

Messiah Lutheran Church

September 17, 2020; 6:00pm

Pastor's Report

Rev. Chuck Harris

With the release of the Faith Formation Task Force document and recommendations, most of my recent work has been on thinking through and planning for its implementation. Along with the need to shift staff hours and responsibilities due to the pandemic, the document recommends a new Associate Pastor position and a part-time visitation pastor. I believe the document is a great foundation for Messiah moving forward, both through the rest of the pandemic and then beyond. I'm excited about its direction for my ministry, and I give the whole task force a well-deserved word of thanks.

Some mission-specific areas and updated comments below:

Worship

- We will have a small, in-person memorial service for Wilma Tipton. 5 households with 19 people total. It will be livestreamed for the greater family and friends of Wilma.
- Weekly Holy Communion is continuing.

Finance/Stewardship

- The Finance/Stewardship Team is undertaking excellent stewardship training, along with 10 other congregations in the synod.
- The stewardship program this fall will be robust, with a good foundation set for year-around stewardship activities.
- Currently having difficulties getting new invoices from the school district.
- The 7th Day Adventist congregation is really struggling. I will be reaching out to them to start a conversation about rent and possibilities for 2021.

Staff

- See attached documents.
- I have taken recommendations from the FTF, along with changing staffing priorities due to the pandemic, and created a new staffing proposal for the rest of 2020 and throughout 2021.
- The staff have been alerted to changes in hours for the rest of this year and throughout 2021.

Communication

- New website has been launched. It will continue to expand in content and functionality as Jan continue to import material from older website.
- A shift to a new web-hosting service and expanded server capacity was necessary to guarantee functioning and create expanded media capacity.
- Calendar for social media posts has been established.

Building Use

- Building continues to be closed.
- Office is closed.
- The only scheduled groups continue to be Sunday afternoon and Thursday evening Community Meals. The meals are distributed outside as "grab and go". Folks inside fixing food are social distancing.
- Same is true for Wednesday morning foodbank.
- I have had an ask to utilize the building. I'm cautious about this as long as we are in Phase 2. Once we start, it will be difficult to turn down other groups.

Operations

- Janitorial service continues to be 4 hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- Garbage collection continues to be bi-weekly with smaller bins.
- Temperature controls set with less people in building in mind.
- Walt Richards needs a big "thank you" for tending to a variety of building issues, most notably this month with the back fence.

Care

- Lots of phone calling, emails, and Zoom chats

Endowment

- The proposal I submitted to the Endowment Committee for a proposed, one-year "re-engagement project" to help Messiah prepare for, and build out from, the ending of the pandemic was not approved.
- The worship team is now preparing two proposals to submit to the Endowment Committee to facilitate worship enhancements.