

The

MESSENGER



The monthly newsletter of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, Virginia 23111 804-746-7134

AUGUST, 2014



Opening for all ages

Our Workshop of Wonders has something for everyone. The event is held Monday – Thursday, August 11-14, 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm (includes dinner), and it is all FREE!

An adult bible study meets following the opening ceremonies. Come once or come each day. No sign-up or preparation necessary for the adult program. Just come, enjoy and build up your faith.

Youth applications for our Vacation bible School adventure are still available in our narthex or can be emailed to you from our office on your request. Cut off is at 50 participants, so hurry!

If you can help even just one day with one task, please contact **Kristine Florio** or sign-up in the narthex. We usually have about 40-50 excited youth and just as many passionate helpers during the week. Set-up and decorating will be after the late service (around noon) on Sunday, August 10th. Fun, rewarding service opportunities are available every day of the event.



Still time to Go Nutz!

It isn't too late to join us at the Diamond on Saturday, August 23, 2014 to support Lutheran Family Services. The Flying Squirrels will face off against the Bowie Baysox starting at 6:00 pm. Fireworks are also on the schedule. You can sign-up at our welcome table or contact **Pastor Lou**.

Save the date: Rally Day/God's Work
Our Hands Day, September 7, 2014

A look inside....

- August sermon seriesP. 2
- Pastor's LetterP. 3
- Pot luck & workshop P. 4
- Fall 2014 ACTS course..... P. 4
- Prayers, CelebrationsP. 5
- Calendar of eventsP.6, 7
- Arts & crafts with a mission P. 7
- Take the plungeP. 8
- Preview: ELCA Youth Gathering.....P. 9
- MCEF fundraiserP. 9

The Messenger

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Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church ELCA
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The Narrative Lectionary returns

Starting August 10th, we will be returning to the use of the Narrative Lectionary with our August series on the Book of Ruth. On the Sundays from September through May, the Sunday texts will follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. The texts chosen show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture and touch upon lessons not usually addressed on Sundays by the Revised Common Lectionary.

Focusing on one primary lesson in depth rather than several, it is hoped that biblical literacy grows along with our passion for the Word of God. The sermons are intentionally a bit longer to allow for us to dig deeper and are presented in more of a teaching style. As with this spring, the services will usually end within the normal time period, excluding when there is special programming or music. →

Your 2014 Church Council And Associate Members

Kevin Hendrickson.....Council President
Roger SchroederVice-President
Jenn Drazenovich..... Secretary

Sally Bennett	Laura Harris
Paula Barwick	Erna Jung
Amy Delph	Donna Shaw

Council Liaisons

Christian Education**Erna Jung**
 Evangelism**Jenn Drazenovich**
 Fellowship**Roger Schroeder**
 Finance**Paula Barwick**
 Property**Kevin Hendrickson**
 School Board**Amy Delph**
 Social Ministry**Donna Shaw**
 Stewardship**Laura Harris**
 Worship**Sally Bennett**

Johnnie Collie... Treasurer
Brian Glusing... Financial Secretary
Sue Gilnett, RN...Parish Nurse

Trustees: **Bob Griffin,**
Dick Wright and Pat Hubert.

The Book of Ruth is considered by many to be among the most moving tales in scripture. You won't want to miss it:

August 10 – Where you go, I will go: A story of mutual love

August 17 – Where did you glean today?: A story of blessing

August 24 – Come to the threshing floor: A story of intimacy & care

August 31 – The Marriage of Boaz and Ruth – Our story

Pastor's letter:

It is game time...

testify to the Good News

But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace.

– St. Paul (Acts 20:24)

Throughout the summer, our congregation's welcome sign has proclaimed, "Testify to the Gospel!" The word "gospel" means good news or glad tidings, and we are planted at the busy corner of Meadowbridge Road and Atlee Road to do just that. Our lives together and with the entire communion of saints will be used to announce the good news of God's grace found in Jesus Christ.

So, we have intentionally tried to live up to God's intention. We have spent extra time with the Word of God, so we know the Good News ourselves. We have gathered with All Souls Episcopal for worship. In doing this, we have lived out our full communion agreement and learn from one another, but we also embody what the church is and can be to a world in need of signs of reconciliation and mutual love. Corporately, we have used the traditional liturgies of both denominations, but we have also experienced the "parable of communion" exemplified by the Ecumenical Community of Taizé and their worship. Individually, we have heard Sally's testimony of where she found the love of Christ in her walk while facing the risks of deadly disease and the challenge of moving states away from home. Another Sunday, Steve witnessed with music he had written over the years while reflecting upon his life experiences, many of them difficult to speak about. Yet, his music and testimony gave all a sense of the hope, peace and joy he has experienced through his faith in Jesus. Our life stories, music, liturgy and

preaching are similar to parables pointing to us toward God's grace and what life with Jesus promises. They challenge us to walk out the doors of our building and live.

As wonderful as these summer events may have been, they are really only practice for the big game that is our life away from the assembly. We need to share our experience with Jesus at work, in school, at home and away. How? We can certainly strive to preach a sermon with our actions as they reflect biblical values: justice in the marketplace, caring for the least of these, loving our enemy, seeking reconciliation, forgiveness and peace. As difficult as it can be, we can risk speaking of the hope and solace we have found through faith. We can invite others to "Come, taste and see that the Lord is good." If we dare, we might even offer to pray for someone or even with them in their time of need.

The Spirit is with us through our faith and baptism. In good times and bad, you're ready for the big game, for we are never alone. God will give you the words needed to testify and the love needed to share. Do not be afraid. Instead, go and love others as Jesus has already loved you. Testify to the Good news. It is easier than you might think.

Peace,
Pastor Lou



@MessiahMech

Making a difference



Looking for ways to make your giving more meaningful? Join us for a pot luck lunch and the “Making a Difference: Sharing Your Time, Talent, and Treasure” workshop following the unified 11:00 am service on Sunday, August 24th.

It is part of our Grow & Go Campaign and will help you, the participants:

- identify the values that are most important to you,
- explore ways to share your resources to make a difference
- help you create a personal giving plan.

The workshop was created by Thrivent Financial and will be presented by **Laura Harris**.

Please sign up in the Narthex for a dish to bring to the pot luck.

To help us prepare for this workshop and future ministry, we would like to gather a list of talents we have in the congregation. The survey does not require making any commitment, but the information you provide will prove a significant help to ensuring a successful workshop and vibrant ministry at Messiah. It is available in paper form on our welcome table or complete it on-line at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6NWTT6C>

Laura Harris, Stewardship Team
laurahendri@yahoo.com/804-357-1463

ACTS: Biblical Authority on Matters of Faith and Conduct

The 2014 ACTS fall course “Biblical Authority in Matters of Faith and Conduct”, will be held on October 4 and November 8. This course will be led by the famed instructor, the **Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell**. Lutherans maintain that the Bible is the Word of God and that it is their only authoritative norm for matters of faith and conduct. But what do we do when everyone seems to quote the Bible and claim that God is on their side? A sign-up sheet for this popular program will be available soon in our narthex.



Back to School Tax Holiday, August 1-3

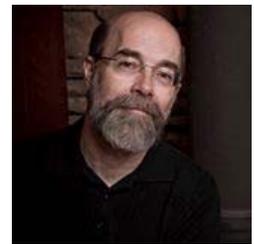
During this three-day period, purchases of qualifying school supplies selling for \$20 or less per item, and purchases of qualifying clothing and footwear selling for \$100 or less per item will be exempt from sales tax. Retailers may also choose to absorb the tax on other items during the holiday period, but they are responsible for paying the tax on those items to the Department of Taxation. Learn more at <http://www.tax.virginia.gov>.



Recycle your newspapers in the container near to the garage.



Join Messiah on Facebook!



ChurchNext: Introducing the Gospels, with Michael Card

This on-line introductory course on The Gospels, taught by award-winning musician and author **Michael Card**, provides an excellent overview of the four of the most life-changing books in the world. It will be held on Messiah's online classroom August 25th – September 6th. More information to come!

Adam Dworak, Sr.; Bob Griffin; Mary Key; Pat Motley; Lisa Ravizza; Charlie Schwerdtfeger; Dick Wright; Evelyn Wright; ; Carolyn Cromwell, friend of Judy Schwerdtfeger; **Family & Friends of Debby Donahoe**, relative of the Collies and JoAn Firebaugh; **Catherine Drazenovich**, John's mother; **Jonathan Eacho**, friend of Charlie and Judy Schwerdtfeger; **Ethan Hamilton**, Lisa & Bruce Meyer's grandson; **Nicole Harmann**, friend of Jenn Drazenovich; **Cheryl Jones**, daughter of the Schwerdtfegers; **Angie Larson**, friend of Charlie Schwerdtfeger; **DeAnn Miller**, Jenn Drazenovich's cousin; **Mary Ann Modlin**, friend of Judy Schwerdtfeger; **Rev. Samuel Mozolak**, father of Karen & Michael Morris; **Annette Pfohl**, friend of Messiah; **Chauncey Radke**, cousin of Jenn Drazenovich; **Richard Radke**, father of Jenn Drazenovich; **Tarasia Remhoff**, friend of the Florios; **Betty Schmick**, wife of Rev. Vic Schmick; **Kathleen Schwerdtfeger**, mother of Charlie Schwerdtfeger; **Gene Sparks**, friend of Barbara Gaskill; **The Congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church; The People & Pastor of All Souls**, and our shared ministry; **All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Tunisia**. And for those serving in the armed forces: **Kyle Carag, Chris Cholet, Michael Knepper, Joshua Norrell, LJ Spray, and Bill Weaver**.

To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the church office, 746-7134. If leaving a message, please include your contact information for follow-up.

Unless we hear otherwise, names will be removed quarterly

Happy Birthday!



August 2 Katryn Combs
4 Doris Ewing
4 Bill Weaver
13 Laura Dillard
16 Kyle Starret
22 Kevin Hendrickson
30 Patrick Collie



August 11 Johnnie & Becky Collie

If you would like **YOUR** birthdays & anniversary included in the newsletter, please send an email to susiew51@comcast.net OR to office@mlcas.org or call **Davina** (746-7134).

August 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Calendar of events

- 1 Office Administrator Off
Pastor's Day Off
Sales Tax Holiday for School Supplies
& Clothing (continues 8/2 & 8/3)
- 2 Pastor Vacation Day
- 3 Pastor Vacation Day
8:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Trad.)
9:30 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal's Worship)
11:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Blend)
4:30 PM Combined Youth Group *
- 4 Office Administrator Off
9:30 AM School Chapel
10:30 AM Worship at
Hanover Adult Center
3:30 PM School Chapel
- 5 Office Administrator Off
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 6 Office Administrator Off
- 7 Office Administrator Off
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
2:00 PM Pastor @ Continuing Ed.
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 8 Office Administrator Off
Pastor's Day Off
- 10 Summer Sermon Series: Ruth
Virginia Lutheran Items Due
8:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Trad.)
9:30 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal's Worship)
11:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Blend)
- Collie Renewal (30th Anniversary)
12:00 PM VBS Preparation
- 12 4:30 PM Combined Youth Group *
- 11 9:30 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
5:30 PM VBS: Workshop of Wonders
7:00 PM MCEF Meeting *
- 12 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
5:30 PM VBS: Workshop of Wonders
- 13 Commemoration of
Florence Nightingale & Clara Maass,
Renewers of Society
5:30 PM VBS: Workshop of Wonders
- 14 Commemoration of Maximilian Kolbe &
Kaj Munk, Martyrs
Local Remembrance: Jonathan Daniels
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
5:30 PM VBS: Workshop of Wonders
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 15 Commemoration of Mary,
Mother of Our Lord
Office Administrator Off
Pastor's Day Off
VSWO Convention
- 16 Local Remembrance: Br. Roger of Taize'
VSWO Convention
- 17 Manna Sunday for MCEF
Summer Sermon Series: Ruth
8:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Trad.)
9:30 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal's Worship) -
Bishop visits
9:30 AM Worship Team Meeting.
11:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Blend)
4:30 PM Combined Youth Group *
- 18 9:30 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
5:00 PM MCEF Pizza Night *
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
6:30 PM School Board Meeting
- 19 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
- 20 Commemoration of Bernard, Abbot of
Clairvaux
6:30 PM Messiah Supper Club
- 21 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 22 Office Administrator Off
Pastor's Day Off
- 23 6:00 PM Flying Squirrels Game vs.
Bowie Baysox (Benefits LFS)
- 24 Commemoration of Bartholomew,
Apostle
Summer Sermon Series: Ruth

- 24 9:30 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal's Worship)
11:00 AM Grow & Go - Special Unified
Service/Pot Luck - Cameron
McKenna Baptism
4:30 PM Combined Youth Group *
- 25 MLS CLOSED
(Back to School Cleaning Week)
9:30 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
6:15 PM Mutual Ministry Meeting.
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
- 26 MLS CLOSED
(Back to School Cleaning Week)
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
7:00 PM Pastor@FLCV Meeting *
- 27 MLS CLOSED
(Back to School Cleaning Week)
- 28 Commemoration of Augustine, Bishop
of Hippo
MLS CLOSED
(Back to School Cleaning Week)
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 29 MLS CLOSED
(Back to School Cleaning Week)
Office Administrator Off
Pastor's Day Off
- 31 Summer Sermon Series: Ruth
(Conclusion)
8:00 AM Worship Service (MLC- Trad.)
9:30 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal's Worship)
11:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Blend)

* Off site

Acolyte training underway



Thanks to **Victoria Gustafson**, **Kirsten Combs**, **Katryn Combs**, **Karolyn Combs** and **Will Schroeder** for agreeing to serve as our new acolytes. Training has begun, and they will be installed at the unified service on Sunday, August 24th at 11:00 am.



Art and crafts with a mission

Do you enjoy making crafts, painting, drawing, or writing? Are you Interested in directing your God-given gifts toward a greater purpose? I'd like to hear from you and talk about individual or collaborative endeavors that can be both creatively fulfilling and beneficial to others.

Contact **Susie Weaver** (559-3503), do we can set up a time to meet and talk about it. Email susiew51@comcast.net



- To **Steve Gilnett** and **Gary Shiflet** for their wonderful musical witness on July 20th
- To all those from All Souls, Messiah Lutheran and Messiah Lutheran School serving on the preparation team for Vacation Bible School
- Thanks to the **Hendricksons** for working on our gardens in the July heat

Love makes our friends a little dearer.
Joy makes our hearts a little lighter.
Faith makes our paths a little clearer.
Hope makes our lives a little brighter.
Peace brings us all a little nearer.

—Author unknown

“Take the Plunge”

Volunteer Opportunities
from your Social Ministry team

- **Hanover Habitat for Humanity** –As our long-time office volunteers will attest, much happens behind the scenes to make Habitat’s construction work possible. We need office support volunteers to help during regular business hours. Responsibilities include a wide variety of office duties; such as data entry, mailings, filing, photocopying, answering phones and more. We need volunteers to help us in the office on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am-1pm and 1pm-4pm. We are looking for a minimum of a three month commitment. An application is required.

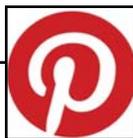
Contact: <http://www.hanoverhfh.org/>

- **Court Appointed Special Advocate Volunteer** - The Hanover CASA Program advocates for the best interests of children involved in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court process. The CASA program trains and supervises volunteers who gather information that is shared with the court when making decisions about the needs of abused and neglected children, or other children involved in juvenile dependency cases. Volunteers come from various backgrounds and experiences; are at least 21 years of age and pass Criminal and Child Protective Service Central Registry checks; attend about 40 hours of training to learn how to serve as a CASA; are sworn in by the court and

are appointed by the judge to serve on specific cases; must have the ability to remain objective while dealing with families and children in crisis; must maintain strict confidentiality; attend 12 hours of on-going training each year; serve at least one child until a final decision is made, which is often for a year; keep program staff informed of all activities related to assigned case and communicate with him or her monthly; meet with the child face to face at least once a month; interview family members and professionals involved in the case; attend court dates and other meetings; and prepare written reports stating facts gathered by the CASA, which includes recommendations for services and placement of the child. Contact the Department of Community Resources at (804) 365-4300 or email

- volunteer@hanovercounty.gov
- **Pamunkey Regional Jail Volunteer Opportunities** - The Pamunkey Regional Jail is seeking volunteers to assist in the following areas: Religious services, Staff assistance, Substance abuse counseling, Computer and information technology, and Tutoring or academic training. Volunteer candidates will fill out an application and list any specialized knowledge or skills. Prior to starting volunteer duties, candidates are: Interviewed; Screened; Given a handbook; Provided orientation training; Provided a code of ethics; Informed about the rules and regulations of the facility; Trained on staff and inmates relations; Counseled on confidential information; and Informed on what to do in case of emergencies. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the programs officer at (804)537-6400, extension 3040.

Messiah on Pinterest



<http://pinterest.com/messiahmech/boards/>

Join us in Detroit! NYG July 2015

The ELCA Youth Gathering for high school-age youth takes place every three years and is about faith formation, worship, study, fellowship, service and play. It is an opportunity for youth to engage with peers from across the United States and the world who share a common commitment and faith in Christ. The next Gathering will be held July 15-19, 2015, in Detroit, Michigan, and Messiah and All Souls youth will be in attendance.

The Gathering is a five-day event that begins on a Wednesday evening and ends with a service of communion the following Sunday morning. The opening night sets the stage for the days ahead in which young people may have an encounter with Jesus that energizes their faith and helps them discover their call to serve in the world — locally and globally. On the days between Wednesday and Sunday, young people rotate through a variety of service learning experiences in the surrounding community. They explore and strengthen their faith by studying God's word, serving their neighbor, sharing bread and wine in worship, participating in lively faith discussions and broadening their experience of God's world and diverse communities through travel.

When the question "Why work so hard to gather so many young people in one place?" pops up, the response is really quite simple. We were meant to be together, and we are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together. So every now and then, we gather young people and adults together to share their unique stories and to experience the larger story that makes up the ELCA; we gather to be inspired, encouraged, strengthened, connected and sent out to do God's work in the world — together!

The theme for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gath-

ering, Rise Up Together, was discerned by a diverse group of people including Gathering staff, representatives from the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit, home to the ELCA Youth Gathering program staff in the churchwide organization, pastors and synodical staff from our host synod, and past Gathering leaders and participants. Let's Rise up together!

Parents and rising 9th graders through graduating seniors in high school (as of July 2015) are invited to learn more on Wednesday, August 27 at 6:00 pm.



MCEF fundraiser

Join us for the 3rd Annual John Marshall Alumnae Band concert on Thursday, September 11, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at the Walnut Grove Baptist Church on Cold Harbor Road near Lee Davis Road. Admission is a donation of \$2 and a non-perishable food item to benefit the MCEF Food Pantry.

School Board member sought

We are seeking a Messiah Lutheran Member to serve a 3 year term on the School Board. Meetings are typically held the 3rd Monday of each month. If you are interested please reach out to **Pastor Lou, Erna Jung, Amy Delph, or Diana Sondor.**

A reminder:

Items are NOT to be borrowed from the church.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111



August, 2014

Messenger

page 12

The harvest is ready.



Don't let the workers be few!

Calling all green thumbs (or of any color, shape or size): All Souls has changed the picking time to harvest vegetables from the community garden at 9077 Atlee Rd. to 6:30 - 7:30 pm when it's a little cooler. Harvesting is every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings. and the fresh food benefits the MCEF Food Pantry and Northside Baptist Church Feeding Program. Join us whenever you can! Your help is always appreciated! So far this summer, approximately one half ton of fresh vegetables has been donated.

The DEADLINE for the
September, 2014
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, August 17th

Please call me with your
written submission, place your written
submission in the "Newsletter" mail slot
OR email susiew51@comcast.net

Turn cans into homes

Don't forget to recycle your metal aluminum and tin cans at our new Hanover Habitat for Humanity Recycling Center near our white shed. Hanover Habitat will gather them and turn them into cash for home builds. Our cans will in effect become new, affordable, safe homes for our neighbors in need.