

The

MESSENGER



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

MAY 2017

“500 Years of the Reformation” Speaker Series continues

Messiah Lutheran, All Souls Episcopal and several other Hanover County congregations have banded together to offer this speaker series to all our neighbors. Thus far, each event has been well attended and the speakers excellent!

The next event is being hosted at the Episcopal Church of Our Savior (Montpelier) on Thursday, May 25, at 7:00 pm. Speaker: **The Rev. Ben Shelton**, Rector of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church (Culpeper). He graduated from Radford University in 2005 with degrees in Psychology and Religious Studies and received his Master of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary in 2010.

Pastor Lou Appointed Dean

As announced at worship, Bishop Mauney has appointed **Pastor Lou** as the new dean of the Virginia Synod’s Richmond Conference of Congregations. He remains pastor at Messiah but concurrently serves as the local representative of the Bishop’s Office. The Richmond Conference includes nine congregations in metro-Richmond and one each in Petersburg, VA and Littleton, NC.



National Day of Prayer at Historic Polegreen Church

An important stepping stone of religious freedom in the United States, Mechanicsville’s Historic Polegreen Church sponsors its annual National Day of Prayer event on May 4 at 5:30 pm. Pastors from across the county (including **Pastor Lou**) will be present to help lead the celebration. The event, which lasts approximately 30 minutes, is free and open to the public. It is a great event for all ages.

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<http://www.messiahmech.com>

Your 2017 Church Council And Associate Members

Dean Gustafson Council President
James Anderson Vice-President
Sally Bennett Secretary

Sharon Addair	Becky Collie
Steve Gilnett	Cheryl B Griffis
Donna Shaw	Susie Weaver

Council Liaisons

Christian Education **Donna Shaw**
 Evangelism **James Anderson**
 Finance **Becky Collie**
 Property **Steve Gilnett**
 Social Ministry **Sharon Addair**
 Stewardship **Susie Weaver**
 Worship **Sally Bennett**

Its that time of year...

With the warm weather, people will be traveling more. Online giving is your easy way to support our shared ministry while you are away. Help us continue to feed the hungry, find shelter for the homeless, care for our children in the community, visit the lonely and sick, as well as promote other ongoing Christian formation and spiritual opportunities. Your donations and volunteering keep this important ministry going!

One time gifts or repeated donations scheduled by you are now possible at <https://messiahmech.com/stewardshipdonate/>

Bill Weaver ... Treasurer
Jake Addair ... Financial Secretary
Sue Gilnett, RN... Parish Nurse

Trustees: **Leroy Albertson,**
Pat Hubert, and Dick Wright .

Sermons online

Don't forget, recent Sunday sermons are being posted each week at Messiah-Mech.com and our MessiahMech YouTube Channel.



Join Messiah on Facebook!



[@MessiahMech](https://twitter.com/MessiahMech)

Pastoral Letter

As the Messenger went to press, Pastor Lou was recovering from a very busy Lent and Easter season. His pastoral letter will return next month.



Save the Date!

Relay for Life, supporting the American Cancer Society with its research, many educational and support programs, will be held **Friday, June 2, starting at 6:00 pm**

Sign-up today to join the fun and help those fighting cancer. More information is available at MessiahMech.com on our "Updates" page.

All Souls Community Yard Sale



Our friends at All Souls invite you to participate in or shop at their upcoming yard sale: Want to have a yard sale, just not at your house? How about at the Atlee House at 9077 Atlee Road. Rent a space from us for \$20 for a Community Yard Sale on **Saturday, May 13.**

Email allsoulsva@gmail.com, with "Yard Sale" in the Subject Line, and we'll send you information! Easy!

Easter Update

Happy Easter everyone – all 50 days!

Pictures from our Holy Week, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday are posted on Facebook and on our picture gallery at MessiahMech.com.

Thanks to **Bill Weaver and M.O.M. (Men of Messiah)** for a great breakfast,

To **Donna Combs, Kristine Florio and Lois Schroeder** for heading up the kids' activities and egg hunt,

And the entire **Worship Team**, headed by **Sally Bennett**, for helping it all come together so well.

It was our best attended Easter Sunday since Pastor Lou's arrival in 2007.

If you have pictures you would like to share from our day together, please do so in the comments section or send an email to our office.

Lutherans Turn 300 in Virginia

This year, Hebron Lutheran in Madison, VA turned 300 years old. The ministerium (pastoral and other rostered leaders) of the Virginia Synod gathered along with interested lay people from all over Virginia and beyond to help our brothers and sisters at Hebron celebrate on Saturday, April 29, 2017. **The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton**, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, the **Rev. James Mauney**, Bishop of the Virginia Synod of the ELCA, and **Michael C. Maxey**, President of Roanoke College helped lead the celebration and special worship. Pictures will be posted at MessiahMech.com soon, or check the Virginia Synod Facebook page.

MCEF news and highlights

- MCEF Update: One-Stop Shop
Details of Plan B were discussed at the April meeting of MCEF. Details of Plan B (a smaller rental space) will be funded with monies on hand. MCEF is getting closer to finding a space that will bring all of its ministries together under one roof.
- Food pantry needs for this month emphasize boxes of dry cereal, although all donations of nonperishable foods are accepted. (Please drop your donations in the grocery cart in the narthex.)



Bishop Election 2017

A new bishop will be elected for the Virginia Synod at our June assembly. In preparation, the Richmond Conference is offering an optional gathering to orient participants and all those interested to the election process and review the fall findings of the Transition Committee. The event, hosted by Christ the King Lutheran in Richmond, will be held on **Sunday, May 7, at 3:00 pm** and will last one hour.

Don't Forget: Kroger Community Rewards

Do you want to help Messiah earn money just by shopping at Kroger? All you have to do is register your Kroger Plus card with the community rewards. When you shop and scan your card, Messiah will get a rewards check quarterly.

Please go to their website to enroll, reenroll or learn more: <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>

You can also call 1-800-Krogers and choose option 3.

If you have enrolled previously in this program, please log in to your account or call to verify you are still enrolled. You will need to re-enroll once a year as a requirement of Kroger.

If you have not enrolled in this program, please consider taking a few moments to do so. You can also share with friends and family and have others enroll as well.

Retirement banquet

All delegates of the 2017 Virginia Synod Assembly are invited to attend a special banquet in honor of **Bishop Jim Mauney** and his staff on Friday, June 9, 2017 at 6:30 pm, and you are too!

It will be held at the Cregar Center at Roanoke College (Salem, VA). Tickets for those not already attending the Assembly are available by completing the Virginia Synod Assembly registration form (check only the banquet portion), and sending in the \$35 fee. The form is available here: <http://www.vasynod.org/synod-assembly/>



IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

We pray for each other:

Charlie Absher; Adam Dworak, Mac McAllister; Pat Motley; Ruth Schroeder; Dick Wright.

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Linda Barnes-Depuy, daughter of Joan Barnes; **Jacob Chilcote**, friend of the Collies; **Virginia Collie**, Johnnie Collie's mother; **Wendy Gunn; Ben Morlan**, uncle of Donna Shaw; **The Rev. Samuel Mozolak**, father of Karen & Michael Morris; **Lorna Snook**, mother of Susen Weaver; **Mark Sommer & Family**, brother of Valerie Williams; **Family and Friends of Larry McIntosh; Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Sandy Street**, sister of Donna Shaw; **Bert Tyler; Family & Friends of Ikey Tyler; Noah Williams**; Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families, especially **Andrew Addair & LJ Spray; Law enforcement, firefighters and first responders; The People & Pastor of All Souls**, and our shared ministry; **All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Maldives, Saudi Arabia, India, and Uzbekistan.**

To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the church office, 746-7134. If leaving a message, include your contact information for follow-up. Unless we hear otherwise, individuals will be removed quarterly. Memorial prayers will run a minimum of two weeks and then be included in our All Saints Sunday activities.



**May 4 Elliot Hendrickson
10 Leroy Deere
12 Jessica McKenna
23 Dale Umberger
26 Mac McAllister**



May 18 Bonnie & Adam Dworak Sr.

If you would like **YOUR** birthdays & anniversary included in the newsletter, please send an email to messiahmech@gmail.com or call **Davina** (746-7134).



Creative, Faith-Filled Kids Wanted!

Our "Traveling Martin Luther" has been making his stand all over the world: Mexico, the Bahamas, and of course across Virginia and the United States. Have we received YOUR photos? Prizes for most creative picture and most entries are being offered. Invite your child to play along and grow in faith today! Still haven't gotten your own boon, summer traveling companion? Contact **Pastor Lou**. The contest ends Wednesday, October 25, with winners announced at our 500th Anniversary worship on Sunday, October 29, 2017.

May 2017						
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 Feast of Philip & James, Apostles
10:30 AM Worship
at Hanover Adult Center
- 2 Commemoration of Athanasius
9:30 AM Richmond Conf. Meeting.
- 3 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
- 4 International Firefighters Day
Martin Luther become Knight George
(1521)
National Day of Prayer
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
4:30 PM Hanover Cares Coalition Mtg.
5:30 PM National Day of Prayer *
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 5 Church Office Closed on Fridays
Pastor's Day Off
- 6
- 7 9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal)
9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
(Messiah Lutheran)
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC)
3:00 PM Bishop Election Meeting *
4:30 PM Fusion Youth Group
- 8 Commemoration of Julian of Norwich,
Renewer of the Church
Warrant for Luther Issued (1521)
7:00 PM Pastor @Christ Lutheran
- 9 Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf,
Renewer of the Church, Hymnwriter
7:30 AM Pastor @ VCC Meeting *
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 10 Virginia Lutheran Items Due
2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Meeting
- 11 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 12 Church Office Closed on Fridays
Pastor's Day Off
- 13
- 14 Feast of Matthias, Apostle
Mother's Day
9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal)
9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
(Messiah Lutheran)
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC)
- 15 Pastor: Bishop Transition Responses
Due
Peace Officers Memorial Day
- 16 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 17 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
- 18 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 19 Church Office Closed on Fridays
Pastor's Day Off
- 20 First Council of Nicea Meets (325 AD)
9:30 AM Council Retreat *
- 21 9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal)
9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
(Messiah Lutheran)
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC)
4:30 PM Fusion Youth Group
- 22
- 23 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 24 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Mtg.
- 25 Feast of the Ascension
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study (Off Site)
7:00 PM 500 Years of Reformation
Speaker Series *
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 26 Church Office Closed on Fridays
Pastor's Day Off
- 27 Commemoration of John Calvin,
Renewer of the Church
- 28 9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal)
9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
(Messiah Lutheran)
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC)
- 29 Commemoration of Jiri Tranovský

- 29 Memorial Day
6:15 PM Mutual Ministry Meeting.
- 30
- 31 Feast of the Visit of Mary to Elizabeth
2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)

* Off site



Blessings, Vicar Amelie!

As previously announced, Vicar Amelie's last day at All Souls Episcopal was Sunday, April 30th. Over the last five years, we have grown closer to her and her congregation as we cooperated more and more in worship, fellowship and service. This resulted in local, regional and national attention for both congregations due to their shared ministry and living out the ELCA-Episcopal agreement, "Called for Common Mission."

Vicar Amelie will now serve as the Priest in Charge of St. John's Episcopal on Church Hill, and we wish her well. Stop in and say hello, if in the area. Built in 1741, the congregation offers regular reenactments of Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" speech. Learn more at historicstjohnschurch.org. Please pray for Vicar Amelie in her new call, as well as for our brothers and sisters at All Souls Episcopal, as they seek a new pastor.

"Called to Common Mission" is an agreement between The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), establishing full communion between them. It was ratified by the ELCA in 1999, the ECUSA in 2000. Learn more at elca.org.



Online registration for the Virginia Synod's popular adult retreat, Power in the Spirit, is live! Join us [July 13-15!](#)

Special guests are **Dr. Timothy Wengert**, **Bishop Tracie Bartholomew**, and **Voices of Praise!**

"Power in the Spirit is an inspirational conference for everyone who wishes to explore God's call to service through joyous worship, Bible study, keynote addresses, workshops, and fellowship. In addition, all congregational leaders will find POWER IN THE SPIRIT especially nurturing and challenging as they consider their mission and ministry." (VA Synod website)

Visit vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit for more information, and to register!

Retirement Gift for Bishop Mauney

Your church council has invited members of Messiah to join others in the Virginia Synod in thanking **Bishop James Mauney** for his faithful service. You can include this, in addition to your offering to Messiah, by designating on the "Other" line on your envelope "Mauney retirement gift" and the amount. A combined congregational check will be sent. Please remember: individual contributions to this gift may not be recognized on any congregational statement as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes.

Questions? Ask any church council member or Pastor Lou.

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Never Forget

International Firefighters Day is May 4th, and Law Enforcement Memorial Day is May 15th.

Please remember those who have been injured or died in service to their communities, pray for those now serving, and consider thanking them as they cross your path.



The DEADLINE for the
June, 2017
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, May 21st

Please call me with your
submission, hand me a written
submission OR email
susiew51@comcast.net



Messiah on Pinterest

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boards/](http://pinterest.com/messiahmech/boards/)