



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We seek to answer God's call to love

Senior Pastor: Andrew Plocher
Associate Pastor: Molly Eversoll

Parish Administrator: Jennifer Dodge
Administrative Assistant: Inga Banitt

November 23, 2020

Dear Messiah Family and Friends,

As Advent approaches, we find ourselves once again pivoting our plans. Yet, in the background, advent hope, peace, joy, and love await. They call us to dream new dreams, ones where we can see a better world. Dreams of more laughter and less fear, of full tables instead of empty bellies, of empty beds in jail cells, of more listening and less tears, of days when we can be part of the crowd again. We dream so that we might not forget that the tumult of our world is not what God imagined. That God's kingdom is coming. It comes in the birth of a child and in the birth of hope, peace, joy, and love.

We hope that you will join us on this advent journey. As we dream, we also acknowledge the state of our world around us. In the spirit of God's love, we are continually mindful of our duty to keep you safe and healthy. In light of the recent pandemic order by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), our Council has decided to move our congregation back into Phase One of our multi-phased plan. This phase shift began on November 20th and primarily focuses on further limiting any gathering in the building. The Council Task Force will revisit this decision upon the expiration of the current MDHHS order. Council will consider any possible changes at its December 17th stated meeting.

While we continue to be apart for worship, we want you to know that our congregation – especially our worshipping community – is growing! Online, on Facebook and Vimeo, we reach approximately 560 households every Sunday worship service. We know that includes many couples and families, not just individuals. Adding in our radio broadcast we reach hundreds more. We can safely say that we are reaching over 1500 people every worship service! People are tuning in from near and far – from down the road all the way to Colombia and Tanzania. In the midst of challenge, we have found ourselves stretching and connecting far beyond our walls. Thank you for supporting our streaming upgrades and ministry!

In all of this, we want to thank you for all the ways that you are creatively connecting, growing in faith, and being the body of Christ in our world. Our church is never closed and we have continued to respond to community and church family needs in wonderful ways. We encourage you to continue reaching out with cards, phone calls, delivering meals, prayer, and caring for each other.

We truly appreciate the continued prayers, financial support, and strong faith of our fellow members. We pray that this correspondence reaches you in good spirits and health. As always, if you are in need, and there is any



assistance that the church can provide to you, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. It is during times like these, as we step into yet another season of this pandemic, that we are reminded that there is so much more than the exhaustion our world feels. We hope that you will join us in dreaming together as we journey into this Advent season of hope, peace, joy, and love.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Andrew Plocher

Rev. Molly Eversoll