



Messiah Preschool students practice bicycle safety tips learned in class while raising funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

**Preschool Schedule**  
 March 20-24  
 St. Jude Trike-a-Thon Week  
 April 3-7  
 No School – Spring Break  
 May 29  
 No School – Memorial Day

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# the Sounds of Messiah



**Palm Sunday Weekend**  
 Saturday Worship (HD) 5:00PM April 8  
 Sunday Worship April 9  
 (HD) 8:30, 9:45 AM (NCC) 10:00 AM

**Maundy Thursday Service**  
 (HD) 7:00 PM, April 13

**Good Friday Services**  
 (HD) 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM, April 14

**Easter Sunday – April 16**  
 (HD) Sunrise Service 6:30 AM  
 Easter Breakfast 7:00-10:00 AM  
 Worship (HD) 8:30, 9:45 AM

Worship (NCC) 10:00 AM  
 Easter egg hunt planned

**Wednesday FLIP**  
 April 19 to May 24  
 Spring Break  
 April 3-7

**Prayer Partner Celebration**  
 May 24

**Graduation Celebration**  
 Sunday, June 4

**Messiah Beach Camp-out**  
 June 15-18

**Vacation Bible School**  
 July 10-14

**Wallowa Backpacking Trip**  
 August 4-9



Mary Beenken  
 Seminary Pastoral Intern

## a resurrection people

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of joining three former interns on a panel for our most recent Theology on Tap. The subject was ‘changes in the church’ and our task was to provide perspectives on how these changes were talked about and handled while we were in seminary—and whether or not that measures up to how we experience the church now that we’re all out in “the real world.”

It is true; the church is changing before our very eyes. Some scholars think that this is simply a 500-year pattern in Christianity, which the church will weather and even benefit from— and that is what I tend to believe most days too.

However, other observers have dubbed these changes “the death of the church.” And sometimes (usually at night, when it’s rainy and I’m tired and there’s nothing good on Netflix) I fall into wondering about that instead: Are we dying? Is there a future for church as I know it? And if not—well, am I ok with it?

I started seminary the year after my chosen school had experienced a major financial crisis, and the fallout was just beginning: the curriculum changed, the campus community moved steadily off-campus, buildings were sold, faculty left. I suspect that the experience was even more painful for the other three panelists, who were at seminary in the midst of that situation. All of us, however, witnessed the adoption of a regular line from the seminary leadership: “We are a resurrection people.”

It is a hopeful statement that reminds us that God will not simply abandon us to death—and it could be applied to the church as a whole, not just the seminary system. But in truth, I usually interpreted it instead as a coded way of saying “We’ll make it through this. We just have to adjust.” I often forget that resurrection actually requires a death first. If we really believe we are “resurrection people,” we must acknowledge that we have to die—like, all the way—before resurrection can actually happen. And that’s what keeps me up on those rainy, tired, Netflix-barren nights.

But perhaps that doesn’t have to be the case. Perhaps resurrection can occur in the midst of life—after all, we also believe that God is always creating all things anew. Maybe that is the most important thing to remember in the end—that God continues to create and resurrect and take care of us all. God is not going anywhere, so there will always be a future for God’s people. What it might look like is another question—but I think I can be ok with it all the same. We are a resurrection people, after all.



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 Tri-Mountain Golf Course  
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 Church: 574-7081  
 Fax: 571-7779  
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 Messiah office hours:  
 8:00 AM–3:00 PM Mon–Thurs  
 8:30–Noon on Friday  
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 church and preschool  


### this issue

- P1** Mary a resurrection people
- P2** Kathy he's not there... you can tell
- P4** David the Lenten walk
- P6** Joy when the Lord closes a door
- P7** Jessica do it anyway

  
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Pr. Kathleen Braafladt

“He’s not there, I thought to myself as I sat down in my pew waiting to preach. And now I get to tell... tell everyone where he is.”

**Bible Study/Breakfast**

w/Pastor Peter

6-7:05 AM Tuesdays

Panera Bread Co.

contemporary Christian books/Bible

**Adult Bible Study**

*The Divine Drama*

10:00-11:30 AM and

6:00-7:00 PM Wednesdays

(on break through Lent)

**Pr. Kathy’s Book Club**

10-11:30 AM first Wednesdays of the month childcare always available Hazel Dell campus

March 8 *Rise of the Rocket Girls* by Nathalia Holt

April 5 *The Lakehouse* by Kate Morton

# he’s not there... you can tell

Most of us stood in the hall making small talk. Every once in awhile, someone would enter the room quietly and return a minute later. Friends of my grandmother had come to pay their respects and view her body the day before her funeral.

Each of us in the family had taken a turn beside her casket. All of us except Jacob, our son. He was only nine. As we said our good byes and turned for the door, Jacob told us to wait. Then he headed into the room that held her casket.

“Do you want me to come with you?” I asked. “No! Stay here.” I watched as he slowly walked up to her body and then he bent over like a young piece of grass, wet with dew. He began to shake from his tears. I wanted to go to him. However, I respected his wishes. I waited in pain, as my young son came to grips with her death.

I have never had the option of trying to shield my sons from death. Over 20 some years, they have already attended more memorial services and funerals than most people do in a lifetime. As infants and toddlers, they accompanied us as we mourned the death of loved ones in our congregation. As young men, they were at the services in the sound booth assisting us in celebrating the lives of those we have loved and lost.

As a young mother, I remember wondering how I would prepare them for such experiences. I soon realized that I really didn’t need to worry about it. They took their cues from me. As my tears flowed, they learned theirs could too. When I rested on the promises of scripture, they did too.

Growing up in the Midwest, I was accustomed to viewing bodies the day before funerals. However, here in the Pacific Northwest, more and more families opt for no viewing, preferring a simple burial with just family present, followed by a celebration of life at the church.

One summer, when Jacob was in middle school, we hosted one of those rare funerals at Messiah in which there was an open casket in the narthex. Jacob had been asked to serve in the sound booth and I recognized that the only other dead body he had ever seen was his grandmother’s. I talked to him about it before we arrived at church, not wanting him to be surprised.

When he entered the narthex, he walked right over to the casket. After pausing, he came back to me and said calmly, “He’s not there... you can tell.”

“He’s not there,” I thought to myself as I sat down in my pew waiting to preach. And now I get to tell... tell everyone where he is.

Probably barefoot or sandal-footed, the women who went to the tomb on Easter morning were expecting to find the body of Jesus right where they left it. Their heads clouded with the barbaric, bloody events of the past week, they probably tried to shake the image seared into their memories of those last agonizing hours on the cross. They had come to take care of his body.

A large stone had been rolled in front of Jesus’ tomb by religious leaders in order to keep Jesus body just where they thought it should be. They didn’t want anyone stealing it. To make sure that didn’t happen, a Roman guard of soldiers was placed in front of it and they sealed the tomb to provide an extra measure of security. As the women walked that day, they wondered who would roll away the stone for them. *(continued on page 3)*

“I watched as he slowly walked up to her body and then he bent over like a young piece of grass, wet with dew.”

*Suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him, the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised...” (Matt. 28:2-6a)*

I know some of you are staring into some seemingly large graves and up against some very large stones in your life. You are concerned about a relationship, a loved one, your health, your future, division in our country and much more. The story of Easter gives us the sure confidence that our God knows how to clear out large stones and raise the dead. No matter how dark the night looks, no matter how deep and wide is the stone or the grave, our God knows how to find a way to bring life, out of death. Jacob was right, “He’s not there.” Christ has been raised and promises the same for each one of us, new life beginning today.

## meet our summer interns



Hello Messiah! My name is Hannah Norem and I am honored to serve as one of your friendly interns this summer. I am originally from Houston, Texas, and I have been told that I have a debatably marginal southern accent. I am the seventh person in my family to attend Augustana University (formerly Augustana College) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and I am triple majoring in Government, Religion, and French

with pre-law and pre-seminary emphases and a minor in American Studies. Outside of classes, I keep busy by chairing a committee in Augustana’s student government, running the homecoming parade two years in a row, and having tough conversations with Augustana students as a part of Augustana’s campus ministry.

My academic interests lie at the intersection of religion and government and specifically the intersections of religion and law enforcement and religion and the Constitution. This summer, I hope to gain a better sense of my vocational call, as currently I feel called to either pursue ordained ministry or law school. Outside of school and extracurricular activities, I like watching home improvement shows (like my favorite, Fixer Upper), playing French horn in the Augustana concert band, and completing the “easy” sudoku puzzles in less than three minutes. I am so excited for this awesome opportunity, and I cannot wait to meet y’all this summer!



Greetings from Minnesota! My name is Zach Croonquist and I will be one of the interns at Messiah this summer! I am ecstatic about the opportunity to discern what God is calling me to do with my life and in doing so, to serve your congregation.

A little bit about me: I am currently a sophomore at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN with a double major in psychology and religion. As of right now, I have post-graduation interests in either physical therapy, counseling, or pastoral work. I enjoy the idea of entering any of those fields because they each strive to improve the quality of others’ lives, interact with people of all ages and walks of life, as well as have a strong focus on relationships.

At school, I am a Collegiate Fellow (which is comparable to an RA), I sing in the Gustavus choir, compete on the swim team, am a member of Alpha Chi Delta (a local, Christian fraternity), and am a leader of the United Christian Ministries on campus. As you can see, I keep a busy schedule but I wouldn’t trade it for the world because I get to be involved in several organizations all which pique my varied interests. Whenever I can find it, I spend my free time reading, singing, spending time with friends, and enjoying time outdoors. I am thrilled to spend my summer getting to know all of you and discerning what God is calling me to do with my life!

for more information about all events, adult ministries, and small group opportunities, go to [messiahvancouver.org](http://messiahvancouver.org)

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Bryon Williams  
Facility Coordinator

Christina Hawley  
Lead Nursery Attendant

Marsh White, Custodian



David Teeter  
Minister of Worship and Music

“The love he had for others far outweighed any thoughts for himself.”

#### Handbell

**Joyful Noise** (H. School–adult)  
6:00–7:00 PM Tuesdays

#### Instrumental

**Youth Ensemble**  
8:30–9:40 AM Sundays

**Messiah Worship Orchestra**  
(H. School–adult)  
11:00 AM Sundays

#### Choral

**Praise Patrol** (3 yr-old to 1st grade)  
4:45–5:15 PM Wednesdays

**NewSong** (2nd–5th grades)  
4:45–5:15 PM Wednesdays  
(4:00–4:30 after Lent)

**Chaos!** (2nd–5th grades)  
4:35–5:15 PM Wednesdays  
(on break through Lent)

**Pax Christi** (6th–12th grades)  
4:45–5:15 PM Wednesdays

**Messiah Worship Choir**  
(High School–adult)  
7:00–8:30 PM Wednesdays

## the lenten walk

“Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” John 20:16

Here we are once again. Lent is upon us. The ashes of our mortality clash with the need to know that our lives have some kind of meaning beyond this one that we live. We stand before God and recognize our own failings and inadequacies. We search our hearts and look for hope. We need resurrection!

As I reflect on these thoughts I remember those who have gone before us and given such great examples. An incredible impact to my life was Winnie’s dad who succumbed to a vicious cancer in 2006. Serving at his bedside as we waited for that moment of death, I saw the hopelessness of our mortality and the incredible hope of resurrection juxtaposed together in impressive array. In a body wracked with pain, the presence of the living Christ was evident to his very last breath. It was in his prayerful spirit, constantly for his children and grandchildren, that I saw evidence of Christ’s resurrection power. The love he had for others far outweighed any thoughts for himself. His love for Christ, portrayed in a life of servanthood poured out to others, filled that room as we waited his passing. And even in those last few moments, he shared his faith and hope in the resurrected Christ with his family in a simple prayerful spirit. I will never forget this powerful statement of love.

On a day of hopeless despair, Mary stood in the garden weeping because someone had taken Jesus’ body from her. Unrecognized, Jesus appeared and said “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, not knowing who he was and supposing that he had taken the body, asked him to return it. One simple word from Jesus — he called out her name in love, “Mary” — and immediately she knew it was Jesus, the resurrected one.

Our lives matter... each day matters... as we walk through this Lenten season, recognize that we are walking toward resurrection! Take a moment to share your life with someone around you. In a day when every connection is left to texting, twittering, messaging or blogging, forsake all that media and technology. It can only isolate and emphasize our hopelessness and human futility. It is in relationship that Christ’s resurrecting power is experienced. Recognize your need for connection and meaning. Instead of standing indifferently afar off, call out someone’s name in love. Go visit the sick, spend time with your children, help a friend with a project, talk to your coworker, see and meet the needs of others around you. Take a moment to meet someone’s need; simply call out their name in love as Christ did so long ago with Mary in that garden. Begin to see the resurrection of Christ in you, to those around you. Christ has risen indeed... in you!



Palm Sunday Weekend  
Saturday Worship (HC) 5:00 PM  
Sunday Worship (HD) 8:30, 9:45 AM (NCC) 10:00 AM

Maunder Thursday Service  
7:00 PM, April 13

Good Friday Services  
10:00 AM & 7:00 PM, April 14



Easter Sunday – April 16  
Sunrise Service 6:30 AM  
Behind Eisenhower Elementary School (across the street)  
Easter Breakfast 7:00–10:00 AM  
in the lower level dining hall



Easter Worship (HD) 8:30, 9:45 AM  
Easter Worship (NCC) 10:00 AM  
Easter Egg hunt planned at NCC

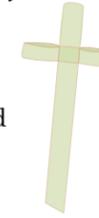
#### Easter Breakfast Needs

A sign-up sheet will be available to help donate items for the Easter breakfast. Please bring items to church during any of the Holy Week worship services.

You’re invited...

#### Learn How to Make Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday

Young and old are invited to participate in this event. Many willing hands make light work as we share a bond of friendship and service. **9:30 AM Saturday, April 8, in the fellowship hall**



Begins Sunday, March 5  
8:30–9:40, room 207

All youth are invited. Only requirement is that you know how to play your instrument. If you are interested, please contact Laurie Rickett or David Teeter at [davit@messiahvancouver.org](mailto:davit@messiahvancouver.org).

#### Camp Lutherwood Oregon is Visiting Messiah March 11 and 12! special \$25 off the price of camp

Information about summer camps, family camps, and how you can get involved throughout the year is being presented. As a special discount, they’re offering \$25 off the price of camp if you register on March 11 or 12! Camp Lutherwood staff can assist you with registration while you’re at church. Check out their website for more information, [lutherwoodoregon.org](http://lutherwoodoregon.org).

#### College Care Pack Items Needed

Please bring to Messiah no later than April 5 (31 of each item needed).

- ♦ Pens, Pencils, Erasers, Highlighters
- ♦ Post-It Notes
- ♦ Individually wrapped chocolates, cookies, crackers, gum, oatmeal packs
- ♦ Individual tea, coffee, hot chocolate,
- ♦ Crystal Light packs

#### One Mile Mission Needs (for area schools)

Donations can be brought to the main office, to worship at NCC, or to the bins in the Hazel Dell fellowship hall.

- ♦ Toiletry items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, new combs, shampoo, conditioner, soap)
- ♦ Individually packaged snack items (cheese crackers, fruit snacks, raisins, granola bars)
- ♦ Boxes of cereal
- ♦ Microwaveable macaroni and cheese
- ♦ Packs of gum, chapstick, individual bags of tea (38 of each item needed)
- ♦ Volunteers for the Eisenhower Early Learning Night, 6:00–7:30 PM Thursday, June 8



Joy Studer  
Director of Children's  
and Family Ministries

“I began to realize that with each passing through of one job, city, or state, something else was born in me.”

- Sunday School**  
Children, ages 3 through 5th grade  
Begins at 9:30AM
- Moms Connect**  
9:30–11:00 AM Mondays  
Free Childcare Provided
- Baby and Me**  
9:15–9:45 AM Wednesdays  
Free Childcare Provided  
(on break during Lent)
- 3 yr olds-5th Grade Godly Play**  
4:00–4:40 PM Wednesdays  
(during Lent)
- Mom's Time Out**  
4:00–5:15 PM Wednesdays
- Last Sun. School for School Year**  
May 21
- Last FL!P for School Year**  
May 24
- VBS – Maker Fun Factory**  
July 10–14  
Registration begins in March

## when the Lord closes a door, somewhere he opens a window

~Sound of Music

I have worked in special education, both primary and preschool. I have worked at Lowe's and at Mervyn's, when that was a place. I have worked in security, yes, I know I'm little. I have worked as a coffee barista, a



waitress, a store manager at a Blockbuster, and a bank teller. I have worked at Binyons where I helped sell and make eyeglasses. I worked as a bartender and I moonlighted as a singer. I ran sales and event management for different Hilton properties. I was in four different commercials before graduating high school and at 18 years old, I was a model (short-lived). I was a lifeguard, a nanny, and I fed giraffes at

Bush Gardens. I am a mom, and I am sure there's more but I just cannot remember. Now I work as the Director of Children and Family Ministries and I have no idea how I got here.

My life has been a blur of work and play. I have heard so many people's stories and met so many different types of personalities from which I discovered more about myself. Saying goodbyes has never been difficult for me. I have moved so frequently in my life that to pick up, go, and start over became second nature. I began to realize that with each passing through of one job, city, or state, something else was born in me.



To be 30 years old and work in such a variety of areas, each has given me a small dose of whiplash. I have seen myself grow with each job opportunity. I have learned so much from many different people I have met and worked with. Some of these jobs have been extremely unexpected. Somehow, I had something I took away from all of them. Each of these taught me something different and shaped me into the person for this ministry. I truly believe all of these led me on a path to be here at Messiah. They also helped me become the wife, mother, sister, daughter, and friend that I am.

I would not trade all of this in for anything. The pieces of me left behind are the ones that were not meant to move forward. The parts of me that continued became stronger. I could not be more thankful for the life I have been given. The journey I have been on has been a mixture of both painful and extremely beautiful, and I still look around in awe and think, “God... how did I get here?”

*And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.* Colossians 2:6-7



## do it anyway

*“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross... for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”* Philippians 2:5 – 8; 13

On Wednesday mornings I go to a 5:30AM spinning (indoor cycle) class at the gym. It seems to me that the people that get up that early to come to a class led by a loud instructor channeling her inner drill sergeant are either 1: training for a triathlon or 2: have no other option to work out during the day (me).

Even though I have gone to this class for the last six years, it just doesn't seem to get easier. This last week, mid-way through class we were “climbing hills.” I am red-faced, sweating profusely and trying to figure out how early I can leave class and not be disrespectful. I then look to a guy a few bikes over from me. I know he is working hard because he has a puddle of sweat under his bike, but as he is doing this intense drill he is smiling, almost laughing. He's also making these noises that are almost like “bring it on.”

It got me thinking how we were both experiencing the same difficult situation, but his attitude was a lot better than mine. Sometimes when we go through the hardest trials, there is an unexpected reward at the end.

One of my favorite poems was found written on the wall of Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta:

### Do It Anyway

- People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.  
Forgive them anyway.
- If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.  
Be kind anyway.
- If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.
- If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.  
Be honest and sincere anyway.
- What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.  
Create anyway.
- If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.  
Be happy anyway.
- Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.  
Give your best anyway.
- In the final analysis, it is between you and God.  
It was never between you and them anyway.



Jessica Potts  
Director of Youth  
and Young Adult Ministries

“Sometimes when we go through the hardest trials, there is an unexpected reward at the end.”

- Youth Ensemble**  
8:30-9:40 AM Sundays
- Middle School Lock-in**  
8:00 PM Friday, March 10 to  
7:00 AM Saturday, March 11
- High School Lunch Bunch**  
11:00 AM Sunday, March 12  
11:00 AM Sunday, April 9
- Easter Breakfast**  
7:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday, April 16  
Lower Level Dining
- High School Lunch Bunch**  
11:00 AM Sunday, May 14
- Last FL!P for School Year**  
May 24
- Prayer Partner Celebration**  
6:30–7:00 PM Wednesday, May 24
- Graduate Sunday**  
June 4
- Confirmation Camp**  
June 25-30
- High School Mission Trip**  
July 16-22