

the Sounds

of Messiah



Making Palm Crosses
10:00 AM Sat., March 24

Palm Sunday Weekend

Saturday Worship (HD) 5:00 PM March 24

Sunday Worship March 25
(HD) 8:30, 9:45 AM (NCC) 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday Worship
(HD) 7:00 PM, March 29

Good Friday Worship
(HD) 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM, March 30

Easter Sunday – April 1
(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

Spring Break
April 2-6

Wednesday FLIP
April 4 to May 23

Prayer Partner Celebration
May 23

Graduation Celebration
Sunday, June 3

Messiah Beach Camp-out
June 14-17

Vacation Bible School
July 9-13

a whole new world

by Pr. Peter Braafladt

So [the women who were told of Jesus resurrection] went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid. Mark 16:8 NRSV

“See, I am making all things new.” Rev. 21:5 NRSV

We are so used to the joy of Easter that the fearful reaction of the women who first heard the good news of Jesus’ resurrection seems odd. The Easter event tells us that Christ has conquered death, and because he rose, we too shall be

“...why were the women at that first Easter so afraid?”

raised to live with God forever. So why were the women at that first Easter so afraid?

I wonder if they were afraid because they knew Easter meant the end of the world to which they had grown accustomed, that God was opening a

brand-new, unfamiliar future for them. Because this future worked by new rules where the dead did not stay dead and old patterns were being replaced with new, I wonder if it filled them with both terror and exhilaration. Jesus’ resurrection meant that their old ways of navigating the world were ending, and if they told anyone, it would be the end for them too.

No longer was God separated from God’s people. No longer would they have to live only for themselves since their future was secure. Now God would live in and through them. And as God lived in them, God would change them, just as God had already changed their future. (continued on following page)



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Pr. Peter Braafladt

“I will admit to moments of discomfort and fear during the 1½ year process that brought us to this leadership plan, moments when I would have preferred to say nothing to anyone because I was afraid...”

Pizza with the Pastor

One Sunday a month, 11:00am
An opportunity for newcomers to Messiah to learn more about its mission, ministries and culture, and how the congregation is moving into the future. It is also an opportunity for guests to meet others who are similarly interested in learning more about the church. Childcare is available.

Interestingly, their future included persecution, imprisonment, exile, and execution—scary things. However, God changed them from being fearful followers, to courageous leaders who, with the rest of the early disciples, boldly proclaimed the good news to people throughout the world. (Without them, I would not need to write this article.) Despite their fears, they experienced



peace, joy, and hope beyond their wildest imaginations. They came to accept the future as something not to be afraid of, but something to be embraced—a future filled with God who gives life to the dead and courage to the fearful.

We at Messiah have been giving a lot of thought, prayer, and discernment time to the future to which God is calling us. At a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, March 18, the Church Leadership Team will be inviting your support of a capital campaign to bring a Mission Developer to the staff of Messiah, replace the roofs, retire the debt, and establish a sinking fund for future years.

I will admit to moments of discomfort and fear during the 1½ year process that brought us to this leadership plan, moments when I would have preferred to say nothing to anyone because I was afraid—especially of the need for adaptive change in what I consider a stellar congregation. As we together

“In our better moments as Christians, we realize we do not need to focus on our fears or our sense of scarcity that persistently wants to cling to the old world and its old ways.”

grapple with the changing metrics of “success” for a thriving and vital church, fear is a natural and nearby feeling. We wonder if we can afford these changes both financially and emotionally, and we mourn the fact that, once again, our resurrection God is calling us out of our familiar and secure patterns and into paths untrodden. If we engage this process without noticing that we are always being made new by a God who brings life out of death, fear will reign and we will be tempted to pine for the past.

In our better moments as Christians, we realize we do not need to focus on our fears or our sense of scarcity that persistently wants to cling to the old world and its old ways. In our better moments, we instead focus on God. We look to what God has done and is doing in our own lives and in the life of this dear community we call Messiah. When we do, we see a consistent, reliable pattern to God’s life-giving promise of new life.

God has and is doing great things at Messiah and promises to be with us in doing new things in the future. They may seem scary, but God gives courage and faith. The one who raised Jesus from the dead will see to that. Our God is always making things new.

May God bless you this Easter season with the confidence of new life in God’s name. And may God bless all of us as we move confidently into the future where God is already working.

does faith have to be at the center of our conversations to be at the center of our lives?

A few weeks ago I finally launched my internship project. In case you were unaware, every intern has completed some type of project while at Messiah. For my project, I have started a small group for young adults with a goal of 50% of the participants identifying as none (those who are spiritual but not religious).

I'll admit that part of the origin of this group is in selfish nature. Both my wife and I want to belong to a community of people who are around the same ages as us. And honestly that is really tough to find in the church.

Another hope for this group is to answer a question I have been wrestling with since arriving at Messiah... "Does faith have to be at the center of our conversations to be at the center of our lives?" This is a difficult question to ask and one I am not sure I entirely know the answer to.

But I hope to learn from this group, because one thing is apparently clear... yes, we may talk about God and our faith... but it will most likely not be the primary topic of conversation. This is a group of people who want to share what is going on in their lives, their joys and struggles, their hopes and dreams, and the numerous life changes that occur in these critical years of life.

Maybe conversations of faith and God come up as we meet... maybe not. But I wonder if God isn't up to something bigger and beyond our reach. Maybe God is planting a seed in this group to be and do something incredible.

Maybe the majority of these participants step back into a church... or maybe not. I'm not sure that is the goal of ministry. I'm not sure we are called to recruit people to join our building. Maybe instead, we are called to go out and love those around us and spread God's love in word and action. Maybe this group will lean more into the latter. Regardless, I feel God is up to something incredible and it is beyond my control. All I can do is strap in and go along for the ride!



Ryan Dockery
Seminary Pastoral Intern

"But I wonder if God isn't up to something bigger and beyond our reach. Maybe God is planting a seed in this group to be and do something incredible."

Pr. Kathy's Book Club

first Wednesday 10:00-11:30am
childcare always available
Hazel Dell campus

March 7 *Evicted*
by Matthew Desmond

April 4 *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk*
by Kelli Estes

Administrative Assistant Hiring Process Now Open

Applications are now being accepted for a part-time Administrative Assistant position in the front office of Messiah Lutheran Church. The Administrative Assistant supports the work of the pastors and program staff, maintains office procedures, and is the "first voice" contact point for members and the community. The position is 30 hours/week during the program year and 20 hours/week during the summer.





David Teeter
Minister of Worship and Music

a living faith

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...” Matthew 6:33

I think back to my beginnings. Before I was born, my heavenly Father knew me! He knew the parents I needed, the values they would teach, the hardships we would face. As missionaries to Brazil in the 1950’s, my parents took a leap of faith, following the call of God on their lives. In the midst of that faith walk, I was born in a straw thatch hut with a dirt floor, my father holding a flashlight for a native midwife.

Shortly after my birth, my parents were called back to the states where my father built a church, starting with simple children’s Bible studies on the weekend in the backyard. These expanded into additional adult bible classes and eventually to Sunday worship and Sunday school all held in our home. This was my life growing up as a toddler through high school until the church was finally able to support the building of a facility on the back lot. In all of this, my dad refused to take a salary from the church and worked outside full time as a postman during the week.

You may ask what it was like being a child where every weekend, our home was turned into a battlefield of cleaning and being ready for the neighborhood to walk through for church and Sunday School? Our bedrooms, living room and kitchen were used for classrooms and our double car garage was the sanctuary. Everything had to be spit polished and clean. I DID NOT LIKE IT!

Nothing was private, nothing was sacred. Everything belonged to... God and the church. If we were misbehaving in church (it was our home after all!), my dad would not think twice about bringing us on stage and disciplining us as a Children’s Message or sermonette. I DID NOT LIKE IT!

My parents forced me to join a Bible Memory Association where every week I memorized and recited different verses of scripture for small rewards, like pencils, erasers and various knick-knacks and eventually a summer week of camp. They started out with one or two verses a week as a toddler, to six or seven verses as an eight year old, to ten or eleven verses in middle school, to finally fifteen to twenty verses a week in high school. I was

forced to recite different passages to my Sunday School teacher, every week. I DID NOT LIKE IT!

At age seven, my grandparents agreed to pay for one hour of piano lessons for me and my three siblings. My older brother was given 30 minutes and the rest of us were given ten minutes of lessons EACH. But can you believe it? We ALL had to practice an HOUR every day! I DID NOT LIKE IT! I would rather have been outside playing sandlot football with my friends. I just couldn’t wait until I left for college. FREEDOM!

Funny thing about freedom, it is all about choices. I could choose whatever I WANTED to do. So I chose not to go to church. I chose not to continue my daily exposure in God’s Word. I chose not to practice. It didn’t take more than a few months of this revolution against my training

I DID NOT LIKE IT!

to recognize my soul was dead. I came back to church, I began reading my Bible again, I chose a music major and instead of an hour a day of practice, I practiced four hours a day, even eight or nine hours a day during the summer break. I WANTED to feel those things that had been integrally woven into the fabric of my soul by my parents under God’s prompting. And the seeds of faith planted by my parents, though never previously appreciated, healed my soul and made sense.

I did not play as “hard ball” as my parents in the lives of my own children, but they always had the example of their parents in making priority for God and the church every week. I thank God for the tilling of the soil of my heart through my parents and I trust God that seeds planted in our children will spring forth into life for all who are to come.

“...where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

**FLIP Schedule for
Wednesdays During Lent,
Feb 21 to Mar 21**

4:15-4:45 PM

Praise Patrol, NewSong Godly Play
(3-years to 5th grade)

4:45-5:30 PM

Godly Play (3-years to 5th grade)

5:00-5:45 PM

Soup Supper in lower level

6:00-6:30 PM

Worship

6:30-7:00 PM

Service projects for all ages

6:30-7:00 PM

Quiet prayer time in Prayer Chapel

7:00-8:30 PM

Messiah Worship Choir



Sunday Mornings

8:30-9:40, room 207; Feb 18-April 15
All youth are invited. Only
requirement is that you know how
to play your instrument. If you are
interested, please contact Laurie
Ricket or David Teeter at davidt@
messiahvancouver.org.

Easter Breakfast

Please mark your calendars for
the Easter Breakfast on Sunday,
April 1 from 7:00am-10:00am. High
School National Youth Gathering
participants and their families will
be preparing and serving the food.
Donations accepted for their trip.



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

Maundy Thursday Service
7:00 PM, March 29

Good Friday Services
10:00 AM & 7:00 PM, March 30



Easter Sunday – April 1
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



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

for more information about all
events, adult ministries, and
small group opportunities, go
to messiahvancouver.org

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Marsh White, Custodian

sowing and harvesting God's blessings

by Angie George-Pendleton

This month
Angie George-Pendleton,
Preschool Board Member
is a guest writer

“Sowing seeds of faith comes from our actions, little and big. God will look for ways to answer our prayers, little and big. While we help others in His name, we can wait for those miraculous answers to prayer.”

Preschool Dates

Spring Break
April 2–6

Last Days of Preschool
May 23–25

Each spring, my children Molly, Jack, and Everett eagerly help with our garden. They love to plant the seeds, push the dirt around, and overwater. I know through the many years we have been sowing our seeds that this is a joyful experience for them. They wait for weeks to see the green starts push through the soil and are overjoyed when they finally appear. It seems miraculous to them—the small green shoots coming up from the tiny little seeds they planted weeks before. It is always a miracle to me as I am never sure what will sprout from their frenzied planting sessions!

Each child has his or her own gardening style.

Molly is patient and careful, watering and checking



the sprouts daily and giving me reports on what has sprung up.

Jack is focused but silly, giving the seedlings his full attention

as he sings songs and talks to them.

Everett has non-stop

questions about the seedlings as

he overwaters half of them and leaves the others bone

dry. “How many are there? How big will they get, Mom?

Do I like to eat these? What color is the food they make?”



Can you show me a picture of the veggie? When will they be ready to pick?”

We do many ordinary things when we create a garden. Each day we water, weed, thin seedlings, track the sunshine, and water some more.

We care for the plants throughout the spring and summer, faithfully giving ourselves over to the task of tending the garden

we have created together. When it is time, the children joyfully harvest the vegetables, flowers, and fruits.

These ordinary, everyday actions in looking after our

garden culminate into a bountiful harvest we can share with others.

Sowing seeds of faith is like this too. When we pray, we have prayers

of thanksgiving and praise, worry and burdens. We pray for answers,

guidance, and wisdom to help us solve our questions and problems.

Sometimes our prayers are answered quickly. At

other times, we wait longer to hear God's plan. As

we await answers, we can show our children and

others the love of God by giving of ourselves to them

in ordinary, everyday ways they may need. We can

give our cares to God, and then we can get down to

doing His work here on Earth.

Sowing seeds of faith comes from our actions, little and big. God will look

for ways to answer our prayers, little and big. While we help others in His

name, we can wait for those miraculous answers to prayer, like little green

seedlings, to come.



big and small seeds of faith

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8

Over the course of my years in youth ministry, it is still amazing to me how you never know how something will impact another’s faith. You could say, “You never know when a seed has been planted.” Sometimes I think the seeds may be small or sometimes a little bit bigger.

I think back to a high school student who came regularly to the Tuesday morning high school breakfast. Years later, I was at Camp Lutherwood and I recognized a counselor. I finally realized he was a past attendee at high school breakfast. He told me he had decided to go to college at Pacific Lutheran University. He had no connection with the Lutheran church except for breakfast, but he said he felt good going to a Lutheran college because of that connection. At school, he became active in a weekly Bible Study. Now here he was working at a Lutheran summer camp.

There was a small seed of faith that had been planted and now had grown so that this student without a church background could now be actively involved in multiple faith communities. This was a story I may have never heard, but maybe it was a God-Incidence that I did.

When I was in high school, I had the privilege of attending two ELCA National Youth Gatherings. Being with 30,000 other Lutheran youth and leaders is something incredible to experience. Seeing the sheer number of people and famous speakers and musicians is truly inspiring. For me it was the first time that I understood how large the Lutheran community extends as I heard impactful stories of God’s work in the world. I am very excited to be taking a group of Messiah high school youth to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston this summer. This is an opportunity to plant some “big seeds of faith” in the lives of these young people.

I wonder what other incredible faith stories are out there because of seeds Messiah has planted. We can trust that God will use those seeds and maybe someday they will truly start to sprout.



Jessica Potts
Director of Youth
and Young Adult Ministries

Middle School Lock In

7:45pm Friday, March 2 until

7:15am Saturday, March 3

Meet and pick up at Messiah Lutheran Hazel Dell. The group will be staying overnight at Trinity Lutheran in Vancouver with other Lutheran churches from Vancouver and Portland. The evening will include games (including night games), food, service project, meeting new friends from area churches and more!

Cost: \$10 plus a box of granola bars to share. Please sign up by February 28. Contact Jessica Potts at jessicap@messiahvancouver.org with any questions.

High School Lock In

8:30pm Friday, March 16 until

7:15am Saturday, March 17

Meet and pick up at Messiah Lutheran Hazel Dell. The group will be staying overnight at Bethel Lutheran in Brush Prairie with other Lutheran churches from Vancouver and Portland. The evening will include time hanging out at the Rocksolid Teen Center.

Cost: \$10 plus a box of granola bars/breakfast bars to share. Friends welcome! Please sign up by March 14. Contact Jessica Potts at jessicap@messiahvancouver.org with any questions.



High School Youth attending the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston are doing a 144 Envelope Fundraiser to help raise funds for their trip

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. 10:00AM Saturday, March 24 in the fellowship hall



Group Hike—all ages and abilities welcome!

Sunday, March 11, beginning with lunch at 11:30am at the *End of the Road Grill*, 207 Pioneer Ave, Ridgefield 98642. After lunch, the group will hike on the trails at the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge (no dogs permitted). If participants do not want to join for lunch, they can meet at the trail at 1:00pm. See more information on the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge here: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield/visit/plan_your_visit.html. Please RSVP to Jessica Potts at jessicap@messiahvancouver.org.

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.

Beach Camp-out at Nehalem Bay State Park in Manzanita, OR June 14–17, 2018

Messiah has three more RV spots open for this summer's beach campout. Cost is \$35/family/night if staying all three nights or \$40/family/night if staying less than three nights. There are also eight tent spots available. Payment is needed to secure your spot. Pancake breakfast provided each morning. Contact Jessica Potts at jessicap@messiahvancouver.org for more information or to sign up.



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1701 NW 299th Street
Ridgefield, WA 98642
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Preschool: 574-2686
Messiah office hours
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9:00am–1:30am Friday
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