



WELCOME REV. DR. CAROLYN SCHNEIDER TO MESSIAH

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider is an ELCA missionary currently serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana. She previously served as a volunteer with the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel (2005); with ELCA Global Ministries as a visiting professor at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt; and as a long-term missionary with ELCA Global Ministries teaching Church History at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong (2014 - 2018).



She will preach during worship and lead Adult Forum on Sunday, August 9, sharing insights from her ministry and experiences serving with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana. Please join us in welcoming Rev. Dr. Schneider for this special weekend.

You can support Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider by making checks payable to "Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" Attn: Payroll/Nirali Shah 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631. MEMO: Honoring Carolyn Schneider .

This Month's Highlights

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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Saints,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our crucified, risen, and ascended Lord and coming Savior, Jesus Christ.

I trust that you are staying cool during these hot summer days. I remember my childhood when the heat never seemed to bother us. We spent countless hours outdoors, feeling almost invincible. As the years have passed, however, experience has taught us to be more cautious and wiser. The intense summer sun and heat can take a toll on our bodies, leading to sunburn, heat exhaustion or heat stroke, and increasing the risk of skin cancer and other health concerns.

In addition to enjoying the sunshine, traveling, taking vacations, gathering for family reunions, and attending outdoor festivals, summer is also a season of preparation. While many people are slowing down, the church is already looking ahead to the busy fall season.

One of the highlights of our fall ministry will once again be **God's Work. Our Hands**. This year, we hope to make the day more than simply a neighborhood cleanup. We are inviting our neighbors to join us for hot dogs and refreshments, giving us an opportunity not only to serve our community but also to build relationships, extend hospitality, and share the love of Christ in a welcoming and tangible way. Please mark your calendar for **God's Work. Our Hands**. on **Saturday, September 12**.

We are also preparing to launch **Stewardship for All Seasons**. In the coming weeks, we will share the dates and theme for our **2027 stewardship campaign**. I believe you will find this year's approach refreshingly different from those of the past. Together we will establish a shared goal, hear stories of faith and generosity, and provide opportunities for everyone in the congregation to become more deeply engaged in sustaining and strengthening our ministry. Our Stewardship Team has already begun its work on behalf of the congregation, and the excitement is building as we prepare for the campaign's launch.

Finally, on **Rally Sunday, September 13**, following worship in the Fellowship Hall, our ministry committees will be available to share information about their work and invite you to become involved. Our Sunday School will host treats and fun activities for children and their parents. Whether you are looking for a place to serve, to learn more about the ministries of Messiah, or simply to enjoy fellowship with one another, there will be something for everyone. I hope you will plan to join us.

As summer gives way to fall, may we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love as we worship, serve, and bear witness together to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Orin

From the Desk of Council President

25 INTERESTING LUTHERAN FACTS

In honor of the 25th anniversary of the ELCA we have collected 25 facts about Lutherans and Lutheranism. This, of course, is only a small sampling from our almost 500-year history. Let us know what you would add to this list.

1. The Lutheran Church is the oldest Protestant tradition.
2. Martin Luther issued the “Disputation of Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences” that became known as his “95 Theses” in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517.
3. Lutherans went viral nearly 500 years ago, when Martin Luther and his allies used the new media of the day — pamphlets, ballads and woodcuts — and circulated them through social networks to promote their message of the reformation of the church.
4. Following the practice of naming a “heresy” after its leader, the name Lutheran originated as a derogatory term used by Johann Eck during the Leipzig Debate in July 1519.
5. Rather than “Lutheran,” Martin Luther preferred to describe the reformation as “evangelical,” which is derived from the Greek word meaning “good news.”
6. Generally speaking Lutheran teaching can be summed up by “Three Solas”: (1) Grace Alone; (2) Faith Alone; (3) Scripture Alone.
7. The split between the Lutherans and the Roman Catholics began with the Edict of Worms in 1521, which officially excommunicated Luther and all of his followers.
8. Luther’s Small Catechism (“Der Kleine Katechismus”) was published in 1529 for the teaching of children at home by their parents.
9. Luther’s Large Catechism consisted of works addressed particularly to clergymen to aid them in teaching their congregations.
10. The Book of Concord or “Concordia” (1580) contains documents that explain what Lutherans believe. It includes the three creeds of the ancient church and Reformation writings such as Luther’s Small and Large Catechisms, and the Formula of Concord.
11. Composer Johann Sebastian Bach, a devout Lutheran, is credited with 1,126 musical works listed in the complete Bach catalog (Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis, or BWV). He wrote about 200 cantatas, including at least two for each Sunday and holy day in the Lutheran church year.
12. Lutherans believe in “Salvation by grace through faith” — that salvation comes by grace through faith alone, not by works and sacraments.
13. Philipp Melanchthon (Feb. 16, 1497 — April 19, 1560), was one of the primary founders of Lutheranism. Born Philipp Schwartzertdt, he translated his name to its Greek form — Melanchthon. He made the distinction between law and gospel the central formula for Lutheran evangelical insight.
14. Since 1520, regular Lutheran services have been held in Copenhagen.
15. During the 16th century, Lutheranism spread through all of Scandinavia as the monarchs of Denmark-Norway (also Iceland) and Sweden (also Finland) adopted Lutheranism.
16. The first Lutheran worship service in North America is believed to have taken place in what is now known as Manitoba on Jan. 23, 1620. The sermon was delivered by Pastor Rasmus Jensen.
17. Massive immigration from traditionally Lutheran countries to the United States between 1840 and 1875 resulted in 58 Lutheran synods being formed.
18. The first Lutheran pastor to be ordained in the United States was German-born Justus Falckner on Nov. 24, 1703.
19. German Lutheran Pastor Henry Muhlenberg was sent to North America as a missionary upon the request of Pennsylvania colonists. He is considered the patriarch of American Lutheranism.
20. As late as the 19th century, Lutherans in the United States still looked to their European homelands to supply pastors and worship materials.
21. Founded in 1826, the [Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg](#) in Pennsylvania is the oldest operating seminary in the ELCA. (Merged with Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in July 2017 under the name United Lutheran Seminary.)
22. Lutherans form the largest religious denomination in Namibia, formerly German Southwest Africa.
23. Founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, The Lutheran World Federation now has 143 member churches in 79 countries around the world representing 70.5 million Christians.
24. On Jan. 1, 1988, The American Lutheran Church, The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and The Lutheran Church in America officially merged to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
25. The ELCA is the largest Lutheran body in the United States. (Taken from the *LIVING LUTHERAN* magazine of April 12th, 2013)

Crosslines

On July 2, we had a large group of volunteers who served 94 families/196 people. Messiah's volunteers included Linda Elliott, Frances Crawford, John and Carol Flanders, Carolyn Gerdes, Dean McDowell, Donny McKinney, Becky Roark, Sheila Schaefer and Lisa Melgren. Thank you to everyone who has donated food and grocery bags this month. Monetary donations are also welcome. Just mark Crosslines on your church envelope.

Parish Life

Sunday, August 16, we will have our second summer breakfast potluck. Be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet in mission hall. Come join us for a morning of fellowship and food.

Parish Life is organizing a ministries fair for **September 13**, following worship. This will be an opportunity for any committee or groups within the Church to advertise and invite people to get to know more about their group and possibly get involved. We will have tables in the fellowship hall for groups to set up their displays and information. But we need to know who is interested. If you would like space for your group at this event, please contact Lucy Stillwell, preferably by text at 417-766-7835.

We are considering an off-site activity for October, possibly one of the "Oktoberfests" in Missouri. Stay tuned.

For our November activity. We are planning on having adventures November 22. Mark, your calendars.

Messiah Book Club

We will meet August 13 at 2:30 p.m. in the Library at church.



Code Name Helene by Ariel Lawhon, published in 2020, is a work of historical fiction inspired by the real story of Nancy Grace Augusta Wake. When her husband goes to war against the Germans, she becomes a leader on the French Resistance, a most wanted person on the Nazi target list.

Messiah Lutheran Child & Family Development Center

We are currently enrolling ages 1 year to age 6 if you have friends or family looking for a Christian daycare.

We also currently have an infant lead teacher role open. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please have them reach out to Jessica Phillips, Center Director.

Lunch & Scripture

Everyone is welcome to join us at MaMa Jean's on the corner of South Campbell and Sunshine for Lunch and Scripture on **August 11 at 12 noon**. If you have any questions please reach out to Ileen Kendall.

Backpack Blessing

We will be doing the backpack blessing on **August 23** for all students going back to school. We will also be praying for all the educators and staff as school resumes for the new year.



We invite the women of Messiah to join us for Wine, Wit and Wisdom gathering for great food and fellowship.

Watch the Midweek Messenger for more information.

For more information, please contact Debbie Corlett at 417-848-9426 or debbiecorlett@sbcglobal.net

Choir News

Alleluia Singers has had a busy summer with faithfully serving as Cantor for Sunday morning services and participating in the celebration for Marilyn Boston. I am deeply grateful to all choir members for their faithful service above and beyond the call of duty.

The Fall choir season will begin on **Wednesday, August 26th at 7:30 p.m.** If you have ever considered singing in choir, this would be a great time to join us! If you have any questions, please speak to me or any choir member. We always welcome new voices to our choir family.

In His Name,
Sheryl Hansen
Choir Director

Congregational Care

GriefShare at Messiah Lutheran Church Celebrates 10 Years of Ministry

Ten years ago, Pastor Dan Friberg embraced the vision of Oxford Hospice to provide grief and bereavement resources for both the congregation and the surrounding community. Since then, Messiah Lutheran Church has hosted a variety of grief support events, including the annual **Daughters Without Mothers Tea**, the **Winter Memorial Service**, and **GriefShare**.

GriefShare is a 13-week grief recovery program designed to help individuals navigate the loss of a loved one. The program assists participants in accepting their loss, expressing difficult emotions, preserving and sharing cherished memories, redefining life after loss, and finding meaningful ways to honor their loved one's legacy.

In a small group setting, participants are surrounded by others who truly understand what they are experiencing. Together, they share the challenges of grief, including the mental fog, unanswered questions, and overwhelming emotions that often accompany loss. GriefShare is open to everyone, from those with no faith background to those whose faith is an important part of their healing journey.

One of the many blessings of GriefShare is the opportunity to hear God's perspective amid life's difficult circumstances. Over the years, many members of Messiah Lutheran Church have participated in GriefShare, and numerous individuals from the community have found support and encouragement through this ministry. Some have even become part of the Messiah Lutheran family because the church opened its doors and hearts to serve those who are grieving.

Messiah Lutheran Church remains committed to providing help, hope, and healing to those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. We are pleased to begin our eleventh year of GriefShare as a 13-week program beginning **Monday, August 17, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

We warmly invite anyone from the congregation, as well as friends, family members, neighbors, or others in the community who are grieving a loss, to attend.

If you have questions about GriefShare, **Mitch Fisher** and **Marian Michaliszyn** would be happy to provide additional information.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve in this ministry.

Sincerely,

Marian Michaliszyn

"Participants explore topics such as loneliness, fear, anger, guilt, difficult questions, relationships, hope, healing, and finding purpose after loss. Each session includes a video presentation, group discussion, and practical tools for navigating the grief journey."

Phone number Marian Michaliszyn 417-894-9615

Mitch Fisher 417-830-4086



NYAH DOGWILER RECIPIENT of the 2026 LYNN STARR EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP



The Lynn Starr Education Scholarship is named in honor of Lynn Starr, the first president of the Central States Women of the ELCA. Lynn was instrumental in the initial development of Women of the ELCA. She was a mentor to many and, even with her passing in 2024, her spirit continues to enrich the active involvement of Messiah women.

Scholarships are awarded to female members of ELCA congregations who are seeking post-high-school education and priority is given to female members of Central States Synod congregations. For the upcoming school year, five young women from Central States congregations were awarded \$600 scholarships. Nyah Dogwiler, member of Messiah, is one of the recipients.

Nyah is a student at the University of Kansas, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering with a minor in Mathematics and plans to graduate in May 2027. Nyah is active in the Leadership Fellows Program in the School of Engineering and participates in several campus organizations. During the summers of 2025 and 2026 she has gained valuable experience with structural engineering internships in the Kansas City area. Messiah is proud of you, Nyah!

Meet Your Council Member

Steve Grochowsky was born and raised in Chillicothe, Illinois, and grew up with his Mom, Dad, and two older brothers. He is the grandson of Lutheran Swedish immigrants on his mother's side and the great-grandson of Catholic Polish immigrants on his father's side.

He attended Southern Illinois University - Carbondale. There, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in German Language and Literature, with minors in American and European history. During his time at SIU-C, he also played trumpet with a number of School of Music ensembles.

Following his graduation in 1987, Steve moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where he worked for his brother's maintenance and landscaping business. In 1989, he returned to central Illinois to marry his high school sweetheart, Karen. The following year, the couple relocated to Kansas, where Steve pursued a Master's degree in Library and Information Management at Emporia State University.

After completing his graduate studies, Steve accepted a position as Associate Director of the Charlotte Area Health Education Center Library at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. In this role, he worked closely with medical students, healthcare professionals, and researchers in an academic / clinical setting.

In 1997, Steve and Karen left the big city and moved to Albemarle, North Carolina, where he joined the Stanly County Public Library. He served there for more than a decade as a network administrator and manager of the Technical Services Department before eventually leaving the system.

Although rooted in strong religious traditions, Steve grew up unchurched as a consequence of family strife that followed his Catholic grandfather's marriage to a Danish Protestant. Following the births of their sons, Jacob in 1995 & Benjamin in 1998, Steve began to seek a deeper sense of purpose and faith. He and his family started attending a Lutheran church in Albemarle and became members at First Lutheran in 2001. Steve served as an usher, a lector, and taught an adult Sunday school class, and the entire family was actively involved in church life.

Steve and Karen had long hoped to return to the Midwest. After Jake and Ben relocated to Illinois in the late 2010s, that desire grew stronger. In May 2023, they learned that Jake and Ashley's first-born daughter, Aria,

would be born with a critical heart defect. Just days later, Karen was offered a transfer to a new position with her company in Missouri. The move provided a meaningful way to return to the Midwest while significantly reducing the distance between them, their sons, and their granddaughter during a critical time. Sadly, Aria Dee passed away at Riley Children's Hospital in November of 2023.

After settling in the Springfield, Missouri area, Steve and Karen began attending ELCA services and eventually joined Messiah Lutheran Church in the fall of 2023. Steve has been active in the church's life, assisting with the library and serving as both a teller and lector. Karen has also served as a lector and is active in the Little Debbies Circle and the altar guild. In 2025, Steve was elected to the congregation council.

In his free time, Steve enjoys traveling, reading, hiking, watching European drama on TV, and taking naps with the cats Ruble and Skugga Kot. Steve is also a member of the Republic, MO, community band. Besides being proud parents of Ben, Jake, and in-laws to Ashley, Karen and Steve are blessed to be grandparents to Aria's little sister, Elaina Grochowsky, who turned one year old in May 2026.

Thank You

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who played a part in making my 50-year celebration so remarkable. Everything was absolutely wonderful, and I am truly grateful.

To my students who shared their musical talents—you played beautifully, and I was so proud of each of you. To the choir, thank you for the beautiful song. It touched my heart and made the celebration even more meaningful.

To everyone who helped plan, organize, decorate, prepare the meal, serve, or contributed in any way, thank you for making this milestone so incredibly special.

Your thoughtfulness, kindness, and generosity made it a day I will always treasure.

With sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks,
Marilyn Boston

Sunday School

We hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing summer! Although it's still hot outside, we're looking ahead to cooler days and are excited about the start of Sunday School.

Sunday School kicks off on **September 13** with **Rally Sunday**. Our theme this year is **Grow with God** and all kids age 2 and up are welcome to join us upstairs that day from 10:45-11:30 in the Youth Loft for games, crafts, and snacks.

If anyone is interested in assisting in either of our Sunday School classrooms this year, please reach out to Tara Melgren, Susie Rucker, Beth Melgren, or Katie Dogwiler. We have a great group of kids! We meet each week from 10:45-11:30 and start with everyone singing fun songs with Rachel Bergin. We then split into two groups for the lesson: kids age 2 to pre-kindergarten meet with Beth and Susie, and kids from kindergarten-6th grade meet with Tara and Katie.

Celebrating Marilyn Boston's 50 Years as Organist for Messiah Lutheran Church



August Flowers

	1/2	8/9	15/16	22/23	29/30
Vase 1	Mike & Susan Lane	Pat Schultz	Pat Schultz	Hoeman Family	Dave & Patty Hangen
Vase 2	Mike & Susan Lane	Gene Chrisman		Rex & Mary Anne Johnson	

Flower Vase Costs

Cost per vase is \$20. Please make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church, and then in the memo line, write "Altar Flowers" and the date for which you are paying. If you are using an offering envelope, you will find a line for "Altar Flowers" and the amount.

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*He restores my soul, He leads me in the paths of
 righteousness, for His name's sake. Psalms 23:3*

August Scripture Readings

DATE	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
1/2	Isaiah 55:1-5	145:8-9, 14-21	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
8/9	1 Kings 19:9-18	85:8-13	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
15/16	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	67	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15:[10-20]. 21-28
22/23	Isaiah 51:1-6	138	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
29/30	Jeremiah 15:15-21	26:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28

Mark Your Calendars

Aug. 4	Primary Election	Aug. 29-30	Healing Services
Aug. 8-9	Carolyn Schneider, Missionary from Guyana		
Aug. 11	Lunch & Scripture		
Aug. 16	Church Council Meeting		
Aug. 17	Grief Share Resumes		
Aug. 26	Seminole Holland Potluck		