

The

MESSENGER



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

DECEMBER, 2014/JANUARY, 2015

Christmas is coming!



Messiah supports or offers a number of special programs coming up to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope you can attend any or all of these offerings. As any more are confirmed, please check our online church calendar, your Sunday bulletin and email for updates.

✧ MLS/Messiah Cookie Swap (Saturday, 12/13, 10:00 am) – Please see our school director’s article to learn how you can participate in this fun (and yummy) activity.

✧ Messiah’s pre-Christmas celebration: “O Christmas Tree” (Sunday 12/14, 10:00 am) – Before people head far afield for the holidays, Messiah members are in-

vited to gather to help sing carols, decorate our tree, and enjoy some Christmas treats and activities as a family of faith on Sunday, December 14th at 10:00 am. There will be no Sunday school. Unified service follows at 11:00 am with our congregational business meeting at noon. Snow date: 12/21.

✧ All Souls Cantata (Sunday, 12/14 at 4:30 pm) – More information to come.

✧ MLS Christmas Program (12/18, 6:15 pm) – This musical based preschool program is open to the entire community. Come on by and discover what a gift our preschool students are to our community. All smiles and joy free of charge.

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CHRISTMAS EVE BY CANDLELIGHT JOIN US!

5:00 PM – All Souls Episcopal Meets
7:00 PM – Messiah’s “Family Friendly”
Christmas Service with InSync
11:00 PM – Traditional Christmas Eve Service (All Souls & Messiah)

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The Messenger

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**Congregational Business Meeting
December 14th**

Please remain after our 11:00 am unified worship service on Sunday, December 14th to approve next year's budget and elect new council members. This important annual meeting routinely lasts less than one hour. We need a quorum to conduct business, so please make every effort to attend. Your participation is critical to our success!

Christmas is coming
Continued from page 1

✧ German Christmas Service
(Sunday, 12/21, 5:00 pm) - Messiah will be hosting the local German club's annual Christmas event. You are invited! Coffee social starts at 4:00 pm, and the special service begins at 5:00 pm. Whether you know German or not, you'll find this event welcoming for all ages and down-right "wunderbar!"

For Community Christmas events see p. 4

**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
Bill Weaver.... Financial Secretary
Sue Gilnett, RN...Parish Nurse

Bob Griffin, Dick Wright, and Pat HubertTrustees



**Foster Children
Christmas**

It is time to think about Christmas and the foster children! The children's wish list is in the Narthex. Please help to make their Christmas merry. The wrapped gifts are due back by December 7th, the Social Ministry team will be in the Narthex to receive them.

Thank you so much, you are greatly appreciated

Pastor's letter:

Be born in me

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" (Luke 2:13-14)

What a powerful, enduring image – an angelic multitude proclaiming the birth of Jesus to poor shepherds in a field! In great works of art or on more humble Christmas cards or crèches, even in our favorite carols, we imagine them in song basking in the glory and love of God. How much more should we let our lives sing a song of gladness? For Jesus came not to remain in the stable but instead desires to reside in our hearts.

Yes, through our faith and baptism, we share a more similar experience to Mary's own. She was a poor, relatively uneducated young lady; likely 13 to 15 years old. She had lots of questions, doubts and fears to wrestle with, yet when the angel announced she would become the mother of the one true God, she submitted. Her magnificat (a song of praise captured in Luke 1) declares with certainty, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

Mary was God's favored one, and we share in that favor. Truly, Jesus waits to be born in each of us and reborn each day. No matter how we perceive ourselves with our varied gifts and struggles, God has come to us declaring each of us beloved child. Prophets in the Jewish scriptures predicted a time when the Temple would be no more, for our bodies would become the place where the yet unknown Christ resides. The Angels in the field proclaimed that Jesus came for all of us who are poor, imperfect and in need of love. In Jewish theology, our heart represents more than an organ or emotional passion, it reflects our utmost being – the depths and totality

of who we are. So, Jesus prayed that we be one as he and the Trinity are one. It is Jesus who chose and called each of us to follow him. It is he who wants to live inside us and through us so intimately in every moment that he names us as his body. This good fortune is offered as a certain gift to all who dare trust in his promises. Surely, Christ's presence will upset our lives. It might even make us the objects of scorn or worse. Yet, "Do not be afraid!" God's favor will never disappoint. Walk on so that your life becomes his song. Walk on trusting that Christ walks with you and that many more miracles shall surely come. His presence will bless us beyond our expectations.

The Christian singer Francesca Battistelli, in a recent song, imagines these words coming from the heart of Mary and her own, "I am not brave. I'll never be. The only thing my heart can offer is a vacancy. I'm just a girl. Nothing more. But I am willing, I am Yours. Be born in me."

Do not doubt any longer, but believe. Open your heart and welcome Christ at each sunrise and as darkness falls. The promises of God are fulfilled in your hearing. Blessed are you! Holy are you! Sing to the glory of God, so that all might believe!

Kristine and I send you our most heartfelt Advent and Christmas blessings. May your new year overflow with Christ's love.

Pastor Lou



Messiah on Pinterest

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

Community Christmas events

* Mechanicsville Christmas Parade (Sunday, December 7, 2:00 pm) – The parade will begin an hour earlier this year, December 7th at 2:00 pm. Learn more at <http://mechanicsvillerotary.org>

* No Room at the Inn @ Church of the Redeemer – This annual event brings together hundreds of unique, multicultural nativity scenes while helping others. This year, MCEF is among the charities being helped. The exhibit and children's area is open Saturday, December 6 (10:00 am – 8:00 pm) and Sunday, December 7 (9:00 am – 4:00 pm). Cost: Adults \$5, 18 and younger \$1. More information can be found at <http://churchredeemer.org/no-room>.



We always have quite the celebration on Christ the King Sunday, the end of our liturgical year and frequently the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Our annual luncheon is indeed popular, but this year, we had several special reasons to celebrate as a community. A number of new members were welcomed:

The Andrist family (Graham, Kristin, Nora and Eva), Kenny Deere, Joseph Simpkins, Jean Wightman, and the Williams family (Daren, Valerie and Max).

We continue to give thanks for their presence among us and look forward to serving our God and neighbors together with them.

Advent preparation



Advent begins on Sunday, November 30th. This season of the liturgical year calls us to prepare a place for the Christ Child in our hearts once again.

Please consider taking our online ChurchNext class as well as participating in other offerings here at Messiah and in the community. Advent materials for home use will soon arrive, but in the meantime, check out our Pinterest Advent page for fun and inspirational craft ideas and more: pinterest.com/messiahmech. As a spiritual discipline of preparation, please consider utilizing an Advent Wreath and prayers at home, Advent calendars, or even any of our free quarterly spiritual mediation booklets on our welcome table.

Epiphany Party & Bon Fire Sunday, 4/4, 6:30 pm

Our annual event with All Souls marks the end of the Christmas season (popularly known as the 12 days of Christmas). Bring a sprig of Christmas green for the bonfire. (It will be used along with old palms from Palm Sunday as part of our ashes on our next Ash Wednesday.) Just as the Wise Men brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to honor the newborn king, Jesus, we are inviting everyone to drop off winter hats, gloves and scarves at the special collection tub in our church entryway. November 30th through January 11th, please bring gently used or new items for homeless neighbors of all ages. Jesus taught, "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Let us honor and love our King.



Adam Dworak, Sr.; Mary Key; Pat Motley; Katie Rios; Roger Schroeder; Joseph Simpkins; Dick Wright; Evelyn Wright; ; David A.; Friends and Family of Margaret Hicks, friend of JoAn Firebaugh; **Jane Hood**, cousin of Marilyn Gunn; **Russell Jones, Sr.**, father of Schwerdtfegers' friend; **Rev. Samuel Mozolak**, father of Karen & Michael Morris; **Friends and Family of Nancy Ordazzo; Annette Pfohl**, friend of Messiah; **Tarasia Remhoff**, friend of the Florios; **Kathleen Schwerdtfeger**, mother of Charlie Schwerdtfeger; **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 Tajikistan.**

And for those serving in the armed forces: **Kyle Carag, Chris Cholet, Michael Knepfer, 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.

MCEF thanks

A BIG Thank You to all who have supported the Food Pantry with donations of non-perishable food items throughout the year and especially for the Thanksgiving holiday bags. Your support feeds those in need.



- December 4 **Karen Nicholson**
 10 **Pastor Lou Florio**
 10 **Gordon Gunn**
 16 **Marilyn Gunn**
 16 **Sandy Sauer**
 30 **Kyle Schroeder**
- January 3 **Paula Barwick**
 4 **Karen Umberger**
 4 **JoAn Firebaugh**
 11 **Erna Jung**
 15 **Grayson Starret**
 22 **Bill Hatfield**
 23 **Brandi Hendrickson**
 25 **Ivy Craig**
 31 **Mary Grace Delph**



December 23 **Paul & Victoria Knab**

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).

Religious Freedom Sunday

Churches across the United States will commemorate the anniversary of the passage of the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom on January 16, 1786 on Sunday, January 11th. This document became the foundation for our constitutional protections.

December 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 11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
6:15 PM Mutual Ministry Mtg.
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
- 2 Local Remembrance: Jean Donovan
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 3 7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 4 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 5 Pastor's Day Off
- 6 Commemoration of Nicholas,
Bishop of Myra
- 7 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)
- Lonnstrom Baptism
- 8 11:00 AM Pastor @ HCSO
Chaplains' Training
11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
7:00 PM MCEF Mtg. *
- 9 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 10 Human Rights Day
Martin Luther Burns the Popes Decree
of Excommunication (1520)
Virginia Lutheran Items Due
6:30 PM Brownie Troop #557 Meeting
7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 11 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 12 Pastor's Day Off
- 13 Commemoration of Lucy, Martyr
10:00 AM MLS COOKIE SWAP
- 14 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)
- 15 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
- 16 7:30 AM Pastor@VCC *
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
- 17 5:30 PM Pastor @ VCC Board Meeting
7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 18 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
6:15 PM MLS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 19 Pastor's Day Off
- 20 Commemoration of Katharina von Bora
Luther
- 21 First Day of Winter
Manna Sunday for MCEF
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)
4:00 PM Kaffeeklatsch
5:00 PM German Church Service
- 22 No Preschool - Childcare Available
11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
- 23 No Preschool - Childcare Available
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
- 24 MLS CLOSED - CHRISTMAS EVE
7:00 PM Messiah Lutheran's Family
Christmas Eve Service
11:00 PM Traditional Christmas Eve
Service (All Souls & Messiah)
- 25 MLS CLOSED - CHRISTMAS DAY
Our family of faith at Messiah wishes
you a blessed Christmas!
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
- 26 Feast of Stephen, Deacon & Martyr
No Preschool - Childcare Available
Pastor's Day Off
- 27 Feast of John, Apostle & Evangelist
- 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents
8:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Trad.)
- 28 9:30 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal's Worship)
11:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Blend)
- 29 No Preschool - Childcare Available

- 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
 30 No Preschool - Childcare Available
 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
 (Cancelled)
 31 Have a safe & happy New Year's Eve!
 No Preschool - Childcare Available

January 2015						
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

- 1 Feast of the Name of Jesus
 MLS CLOSED - NEW YEAR'S
 The members of Messiah Lutheran
 wish you a year full of blessings!
 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
- 2 Commemoration of Johann Konrad
 Wilhelm Loehe, Renewer of the Church
 No Preschool - Childcare Available
 Pastor's Day Off
- 4 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)
- 5 11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
- 6 Epiphany of Our Lord
 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 7 7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 8 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
 7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 9 Pastor's Day Off
- 10 Virginia Lutheran Items Due
- 11 Religious Freedom Sunday
 8:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Trad.)
 9:30 AM Guest Congregation Meets
 (All Souls Episcopal's Worship)
- 11 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages
 11:00 AM Worship Service (MLC-Blend)
- 12 11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
 7:00 PM MCEF Mtg. *
- 13 7:30 AM Pastor@VCC *
 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
- 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 14 Commemoration of Eivind Josef
 Berggrav, Bishop
 6:30 PM Brownie Troop #557 Meeting
 7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 15 Commemoration of Martin Luther King,
 Jr., Renewer of the Church & Martyr
 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
 7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 16 Pastor's Day Off
 Religious Freedom Day
- 16-17 Youth: Winter Celebration *
- 17 Commemoration of Antony of Egypt,
 Renewer of the Church
- 18 Feast of the Confession of Peter
 Manna Sunday for MCEF
 Start of the Week of Prayer
 for Christian Unity
 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)
- 19 Commemoration of Henry, Bishop
 and Martyr
 No preschool - Childcare Available
 11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
- 20 Pastor @LFS Board Mtg.
 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
- 21 Commemoration of Agnes, Martyr
 7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 22 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
 7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 23 Pastor's Day Off
- 23-24 Youth: Winter Celebration *
- 25 Feast of the Conversion of Paul
 9:30 AM Grow & Go - Special
 Unified Service
 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages
 11:00 AM Annual Reports Mtg.
 4:00 PM Guest Congregation Meets
 (All Souls: Worship &
 Congregational Mtg.)
- 26 Commemoration of Timothy, Titus, and
 Silas, Missionaries
 11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting

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Calendar

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- 27 Commemoration of Lydia, Dorcas and Phoebe, Witnesses to the Faith
International Holocaust Remembrance Day
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
7:00 PM Pastor@FLCV Meeting *
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 28 Commemoration of Thomas Aquinas, Teacher
6:30 PM Brownie Troop #557 Meeting
7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 29 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 30 Pastor's Day Off

- Off site



We give thanks for the life and Christian witness of **Nancy Ordazzo** who entered the Church Triumphant on Tuesday, November 11th. A visitation with family, service and meal was held at Messiah on Sunday afternoon, November 16th. Please continue to pray for Nancy's husband, Jack, and all her family and friends who mourn. The family wished to thank all those who helped them during this difficult time with many signs of kindness, including help with the funeral meal.

We also ask for your prayers as family and friends grieve the passing of **Arthur C. "Archie" Walker**. Archie used to attend services at Messiah several years back. Archie's family notified us that he died on November 5th and has been interred at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia.

Messiah School News

Lots of things to do during the month coming up. Everyone will be busy, but be sure not to miss out on these fun things.

- Our December "Dinner on the Go" will be held on Friday, December 12th. This month's menu will be Cheesy Scalloped Potatoes with Ham,, Broccoli and a Roll. You must sign up by Friday, December 5th in order to participate. Remember only \$5 per person, where else can you get a home cooked meal for that price.

- Our 2nd annual cookie swap will be held on Saturday, December 13th at 10:00 a.m. sharp. There will be a sign up sheet posted in the Fellowship Hall for all who would like to participate. All you need to do is bring in 4 dozen of your favorite cookies and you will get to take home 4 dozen different cookies. Last years event went well and we hope we have more who attend this year. Happy Baking!

- The school's annual Christmas program will be held on Thursday, December 18th @ 6:30 p.m. All are invited to come see what our little ones have been working on. Hope to see you there.

- Messiah Lutheran School is your school, my school, our school, it is a ministry of the church and as we work together in helping the school to grow with our community, we have established a "Doors to the Future" fund to help us install exit doors and furnish our new classrooms for our youngest school members. The website that you can donate to is <http://doorstothefuture.mydagsite.com/>. Please pass this information on to friends and family, every little bit helps in reaching our goal.

Peace, Blessings
and Merry Christmas to all.
Stacy Slaughter, Director



Our Director for Messiah Lutheran School, **Stacy Slaughter**, is participating in an intensive training program sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA). This program is geared towards helping with the programming needs and financial health of our school. Stacy hopes to complete the second part of this training program in Reno, Nevada in February, but she needs our help in getting there. She will also be providing instruction to other participants during the training.

Please help through cash donations or transferring travel points to get her to the training. See **Donna Shaw** or **Pastor Lou** if you would like to help.



Commemorative Brick Program

Orders continue to be taken as needed for our commemorative brick program. If you would like to honor someone for Christmas or perhaps remember someone who died this past year, your purchase allows for a personalized dedication on a brick which is then placed in the memorial garden by our outside cross. Proceeds benefit Messiah's ministries. More information is available in our narthex or contact **Kevin Hendrickson**.

CHURCHNext

Introduction to Advent

Advent is a beautiful season in the church year, and yet the meaning of Advent can get lost in the frenzy of premature Christmas-celebration or our practical holiday preparations. But "preparing for Christmas" has a whole different meaning in the Christian Church: it is a prayerful, quiet, even penitent time in which we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ into the world, for the gift of the Word made flesh.

This free online course provides a fascinating introduction to the history and purpose of Advent, as well as offering new material for reflection and practice to those who have observed Advent all their lives. Registration opened to all members and friends of Messiah (including school families) on Monday, November 17th and remains open through Christmas Day. If you did not receive the email invitation to the class, please contact **Pastor Lou** for the required link. Our course leader is **Fr. Tim Schenk** of LentMadness fame.

Sack Hunger event

Thanks to all those who helped donate items or assemble new Sack Hunger bags. These meals are created for distribution to our homeless and hungry neighbors. This time, socks, hats, and mittens were also collected which are greatly appreciated in the colder weather.

Pick them up in our entrance or at All Souls' Atlee House (9077 Atlee Rd.). Share them as you travel around Metropolitan Richmond.

"Take the plunge"

Volunteer Opportunities
from Social Ministry

• **Veteran to Veteran Hospice**

Bon Secours Hospice, the only nonprofit hospice in the Richmond area, is seeking volunteers who are veterans of the armed services. Through a program called We Honor Veterans, we are recruiting veterans who are willing to be a visiting volunteer for fellow veterans.

Bon Secours Hospice is a program that affirms the dignity of life. It serves people affected by an advanced illness by providing comprehensive compassionate care which respects each of our patient's needs, beliefs, and wishes. We help these individuals live comfortably in their final days and help families cope with the care and ultimate loss of their loved one. Hospice care can be provided in a variety of settings, healthcare centers, assisted and independent living facilities.

For more information contact:

- **<http://www.bonsecours.com/our-services-hospice-how-can-i-help.html>**

• **Volunteer Leader in Training – Hanover County**

The Leader-in-Training (LIT) program is designed for students who are interested in volunteering their time and energy to share their passion for working with children while gaining valuable experience. LITs assist summer staff with the overall operation of Summer Sneakers and/or Specialty Camps (day camps for elementary age children) including program planning, activity leading, serving as a positive role model for children and more.

For more information about eligibility and the application process, go to Volunteer Opportunities and click on the Volunteer Leader in Training link.

<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/hanovercountyva/default.cfm?promotionaljobs=1>.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Prayer materials for this annual commemoration are on order and should arrive prior to the event, Feast of the Confession of St. Peter (1/18) through Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (1/25).

Our combined youth ministry with All Souls and Immanuel (Old Church) plan to lead another community worship event. The youth plan, lead and preach at the event. Last year's event was truly inspiring. Details are being firmed up at the time this newsletter goes to print.

Check your Sunday bulletin and Messiah's internet resources for updates.

CoDependency Group to Form In Early 2015

A 12-Step group dealing with addictive relationship and enabling patterns is forming for 2015. Meetings will likely be held at All Souls' Atlee House, and it will be a combined outreach with Messiah Lutheran. If interested in more information and updates, speak with **Pastor Lou**. You can learn more about the group and its 12 Step spirituality at www.coda.org.

"Hope Group"

HOPE GROUP is for parents and guardians of special needs children. Our next support group meeting will be at Church of the Redeemer in Mechanicsville on Thursday, November 13th from 7 - 8:15 PM. You are invited to share, discuss, and pray about issues in a Christian community. **Mike and Joanne Camp** are the facilitators. Please email them at mxcamp@gmail.com if you have questions or call 417-7700 for additional information. See you there.



We rejoice at the baptism of **Eliza Jo Glusing** on November 30th and **Vivienne and Everett Lonnstrom** on December 7th.

May the Holy Spirit guide, protect and enrich their lives so that they grow strong in faith and service. Through their lives, may God be glorified now and forever. Amen.

Jr/Sr High Youth reminder

Just a reminder that the youth group will normally meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday at the Atlee House from 4:30-6:00pm. If you haven't got your application in for the National Youth Gathering in Detroit, please do so by December 15th.

Helping those entrusted to our care

Cash donations are still needed to help supply for the housing and other emergency needs of our brother, **Joseph**, who became homeless after losing his job. Donations can be made on Sunday (note "local benevolence" on your check or giving envelope). Although Joseph is still making progress in his interviews, please continue to pray for him and let Pastor Lou know of any potential job leads (sales, retail, office work).

As a matter of update, **Lisa's** situation has improved and stabilized. She is on full disability now and is awaiting placement in an apartment. Pastor Lou has been working closely with some wonderful employees of Hanover County social Services to ensure her needs are met. Lisa sends her deep thanks to all those who have supported her with so much love, comfort and understanding.



New website?

Messiah's council is exploring the viability of a new website format, and we would welcome your input. Over the years, our current format has become difficult to update and relatively expensive. In addition, the email system has experienced regular outages. We are exploring an affordable, more modern look particularly suited to tablet and smart phone use from Wordpress. It also allows for much easier updates of photos or text as needed without any coding or other computer experience. Currently, we have a test site located at messiahmech.com (short for Messiah Mechanicsville).

If a consensus is reached, we will seek to formalize the site and a new email system. The old address will forward visitors to the new website for a period. (Christ the King went through a similar transition this year without any issues.) So far, one user on an older version of Internet Explorer had problems viewing the site, but no others reported any problems. **Ellen Hinlicky**, our contact for this effort on the Virginia Synod staff wrote, "One of the best church sites I've seen. Whoever did this for you did an excellent job."

What do you think? Please visit the site and let **Pastor Lou** (pastor@mlcas.org) or **Kevin Hendrickson** (president@mlcas.org) hear your thoughts or concerns.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111



December, 2014/January, 2015

Messenger

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If there is inclement weather, Messiah will attempt to announce any closing or delay through our phone message, website (mlcas.org), Channel 8 news (wric.com), and our Facebook group (Messiah Lutheran Church and School) as well as our Twitter feed (MessiahMech) once a decision is made.

The DEADLINE for the
February, 2015
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, January 18th

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



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