

Dear Friends in Christ,

When I came to Messiah six years ago one of the goals discussed was that I would help lead a Succession Planning Process to help call the next pastor. This goal/plan is so that there can hopefully be a seamless transition as I retire and the new pastor begins their ministry.

With this Succession Plan there is no interim pastor and interim period; no time where the church spins in limbo; no major loss in momentum. Rather it is me passing the baton to the next pastor so the ministry keeps moving ahead in positive ways.

This also means that my exact retirement date from Messiah is not set in stone. My hope is to continue my ministry at Messiah until this transition happens—even if it is the first couple weeks of June. My prayer is that this succession process we have been working toward these past six years will bring a new pastor to Messiah by late May or early June.

Therefore Messiah's Succession Planning Team (Call Committee) is meeting regularly now to help enable this process. The challenge right now throughout the ELCA is to get names and candidates. There are fewer pastors overall today with very few new pastors graduating from seminary. There are also fewer pastors today looking to move to rural towns and churches.

Where the Northwestern Minnesota Synod (ELCA) used to give congregations a list of possible candidates, they now encourage congregations to network and find their own recommendations. The Synod may still pass on some names if they know of someone—yet they encourage us to get the word out to family and friends who may recommend an excellent possibility.

In the past couple months I have reached out to more than 20 pastors I know asking them to network and pass on any recommendations they may have. I encourage you at Messiah to do the same. One congregation I know of found their pastor through a Facebook post one of their members posted with some friends from North Dakota. Don't ever underestimate your power to network and publicize Messiah's call.

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Secretary

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**COUNCIL AND
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS**

Wednesday—8

8:30 am

Executive Team

TBA

Education Comm.

Wednesday-15

8:00 pm

Messiah Council



PASTORAL ACTS:

FUNERAL

1--14-17

Rollin Soderholm (passed away 1-09-17)

Continued from page 1

Messiah did receive one candidate's name and profile in early January (name needs to remain confidential with the Call Committee at this point in the process). The Succession Planning Team is seeking more information from this person before they decide if they move ahead with an interview, etc. It takes some very careful evaluation to decide whether a candidate is the right match for Messiah's ministry.

Messiah's Succession Planning Team would also like several other names and candidates so they can better weigh the strengths of each person. It is always helpful to evaluate two or three candidates as a congregation attempts to call an excellent leader for their church.

Please remember this Succession Planning Process in your prayers; pray that God's Holy Spirit will lead the right pastor to come to Messiah. Also please pray for the Holy Spirit to show you ways you can network and possibly lead our congregation to some other possible candidates. May God's amazing and miraculous power surround this whole transitional process.

God Is So Good!

Pastor Nathan

LIVESTREAMING SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Each week Messiah's worship service is livestreamed all over the U.S. and the world! All you need is a computer and internet access, and you can watch! If you would like to sponsor our services for a month in honor or memory of a loved one(s), the cost is \$50. Please stop in the office and talk to Becky if you are interested.



WINTER WEATHER SCHEDULE

If the West Central Area Schools start late, the church will also open late. If the schools close early, the church will also close early and evening meetings and activities will be canceled. Sunday closings will be announced on KIKV-FM 100.7, KMRS 1230 am and KKOK 95.7 fm radio stations. Sunday closings will also be sent via the Instant Alert Communication System to your phones and/or computers.



Happy Birthday!



Kaitlyn Sanstead	2-1	Steve Bergman	2-11	Harry Johnson	2-19
Debra Starner	2-1	Pat Hanson	2-11	Robert Moore	2-20
Laurie Torkelson	2-1	Tracy Frykman	2-12	Liza Long	2-21
Cailynn Anderson	2-3	Dick Telkamp	2-12	Heidi Stark	2-21
DiAnn Nord	2-4	Val Arnquist	2-13	Jami Sutton	2-21
Mary Lazier	2-7	Molly Douvier	2-13	Trenton Telkamp	2-21
Garret Jenson	2-7	Grace Gonzalez	2-13	Chase Johnson	2-22
Paige Stark	2-7	Hannah Holman	2-14	Erica Sawatzke	2-22
Joshua Gades	2-8	Daniel Jacobson	2-14	Jessica Froemming	2-23
Hailey Stark	2-8	Brittany Randt	2-14	Annette Loeffler	2-23
Jacob Backman	2-9	Marlene Nelson	2-15	Adrianne Stark	2-23
Bonnie Helberg	2-9	Brian Randin	2-17	Zeena Volker	2-23
Sarah Meyer	2-9	Gregory Richards	2-17	Kristen McCoy	2-24
Jerome Kiehne	2-9	Harper Anderson	2-18	Darlene Christensen	2-27
Kelsey Bennett	2-10	Cindy Kloos	2-18	Paula Sanstead	2-28

UPDATED WORK SERVICE GROUP FOR MARCH

If you are in the updated March/September group (listed below) please sign up at the Welcome Center for a duty in March. 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.

Clayton & Patsy Anderson, Tim & Cindy Bolgrean, Margaret Eblen, Jim & Terry Erickson, Karla Fettkether family, Russ & Jessica Froemming family, Paul & Rhonda Gran, Dennis & Mary Haagenson, Jim & Pat Hanson, Lee & Polly Hedstrom, Daniel & Mary Jacobson family, Dawn Johnson, Jerome Kiehne, Phil & Sandy Koehntop, Paul & Christine Mahoney family, Ed Persons, Dan & Kay Persons, Justin & Amy Puchalski family, David & Kayla Sanstead family, Jon & Deb Starner, Mark & Cindy Starner, Courtland & Sylvia Swenson, Jennes & Arlou Swenson, Brent & Rachel Volker family

Remembering the Saints in Light

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

Virgil Anderson	2-04-10	Ellen Westberg	2-05-10
Arland Helberg	2-12-16	Ruth Starner	2-13-12
Dale Christopherson	2-14-07	Marie Westberg	2-14-08
Dennis Bruns	2-20-08	Gladys Kleinsasser	2-21-16

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Minutes
Wednesday, December 21, 2016

Present: Marisa Sabolik, Jared Frykman, Duane Samuelson, Faye Giese, Brian Randt, Shirley Sampson and Pastor Nathan.

Absent: Jackie Anderson, Jen Hermes, and Jim Hanson.

1. Call to Order - Marisa Sabolik

A. Pastor led devotion by reading Luke 2:8 (The Christmas Story) and we reflected on our Christmas wishes of peace, kindness, love, and harmony in our church and in the world.

2. Approve Consent Agenda Items.

A. **Approve Agenda** – Shirley/Jared/ MC.

B. **Approve Secretary's Report** – Duane/Brian/MC.

C. **Approve Treasurer's Report** – Jared/Shirley/MC.

3. Reports

A. **Pastor's Report** - Pastor discussed the succession plan and the goal of a smooth transition moving forward.

“New Member Sunday” January 29th. Brian will be in charge of preparing the food.

B. Committee & Task Group Reports

Property Committee (Brian) – All bathroom faucets have been replaced, smoke alarms have been updated, the relay was replaced in the boiler for the office area, the stage area is finished.

Vision Task Force (Marisa/Pastor Nathan) – “On Our Way Rejoicing” is off to a good start with over \$4,000 given so far.

Hospitality Ministry would like to hold an information session for service groups in the near future.

4. Old Business

A. **2017 Budget** – Duane led review of the budget which will again be reviewed and approved at the January Council meeting.

B. **Church Council Members** – Two positions will need to be filled in 2017 to replace the two council members whose terms will end this year.

5. New Business

A. **Annual Meeting** – January 22, 2017

B. **Leadership Retreat** – February 11, 2017

6. Upcoming Meetings

A. **Executive Meeting** – Wednesday, January 11th at 8:30 am.

B. **Council Meeting** – Wednesday, January 18th at 8:00 p.m.

C. **January Communion & Offering** – Jared Frykman

7. Adjourn – Faye/Shirley/MC.

8. Closing Prayer – Council members joined together in praying The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Faye Giese

WOMEN OF THE ELCA FEBRUARY, 2017 CALENDAR

Mission of the Month: Teach Haiti

February	2	Thursday	1:30 PM	Quilting, Mission, Fellowship
February	5	Sunday	10:30 AM	Fellowship Coffee – Group 2
February	6	Monday	7 PM	Martha Bible Study
February	9	Thursday	1:00 PM	Mary Bible Study
February	12	Sunday	11:00-12:30	Valentine Dinner – Outreach Committee
February	16	Thursday	1:30 PM	Quilting, Mission, Fellowship
February	23	Thursday	2:30 PM	Barrett Care Center
			3:00 PM	Group 2 treats

Notes from Arlou Swenson and Sylvia Swenson

Church women please remember to pick up your women's booklet if you haven't already done so. They are on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to the women that have agreed to be group leaders this year. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated by all those who benefit from your generosity. Feel free to contact anyone on the WELCA Board (page 3) if you have any questions or suggestions. Church women please be receptive if your group leader calls and requests help when needed. We realize everyone's time is valuable but by your giving it makes everyone else's load lighter.

Thanks to the Outreach Committee there will be a Valentine Dinner on the 12th. Proceeds will benefit the Hoffman-Kensington Food Shelf. Please support this activity and Happy Valentine's Day to all of you!

Messiah Women will visit the residents at the Barrett Care Center and serve a snack on Thursday, February 23rd. Group 2 will provide and help serve the snack.

2016 was a memorable year for WELCA. We feel we have been very focused in our mission statement as we affirmed our gifts, supported one another in our callings and engaged in ministry and action.

MESSIAH'S NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

Amy Puchalski and Kristel Olson are taking pictures of all our church members to be put in a much needed Church Directory. There will be sign up sheets on the Welcome Desk as the next picture session dates are decided upon. If it does not work for you to have a sitting, you may send your own to Amy.puchalski@outlook.com or sk_olson@hotmail.com. They can also accept hard copy photos if that is easier. **PS.** If you happen to see Amy Puckalski wandering around on a Sunday with her camera, and you would like to have your picture taken that day, just let her know.



Seek-

Join us for Sunday school. Kids ages 3 years old to 8th grade are always welcome. Looking to share your gifts? Sign up to teach ONE SHORT 4 WEEK rotation! Check out our Sunday school board by the Welcome desk in Narthex.

Connect-

We have another Sunday Fun Day coming up on Sunday, Feb. 19th. The kids will get to decorate their own valentine sugar cookie treats from 10:45-11:30 a.m.

All Sunday School ages 3-6th grade will sing for church on Sunday, Feb. 26th. Please meet in chapel at 9:15 a.m. before church service.

Sunday School will be at 9:30 am on Sunday February 12. Worship at 10:30 followed by Valentine Dinner by Outreach at 11:45, to benefit the local food shelf.

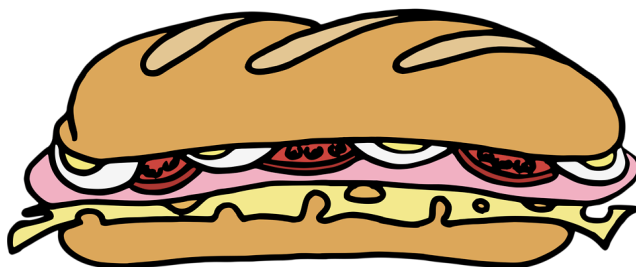
Impact-

Thank you to our amazing youth for a great Holiday production of "Believe", Nativity Story and Youth Talent Prelude. We had 55 youth participate, and we are so grateful.

Thank you to the education team, parent volunteers, church men, and many others who helped make our Holiday program a great success. The new stage, backdrops, costumes, amazing sound crew, Bev's and Madeline's beautiful piano playing. All of it was amazing! We had 150 stay for our brunch potluck and fellowship! God is Good!

Education Committee- Kari Anderson, Tracy Frykman, Liza Long, Kesha Trinka, and Tracy Hedstrom

SUPERBOWL SUBS



For sale after worship on Sunday, Feb 5th, 2017

Messiah Church

FREE WILL OFFERING to Messiah Youth

What comes to your mind when it's February?

Most of us would say "Valentines Day"!

It's a special day to show our love by sending valentines, flowers, candy or go out to eat with that someone special.

To Love is not enough.

To be Loved by others is not enough.

But, to be Loved by perfect love from our Lord, that is enough!!

Praying you feel God's presence and love daily.

Happy Valentines Day from your Stephen Leaders,
Sandy and Ardis

OPPORTUNITIES

SENIOR HIGH 9TH-12TH GRADE GATHERING

March 3rd—5th, 2017

Detroit Lakes, MN

Contact Addie Stark 320-808-6779 for more information

FOOD FOR KIDZ MEAL PACKING EVENT

Saturday, February 18, 2017 from 9am to Noon

Wendell Community Center

Contact Amy Swenson 218-770-1219 for more information



GOD'S PEOPLE IN SERVICE—FEBRUARY**ACOLYTES**

5 & 12 Claire Stark

19 & 26 Madi Krusemark

COMMUNION

5 Cindy Christopherson

PREPARATION

19 Steve & Melissa Bergman

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!!

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS
 5 & 19 Anna Bergman
Ardis Stark

Savannah Swenson

SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL

February 1-15 Donn Olson

February 16-28 Jim Hanson

COMMUNION SERVERS—COUNCIL Jen Hermes**FLOWERS**

Arlou Swenson

WELCOME CENTER

February 5 Wanda Kaplor, Carol Thorstad

February 12 Kristel, Hannah & Holly Olson

February 19 Steve & Melissa B, Scott & Kari A,

February 26 Darlene & Duane S, Jen & Phil H.

USHERS/GREETERS

Gene & Eunice E, Cindy C, Steve E,

Shane & Kristel O, Paul & Emily M,
Madeline A.**VIDEO**

February 5 Quinten Winter

February 12 Brooke Anderson

February 19 Jaime Johnson

February 26 Quint Winter

PROJECTION

Ireland Winter

Savannah Swenson

Emma Swenson

Krista Randt

ORGANIST

February 5 Bev Yochim

February 12 Bev Yochim

February 19 Bev Yochim

February 26 Bev Yochim

SOUND

Aiden Winter

Nicole Bruns

Kaitlyn Sanstead

Aiden Winter

LECTORS

Duane Samuelson

Kristel Olson

Kari Anderson

Phil Hermes

COFFEE

February 5 Coffee served by WELCA # 2

February 12 Valentine Dinner by Outreach Team

February 19 Coffee served by Churchmen— Shane Olson



February 26 Coffee served by Youth—Randt Family



FEBRUARY 2017

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 Church Office: 320-986-2024
 Pastor's E-mail: Nathan.thompson@comcast.net

Pastor's Cell: 651-210-8014
 Church E-mail: messiah@runestone.net
 church Web site: www.messiahhoffman.org

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 4:00-5 8 & 9th Confm 5-5:30 Youth Meal 5:30-7 5th-12th grade "Impact" Youth group 7:00 Messiah Choir 8:00 Succession/Call Team	2 1:30 QMF 6:30 Stv Min Class	3 5:30 Wed- ding Re- hearsal	4 7:30 Men's Bkfast Bible Study 4:00 Giese /Bennet Wedding
5 8:30 Super bowl Sub assembly by Youth 9:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Coffee by WELCA #2 10:45 Sunday School	6 7:00 MARTHA Bible Study	7 1:30 Stephen Ministry	8 8:30 am Exec Team 4:00-5 8 & 9th Confirm 7:00 Messiah Choir	9 1:00 Mary Bible Study 6:30 Stv Min Class	10	11 7:30 Men's Bkfast Bible Study
12 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Baptism of Aribella Coleman 11:00—12:30 Valentine Dinner served by Outreach Team	13	14	15 4:00-5 8 & 9th Confirm 5-5:30 Youth Meal 5:30-7 5th-12th grade "Impact" Youth group 7:00 Messiah Choir 8:00 Messiah Council	16 1:30 QMF 6:30 Stv Min Class	17	18 7:30 Men's Bkfast Bible Study
19 9:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Coffee by Men 10:45 SS Fun Day	20	21 1:30 Stephen Ministry	22 4:00-5 8 & 9th Confirm 7:00 Messiah Choir	23 2:30 WELCA at Brrtt Care Cntr 3:00 grp #2 srve 6:30 Stv Min Class	24	25 7:30 Men's Bkfast Bible Study
26 9:30 Worship Service Baptism of Mason Nelson SS kids sing Installation of Teachers 10:30 Coffee by Youth 10:45 Sunday School	27	28				

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

A decorative border made of pink hearts and ribbons surrounds the central text.

Valentine Dinner

Messiah Lutheran Church
Sunday, Feb 12th , Serving 11am—12:30 pm

**Menu: Baked ham, choice of potato, green bean
casserole, coleslaw, bun, and dessert**

Proceeds will go to H-K Area Food Shelf.