

Transition Team Final Report

Following more than a year of work the Transition Team has offered their final report to the Council. The team will be thanked for their work and be officially disbanded at the congregation meeting on February 11.

Transition Team Report to MCC Council
19 December, 2017

The Transition Team was tasked to create a path forward for Messiah Community Church. Through our time as a committee we explored many avenues for the future of the congregation. A strong attempt was made by the Transition Team to gauge the true energy of our congregation to move forward and to see what options existed for our congregation beyond the walls of Messiah in both outreach and partnerships. During this time our committee hosted one on one meetings with a majority of the congregation, attended a social organizing training at St. Mark's Church, meet regularly with members of the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod, engaged in a partnership with St. Paul's and Our Savior churches, hosted several adult forums to better understand the pulse of Messiah's congregation, extended new outreach to our current tenants and made plans for future tenants, and reflected deeply on the legacy of Messiah Community Church. Through all of this work, our committee has come to these recommendations:

Recommendation #1 – Mission & Vision

- Maintain focus on our established mission and vision first as our reason for being.
- Affirm League of Hope and Green Team for their valuable work, nurture and develop those ministries through justice oriented initiatives

Recommendation #2 – Seek a part-time pastor

- Staff is our largest expense. This is the most meaningful step we can take to maintain our congregation and at the same time begin to live within our means.
- Continue to explore partnerships to potentially share a pastor with St. Thomas (Episcopalian), St. Paul (response to our letter pending), and the Synod (for matchmaking).
- This approach to structure received the greatest number of votes in our straw poll.

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Recommendation #3 – Explore the sale of the building with all stakeholders as part of concurrent planning.

- The results of a call process remain uncertain. We may need partners to attract the right pastor.
- Set a timetable to explore the pathway to the sale of our building. This includes an understanding of zoning and sounding out the market value of our property with qualified brokers.
- Explore any synergies for selling or gifting the building to like-minded non-profits to lift up our legacy and use our assets for wholesale change. This of course also depends on zoning, but could be a way to grow the use of the building and allow us to stay put.

Recommendation #4 – Commit now to community engagement in 2018

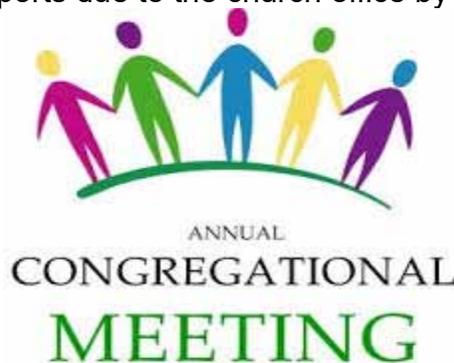
- Ask the Green Team and League of Hope to stagger quarterly events to celebrate environmental and social justice. Events should be considered through a justice oriented focus.
- Learn from past experience; publicize them well in advance; leverage our unique strengths to further develop our identity and to energize the congregation.



These recommendations are an addendum to our Transition Team Document which was presented to the Council in June of 2017. In addition, these recommendations come with the clarification that if there is insufficient energy from the Congregation to band behind them or if they are not met within the timeframes proposed then the Transition Team believes that Holy Closure is the best option for Messiah Community Church.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 11 at 10:45 am

Annual Reports due to the church office by February 1.



THANK YOU TO ALL ANGEL TREE PARTICIPANTS

From Katie Scherr, Church Relations and Development Assistant, Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains.

- 26 churches, businesses, and families in the Denver Metro area come together to provide gifts for nearly 1,000 individuals in our Adoption, Foster Care, Older Adult and Caregiver Services, and Refugee programs.
- Together, we gave over \$50,000 worth of items and gift cards.
- These individuals and families, because of your kindness, will receive a tangible blessing to remind them that they are valued and loved by our community this holiday season and beyond.
- Thank you for partnering with Lutheran Family Services to provide this wonderful gift during this season of hope and love!

A special note: Lutheran Family Services is celebrating its 70th Anniversary during 2018!



THANK YOU!

For the beautifully decorated cookies and the nice visit from Frances Sitone.

Vera Thorne



FAIR TRADE COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, AND CHOCOLATES

Thanks to all of our loyal customers and donors! We appreciate your purchases and donations. Because you have supported the sales, and made generous donations (both in the big cup on the shelf and at the table or cart), we are able to benefit small farmer co-ops, strengthen equitable trade systems, and provide Fair Trade Coffee after church services every Sunday.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR FFFT
(Fabulous Fair Trade Team)

Sue Bomar, Leah Peden, Sandy Fischbach, Diana Walstrom, Inga Wieland

SENIOR SUPPORT SERVICES

As the cold winter is upon us we need to remember our friends that we serve through **Senior Support Services**. Cooking and serving a meal monthly is important. In addition, they have more needs that perhaps we can address. In their appeal for donations they also printed their **Winter Wish List**. This is it: coats, sweatshirts, gloves, scarves, new underwear, heavy socks, blankets, sleeping bags, hand lotion, chapstick, and hand and foot warmers. You can drop these items off at the center(846 E 18th Av) between 7 am and 7 pm, M-F. Or bring them with you to church and we will make sure they get there. The blue bin will be in the parlor.

Thanks for helping.



Financials for Messenger
Oct/Nov 2107 and Year To Date Financials

	October	November	YTD
Offerings	9,867.00	13,953.00	132,864.00
Rental & Building Income	1,840. 00	2,250.00	15,415.00
Other		270.00	
Total Income			
\$130, 226.47	\$ 11,707.00	\$16,473.00	148,279.00
Total Expenses	\$ 17,541.00	\$23,481.00	\$226,854.00
\$207,818.26			
 Net	 (\$ 5,834.00)	 (\$7,007.00)	 (\$78,575.00)

Messiah Women

Messiah Women's January meeting will be Saturday, January 13th at 1:00 (Susie' house). We will once again be bagging cookies for the "Give a Jam" project that provides sack lunches for day laborers. We ask that you bring 4 dozen cookies to contribute to this project. We will then bag 2 cookies for each sack lunch. We are usually able to provide 25 dozen cookies.

If you are not sick of baking cookies by then and even if you are not a regular member of Messiah Women, we appreciate donations. This is a very worthwhile project.

Susie Anderson



Volunteers Make a Difference...

...especially in times of transition. Over the last several weeks, you have been asked to "do a little bit more" to help us in the transition process. Your collective response has been nothing short of amazing; painting, organizing, cleaning, REorganizing, pulling weeds, counting offering, closing on Sundays, keeping records, tending the office, watering the plants, straightening the pews.....the list goes on and on, but so do the needs. If you can give some time on Sunday after church, we can use more members on our Closing Team, and the Altar Guild is also in need of people to setup and cleanup Communion on Sunday mornings. Both of these "opportunities" would be about a 30-minute commitment. If you'd like to be a part of the Sunday morning ministry team we can certainly accommodate you there also. Lector? Greeter? Communion Assistant? Contact Leah if you'd like to help in any way. (leah@messiahdenver.org). **THANK YOU MESSIAH FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**



Sending Children to School

If you have not already given towards the scholarships for children in our adopted community of Boca de Cantaro, Nicaragua, you still have time to do so. In Nicaragua school does not start until February. We are a little bit short of our goal to send 30 children to school. So, we hope you will consider a contribution towards their education. A check can be made out to Just Hope and either mailed to church or added to the collection plate on Sunday mornings. Please help us meet our goal.

Thank you from: The mothers and children of Boca de Cantaro and the women of League of Hope.



Worship Themes in Epiphany

A prominent image throughout the Epiphany season is a star that symbolizes the light that shines in the darkness (continuing an Advent theme) and leads us to Jesus. Stars are also universally available to be seen by everyone on earth, a reminder that Jesus came for all people regardless of place, language, culture or color. Most of the liturgical music during Epiphany intentionally reflects the global nature of worship. The Kyrie calls us to bring mercy to the world and to work for peace and justice; the Alleluia verse is from the Caribbean, the offertory song is set to an English folk tune, the Holy, Holy, Holy is from Sweden and the post communion canticle is from Central America. We are part of a global church and Christ came for all people. Our worship affirms this in us as we gather as one part of a worldwide communion of faithful people. Green is the liturgical color, a hint of what is to come in early spring while we are in the throes of deep winter. The lectionary relies primarily on the Gospel of Mark this year. Mark is believed to be the earliest recorded collection of sayings and actions of Jesus. It is short, terse and imbued with a theme of secrecy – and goes to great lengths to show that the followers of Jesus do not fully understand who he is. Demons and unclean spirits recognize him and are commanded to keep his identity secret. For the writer of Mark, the sayings and actions of Jesus can only be truly understood through the lens of his death and resurrection. It seems odd that in a season of celebrating the global reach of the Gospel that secrecy is ordered by Mark. This, my friends, is the mystery and glory of the Gospel. Come to worship each week and discover more about Jesus and about yourself as his disciple.



Epiphany – January 6

Epiphany means “manifestation” or “appearance.” It is the twelfth day of Christmas and the end of the Christmas season. Traditionally this day is also recognized as “Three Kings Day,” the culmination of the journey of the Magi to Bethlehem, guided by the brilliant star that announced the birth of the Messiah. This symbolizes the recognition of the world that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah.

Like St. Nicholas Day, it is a good day to give small gifts in honor of the gifts the kings presented to the Christ child.

Blessing of the Home on Epiphany

Matthew writes that when the wise men saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. “On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother” (Matthew 2:10-11). In your home, Christ is met in family and friends, visitors and strangers. Christ is welcome.

If you live alone, invite friends to share your house blessing with you. In many countries, every year on Epiphany the portal to the home is marked with chalk in the following way.

20 + C + M + B + 18

The numbers change, of course, with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedica*, which means, “Christ, bless this house,” OR the legendary names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

Here is a prayer of blessing for your home:

Holy God, we thank you for our home,
for the walls, roof and floors that shelter us
in an atmosphere of mutual love and respect;
for the windows that let in light and air
and show us your magnificent creation;
for the doors that open to family and friends
and close behind us as we take our love for you out into the world.
May we live here in peace and honor,
Growing more gracious and open to your presence within our home.
Amen.



The heavens are the heavens of the LORD, But the earth He has given to the sons of men.

In an effort to take care of our earth, we offer the following tips:

Recycling = What to put in your bin ...

Cardboard: Put shipping packages, cereal boxes and sleeves of disposable coffee cups. Flatten boxes and stack them together to save space.

Glass: Glass containers go in the bin, but not all lids should.

Metal: Steel food cans can be recycled with their labels still attached. So can aluminum beverage cans and food-free tinfoil. Just rinse off the foil and wad it up before putting in the bin.

Paper: Loose printer, notebook and glossy paper can be recycled along with newsprint and advertising inserts. Even colored wrapping paper and envelopes with cellophane address windows can be tossed in the bin. Telephone books and paperback books are recyclable but you may need to cut off the books' bindings first; some municipalities can't process the heavy glue.

Plastic: Turn over each container and check for the small triangle with a number inside, and recycle those with numbers your city takes. Remove caps from plastic bottles.

How to recycle everything else...

you can recycle many of the items gathering dust in your garage or attic. Here are ways to deal with recyclables that don't fit in your recycle bin.

Small Appliances: if your old microwave or blender still works, donate it to a homeless shelter or other charity that can put it to good use. if not, check with you municipality; many take small appliances at certain drop-off locations.

Large Appliances: If it's still in working order, your local Habitat for Humanity Restore will likely pick up your old refrigerator or washing machine for free. if not, some cities have bulky-waste drop off sites where you can take it to be broken down into recyclable parts. Some also offer curbside pickup days by appointment or at certain times of the year. Check with your municipality.

Batteries: They can usually be recycled through your area's Hazardous Household Waste program. If not, check the manufacturer's website; many now have take-back programs and will let you mail them in or drop them off at a participating retailer.

Books: Many libraries accept book donations year-round; what they don't need for their own stock, they sell at an annual fundraiser.

Cars: If it is too far gone for a dealer trade-in, you can donate your car to a charity like Colorado Public Radio or Vehicles for Veterans which will pick it up for free.

CDs and DVDs: Some recycling drop-off centers will accept these items. Check with your municipality for details.

Electronics: Have an obsolete camera, cell phone, computer, DVD player, tablet or television? Ask if you can trade in your old device when buying a new one - it may even net you a small discount on the purchase. Your city may have a drop-off location . before you make the drop, remove batteries, delete all personal data and check that the recycler has been certified by the e-Stewards Standards.

Corks: They're too small for your recycling bin, but genuine cork can be recycled into new corks and products. Check recork.org to find a drop-off location.

Ink Cartridges: Check with your local Costco; some locations will refill your ink cartridges in the photo department so you can use them again. If not, take them to Staples or Office Depot. Both take back used cartridges and give you customer rewards.

Mattresses: The Mattress Recycling Council has hundreds of drop-off locations in certain parts of the US. Go to byebyemattress.com to see if there's one near you.

Paint and Household Chemicals: They are too toxic to go in your regular bin. Check with your municipality to find a drop-off location.

January Birthdays

Carla Julia Krebs	January 1
Josephine Tailey N. Tailey	January 1
Marlene Leslie	January 2
Leah Peden	January 3
Lynne Amerson	January 8
Julie Chickillo	January 13
Irene Brock	January 17
Darlene K. Mast	January 17

Simply Christmas



Thank you to Leah and the many parents who rehearsed, coached and dressed the Sunday School children for yet another wonderful re-telling for the Christmas story. This year featured "Queen Herod" played by Giovanna Chickillo and the manger animals included a teddy bear and a cute little doggie. Harper filled the role of archangel, overseeing the younger angels. We love telling the familiar story with the gifts and blessings of our children. Thank you boys and girls! We are already looking forward to next year!

In Our Prayers

We pray for: John Cain, Pam Farar, Dennis, Winnie Jergensen, Mira Larson, Eleanor Miller, Ken Peden, Rocky Piro, Sue Ricci, Karen Rose, Nancy Wee (friend of Bonnie Short), Vera Thorne, Jackie West, and Ron White.



Christmas Eve –

A huge thank you to Eric French for assembling and leading wonderful musicians for Christmas Eve. Vanessa Vari and Eric provided special music for the morning service. The evening Lessons and Carols service was enhanced once again by the Capitol Brass. The choir was augmented with a quartet of soloists and the bell choir played a beautiful piece to begin the service. Well done, each and every one!



January 7

Assisting Minister: Sue Edwards
Lector: Carolyn Smith
Greeter(s): Susie Anderson
Laity Prayer: Sue Bomar
Communion Server: Sharon Lipsey
Altar Guild: Katie and Sue S.

January 14

Assisting Minister: Denise Larson
Lector: Karen Schimke
Laity Prayer: Bill Dillon
Greeter(s): Irene Brock
Communion Server: Carolyn Smith
Altar Guild: T. Heid and F. Sitone
Closer(s): TBD
Counters: Dave and Tammy Heid

January 21

Assisting Minister: Teresa Stenwall
Lector: Jim Bonham
Laity Prayer: n/a
Greeter(s): Karen Schimke
Communion Server: Frances Sitone
Altar Guild: L. Peden and S. Lipsey
Closer(s):
Counters:

January 28

Assisting Minister: Frances Sitone
Lector: Marcia Chuvarsky
Laity Prayer: n/a
Greeter(s): Johnsons
Communion Server: Dick Chuvarsky
Altar Guild: s. Lipsey and L. Peden
Closer(s):
Counters:

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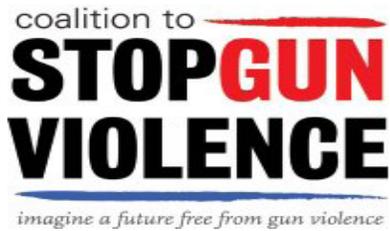


Support the MCC Budget – Use Reloadable King Soopers Gift Cards

Please remember to use your King Soopers card when buying gas, groceries and prescriptions. If you need a card you can purchase them on Sundays after church from Susie Anderson or the coffee table if she is not there. It's easy to use and can really make a difference in our monthly offerings.

Happy Hour Friday January 12 at Jett on Colfax and Elm. Hope you can join us at 6 pm.

Happy New Year!



COLORADO FAITH COMMUNITIES UNITED TO END GUN VIOLENCE (CFCU)

Faith is a powerful force in considering where one stands on the gun violence prevention debate. CFCU is a faith based organization, whose members are Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and those of other faiths. Almost 40 congregations from all parts of Colorado are part of CFCU'S 2018 coalition, which is working against gun violence.

Messiah joined CFCU years ago when Pastor Wolfgang spoke to the representatives at a meeting in our church. Sandy Fischbach and Patty Cordova have been our representatives.

YOU are invited to attend the next meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran and Catholic Church, 1600 Grant St.-Thursday, January 26. 10-12 noon. Former State Senator, Linda Newell, will be the guest speaker. Plan to bring a lunch to enjoy after the meeting. Then, we will head over to the Capitol to lobby about gun issues. You will be helped so you will feel comfortable with the process.

Find out more about CFCU. Pick up a brochure on the table in the parlor, talk to Patty or Sandy, and sign up for Messiah's Rapid Response Team!



Church Staff

Interim Pastor + Rev. Beverly Piro
 Director of Music + Eric French
 Office Administrator + Suzanne Miller
 Volunteer Coordinator + Leah Peden

Web site

www.messiahdenver.org

E-mail

info@messiahdenver.org

Phone

303-355-4471

After hours pastoral emergency 206-300-1947

Sunday Worship and Sunday School

9:30 A.M.

Contact Information		E-Mail
Pastor (Interim)	Pr. Beverly Piro	revbev@messiahdenver.org
President & Property	Dick Chuvarsky	DickChuvarsky@messiahdenver.org
Vice President & Worship & Music	Craig Fischbach	CraigFischbach@messiahdenver.org
Treasurer & Learning	Julie Chickillo	JulieChickillo@messiahdenver.org
Secretary & Messiah Mtn. RC	Roger Miller	rogermiller69@gmail.com
Green Team	Karen Schimke	telephone only
Community Outreach	Carolyn Smith	carolyncolorado@gmail.com
Social Action	open	
Stewardship	James Bonham	JamesBonham@messiahdenver.org
Hospitality	Laurel Karabatsos	laurel.karabatsos@state.co.us
Volunteer Coordinator	Leah Peden	Leah@messiahdenver.org
Music Director	Eric French	Eric@messiahdenver.org



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