & Merri Boos	5/12/2001
Jared & Valerie McCannon	5/14/2016
Terry & Cindy Zimmerman	5/15/1976
Mark & Vickie Berryman	5/19/1993
Bob & Judy Altenberg	5/20/1967
Dean & Sandi McDearmon	5/24/1969

# PANTRY NEWS!

April blessings. Our pantry was able to feed over 4 hundred people. Thanks to contributions and the faithful members of our team.

Mrs. Cheryl Sennett is a member of our pantry team and also a teacher at Converse school. She has invited the director of the pantry, Carol Wilkins to visit her class room and describe the needs of food for the community.

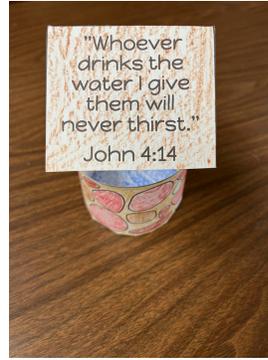
Here are a few pictures of the delivery process. The driver Steve delivers the order we placed. The purchase order is checked and confirmed. The pallets are unloaded and items placed on shelves accordingly.

Our faithful Lord provides these blessings.



Garrett, and Virginia Cook were awarded the 2nd, and 3rd place with the most doubles at the Dart Ball awards banquet on Tues, April 9 at Sun Valley church. Messiah is one of 10 teams in the Beloit Church Dartball League.

# OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS!



Our lesson discussed the story of the woman Jesus met at the well, and how He promised living water that would bring eternal life. We have access to that living water, too, and it is just as essential for our souls as food and water are to our physical bodies.



Our lesson was Jesus calls Matthew. The children had money bags with coins and paid taxes to Matthew. Jesus told Matthew to follow him. Matthew got up, left everything, and followed him. Matthew had a great banquet he invited a lot of people. The Pharisees asked Jesus, "Why do you eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." He also calls us to follow Him. Sometimes this means leaving behind things we know, but it's worth it to serve Him and love others!





**We studied Jesus and Peter walking on water. We started by predicting if certain objects would sink or float. Next we acted out Jesus and Peter walking on the water. Peter grew afraid, doubted, and sank because he lost his focus on Jesus. We also had a faith water ring relay. Faith helps us not to sink. Peter called out to Jesus to help him. We might not need Jesus to pull us out of the water, but we need Him to save us from our sins. All we need to do is repent and cry out to Him, as Peter did. We sink if we don't have faith in God.**





**In Sunday school we studied how Jesus blessed the children. We talked about how our parents take care of us and he takes care of us because he loves us. Jesus wants us to trust him, just as we trust our parents. It's the same way with Jesus. Everyone is important to Jesus. He taught the disciples that lesson.**



**When parents brought their small children to Jesus to be blessed by him, the disciples tried to hold them back. Jesus said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10:13-17.**





In Sunday school we studied the transfiguration, when Jesus showed His divine glory to three of His disciples. We made a transfiguration spinner. Our snack was 3 scoops of icecream (Moses, Elijah, and Jesus), and as root beer was added a cloud (froth) formed. God told the disciples to Listen to Jesus. Audrey lead the kids in practicing listening as they played a version of Simon Says.



# YOUTH NEWS



Sunday, April 28, Messiah Youth held a Bake Sale to raise funds for the National Youth Gathering being held next year in New Orleans. In all 6 Messiah Youth and 2 adults are planning to attend the largest Lutheran gathering in the country. Over \$400 was raised for the cause. Thank you to those who supported this effort.



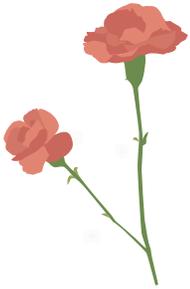
**For three consecutive Sundays, Messiah, St. John's, and Trinity worshipped together on Sunday morning and then enjoyed food and fellowship afterwards. Each week over 200 worshipped together first at St. John's on April 14, then at Trinity on April 21 and then at Messiah on April 28. Each week well over 100 people stayed for fellowship with 140 alone at Messiah. Thank you to all who made these services go well. Senior Choir, Soloists, Musicians, Sunday School Teachers, Lay Elder-Deacons, Fellowship, Altar Guild, Properties, our Office Administrator and Custodian. Well done. Now please take a moment and reflect on goodness of the Lord and express how you feel our congregations can best work together through filling out the Merger Consideration Survey.**



# Fun Page!

happy  
Mother's  
day

## MOTHER'S DAY



C U F A W C T A B F V W  
 H U B U Y O Z G O G J O  
 I G Y B L M N E R H C M  
 L N U G Y F U V N O M A  
 D I G R Z O R I F N B N  
 R V N A R R T T C O L W  
 E O I C E T U C A R E I  
 N L H E H I R E R Q S S  
 X Q C F T N I T I V S D  
 K H A U O G N O N A E O  
 S I E L M F G R G H D M  
 X A T U O H Z P S W F T



COMFORTING    PROTECTIVE    CHILDREN    LOVING    TEACHING    NURTURING  
 GRACEFUL    BORN    BLESSED    MOTHER    HONOR    WOMAN    CARING  
 WISDOM



25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

Proverbs  
31:25-26



### Bible Riddles

30. I was called the Twin.

- A: Thomas
- B: Lazarus
- C: Nicodemus

31. I am the last book of the Bible.

- A: Genesis
- B: 3 John
- C: Revelation

32. I rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem in 52 days.

- A: Nehemiah
- B: Joshua
- C: Artaxerxes