

The

MESSENGER



The monthly newsletter of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
(ELCA)

MARCH, 2015



Soup and bread supper &
Lenten program
Wednesdays, 2/25 – 3/25

Each Wednesday starting February 25th through March 25th, at 6:30 pm, we will be joining All Souls Episcopal for a simple supper of soup and bread followed by this year's program: "The Priesthood of all Believers." Using film, crafts, activities, ritual and lecture, we will explore the ways in which we, as baptized Christians can live into our priestly identity. Weekly class topics include: 1) "What...me, a priest?!" (lecture on our baptismal identity and commissioning); 2) Forgiveness (movie); 3) Healing (rituals of reconciliation and healing); 4) Burial & Grief (lecture on rituals, mutual support, resources, and coping skills related to death and loss); 5) Beloved Community (Lecture/activity on loving one another in friendship, relationship and as church).



A fun way to learn about the life and Christian witness of saints included on varied denominations' liturgical calendars, you can vote for your favorites at www.lentmadness.org. Much like March Madness, it uses a bracket elimination system. The fun started Thursday, February 19th. Take home Sainly Scorecards, which should arrive soon (available to the adult Sunday school class and first come-first serve on our welcome table).

A look inside....

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The Messenger

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**Your 2015 Church Council
 And Associate Members**

Kevin Hendrickson.....Council President
Donna ShawVice-President
Laura Harris Secretary

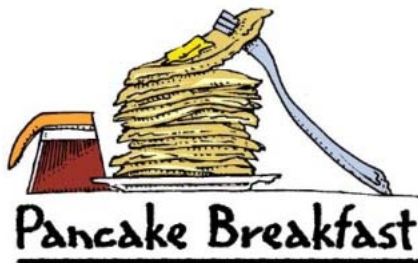
Sally Bennett	Jon Koeppen
Paula Barwick	Dean Gustafson
Steve Gilnett	Gordon Gunn

Council Liaisons

Christian Education**Jon Koeppen**
 Evangelism**Dean Gustafson**
 Fellowship**Steve Gilnett**
 Finance**Paula Barwick**
 Property**Kevin Hendrickson**
 School Board**Donna Shaw**
 Social Ministry**Gordon Gunn**
 Stewardship**Laura Harris**
 Worship**Sally Bennett**

Johnnie Collie... Treasurer
Bill Weaver... Financial Secretary
Sue Gilnett, RN...Parish Nurse

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



M.O.M.'s Needed

It's that time of year again, when the Men Of Messiah, known affectionately as "M.O.M.," get together to cook for all the rest of us.

The traditional Easter breakfast is something that we all look forward to. It does, however, take preparation and willing hands to bring it about. Both cooks and servers are needed, with on-the-job training available. We need a lot more new help as we have lost some of our previous volunteers.

If you, Man of Messiah, are willing to lend a hand, contact **Bill Weaver** (559-3503).



**Keys to our (small)
 Kingdom are now safe**

A new key security system is in place for our building. Our main office is secured by a keypad locking system, and all the keys to the building are now securely stored in the office. Council members will have access to the office when outside of business hours via a passcode if you need assistance. Backup keys are held by the pastor, president, school director and office administrator.

This change was recommended in our last property inspection by the local sheriff's office.



Walk with Jesus and contemplate his walk to the cross for our sake. Palm Sunday begins this special week on Sunday, March 29th. We celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 5th. We hope you can join us!!

- **Palm Sunday** - 8:00 am & 11:00 am services
- **Holy Monday** – Cursing the Fig Tree, 6:00 pm
- **Holy Tuesday** – Jesus predicts his death, 6:00 pm
- **Holy Wednesday** – “Spy Wednesday,” Judas conspires against Jesus, 6:00 pm
- **Maundy Thursday** – Last Supper remembered with first communion, 7:00 pm
- **Good Friday** –
 - **Service of Three Hours** - Jesus’ death on the Cross, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
 - **Special Good Friday Service** – 7:00 pm
- **Easter Vigil** - with All Souls, 7:00 pm
- **Easter Sunrise Service** - 7:00 am
- **Festival Worship** - 11:00 am

On Easter, we will offer our traditional pancake breakfast by MOM (Men of Messiah), 8:30 am – 10:00 am.

Kid’s activities start at 9:30 am with our popular Easter Egg Hunt at 10:10 am.



Service of Ordination

You are invited to attend the Service of Ordination and Installation as Pastor of Pastor Elect **Kathryn "Katie" Pocalyko** on Saturday, March 14 at 1:30 pm. She is the newly called pastor to the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour (Richmond) and began her service in February. Bishop Mauney of the Virginia Synod will conduct the ordination and Bishop Graham of the Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod (Katie's home synod) will assist in the liturgy. Please pray for our brothers and sisters at LCOS as they embark together on this new journey.



Girl Scout Sunday

Girl Scouts are awesome!

Girl Scout Sunday is March 8th. We are thankful for our two troops: Brownie Troop #557 & GS Troop 453.

No Pastor’s letter this month.

Look for that feature in the April issue.



**DON'T KEEP MLS A SECRET
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO VISIT!
MLS4KIDS.ORG**

PosterMyWall.com

Lutheran Schools Appreciation Month

Please pray in thanksgiving and show signs of gratitude to our director, **Stacey Slaughter**, and wonderful staff during March. We serve some of the poorest in our area and the economic downturn has been a struggle. Our staff has faced many challenges, and yet they always come through out of love for our students.

Council will be meeting with the school board over a thank you dinner to help access any way we can further help them remain successful in their service despite financial pressures. We'll also be meeting with staff to express our support.

If you would like to help MLS in its important work, consider volunteering (contact **Stacy Slaughter**) or donating. General financial donations may be made at any time via PayPal at m4s4kids.com (click the contact tab) or on Sunday note "MLS" on your offering check or envelope.

To support their "Doors to the Future Campaign," helping them better respond to the demand for infant and toddler care, visit www.doorstothefuture.mydagsite.com or note "MLS Doors" on your check or offering envelope.

Please invite neighbors and family to consider attending or supporting MLS!

Calling All First Communion Candidates

Historically, Messiah has offered communion classes for those in 5th grade or above who have not yet received communion. Exceptions are made for younger children with prayerful discernment of parents with the pastor.

Classes will be held: March 8, 15 and 22 at 12:15 in the Sanctuary. Candidates will commune for the first time on Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 pm.



ChurchNext: Making sense of the Cross (Parts I, II, and III)

As Christians, we sometimes forget that our entire belief system is centered on a cross. This Lent, discover how an instrument of torture became a symbol of faith, hope and love. Learn how Christ's cross relates to your own crosses. Experience how death leads to new life.

Our video course leader is **Professor David Lose**, president of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP) and well known author. Take one part or all three parts online at your own pace. Perfect for your smart phone or tablet.

If you didn't get the registration email, please contact **Pastor Lou** to sign up. The classes will be available on line through



We pray for each other:

Adam Dworak, Sr.; Mary Key; Pat Motley; Katie Rios; Roger Schroeder; Joseph Simpkins; Dick Wright; Evelyn Wright.

We pray for our extended family:

Kathleen Alderman, sister of Karen Umberger; **Marie Anton**, mother of Ruth Schroeder; **Robert Barklay**, friend of the Florios; **Family and Friends of Betty Barnes**, friends of the Schwertfegers; **Ambrose Carroll**, friend of Charlie Bennett; **Adam Connor**, cousin of Paul Knabb; **Family & Friends of Frank Emerson**, friend of Judy Schwertfeger; **Jane Hood**, cousin of Marilyn Gunn; **Family & Friends of John Jones**, son-in-law of the Schwertfegers; **Russell Jones, Sr.**, father of Schwertfegers' friend; **Eleanor Martino**, friend of the Florios; **Family & Friends of Bruce Mason**, cousin of Marilyn Gunn; **The Rev. Larry Matthews**, former pastor of Messiah; **Mary Anne Modlin**, friend of Judy Schwertfeger; **The Rev. Samuel Mozolak**, father of Karen & Michael Morris; **Dianne Mraz; Ruby Pate**, friend of Judy Schwertfeger; **Annette Pfohl**, friend of Messiah; **Tarasia Remhoff**, friend of the Florios; **Bob Schaale**, friend of the Schwertfegers; **Tim Schroeder**, nephew of Roger; **Kathleen Schwertfeger**, mother of Charlie Schwertfeger; **Family & Friends of Nick Wightman**, father of Jean Wightman; **Family & Friends of Laura Wilmer**, step-sister of Vicar Amelie; **Family & Friends of Family and Friends of Andrew Wray**, cousin of Judy Schwertfeger; **Family & Friends of Claude Wright**, family of Gladys and Pat Hubert; **The People &**

Continued →



March 11 Bonnie Dworak
16 Chrisann Hatfield
20 Susie Weaver
21 Bee Newell
24 Lisa Ravizza
25 Judy Schwertfeger
27 Donna Shaw
29 Victoria Hatfield



March 5 Roger & Lois Schroeder
22 Tripp & Diane Dillard

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).

Pastor of All Souls, and our shared ministry; All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Pakistan.

And for those serving in the armed forces: **Michael Knepper 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.

March 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				

Calendar of events

- 1 Commemoration of George Herbert
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)
4:00 PM Pastor@Installation Service *
- 2 Commemoration of John & Charles
Wesley, Renewers of the Church
Read Across America Day/
Dr. Seuss' Birthday
Secretary Day Off
10:30 AM Worship at Hanover
Adult Center
11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
- 3 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
- 4 6:30 PM Soup Supper & Program:
"Priesthood of All Believers"
- 5 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 6 Pastor's Day Off
World Day of Prayer
- 7 "Spread the Word to End the Word" Day
Commemoration of Perpetua &
Companions, Martyrs
- 8 Daylight-Saving Time Begins
Girl Scout 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 Finance Team Mtg.
- 9 Martin Luther Awarded Bachelors in
Biblical Studies (1508)
11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
7:00 PM MCEF Meeting *
- 10 Commemoration of Harriet Tubman and
Sojourner Truth, Renewers of Society
Virginia Lutheran Items Due
7:30 AM Pastor@VCC *
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 11 6:30 PM Soup Supper & Program:
"Priesthood of All Believers"
- 12 Commemoration of Gregory the Great,
Bishop of Rome
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
6:30 PM Brownie Troop #557 Meeting
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 13 Pastor's Day Off
- 14 ACTS Class
Happy Pi Day!
1:30 PM Ordination & Installation
Service @ LCOS
- 15 Manna Sunday for MCEF
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)
- 16 11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
5:00 PM MCEF Pizza Night *
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
- 17 Commemoration of Patrick, Bishop &
Missionary
St. Patrick's Day
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 18 6:30 PM Soup Supper & Program:
"Priesthood of All Believers"
- 19 Feast of Joseph, Guardian of Jesus
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 20 First Day of Spring
Pastor's Day Off
- 21 Commemoration of Thomas Cranmer,
Bishop of Canterbury & Martyr
World Down Syndrome Day

- 22 Jonathan Edwards, Teacher & Missionary
 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)
- 23 11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
- 24 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
 6:00 PM Relay for Life
 Team Captain Mtg.
 7:00 PM Pastor@FLCV Meeting *
 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 25 Feast of the Annunciation & The Commemoration of St. Dismas
 6:30 PM Soup Supper & Program: "Priesthood of All Believers"
- 26 Pastor's Day Off
 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
 6:30 PM Brownie Troop #557 Meeting
 7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 27 5:00 PM Fish Fry & Bake
- 29 Commemoration of Hans Nielsen Hauge
 Palm 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)
- 30 11:40 AM & 3:30 PM School Chapel
 6:00 PM Holy Monday Service
 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #453 Meeting
- 31 Commemoration of John Donne, Poet
 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
 6:00 PM Holy Tuesday Service

* Off site

Lenten Guides available

Adult meditations (Take up your cross) and children activity (The Disciple Ship) for Lent have arrived! Check our welcome table over the coming weeks. (And don't forget our other year-round offerings for home use...)



Our annual fish fry and bake will be held Friday, March 27th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. All proceeds benefit Messiah's ministry. Please invite friends and neighbors. Take out or dine in as you please!

Questions? Willing to help? Contact **Kevin Hendrickson**.

Thank you

Our daughter and her family have truly known the meaning of family love and support, and for that, we thank everyone who expressed their sympathy and support during the recent and sudden loss of our son-in-law. For all those who expressed verbal sympathy, sent cards, or brought food, we thank you and feel blessed that we are among a caring congregation.

Charlie and Jury Schwerdtfeger



Daylight-Saving Time Begins
 March 8, 2015



Addie B. Jones Hartkopf, a charter member of Messiah, passed away Monday, February 16th at the age of 102.

Addie was quite active at Messiah until the time of her second marriage in 1993. It was then that she joined her husband's church. Yet even afterward, she maintained ties with friends here and her affection for Messiah's ministry never faded. Until her health declined, she even occasionally attended our Daily Discipleship Bible Study Group in 2008.

We entrust Addie to our savior's care, and we pray for the consolation of her family, friends and all who mourn.



Bursting with thanks!

During the extreme cold of February, our pipes froze and one traveling through our worship space burst. It was a blessing that Altar Gild member, **Donna Combs**, was on the job. She turned off the water to minimize damage. Others who responded: **Jake Addair**, the **Hendricksons** and **Drazenovichs**. There was little damage, and we were ready for services. Thanks for their quick response and work late into the night!



The waiting game

Life involves lots of waiting. We wait in groups, in lines, in cars. We wait for packages, for the bus, for the sun to rise. We wait in doctors' offices, at the post office, at the DMV. Waiting implies we're at someone else's mercy, but it's also usually linked to hope. Perhaps that's why Paul Tillich called waiting a metaphor for faith. Why would one wait if there weren't the firm belief that the object of one's wait will eventually materialize?

Waiting can be enervating, which is why Isaiah 40:31 is so promising: "They who

wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." Yet waiting is tough if you have nothing to do while waiting. That's why Jesus, when talking about waiting, also talked about working — work for the night is coming. Sometimes it's less tiring to work than it is to wait.

There's a lot of waiting during Lent. You're waiting for a payoff. You're waiting for the Resurrection. You're waiting for spiritual growth. And then you realize this isn't waiting at all. It's life. It's joy. It's opportunity. It's blessing.

—Timothy Merrill



New Eagle Scout project

Michael Habron has proposed creating a new outside worship space near the picnic area. It could be used for special worship events, youth groups, or even weddings. He presented his idea at the January council meeting, and it was enthusiastically approved. Stay tuned for more!



VBS announced

Save the date for when Messiah goes to new heights for our Vacation Bible School adventure. Join us August 10-14, 2015 for "Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power" by Group Publishing. An optional dinner will be served at 5:30 pm with activities starting at 6:00 pm. We'll climb down to base camp (home) by 8:00 pm. Climb on up Mt. Everest for adult bible study, children's crafts, songs, games and more. We're certain to have a cool time together this August. Don't miss it!



Bishop's visit: Finding Your Voice

What a fantastic turnout for the Richmond Conference Gathering of the Virginia Synod! Over 110 people of all ages attended the event on Sunday afternoon, February 22nd. We gathered to dialog with **Bishop James Mauney** and one another; to consider and share stories of faith. There was fellowship, a festive worship service, and a youth gathering to top off the night.

We give thanks to our brothers and sisters at Epiphany Lutheran for hosting us. Please plan to attend next year's gather-

Congratulations to Reformation Lutheran Church

The Rev. John Ericson has been called as pastor at Reformation Lutheran, Newport News. **Pastor Lou** will be preaching at his installation service on Sunday, March 1 at 4:00 pm.



Join Messiah on Facebook!



* Approximately 202 families were served at the Food Pantry in January. Items frequently purchased by MCEF for the pantry include cereal, oatmeal, canned chicken, tuna, fruit, baked beans, pasta and pasta sauce.

* Closet donations must be made at the appropriate church by calling ahead to determine their hours. Do not leave items on the doorstep of the church's closet. Clean items can also be bagged and labeled: adult clothing, men or women, teen clothing (size 14-16 youth to adult), children's clothing (size 5 through 12), infant clothing (newborn through 5T) and left in the MCEF box in the narthex.

* Hanover Concert Band will present a premier composition by Tony Garcia, director of the Jazz Studies Department at VCU on May 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Fairmount Christian Church. Food will be collected and all proceeds will benefit MCEF. Mark your calendars now.

* Watch for announcements for an MCEF fundraiser, "MCEF Community Olympics". Participation will be open to teams of 5, no age limit, watch for details as they become available. Then get your team together for a day of fun.

* Senior Rides Program is functioning well. There are currently 72 registered riders and 17 drivers. During the month of January, the program provided 36 rides to seniors and accounted for almost 400 miles driven. It is very rewarding for the volun-

Hanover Habitat open house re-scheduled

Due to complications by the weather, the open house is now on Sunday, March 8th. Come by and see a new Habitat home anytime between 12:00 – 4:00 pm. A groundbreaking ceremony for a build and a new home dedication ceremony will also be held at 2:00 pm. **Pastor Lou** has been asked to preside at the groundbreaking.

Praise the Lord!

We are well on our way to helping our brother, **Joseph Simpkins**, regain his independence. He has obtained meaningful employment regarding the Virginia Department of Transportation's call center. Joseph began his job in February. He should be moving into permanent housing in March. Thanks to all those who have provided some wonderful job leads, especially of late. Also, we give thanks to God for all the generous folks who have been supporting our efforts to house him through our benevolence fund over these many months.

The Rev. Larry Matthews

We wish to advise you that The Rev. Larry Matthews, a former pastor of Messiah, has been diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing treatment. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. For those interested, you can contact him and his family or receive regular updates regarding his progress through his Caring Bridge page: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/larrymatthews>

“Take the plunge”

Volunteer Opportunities
from your Social Ministry team

- **Villa Pals Mentoring** – Be a "game changer" for a child in your community! Villa Pals Mentoring is a unique opportunity to be a role model and positive influence for a child in a school setting. You will be matched with a student from one of our schools at St. Joseph's Villa and you will spend 30 minutes to an hour per week for about a year. Mentoring increases attendance, self esteem, academic performance, and overall improves social skills. The mission of St. Joseph's Villa is to provide children with special needs and their families the opportunity to succeed through innovative and effective services. Address: 8000 Brook Road, Richmond, VA, 23227. For more information contact: <http://neverstopbelieving.org/>
- **PAWS to R.E.A.D** - Mission of Sprite's HERO, Inc. – To improve and enrich the literacy skills of children through the individual assistance of registered Reading Education Assistance Dogs® and handlers (R.E.A.D.® teams) as literacy mentors. We are looking for more volunteer teams to allow us to expand into more Richmond area schools, libraries and after-school programs to reach more children currently reading below grade level. Volunteers need to have well-mannered dogs who currently are or would make good therapy dogs. Our information sessions for prospective volunteers provide you the details regarding how to become a working therapy dog team and then a registered R.E.A.D. team. Our elementary school visits are 1 ½ to 2 hours weekly with the same children throughout the school year. Our library visits are evenings and weekends once per month. Other community service organizations

are interested in having R.E.A.D. teams visit once we have enough volunteers. Volunteers also assist with fund raising, special events, community marketing, special presentations, and volunteer information sessions. Volunteers are required to take a free, online autism course through VCU in addition to therapy and R.E.A.D. training. For more information contact: <http://www.spriteshero.org/>

- **Volunteer- Feline Helper- Animal Control** - Volunteer will visit with the cats and kittens to help socialize, care, comfort, pet, brush or simply provide some “lap time”. This may include cleaning of cages and feeding animals under supervision of kennel staff. Location is at Taylor Complex, Ashland, VA, Virginia. For more information contact: [http://www.hanovercounty.gov/SO/Animal Control Volunteer Manual and Application.pdf](http://www.hanovercounty.gov/SO/Animal%20Control%20Volunteer%20Manual%20and%20Application.pdf)



- “Faith is not believing that God can, but that God will.”
- —Abraham Lincoln

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Inclement weather?

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

The DEADLINE for the
April, 2015
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, March 22nd

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

Messiah on Pinterest



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