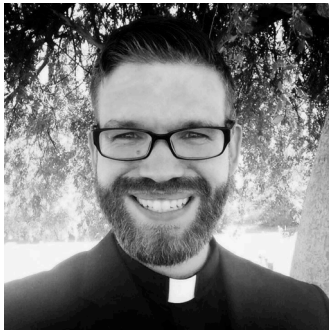




Messiah Messenger

Messiah Lutheran Church
25400 Hesperian Blvd. Hayward, CA 94544

PASTOR TYLER'S MESSAGE



“Jesus said, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me,” Luke 9:23

Why Holy Week?

Holy Week, as the name suggests, is the holiest week of the liturgical calendar. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday with Jesus triumphantly entering into Jerusalem with shouts of hosanna and palm branches. We continue our journey with Maundy Thursday as Jesus shares his last meal with the disciples only then to be betrayed by one of his closest friends and students. On Good Friday we gather at the foot of the cross as Jesus is crucified for the sake of the world. Holy Week culminates on Easter Sunday when we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and the promise of new life we are given.

Yet, why is it important for us as Christians to attend these services?

Even getting out of bed some Sunday mornings feels like a herculean effort. So, on a Thursday *and* Friday evening, I can imagine that after a long day many of us would much rather kick up our feet, queue up our favorite show, and call it a night. Yet, I believe we miss out on a sacred opportunity when we forego Holy Week observances.

On most Sundays, we focus on the promise of the good news of Jesus Christ that was secured on the cross. But it is during Holy Week that we see both the humanity and divinity of Christ on full display. The love displayed in the washing of feet. The heartfelt goodbye to beloved friends. The wrenching pleading with God in the garden. The stinging betrayal of Judas. The miscarriage of justice. The cries of the crowd to crucify. The suffering of the cross.

For a Christian of the cross, it is only by the cross of Christ that we know the good news of Jesus Christ. Without the cross there is no resurrection. Without the cross there is no new life. Without the cross there is no good news. It is in this holiest of weeks that we are invited to journey with Jesus to the foot of the cross.

So as we approach this Holy Week, I pray that you will prayerfully consider joining us for our Holy Week observances and that these services would be a blessing to you in your Christian life of faith.

Blessings on your Lenten journey,

- Pastor Tyler W. Jensen

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are in the midst of our Lenten journey. Let us walk closely together through this season of preparation to the cross, the grave, the empty tomb on Easter morning. Then, may we REJOICE and CELEBRATE the RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. May we shout "ALLELUIA" "HE IS RISEN. HE IS RISEN INDEED." We can be sure our salvation is secure!!

The Council voted to give our LENTEN OFFERINGS to the FESCO Shuffle, May 4. In this way we can all help raise funds to provide shelter and other resources to homeless families in the Hayward area. THANK YOU for supporting our Shuffle Team! For more information, see the FESCO article in this news letter. The leaders of Epiphany, Messiah and St James Lutheran Churches met on Saturday, March 2. We decided that any one from these churches who wish to walk in the FESCO Shuffle shall meet at the San Leandro Marina and walk as a group. This is a unified effort to support each other and serve together in a community outreach project. By doing so, we will be a Stronger Together Team than we are as individual teams.

Marvin reported that all the fire extinguishers in the church have been replaced. Bob and Marvin are deciding how to rebuild part of the fence in the Memorial Garden. Thanks Marvin and Bob!!

Pastor Tyler's trip, "IN SEARCH OF PAUL" begins right after Easter, April 23 - May 9. This trip to Greece and Turkey is a Continuing Education opportunity for him. We pray that God will completely surround him like a cocoon of Light and Love. God Bless you, Pastor Tyler, and keep you safe. We will be looking forward to listening as you share you experiences with us through sermons, Bible studies, and daily conversations. Thank you, in advance for being able to make scripture more meaningful for us. AND, enjoy your homework!!

A LENTEN DEVOTION: "But we preach Christ Crucified." 1 Cor 1:23

GO BACK TO THE CROSS

A European village priest in medieval times told his congregation, "Come back tonight for a special sermon about Jesus." And they did. To their, surprise, however, no candles illuminated the sanctuary. They groped their way to the pews and sat down. The priest was nowhere to be seen. Then they heard him walking through the church toward the front. When he reached the cross that hung on the wall, he lit a candle. And without saying a word he illuminated the pierced feet of Christ, then his side, then one hand, then the other. Raising the candle, he shed light on the blood-masked face and the crown of thorns. Then with a puff he extinguished the candle and excused the congregation. Nothing more needed to be said. Take the words "Christ crucified," and add the words "for me" and you'll understand what God did when he hung his sinless Son on that cross. Had you been the only person who ever lived, Christ would have died for you. With his arms stretched wide, he was saying, "This is how much I love you." When you're tempted to sin, when you're guilt-ridden by sin, when Satan whispers, "There's no hope for you," when pride would have you focus on your own virtue and mortality, go back to the cross. You can't go there too often. Hymnist Isaac Watts sums it up in these words: "Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." (author unknown. From a devotional, "The Word for You Today." Spring, 2018)

EASTER BLESSINGS!!!

Gloria Covert

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Members elected to the Church Council for the year 2019-2020 are the following:

Pastor	Tyler Jensen	510-470-4305	pastortylerjensen@gmail.com
President:	Gloria Covert	510-538-8708 (H)	gmcovert29@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Sherry Mattson	510 581-4842 (H)	mattsonsherry@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Lin Lamb	510-732-6306 (H)	rlamb1990@att.net
Nurture/Fellowship	Kim Baker	510-265-0535 (H)	kimnwarnbaker@comcast.net
At-Large	Muriel Hand	510-887-2454	mghhand@aol.com

MESSENGER DEADLINE – All news is due on Sunday, April 14th. All news must be emailed or on a flash drive to Raymond by Wednesday (April 17th) or it will not be printed in the final edition of the May 2019 newsletter. Raymond will not be able to accept typed out news articles from now on.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MIDWEEK SOUP AND WORSHIP: If you'd like to help, there are sign-up lists on the back wall to bring soup, bread and cookies. If you would like to come, but need transportation, please call Gloria Covert (510-538-8708) or Sherry Mattson (510-581-4842). We look forward to you joining us on Wednesday evenings!

+ Wednesday Soup Supper and Worship +

6:15 pm Soup Supper

7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer

4/3

4/10

Wednesdays @ Messiah Lutheran Church

25400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward CA 94545

A Word About Holy Week Observances

Holy Week is the most important and holy week of the Christian life, for it culminates in the celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection – the heart of our faith and the Gospel we proclaim.

April 14th – Palm Sunday – The Passion of Our Lord – 10 am

We begin outside at the foot of the cross and process into the sanctuary with palms, commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Quickly the tone of the service changes as we meditate upon Jesus' passion and death, interspersed with song. We gather to remember his offering for the life of the world, and to be fed by his life-giving mercy.

April 18th – Maundy Thursday – The Last Supper – 7 pm

The word "Maundy" derives from the word "Mandate," as Jesus gives us a new mandate, a new commandment, to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's Table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

April 19th – Good Friday – The Seven Last Words of Christ – 7 pm

(Please bring a small flashlight to use during the service)

The ancient title for this day, the triumph of the cross, reminds us that we gather not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the cross of Christ. Here, we hear the last words of Jesus, the fulfillment of prophecy, as we take time to reflect upon Christ's passion with both meditation and song.

April 21st - Easter Sunday – Festival Worship Service – 10 am

A time of celebration of the victory of the cross! We celebrate this new creation in the waters of baptism and in the feast of victory. With great joy we celebrate this day of days, even as we begin the great fifty days of Easter. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen! Come and join us in a meaningful remembrance of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection for the sake of the whole world.

Easter Continental Brunch – 11:15 am

Church Work Day



Saturday, April 13th, at 9:30 am, put on your work clothes and come out to help to get Messiah Lutheran Church ready for Easter! There'll be dusting, polishing, window washing, floors, plus some work outside, all to make our church look shining and clean for Holy Week and Easter. Please bring your own cleaning equipment and tools. We'll have juice, coffee and some pastries on hand to give you energy for working. See you there!

Easter Flower Garden

Let's decorate the sanctuary with colorful plants for Easter Sunday. If you would like to help, please bring a plant(s) to church any time during Holy Week, April 14-20, or by 10 am on the 20th. Please put your name on the bottom of the pot (s) and take them home after worship on Easter Sunday. Thank you for your help.



Easter Flower Cross



We will have our Easter Flower Cross at the front of the sanctuary again this year. We will need cut flowers of all kinds. If you would love to help out with this project, please bring your cut flowers by Saturday April 20th. We need a lot of flowers to make this come true. On Sunday, Easter Sunday, the congregation will place these cut flowers onto the cross to make it beautiful - a living cross.

C² - Craft Circle of Messiah

The busy hands and friendly hearts of Messiah's craft circle meet every other Wednesday, 10:00 am, at the church. Follow the chatter! Meetings in April continue on the 3rd. All are welcome.

Bonnie Sanchez

New Email: Raymond Noell

raaymondnoell67@gmail.com

(This is the right one)

Messiah Lutheran Church Women

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who purchased and/or donated items for our Bake Sale, Sunday, March 17. The proceeds of \$120 will be given to the San Lorenzo Family Help Center to help feed the poor and needy in our community. Thanks again!! Your help is greatly appreciated!! We are adding another \$30 from our treasury to give a total of \$150.

This month we will be completing our study of the Gospel of John by Pastor Julie A Kanarr. It is entitled, “Seeing the Risen Christ, Coming to Faith.” The Theme Verse is John 20:29b. “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” This study is based on John 20:1-31, 21:1-24. We will meet the Risen Christ through Mary Magdalene and the Beloved Disciple, and through The Faith of Thomas. We will also have Breakfast on the Beach. “Like the guests at the Cana wedding, and those who ate breakfast at the sea, we may find ourselves surprised at the abundance that Jesus provides.....As we make our connections between the Gospel and our own lives, we are drawn into abiding friendship with Jesus, who knows us, loves us and calls us by name.” (Gather. P. 30)

Naomi Circle will meet at Messiah, at 10AM, Wednesday April 3. Kim is the hostess and Fran will provide devotions. Thanks.

Just a Thought:

Change is an opportunity to move to a deeper faith-place. It’s an invitation to trust in the Lord and find rest in the shadow of his wings.” (Shawnelle Eliason. “Guideposts.” 2019, p. 405.)

HAPPY EASTER!!!

Gloria Covert

A big bouquet of thanks ~

- To Jim Kerber for the lovely Lenten arrangement next to the altar in the Chancel area.
- To the soup makers who are feeding us at the Midweek Soup Suppers – Gloria Covert, Fran Shinn, Susan Jensen, Marley Smith and Sherry Mattson. Thanks, too, to the bread and cookie bakers and bringers.
- Marvin Tarbox for getting the fire extinguishers replaced and buying carbon monoxide detectors for the church.
- Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson for her sermon on March 17th. Pastor Kathryn is on the Bishop’s staff of the Sierra Pacific Synod, and she brought greetings from the Bishop and the Synod staff. We appreciate getting to meet her.

WALK TO END FAMILY HOMELESSNESS



That's what the 22nd Annual FESCO Shuffle is all about! The date is Saturday, May 4th from 9:00 to 12:00 at San Leandro Marina – Seagull Picnic Area. This is a family-friendly, dog-friendly event with morning refreshments, lunch, entertainment and a drawing for door prizes. It's also the primary fundraiser for FESCO, the Family Shelter.

FESCO is one of the outreach ministries Messiah supports in the community. We are proud to be able to raise money so FESCO can provide shelter and a broad range of resources for homeless families with children in the Hayward area, as they have for 30 years.

We want you to join our Team as a walker, and we'll help you get people to sponsor you. This year Messiah will join with our sister Lutheran churches, Epiphany and St. James, to field a "Stronger Together" walking team. We're asking members and friends of our congregations to make a contribution to FESCO in the name of our "Stronger Together" Team.

You can sign up to walk or donate at www.FESCOShuffle.org. Please talk to Sherry Mattson (phone 510 581-4842) if you want to be a FESCO Shuffle walker, if you can be a FESCO Shuffle donor, or if you have questions. Thanks so much for your contribution to ending family homelessness!



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has announced that it is joining forces with IMA World Health, a Christian humanitarian organization that provides solutions to health-related problems in the developing world. The two organizations have worked together for more than half a century, and in fact, LWR, in partnership with other faith-based relief agencies, founded IMA World Health in 1960 to provide medical supplies to the world's poorest populations.

Many of you know of Lutheran World Relief, and perhaps have been involved in their Quilts and Kits ministry by sewing quilts or putting together various kinds of care kits to send abroad. Lutheran World Relief was founded in 1945 to collect and send aid to people living in post-World War II Europe. It has a very high reputation world-wide among humanitarian relief agencies for its work, and continues to receive high rankings from Charity Navigator and similar agencies for its fiscal policies and procedures.

The united organization will be called Lutheran World Relief-IMA, deeply rooted in the Lutheran tradition and ecumenically connected with others. It will continue to serve people in need throughout the world, without regard to ethnicity, creed, color, gender, national origin or political affiliation.

+Prayer Requests

HEALING

Pat Cosma, Rochelle Spiering, Betty Moose, Loida Rojas, Donna Barrera, Bill Hubbard, Angel Hubbard, Maxine Hubbard, Yvonne Gibson, Mervyn Carpenter, Betty Miraglia, Bill Widerstrand, Pr. Adisa Armand, Pr. Cora Aguilar, Dick & Leone Billmeyer, John Cameron, Kevin Klein, Les Norton, Scott Gingerich, Kim Baker, Chris Webster, Bozenda Jaffin, Fred Jaffin, Jr., Brian Cuellar, Cayden Cuellar, Raye Cheatham, Jeanette Gonzalez, Paul Kline, Ruby Brass, Warren Baker, Philip Moose, Carly Hubbard, David & Joanne Shaw, Mark Miraglia, Anthony Miraglia, Gail Mulkey, Jan Sollom-Brotherton, and Calvin Simpkinson (grandson of Pr. Ken and Earna Mikulasek).

COMFORT

All who grieve the loss of loved ones.

THANKSGIVING

Our ministry partners:

*Christian Counseling Center of Hayward

*JCKL Church International Congregation

CONCERNS

Areas in our country and around the world devastated by conflicts and disasters; people and property affected by wildfires, tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding, and winter storms.
FESCO clients, staff and Board
The Day Workers and the Homeless
Epiphany Lutheran Church
St. James Lutheran Church

MILITARY

Michael Brun, Nick Morgan and Melba J. Crisp.

CELEBRATION

Birthdays- April

4-Jim Kerber, 4-Zachary Ward, 12-Neveah Valeriano, 20-Joanne Shaw, 23-Fe deLeon, 23-Amanda McQuade, 26-Jeremiah Carreon and 26-Joy Valeriano

Anniversary - April

8-Albert & Fe deLeon

TREASURER'S REPORT

Here is where we stand financially as of receipts received through the end of February (2nd month of 2019)

Actual Income from Congregational offerings for General Fund	\$19,246.10
Income from our Ministry Partners and other sources	<u>5,540.00</u>
Total Actual Income for General Fund thru February 28, 2019	\$24,786.10
Total Expenses thru February 28, 2019	<u>23,772.62</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 1,013.48</u>
Full 2019 Budget Goal as passed by the Congregation	\$145,673.86

Notes: All Bills have been paid

Checking Account Balance as of January 1, 2019	\$181.58
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Checking Account Balance as of February 28, 2019	\$95.06
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Copies of the complete Treasurer/Financial Secretary Reports are in the church office and have been approved by the Council.