



Messiah's Messenger

Messiah Lutheran Church

2026 22nd Avenue—Kenosha, Wisconsin

Church (262)551-8182
Christ Lutheran Academy (262)697-6044
www.messiahkenosha.org
Volume 52, Number 1

Parsonage (262)551-0944
Pastor's cell phone (262) 455-0255
Email: info@messiahkenosha.org
May/June 2013

God Cares for the Sick

Beloved in Christ, None of us like being sick. No one likes the physical reminders of our mortality. It is no easy thing seeing in our own flesh the consequences of our own sin and the reality of living in a sinful fallen world. We pray for health, and often times we look the other way when death pays a visit. We see this in our society as well. "Funerals" are out, "memorial services," of "celebrations of life" are in. We don't like to talk about the heartache and pain of sickness, death and dying, rather we try to deceive ourselves by talking about the wishes of the deceased and all the good times we had with them.

It is understandable. Pain is pain, in every age, but the way we confront pain and heartache in the Church is not dictated by the social mores and norms of the world around us. The Church faces pain. We call a thing what it is. Death is bad. It is not the original plan God had for His people when He first breathed life into our first parents, Adam and Eve. They were supposed to live forever. Death

is an abnormality. But the Church faces death boldly and fearlessly because Christ our Good Shepherd has led the way through the valley of the shadow of death to the still waters and green pastures of eternal life.

Because Christ has gone before us through death and despair, He has left His Church a clear and beautiful path through sorrow and into joy. That path lies not in sentimental remembrances of our dearly departed, nor in some vain attempt to deny death and its pain. The path that Christ our Lord has blazed for us is paved with the promises of His Word, fulfilled in His perfect life, death, and resurrection! We have not been left alone to pay the price of our sin, nor are we given leave to ignore what Christ has done for us.

As your pastor, I have been called and ordained to give you Christ's good gifts. A major part of that calling is to teach you what those good gifts are and how we use them in all circumstances. The liturgies of sickness, death and dying have been given and passed down through the ages in Christ's Church to remind us

in the midst of death and sorrow that Christ is still with us. Throughout the month of May, we will examine some of the liturgies of the Church that deal with sickness, death and dying. The next few issues of the newsletter will also highlight the blessings Christ gives to us in these liturgies. My hope is to instill in you, God's dear children, the flock which He has entrusted to my care, a greater appreciation for the peace and comfort His Word gives, a better understanding for our distinctly Lutheran approach to sickness, death and dying and ultimately a joy in Christ that stands even in the face of death and heartache. God be merciful to us all as we grow together in mutual love toward Him and each other in this life together!

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Pastor

The Liturgy of Sickness

The Liturgy of Sickness

Christ does not leave us in our sickness and infirmities and neither does His Church! You may, God willing, never experience a visit from the pastor in the hospital, but if you do, and if I am the pastor visiting you, you may expect a certain liturgy. The liturgy of sickness is full of the peace and comfort that Christ has willingly bore for you all infirmity and ailments. For your sake, that you may know that God cares for you, Jesus Christ was forsaken and crushed by your sins. Because God so cares for you that He did not spare His only-begotten Son, you may cast all your anxieties on Him, clinging by faith to the promises fulfilled in Christ and given through His means of grace by His called and ordained servant.

The Peace for You

The pastor is rightly called a *seel-sorger*, that is, a soul physician. Like a doctor applies the proper medicine and treatment to aid his patients, the pastor must apply the Word and Sacraments to the sin-sick soul, weighed down by the burden of physical ailments. When the pastor enters the hospital room, or the home of the afflicted, he may say with the confidence of one who speaks in Christ's stead and by His command, "Peace be to this place" (Luke 10:5). This greeting of

peace is no mere nicety, but it is given at Christ's command and His Word which creates worlds and calms storms will bring the peace it promises.

The Word for You

After the promise of peace, the liturgy instructs the pastor to share "an appropriate portion of Holy Scripture according to the circumstance." (*Lutheran Service Book: Pastoral Care Companion*). For your pastor to be able to do this, he must know you, your circumstance and God's Word. God's Word is applied as a poultice, to soothe and comfort and to draw out sorrow, doubt and sadness. Your pastor is not visiting you with vague "happy thoughts" or small-talk meant to merely distract. He comes to you in the stead and by the command of our Lord, speaking the Word of Eternal Life.

The Absolution for You

After this peace of God's Word has soothed the soul and stilled the raging winds of the heart and mind, the pastor will then hear your confession. This may be done in a general way, or privately. Many times people in the anguish of sickness feel as though they are being punished for some particular sin. The Absolution is the very medicine for this problem. Confess your sins to your pastor! He is bound by the Word to pronounce forgiveness and to heal with the Gospel. Rejoice that

Christ has given this to you! It is yours freely and completely for Christ's sake! Find your rest and peace in the words "In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit." The "amen" of faith to these words is the beginning of your healing and a stronger medicine cannot be found.

The Anointing for You

The liturgy of sickness then directs the afflicted to the promise of God's Word in James 5:14-16:

*¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, **anointing him with oil** in the name of the Lord.¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*
(emphasis added.)

For centuries the Church has visited the sick and infirm with the comfort of anointing them with oil.

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Save the Date!

The Church Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 21st, following the church service. If you are interested in helping organize the event, please talk to Allison Stephans. Hope to see everyone there! Hopefully summer will arrive by then!



Kenosha / Racine Area

Lutheran Confessions Study

WHAT?

An informal reading group for the purpose of studying and discussing the Book of Concord, the Lutheran Confessions

WHEN?

The third Saturday of the month beginning May 18 at 9:30 am

WHERE?

Messiah Lutheran Church
2026 22nd Ave. Kenosha, Wisconsin

The reading group begins with Matins at 9:30 and then study of the Confessions until noon. You are invited to join us for lunch at a local eatery after the study.

Please bring a copy of the Book of Concord, preferably *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, A Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord* available at: www.cph.org or www.amazon.com



Social Welfare Committee

In the months of April and May, the Social Welfare Committee has come up with an opportunity for parishioners to receive help with their spring cleaning or yard work, and for others in the congregation to lend a helping hand!

There will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Those who need help can put their name and number, along with the work needed, and the preferable date(s) to have it done.

Volunteers can check the sign-up sheet to see what needs to be done, and sign their name and number next to the chosen project (names and numbers are needed in case of unexpected changes).

I think this is a wonderful way to welcome the spring season, by helping our brothers and sisters in Christ!

Please contact Kate Tobalsky with any questions!

CLA News

During the exceptionally cold and snowy month of March, the students at Christ Lutheran Academy kept themselves warm learning, playing, and praying.

Mrs. Zuehls' pre-K and Kindergarten class spent the month learning about their senses. While studying the sense of taste, they learned about the different types of taste, taste buds, and where the different types of taste are located on the tongue. The students also learned that even though cocoa powder smells delicious, it does not taste very good. Their study of the sense of hearing led to making a model of an ear drum. They learned about how sound is vibrations and why you should never put anything in your ear, especially your elbow! The study of the sense of sight led to many experiments about how your eyes can trick you and they learned about blind spots. Our study of the sense of touch involved an experiment that answered the question as to why the bath water always feels the right temperature in your hand, but is always too hot when you jump in the tub!

When they weren't studying science, they were working on their

sight word songs (ask them about Pinky the Stinky Pig), reading and drawing our favorite Dr. Seuss books, and working on our final letters of the alphabet, and story problem subtraction (we eat a lot of pretend cookies in class!).

The students were just as busy in Mrs. Moe's class. The students are continuing to learn about the Greeks. They made 2 voting ballots. The solid center meant the person was innocent. The hollow center meant the person was guilty. Their study of Greek history is coupled with their study of early American life as the 2nd and 3rd grade students are reading books written by Laura Ingalls Wilder. In science, the students are working on learning about matter.

Mrs. Tauschek's class also were continuing their study of Greek history. The students have been reading various age appropriate versions of Homer's Odyssey, as well as The Wonder Book for Boys and Girls, and Tanglewood Tales, both by Nathaniel Hawthorne. In science, they are continuing their study of living things. Students completed an individual study of a mammal and created an informal poster about the animal's characteristics, habitat, predators, and prey.

In addition to history and science, they continue their studies in literature concentration on the theme of Ancient Greece, math, and grammar. One of the highlights of the month of March for the older CLA stu-

dents was their field trip to Concordia University with Pastor Roemke. The students got a taste of college life and the importance of hard work and dedication to their studies was reinforced. In addition to their normal studies, the students are practicing for their upcoming FO-RENSICS meet.

In art, the 1st -8th grade students



have been various artists. The beginning of the month the students created some modern sculptures using water bottles emulating the art of Dale Chihuly. Their students then moved towards impressionism with a focus on Monet. They used finger paint to replicate Monet's Bridge over a Pool of Water Lilies 1899 and created 3D water lilies using tissue paper and needlepoint canvas.

Even though the year is winding down, there is still plenty of opportunities to be involved. The Academy has a field trip planned for Bong Nature Center. Consider being a driver or chaperone. The Fine Arts Program is May 2nd. Enjoy an evening with our phenomenal student. Lastly, help us bid farewell to our 3 graduates on May 22nd.



Parish Planning Minutes from September Meeting

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

PARISH PLANNING - March 21, 2013 7:15 PM

President - Mike Snodgrass, Vice- President - Tyler Nehls, Activities - Allison Stephens, Treasurer - Ted Scholz, Trustees - Dennis Helmke, Stewardship - Open, Financial Secretary - Gerry Kochman, Evangelism - Open, Secretary - Marge Harmon, Youth - Open, Education - Monica Scholz, Social Welfare - Kate Tobalsky

Present - Mike, Ted, Kate, Monica, Allison, Marge, Pastor Roemke

Scott Tobalsky, President of KALEA, spoke about their financial situation. They have received donations and are good till the end of March. Have scheduled more fund raisers. Need better marketing approach. Messiah will help CLA when/if financially in need.

50th Anniversary Fund still needs review.

Parsonage Lease. It has been reviewed by all parties. Pastor Roemke signed the lease.

Marge: I move we accept the lease for the parsonage as written and signed by Pastor Roemke and Mike Snodgrass. Seconded by Kate. Passed.

Trustees No report at this time. Church has had a new stove donated.

Social Welfare Kate is recruiting members to be on the committee. Food pantry has had donations come in and food given out. Pastor suggested one Sunday a month for donations.

Education Monica - Becky Noble has been in charge of Sunday School. Monica is looking at having Vacation Bible School at Messiah this summer.

Treasurer Ted distributed financial information. Discussion. He will check to see if \$12,000.00 in LCEF can get a better return or if needs to stay in account. We do have some equity at this time.

Activities - Allison

Ashley & Becky Noble are encouraging others to join them at Camp LuSoMu this summer. Allison is planning a picnic for the summer.

Church Worker Hours

Pastor is typically working Monday through Thursday during the day. He is usually at the church, unless he has scheduled visits. Pastor will usually NOT be working on Fridays. Pastor is available at any time in case of emergencies. In an emergency, please call his cell phone at 262-445-0255.

Allison, the church secretary, is currently working Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:15-2:45. However, her hours will be changing soon. Starting on May 13th, Allison will be in the church office on Tuesdays 8:30-3:00 and Fridays 8:00-12:00.

May 2013

May 2013							June 2013						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 28 - May 4	Apr 28	29	30	May 1 8:00am 9:00am CLA Divine Service 9:00am 10:30am Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	2 2:30pm 3:00pm Vespers 6:00pm 8:00pm CLA Fine Arts Program	3	4
	5 Cinco de Mayo 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service 10:15am 11:15am SS & Bible Class	6	7	8 8:00am 9:00am CLA Divine Service 9:00am 10:30am Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	9 2:30pm 3:00pm Vespers	10	11
May 5 - 11	12 Mother's Day 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service 10:15am 11:15am SS & Bible Class	13	14	15 8:00am 9:00am CLA Divine Service 9:00am 10:30am Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	16 2:30pm 3:00pm Vespers 6:00pm 7:00pm Spiritual Life (Messia Study (Fellowship Hall)	17	18 9:30am 12:00pm Lutheran Confessions Study 12:00pm 1:00pm Option lunch after study group
	19 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service 10:15am 11:15am SS & Bible Class	20 9:00am 11:00am Winkel	21	22 8:00am 9:00am CLA Divine Service 9:00am 10:30am Women's Bible Stud 7:00pm 8:00pm CLA Closing Service	23 2:30pm 3:00pm Vespers 6:30pm 7:30pm KALEA	24	25
May 12 - 18							
May 19 - 25							
May 26 - Jun 1	26 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service	27 Memorial Day	28	29 John F. Kennedy's Birth 9:00am 10:30am Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	30	31	Jun 1

June 2013

June 2013							July 2013						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5/26 - 31	May 26	27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1 Justin, Martyr
	2 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service	3	4	5 Boniface of Mainz, Mis Boniface of Mainz, Mis Boniface of Mainz, Mis Boniface of Mainz, Mis 9:00am 10:30am Wom	6	7	8
6/2 - 7	9 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service 2:00pm 5:00pm CLA Baseball Game against LOG (Messia	10	11	12 The Ecumenical Council The Ecumenical Council The Ecumenical Council The Ecumenical Council 9:00am 10:30am Wom	13	14 Elisha Elisha Elisha Elisha Flag Day	15 9:30am 12:00pm Lutheran Confessions Study 12:00pm 1:00pm Option lunch after st
	16 Father's Day 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service	17	18	19 9:00am 10:30am Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	20 7:00pm 8:00pm Spiritual Life	21	22
6/9 - 14	23 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service	24	25 Presentation of the Au	26 Jeremiah 9:00am 10:30am Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	27 Cyril of Alexandria, Pas 6:30pm 7:30pm KALEA	28 Irenaeus of Lyons, Past	29
	30 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service	Jul 1	2	3	4	5	6
6/16 - 21							
6/23 - 28							
6/30 - 7/5							

The Liturgy of Sickness, continued

This practice serves to remind the individual of the grace of God given by the Holy Spirit in the waters of Holy Baptism. It also serves a practical purpose, the oil is a physical and present reminder of the pastor's visit. It smells nice, which is often a welcome relief in the sterile hospital nursing home environment. And most importantly, it is another reminder of Christ for you! You are baptized! Your sins have been forgiven! Christ has done this for you! Do not disbelieve, but believe the promises of God given in His enduring Word and delivered by your pastor to you where you are.

The Prayers for You

Next in the liturgy of sickness are the prayers—for you! The Kyrie is prayed followed by the Lord's Prayer. The pastor may place his hand upon your shoulder or head or hold your hand as you pray. You may or may not be able to speak, but the comfort of these familiar prayers assures you of Christ's love for you and His gracious provision for all your needs. After the Lord's Prayer, the pastor prays the *Prayer Sentences* or *preces*. This ancient litany of petitions delivers God's Word, not some nice thoughts, but the actual Word which is "sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions

of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12) By faith, we grasp the Word of God, trusting that it will accomplish what it was sent for. In sickness, the Word is sent for healing, comfort, peace and trust. It will accomplish all of those things. In the liturgy of sickness, that comfort is not just given to you alone, but you share in the overflowing cup of Christ's mercy given to His Church in all times and places.

The Body and Blood for You

If it is at all possible, the Lord's Supper is given to the afflicted. This again is another important medicine of the Church and reminds us, in the face of our mortality, of the immortality that Christ has won for us. It is also an important connection for those who are unable to attend the public worship of the Church because of their illness. While you may be removed from the Church, the Church has not removed herself from you! Here you are brought into the feast of victory, prepared by the Lamb who is in the midst of His people. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, not tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness or danger, or sword (Romans 8:35). Nothing can separate us from His love because He comes to us in our weakness through the liturgy of His Word and Sacraments. What a comfort it is to know that Christ is for you, even

when your own flesh and blood betray you.

The Blessing for You

After the peace, the Word, the anointing, the prayers, and the Supper have been administered, the pastor again speaks in the stead and by the command of your good Savior Jesus Christ and pronounces a blessing. The blessing is no mere idle words, but as it is always with the Word of the Lord, they give what they say. The Lord will bless you and keep you, His face does shine upon you, He is gracious to you, His countenance has been lifted up upon you and you have been given peace.

Conclusion

While we may want something different than what God has given through His Church, we do well to confess that what God ordains is always good. This liturgy of sickness is not the only way you may be visited, but it is certain that you will be visited by God Almighty, given the blessings of His Son Jesus Christ and receive the peace of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. Our Christian faith is about trusting in the face of uncertainty and doubt. It is about knowing and clinging to the promises of God's Word. And so, we receive from God what He gives for our benefit. We do not add or subtract, but receive the fullness of His blessings in Christ Jesus!

Upcoming Events at Messiah



Thurs. May 2nd	CLA Fine Arts Program	6:00 p.m.
Thurs. May 16th	Spiritual Life	6:00 p.m.
	Parish Planning	7:5 p.m.
Sat. May 18th	Lutheran Confessional Group	9:30 a.m.
Wed. May 22nd	CLA Closing Service	7:00 p.m.
Sun. June 9th	CLA Baseball Game	2:00 p.m.
Sat. June 15th	Lutheran Confessional Group	9:30 a.m.
Thurs. June 20th	Parish Planning	6:00 p.m.
	Spiritual Life	7:15 p.m.



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