

The

# MESSENGER



October

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

OCTOBER, 2014

## CreationFest 2014

Saturday, October 4th  
9AM - 2 PM

Our popular, annual craft fair and pet blessing is back. It's where we celebrate God's continuing creative love at work in us, through us and around us.

We are on target to have more crafters, artists and fun than ever before! Our bake sale is open throughout the event. (Your donations are welcome for drop-off at 6:00 pm the night before or 8:00 - 9:00 am the day of the event.) Come and have lunch, or find some great food from our vendors to take home.

Bring your finned, furry or feathered family members to our pet blessing service at 12:30 pm. (All of God's creatures welcome with proper restraints, cages or containers for their safety and the safety of others.)

**Hanover Humane Society** returns as one of our special guests. In addition, meet award winning artist, **Michael Martin**, who created our 45th anniversary painting. Speak with **Lutheran Family Services** to learn about their ongoing work to forge new families through adoption and foster care. Catch up on **Hanover Habitat** happenings as they create a new community in called Bailey Woods.

Please be sure to invite your family, friends and neighbors. (They'll thank you later.)

## Don't leave them hanging!



**Kevin Hendrickson**, our congregational council president, and the rest of our Virginia Synod team, "Fools for Christ," are another step closer to going Over the Edge in support of Special Olympics Virginia. At the time of publication, the team had

raised 75% of their \$5000 goal. Team members will rappel off of the twenty-five story Sun Trust building to raise both funds and awareness about Special Olympics and intellectual disabilities.

Along with helping Special Olympians

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### *The Messenger*

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### Over the Edge

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throughout Virginia, the team has an opportunity to step out in faith and support our shared ministry through their efforts. At the \$5000 level, the Virginia Synod will receive mentions on the Special Olympic websites and communications, have their logo on banners the day of the event, and be listed as a "gold level" sponsor for the event.

You can help by supporting the raffle being held by our social ministry team. Prizes include a step ladder and varied gift certificates and runs through October 12th. Tickets are available on Sundays and in our office on Monday through Friday (8:00 am – 2:00 pm). Direct donations are also welcome through this link: <http://www.c.firstgivingom/team/270359>. Cash or Check donations can also be made through your weekly offering. (Please indicate "Special Olympics" on your check or offering envelope.)

**Kevin Hendrickson** is scheduled to rappel at 2:30 pm on October 17th. The Sun Trust building is located at 919 East Main Street, and spectators are welcome. Watch for stories on Channel 12 and through other media outlets.

### Your 2014 Church Council And Associate Members

**Kevin Hendrickson**.....Council President  
**Roger Schroeder** .....Vice-President  
**Jenn Drazenovich**..... Secretary

<b>Sally Bennett</b>	<b>Laura Harris</b>
<b>Paula Barwick</b>	<b>Erna Jung</b>
<b>Amy Delph</b>	<b>Donna Shaw</b>

#### 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.**

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### ChurchNext: The Lutheran Tradition

The Lutheran faith may be well known for its leadership role in The Reformation, but this dynamic tradition continues to reform. **Mark Tranvik**, a professor of religion at Augsburg College, introduces us to this vibrant way of being a Christian. Join us for this next virtual ChurchNext class in October. Invitations will be sent out to our email list in October. If you aren't on our list or don't receive the email, please contact **Pastor Lou** to participate.

*Pastor's letter:*

## How one story became twenty-five

Why do I try to love and support folks with intellectual disabilities? It is my family legacy.

In the early 1930s, my aunt, Theresa, was born with an intellectual disability. My grandmother told me before her death that her family and friends urged that my aunt be institutionalized – a very common practice at the time. My grandmother and grandfather refused. Instead of a life hidden away, Aunt Theresa received an education and learned necessary skills for a happy, productive life among her loving family. As an adult, she worked and eventually lived semi-independently.

Today as a pastor, I am thankful that our faith community has supported Hanover Adult Center's Linking Lives Program as they join us weekly for our Messiah Lutheran School chapel program. In addition, we have been actively supporting the formation of a L'Arche community in Richmond, along with Lutheran Family Services' programs, and others. Recently, Council has even agreed to become a Friends for Life Congregation, a cooperative effort of congregations in Hanover County facilitating the intentional engagement of those with intellectual disabilities and their families.

This month, we have the opportunity to build upon these efforts by supporting Special Olympics Virginia. This organization provides much more than sporting events. It is a wonderful community helping people be their best. It provides education, life skills training, fellowship and more. Please prayerfully consider supporting our council president, **Kevin Hendrickson**, and the rest of our Virginia Synod team ("Fools for Christ") for Over the Edge Virginia 2014. During the event, people show solidarity with Special Olympians by being "brave enough" to rappel

twenty-five stories off of the Sun Trust Building in Richmond, Virginia. You can do so through this secure site: <https://www.firstgiving.com/team/270359>

Designated cash/check donations as part of your Sunday offering or through the mail are also welcomed with much thanksgiving.

Those participating are taking this unusual, giant leap of faith out of love for their neighbors. Please join them in this step. If you wish to root them on in person, come by the Sun Trust Center (919 East Main Street) on Friday, October 17th at 2:30 pm.

Peace,  
**Pastor Lou**



## To Begin on Reformation Sunday

If you are in 7th Grade through high school and are interested in attending confirmation, please contact Pastor Lou. Our class will run from Reformation Sunday, October 26, 2014 through Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2015. It will include required regularly scheduled gatherings (on varied Sundays and weeknights), summer activities and field trips, along with on-line participation. Members of this class will be expected to remain active in the life and mission of the church, and homework will be assigned at times. A ministry ride-along with Pastor Lou will also be offered.

If interested, please contact **Pastor Lou**. Our first meeting will be Sunday, October 26th at 9:30 am in our narthex. Parents are requested to attend.

## Recycle & build community



Our new Hanover Habitat recycle hut by our shed accepts both aluminum and tin cans. Hanover Habitat also accepts the following items for their recycling program: non-working appliances (large and small), TVs, old satellite dishes, office equipment (fax/copy machines, metal desks, wiring, exercise equipment, plumbing, metal sinks, doors (exterior metal), motors of any kind, cars, hardware, light fixtures, and AC units. These items should be dropped off at our ReStore. They have a funny saying, "If it's metal its money," and all the items collected help support their important outreach – building affordable homes for our neighbors.

Messiah's ink cartridge, used phone, and newspaper recycling programs continue as well. We receive money for our ministry with every donation. Ink cartridges and phones may be dropped off in the marked box in our office. Newspapers can be placed in the red dumpster located in our parking lot.



Thanks to Positive Hits – WPER for providing a \$325 grant to help support this year's CreationFest radio advertisement on their radio station. Our ad will be broadcast twenty-four times, September 24th through October 3rd.

WPER plays Christian contemporary hits and broadcasts throughout much of the state and over the internet. Learn more about their ministry (or listen to their broadcast) at <http://www.virginiapositivehits.org/>.

## Have Fun – Gospel Fun!

Gospel Fun Time is our second service's children's ministry. Following the children's sermon, it allows younger members of our assembly to participate in a faith-building, short activity associated with the lesson for the day. They return in time for communion. This has proven popular with both youth (for a meaningful yet fun break from the formal service) and parents (who can better concentrate on the lessons and preaching).

For this outreach to continue, we need your help! Packets of activities are already prepared for you by GFT coordinator, **Tracey Anderson**. You alone or with a partner of your choice just need to review the activity before the service, escort the children to the activity area after the children's sermon, and facilitate the event. It is easy and fun, but you might find you learn something from our youngest members too!

## A word of thanks

I want to thank my friends at Messiah for your thoughts, prayers, cards, and visits during the recent loss of my mother. It has been such a comfort to know that others were thinking of me and my family during this difficult time.

God Bless You Always.

Love,

**Debbie Walker**



Join Messiah on Facebook!





**Charles Absher; Adam Dworak, Sr.; Mary Key; Pat Motley; Lisa Ravizza; Katie Rios; Roger Schroeder; Dick Wright; Evelyn Wright; ; Family & Friends of Billy Blaylock**, friend of the Schwerdtfegers; **Family & Friends of Kara Mae Carlton**, friends of the Andersons; **Family & Friends of Carolyn Cromwell**, friend of Judy Schwerdtfeger; **Family & Friends of Debby Donahoe**, relative of the Collies & JoAn Firebaugh; **Gary Dudley**, cousin of the Schwerdtfegers; **Jonathan Eacho**, friend of Charlie & Judy Schwerdtfeger; **Frank Emerson**, friend of the Schwerdtfegers; **Chris & Wendy Gunn**, son & daughter-in-law of Gordon & Marilyn Gunn; **Ethan Hamilton**, Lisa & Bruce Meyer's grandson; **Nicole Harmann**, friend of Jenn Drazenovich; **Shree Humphrey**, granddaughter of Ray Ash; **Laura & Byron Marshall**, friends of the Schwerdtfegers; **Mary Ann Modlin**, friend of Judy Schwerdtfeger; **Rev. Samuel Mozolak**, father of Karen & Michael Morris; **Mary Moyer**, sister-in-law of the Schwerdtfegers; **Beth Oliver**, friend of Marilyn Gunn; **Annette Pfohl**, friend of Messiah; **Doreen Radke**, aunt of Jenn Drazenovich; **Tarasia Remhoff**, friend of the Florios; **Betty Schmick**, wife of Rev. Vic Schmick; **Kathleen Schwerdtfeger**, mother of Charlie Schwerdtfeger; **Martha Ann Shepherd**, cousin of Dianne Absher; **Lorna Snook**, mother-in-law of Jeff Weaver; **Gene Sparks**, friend of Barbara Gaskill; **Wanda Whitt & daughter Tara**, cousins of Dianne Absher; **Claude Wright**, brother-in-law of Gladys Hubert; **The People & Pastor of All Souls, and our shared ministry; All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in China.**

And for those serving in the armed forces: **Kyle Carag, Chris Cholet, Michael Knepper, Joshua Norrell, and LJ Spray.**

*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.***



October 5 Steve Shaw  
 9 Becky Collie  
 12 Mitchell Craig  
 14 Christine Starret  
 16 Debbie Walker  
 18 Mike Knepper  
 20 Nancy Ordazzo  
 23 Donna Combs  
 30 Andrew Addair



October 7 Charlie & Judy Schwerdtfeger  
 12 Mitchell & Sarah Craig  
 12 Dean Gustafson & Beth Carpenter  
 22 John & Jenn Drazenovich  
 25 Jeff (& Susen) Weaver  
 28 James & Tracey Anderson

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

October 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 Pastor @VCC Training \*  
7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 2 Pastor @VCC Training \*  
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study \*  
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 3 Pastor @VCC Training \*  
Pastor's Day Off  
World Smile Day
- 4 Commemoration of Francis of Assissi,  
Renewer of the Church and Theodor  
Fliedner, Renewer of Society  
9:00 AM CreationFest: Celebrating  
God's creation through arts and  
crafts, food, fun, and a special pet  
blessing service (at 12:30 PM).
- 5 LWF Sunday  
World Communion Sunday  
8:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Trad.)  
9:30 AM Guest Congregation Meets  
(All Souls Episcopal's Worship)  
9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages  
11:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Blend)  
12:15 PM Worship Team Meeting  
4:30 PM Installation of Pr. Chris Carr \*
- 6 Commemoration of William Tynsdale  
10:30 AM Worship at Hanover  
Adult Center  
11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel  
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
- 7 Commemoration of Henry Melchior  
Muhlenberg, Pastor  
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 8 6:30 PM Brownie Troop #557 Meeting  
7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 9 Pastor @ VA Chaplains Assoc. Mtg.  
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study \*  
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 10 Pastor @ VA Chaplains Assoc. Mtg.  
Pastor's Day Off  
Virginia Lutheran Items Due
- 12 Clergy Appreciation Day  
8:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Trad.)  
9:30 AM Guest Congregation Meets  
(All Souls Episcopal's Worship)  
9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages  
11:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Blend)
- 13 Columbus Day  
No Preschool - Childcare Available  
11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel  
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting  
7:00 PM MCEF Mtg. \*
- 14 7:30 AM Pastor@VCC \*  
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
- 15 Commemoration of Teresa of Avila  
5:30 PM Pastor @ VCC Board Meeting  
7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 16 World Food Day  
10:16 AM The Great Shake Out  
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study \*  
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 17 Commemoration of Ignatius, Bishop of  
Antioch & Martyr  
"Over the Edge" for Special Olympics  
Pastor's Day Off
- 18 Feast of Luke, Evangelist  
"Over the Edge" for Special Olympics  
10:00 AM Fall Faith Summit  
Celebration
- 19 Manna Sunday for MCEF  
Martin Luther Receives Doctorate  
(1512)  
8:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Trad.)  
9:30 AM Guest Congregation Meets  
(All Souls Episcopal's Worship)  
9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages  
11:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Blend)
- 20 11:40 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
- 21 Martin Luther Accepted to Wittenberg  
Faculty (1512)  
Pastor @LFS Board Mtg.  
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study

- 22 6:30 PM Brownie Troop #557 Meeting  
7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 23 Commemoration of James of  
Jerusalem, Bishop & Martyr  
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study \*  
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 24 Pastor's Day Off
- 25 9:00 AM Loving Caregivers Seminar
- 26 Commemoration of Philip Nicolai,  
Johann Heermann, & Paul  
Gerhardt, Hymnwriters  
Reformation Sunday  
9:30 AM Guest Congregation Meets  
(All Souls Episcopal's Worship)  
9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages  
11:00 AM Go & Grow - Special Unified  
Service/Pot Luck
- 27 11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel  
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
- 28 Feast of Simon & Jude, Apostles  
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
7:00 PM Pastor@FLCV Meeting \*
- 29 7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 30 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study \*  
12:00 PM Pastor @ Special Olympics  
Virginia  
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 31 Pastor's Day Off  
Reformation Day

\* Off site

## Help the "Fools for Christ" take a step closer to the edge

Please help us to take steps to push Kevin Hendrickson and his team over the edge for SPECIAL OLYMPICS VIRGINIA! Social Ministry is sponsoring a raffle. Prizes include: Cold Stone Creamery \$10 gift card, \$25 gift card to O'Charleys, Movie Tickets \$40, \$50 gift card to Kroger, and a new step ladder! Tickets are \$1 a chance! Drawing will be October 12th after second service.



## Reformation Sunday 2014

On October 26th, we will have one service with a potluck luncheon to follow as we commemorate the posting of Martin Luther's 95 Theses on October 31, 1517. This event began what became known as the Protestant Reformation. The liturgical color of the day is red, and for fun, you are invited to also wear red that day. Red is a liturgical color often representing the Holy Spirit, apostles, or martyrs. The combined choirs will lead us in several musical pieces by Martin Luther and other hymns. Two of our members will also be baptized. There might even be a surprise or two. Come on out



## "Parables" with the Rev. Dr. Howard Thime

When the religious leaders heard Jesus speak in parables, they were confused. Jesus speaks seemingly with no rhyme and reason.

Starting, October 19, we will begin understanding this term called "parable" and how Jesus used it to teach about the mysterious Kingdom of God. This class will be offered Sundays at 9:30 am, October 19th through November 23. Our first parable addressed will prove among the hardest to understand, but also with glorious meaning - "The Rich Man & Lazarus."

## “Take the Plunge”

Volunteer Opportunities  
from your Social Ministry team

- **Friends of L’Arche Central Virginia:**

Additional board members are currently needed. Helpful knowledge, skills, and experience include: Creative problem solving; Sound leadership and project management expertise; Non Profit Management; Accounting and/or financial planning; Knowledge of the landscape and methods regarding housing & services for persons with disabilities; and Knowledge of needs of persons with disabilities. Time Commitment is a 3 year term with a Monday night monthly meeting. Suggested also - Attend monthly "Community Life Group" meetings - third Tuesday of each month. Work on special projects as appropriate. Contact **Cheryl Emory** at <http://www.friendsoflarchecentralva.org/> for more information.

- **BARK - Dog Care and Grooming:**

BARK rescues orphaned or abandoned pets and other adoptable dogs from animal shelters in Richmond and surrounding areas, ensures they are spayed/neutered and given routine vaccinations, and finds loving, forever homes for them. Volunteers help clean kennels, work on various projects when scheduled, walk dogs and just give them some extra one-on-one attention. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes and note that this is an indoor/outdoor activity, regardless of the weather. If you'd like, bring a snack and/or lunch. Volunteers are needed one Saturday per month from 10:30 – 2:00 in our Ashland location. Contact **Claire Tetric** at <http://www.barkva.org/> for more information.

- **Memoir Maker: At Home Care Hospice**

Help patients leave a lasting memory for their families by writing their memoir. Memoir Maker volunteers interview patients about the important moments of their lives and weave them into a document that will be cherished for generations. Our patients have flexible schedules, so we can work around your schedule to set up a time to meet with one of our hospice patients. To make a quality memoir, we ask that volunteers commit to volunteering every week or every other week for two months. Contact **Caitlin Roberts** at <http://www.athomecare.com/> for more information.

- **Therapeutic Recreation Clubs - Hanover County Parks and Recreation**

Volunteers wanted to help with clubs for adults with disabilities. Volunteers needed in variety of areas: Help with lunch at Community Connection Club on campus of Randolph Macon College in Ashland (help club members with serving line, help club members make healthy choices at Estes Dining Hall, engage in conversations, help club members walk from meeting location to dining hall, etc.) from about 11:45am to 1pm; Be a guest speaker at either Community Connection Club in Ashland (Thursday AM) or Aktion Club in Mechanicsville (Monday PM) or help locate an interesting speaker. Speakers usually present for about 15 minutes on various topics: fascinating jobs, exciting trips, teaching new skills/languages, etc; General assistance with club activities (craft activities, get-to-know-you activities, games, etc.). Aktion Club usually meets on 2nd Monday evening of each month in Mechanicsville (6:30-8pm). Community Connection Club usually meets on 2nd Thursday (10am-1pm) of each month in Ashland. For more information contact **Devin Brown** [dbrown@hanovercounty.gov](mailto:dbrown@hanovercounty.gov); 804-365-7154 for more information.







Please join the Hanover County Sheriff's Office as we celebrate partnerships and volunteerism in our community!

This FIRST-EVER event scheduled for Saturday, October 18th (10 am – 3 pm) is designed to give our county's faith-based, non-profit, and community organizations the opportunity to highlight the valuable ministries, services, and partnership opportunities they offer. Messiah Lutheran Church and School will be participating along with Lutheran Family Services of Virginia. There will also be great food, games, and activities for people of all ages, as well as powerful live music sponsored by the E.J. Wade Foundation.

Over 3,000 people are expected to attend. Come on out and see why the Hanover County Sheriff's Office says, "Strong partnerships create safe communities."

## Welcome Pastor Carr!

A service of installation for Pastor Chris Carr will be held at Christ the King (Richmond) on Sunday, October 5th at 4:30 pm. Pastor Carr is their new associate pastor and previously served in southwestern Virginia. All are welcome.

Messiah on Pinterest



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

## 75+ Churches Participate in Week of Service



**Pastor Dave Delaney** visiting with one of the residents of Brandon Oaks

The Virginia Synod 2014 Week of Service during Sept. 1-7 was a huge success with over 75 congregations participating!

The Synod Office has been hearing amazing stories of what can be done when we come together to serve others in the name of God's love. **Messiah Lutheran Church** put in over 52 hours of service this week. All ages got involved at First English Lutheran Church in Richmond including the pre-school Sunday school class who helped clean up litter on the streets near the church.

There are probably hundreds of stories that could be told about how we impacted our communities last week. Bishop Mauney reminds us to reflect on how we too have been impacted by serving. "Engaging in service helps us to put names with faces," Bishop Mauney said. "There is such a temptation to categorize people as 'they' or 'them'. We serve so that we will be able to see that 'they' are the beloved children of God. An advancement is made when "they" become Lisa and David."

The pictures from the Week of Service reflect not only what God has done through us, but what he is doing in us.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/97724817@N07/sets/72157647145371961/>

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Mechanicsville VA 23111



CreationFest 2014

October 4th

October, 2014

**Messenger**

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## Kroger Care Program has changed

We have received notice that the Kroger Care Program changed effective September 1st. It is now called the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Instead of being supported through the purchase and recharging of special Kroger gift cards, this program will reward enrolled non-profits through members using their registered Kroger Plus Cards. We are in the process of registering for this new program and will provide you more information soon. In the meantime, thanks to all those who helped provide our ministry with thousands of dollars over recent years through the previous Kroger Care Program. Along with Kroger, we hope you find this new program much more convenient.

The DEADLINE for the  
**November, 2014**  
edition of *The Messenger* is  
**Sunday, October 19th**  
Please call me with your  
written submission, place your written  
submission in the "Newsletter" mail slot  
OR email [susiew51@comcast.net](mailto:susiew51@comcast.net)



@MessiahMech