

The MESSENGER

August
2016



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

AUGUST 2016

Cave Quest VBS!

Cave Quest VBS is here!
Our Vacation Bible School is for all ages and runs Monday through Thursday, August 8-11. Optional dinner is at 5:30 pm. Program begins at 6:10 pm. We plan to end each day by 8:00 pm as in past years.

VBS is a time to dig into scripture and get to know our neighbors better, all while having fun. Registration forms for those in pre-school through fifth grade are available on our welcome table or download one at MessiahMech.com. Adults don't need to register. Just come any day your available for our daily skit and Bible study group. It was very well attended last year, and we hope for a repeat of that experience. Can't come? Study along at home:

Day 1 – Jesus gives us hope – Prophets foretell the light of the world (John 1:1-18; Isaiah 9:2)

Day 2 – Jesus gives us courage – Jesus and Peter walk on water (Matthew 14:22-36)

Day 3 – Jesus gives us direction – Jesus sheds light on how to live (Matthew 5-7)

Day 4 – Jesus gives us love – Jesus dies and comes back to life (Luke 23:1-24:12)

Closing – Jesus gives us his power – The ascension of Jesus & Great Commission – Acts 1:1-11

Cave Quest Help!



Our VBS team could use your help. We need props for use in skits and decorations fitting our 2016 theme – caving and/or camping. If you have items you think might fit, please email Pastor Lou (pastor@mlcas.org).

We also need teens and adults to escort groups from station to station and assist youth as needed as they play games and work on crafts. No preparation needed. Please sign up at our welcome table or contact our director, Kristine Florio, through our office (MessiahMech@gmail.com).

Last but not least, we need assistance with our decorations, both set-up and take down. Set up will be Sunday, August 7th, following our 10:45 am service. Take down will be at approximately 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 11th.

A look inside....

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The Messenger

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VISIT OUR MLC WEBSITE:
<http://www.messiahmech.com>

Don't forget

Please continue to support our shared ministry as you travel and enjoy any summer respite. Our work serving the community continues all year long! Online giving – one time gifts or as repeated donations scheduled by you – is now available at <https://messiahmech.com/stewardshipdonate/>

Second Summer Sermon Series

Saint Paul reminds us over and over again that our salvation came at great price, and we should live in a way that gives thanks. Along with our own repentant life, this means reaching out to those still imprisoned by sin and death as well as comforting those who suffer. Focusing on Paul's "prison epistles" and imagery, we will reflect upon both our new freedom and the call which comes with it. How can remembering our chains open our hearts toward God and others? We began our sermon series, Remembering Our Chains, on Sunday, July 31st. Join us this August for more.

Your 2016 Church Council And Associate Members

Laura Harris Council President
Rev. Howard Thime ... Vice-President
Sally Bennett Secretary

Sharon Addair **Paula Barwick**
Steve Gilnett **Dean Gustafson**
Jon Koeppen **Susie Weaver**

Council Liaisons

Christian Education **Jon Koeppen**
 Evangelism **Dean Gustafson**
 Fellowship **Rev. Thime**
 Finance **Paula Barwick**
 Property **Steve Gilnett**
 School Board **Susie Weaver**
 Social Ministry **Sharon Addair**
 Stewardship **Laura Harris**
 Worship **Sally Bennett**

Paula Barwick ... Treasurer
Bill Weaver... Financial Secretary
Sue Gilnett, RN... Parish Nurse

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



Starting July 3rd, Sunday sermons can now be found on-line on Messiah-Mech.com, our Facebook page, and our MessiahMech YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2fCNdhDR_Ey20lQjswitw. We hope this helps support members who due to a scheduling conflict or on a regular basis cannot attend our service along with folks far and wide we don't even know yet.



Pastor's Letter

May I have a word, please.

*So shall my word be that goes out from
my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I
purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I
sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)*

God created all that is with a word. When the world lost its way, he sent his living Word, Jesus Christ, his beloved son. Through him, we have redemption and access to an abundant, eternal life. Because of him, we learned that God can be described with one word. As John teaches, God is love (1 John 4:8).

For over twenty years, a generation, Messiah members have generously supported Messiah Lutheran School. Over that time period, our varied staff members taught children many words. Among the most important were those relating to Jesus Christ. Weekly in formal chapel, in daily classroom study, service and play, they learned about love. They experienced what it means to be loved and to love.

In my eight plus years here, I have seen remarkable things. This particular ministry didn't get us many new members, yet it was meant to be an offering, not a membership drive. It did at times help us financially, but for the most part, we shared the love that we have with others sometimes with great sacrifice. We assisted some children make sense of their world when love was lacking or there was abuse. We helped families during loss of jobs or loss of loved ones. We offered care for those suffering severe developmental disabilities and fami-

lies who struggled to earn their daily bread. Scholarships were utilized to help kids stay in school when parents couldn't manage, and food was sent home at times when people didn't have enough. We supported families at time of birth and adoption, and we offered counseling to those who struggled to remain a family.

All the while, we worked with our families to provide the best learning environment possible. We shared in efforts to make the world a better place through St. Jude's Trike-A-Thon, Operation Christmas Child, MCEF, and more. Together, we struggled to make love known – to make Christ present – in our world and accomplish the work set before us. On our way, we made many friends.

Like many of you, I'm going to miss the children who have been entrusted to our care. Their laughs and tears brought life to this building. I will grieve the loss of Messiah Lutheran School with many. Yet, I don't think the time with our school should be regretted. God's word is still at work in the lives we have touched. The time for this ministry might have passed, might have seemed all too short, but it has succeeded accomplishing what God wanted. It had its season, and our love was not wasted. Our love is never wasted. It has changed the world whether we realize it or not; whether we see all the results or not.

Now as a community, we say goodbye to some faithful employees and friends. We have many good memories to sustain us amidst any grief. Yet, I also wonder, where will God send us now as a congregation? Where will we be sent next to share God's Living Word? I don't know yet, but I'm sure God will make it clear to us. I trust his Word is still on the move, and I know the world is still in need of such love.

Christ's peace,
Pastor Lou



Stewardship help needed

Most of the time when people think of Stewardship within the church they think it is all about pledge drives and asking for money. It may surprise you, but it is not. Stewardship is also about sharing the principles of giving time, talent, and treasure.

We are looking for some individuals who would be interested in helping finding information to share, organize temple talks, etc for the 3rd Sunday of each month during the service. There could be an opportunity to organize workshops or gatherings outside of the worship service as well.

If you would be interested in helping with this please contact **Laura Harris** by email, phone, or leave a note in the Stewardship mailbox outside of the office.

Messiah School News

The last month of our school program is bringing fun activities to the children in our care. Among other things, there are field trips to Kings Dominion, Pump it Up, Children's Museum, Yorktown Beach, slip-n-slides, and splashing in the pools, just to name a few. The heat doesn't bother us, because there are always cool things to do. VBS is coming soon, and many of these children will be participating. Thanks to our staff members, both past and present for giving the children not only a summer to remember but 21 years of love and Christian teaching.

Quarterly Worship Team Meeting

The next Worship Team quarterly meeting will be held in the sanctuary on August 21st, right after our regular service. All are invited!



Make a **Joyful
Noise**

Due to availability issues, our choirs will be combining for the foreseeable future. We will continue to alternate between the traditional and blended liturgical music. If you would like to lend you voice to the choir, please contact **Pat Hubert, Donna Shaw**, or **Sally Bennett**, as listed in your directory. They will begin to regularly practice again as August comes to an end.

With Christian sympathy...

It is with great sadness that we announced the news of **Kathy Honan's** death from cancer on Friday, 24 June 2016. Geoffrey sends his thanks for our prayers and concrete signs of support during her illness.

Kathy served the community as a librarian. The family requests that in lieu of flowers or other gifts, please consider donating in her memory to your local library or buy a child a book in her memory. Please continue to hold her family and friends in your prayers.



We pray for each other:

Charlie Absher; Adam Dworak, Sr.; Pat Motley; Rev. Howard Thime; Dick & Evelyn Wright.

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Linda Barnes-Depuy, daughter of Joan Barnes; **Diane Beverly**, friend of the Florios; **Julie Brown**, family member of Jean Wightman; **Virginia Collie**, Johnnie Collie's mother; **Ethan Hamilton**, grandson of the Meyers, former members; **Courtney Hilliard**, friend of the Whirleys; **Friends & Family of Kathy Honan**; **Robert Johnson**, brother-in-law of the DiGrazias; **Luna Krystal**, friend of the Whirleys; **Pat Lewis**, friend of the Whirleys; **Sam Markovich**, Kristine Florio's father; **Shawn Maxey**, cousin of Jason Harris; **Grayson Mooney**, great-nephew of Marilyn Gunn; **Bobby Moyer**, brother of Judy Schwerdtfeger; **The Rev. Samuel Mozolak**, father of Karen & Michael Morris; **Annette Pfohl**, friend of Messiah; **Jordan Powers**, great-nephew of the Whirleys; **Ed Promin**, relative of Marilyn Gunn; **Mary Saunders**; **Tim Schroeder**, nephew of Roger; **Lorna Snook**, mother-in-law of Jeffrey Weaver (Susen); **Friends & Family of Janice (Thomas) Wainwright**; **Betty Watts**, friend of the Whirleys; **Linda White**, friend of Brian Glusing; Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families, especially **Andrew Addair & LJ Spray**; **The People & Pastor of All Souls**, and our shared ministry; **All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Djibouti, Laos, Malaysia, & Tajikistan.**

To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the church office, 746-7134.



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



August 9 **Graham & Kristin Andrist**
11 **Johnnie & Becky Collie**

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

Thank you...

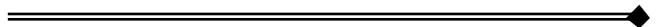
- **Marilyn Gunn** and **Carol Sutton-Abair** for heading up the All Souls-Messiah Pot Luck Picnic
- **Jake Addair** and **Dean Gustafson**, and all those on our property team who have been addressing our damaged roof
- Our school board for working so hard; countless hours over the past year and more: **Erna Jung, Julie Mielke, Donna Shaw, Diana Sondor, and Susie Weaver.**

August 2016						
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 10:30 AM Worship at Hanover Adult Center
- 2 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
- 3 6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
- 4 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
- 5 Pastor's Day Off
Secretary Summer Schedule-Off on Fri.
- 6
- 7 Sermon Series:
Remembering our chains
9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal)
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC)
12 noon VBS Workday
- 8 5:30 PM CaveQuest VBS
(Youth & Adult)
- 9 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
5:30 PM CaveQuest VBS
- 10 Virginia Lutheran Items Due
5:30 PM CaveQuest VBS
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
- 11 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
5:30 PM CaveQuest VBS
- 12 Pastor's Day Off
Secretary Summer Schedule-Off on Fri.
- 13 Commemoration of Florence Nightingale & Clara Maass, Renewers of Society
- 14 Commemoration of Maximilian Kolbe & Kaj Munk, Martyrs
Local Remembrance: Jonathan Daniels
Sermon Series:
Remembering our chains
9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal)
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC)
- 15 Commemoration of Mary, Mother of Our Lord
- 16 Local Remembrance: Br. Roger of Taizé'
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 17 6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
- 18 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 19 Pastor's Day Off
Secretary Summer Schedule-Off on Fri.
- 20 Commemoration of Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux
- 21 Manna Sunday
Sermon Series:
Remembering our chains
9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal)
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC)
12:00 PM Worship Team Meeting.
- 22
- 23 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
- 24 Commemoration of Bartholomew, Apostle
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
- 25 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Practice
- 26 Pastor's Day Off
Secretary Summer Schedule-Off on Fri.
6:00 PM MLS Summer Program Ends - School Closes
- 27 MCEF Olympics *
- 28 Commemoration of Augustine, Bishop of Hippo
Sermon Series:
Remembering our chains
9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal)
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC)
- 29 6:15 PM Mutual Ministry Meeting
- 30 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
- 31 6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)

* Off site



An important message from our treasurer

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Last December, our congregation approved a deficit budget. We knew it would be a challenge, but we also knew God has consistently provided for our shared ministry during our past financial shortages. We anticipate God will continue to do so through your generosity and the Lord's continued providence.

Still, we have tended to run into severe financial shortages over the past several summers as people are away. In the past, we have been blessed to have major donations help us through these lean times, but we cannot expect such generosity each year. There is no easy way to tell you that we are once again experiencing a significant financial hardship this summer which requires immediate action from every member of our congregation. Please ask God, "What can I do to help?" and then listen for His answer. We need approximately \$20,000 to get us back into good financial health. This will require thinking outside of the box! Here are a few ideas:

1. This is a great time of the year for yard sales! Consider clearing out some items you have that you no longer need or want and have a yard sale and then donate the money from the sales to the church.
2. Host an in-home party or book show! Many door-to-door sales people will donate a portion of their profits from the sales that come as a result of you hosting a party in your home or a book party (Avon, Mary Kay, Tupperware, Tastefully Simple, Pampered Chef, etc.) This is a charitable cause for the sales people and many of them look for chances like these to reduce their tax liability!

3. If you are savvy with the internet, you can post items for sale or auction on e-Bay, etc. Donate the money from the sales of those items to the church.

4. Obviously, if you are in a position to donate a monetary gift to the church or to increase your normal giving amount, please ask God to dictate the amount you should donate. On-line gifts can be made at MessiahMech.com, or drop off or mail your contributions at any time.

5. If you have a lot of items that are worth more than what you would get from a yard sale, consider an auction house.

Again, this need is immediate and can only be solved by each one of us getting into individual conversations with God and asking for His assistance in guiding us to the correct action to take. Praying that someone else will take care of the problem is not the solution - everyone can do something. It's just a matter of listening for God's guidance once we have enlisted His help.

Our next quarterly insurance payments are due in a couple of weeks. We also need to meet payroll expenses every other week, and we are also in arrears to the Virginia Synod for all of our 2016 proportionate benevolence share. These are very real challenges, but we also have a very real God who loves us. We remain a healthy, happy, vibrant congregation by many other markers than money. With faith, hope and love along with perhaps a little creativity - working together - God will see us through. Thank you for your past and continued faithfulness!

On behalf of your Finance Team
and Council,

Paula Barwick, Acting Treasurer

“Take the Plunge”

Volunteer Opportunities
from Social Ministry



- **Sibling Center Activity Assistant – Ronald McDonald House**

The Ronald McDonald House Charities provides a home-away-from-home and other support services for critically ill children and their families. Through a partnership with VCU Health and the Child Development Center, The Ronald McDonald House Sibling Center is located in the Children’s Pavilion at VCU. The Sibling Center is a place for parents to check in their well-siblings in order to focus on the care of the patient. We are looking for dedicated, adult volunteers to engage siblings checked into the Sibling Center with age appropriate activities. If you are a student, please visit vcuhealth.org/volunteers for more information about student programs. The Ronald McDonald House Sibling Center is open from 7:45 am to 5:15 pm Monday through Friday so day time availability is required. Volunteers will commit to a 3 hour shift weekly. For more information contact Diana Villarreal, 804 355-6517 or go to <http://www.rmhc-richmond.org/>.

- **Friendly Visitor – Visiting Volunteers, A Service of Family Lifeline**

Give not only your time but your heart! Be a friend to someone who needs a friend and have fun while you do it! Family Lifeline's Visiting Volunteers Program needs volunteers to provide weekly friendly visits to older adults and persons with disabilities experiencing loneliness and isolation. There is always paperwork, but it's painless: a simple application packet and background check. Family Lifeline staff provides training and on-going support. When you visit is flexible and up to you and your "Friend." However, since you

Friend needs time to get to know you and build a bond, we ask you commit to visiting with your Friend for a year. Volunteers visit in their friend's home. This can be anywhere within the Richmond Metro area, though we strive to make matches within 10 miles of the volunteer's home. Many of our volunteers report getting as much as they give. For more information call Volunteer Manager, 804 249-9343 or go to <http://www.familylifeline.org/>.

- **RVA Peace Festival Support Staff - Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond**

The RVA Peace Festival, on Sept. 10, 2016 from 8am – 5pm, is looking to expand its team of peacemakers! We are looking for men, women, teens, and families to assist. Sign up to help festival-goers with parking, lead arts & crafts for kids, help vendors set-up, assist entertainers, and more! All while learning and expanding your awareness of other cultures and faiths! Lend a hand and witness an intermingling of faiths and cultures to help promote peace in Richmond! 3-hour volunteer shifts are available throughout the day. Select your shift using this link: <http://vols.pt/t8a4oD>. Individuals under age 16 must volunteer with an adult. We're making peace in Richmond by celebrating many cultures and faiths---please join us! For additional information call 804-366-8324.



MCEF highlights

- **MCEF Olympics** Are you ready? Get your team registered now for the 2nd Annual Community Olympics, to be held Saturday, August 27th, 8:30 am-12:30 pm. Teams of five compete in 5 fun events: Frisbee toss, crazy relay, ladder ball, basketball free throws and corn hole toss. The event will be hosted by New Highland Baptist Church, 9200 New Ashcake Rd. All proceeds benefit MCEF's food pantry and other services to our local community. See the website for team forms, volunteer forms (yes, we will need volunteers to help with the games!), and sponsorship forms, 4mcef.com. Lunch will be provided for all participants and volunteers. Contact **Pat Hubert** for more information.
- **Fourth annual 9-11 concert** to benefit MCEF food pantry featuring the John Marshall Alumni Band will be held Sunday, Sept 11, 7:00 p.m. at Walnut Grove Baptist Church (on Cold Harbor Road near Lee-Davis Road). Suggested admission is \$2 and 2 cans of food for the pantry. This is also celebrating MCEF's 40th anniversary.
- **NEWS!!** MCEF's advisory board has approved a plan to take a proposal to congregations to consolidate all of MCEF services under one roof, a ONE STOP SHOP!! This includes the food pantry, clothing closets for adults, teens, children and infants, linen closet and the Hanover Senior Rides program as well as the MCEF office.

Reformation 500 Book Store Coming

Messiah will be participating in Augsburg Fortress' Reformation 500 Book Store to help mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this fall. We'll have many books on the subject on display for you to look at and order at discount. Messiah will be gifted the sample books by Augsburg Fortress just for holding the sale. Look for the sale to start on September 11th, our Rally Day. It will be held for two weeks.

"Say it with Flowers!"



The process is actually quite simple:

- Pick an empty date on the chart and write your name.
- Make your check for \$31 payable to "**Messiah Lutheran Church**" with the word "**Flowers**" on the outside of the **Envelope**, and place it in the offering plate. OR Instead of paying by check, make an additional online donation through MessiahMech (indicate the donation is for flowers in the appropriate, available field.)
- Please pay for your flowers at least **2 weeks in advance**, or they cannot be ordered.
- If you would rather make a general donation for altar flowers to help ensure that we have fresh flowers on the altar weekly (except for Lent), as needed for vacant Sundays, follow the directions above, but instead write "**line-item altar flowers**" on the **Memo** line on your check and on the outside of the **Envelope** or pay online as above.

Following this procedure will ensure that you are credited with contributing flowers either way on the end-of-the-year statement.



Join Messiah on Facebook!

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111



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Community garden



From our friends at All Souls: Please join us on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm to work in the garden. We are harvesting summer produce of cabbage, turnips, beets, string beans, and soon, cucumbers, tomatoes, and squash. As of June 28, over 250 pounds of fresh produce has been taken to local food banks. The garden will start producing more now that the summer garden is coming in, and we really need your help! We are always in need of people to weed, wash and package produce, and make deliveries to the food banks served.

Location: All Souls' Atlee House, 9077 Atlee Rd.

The DEADLINE for the
September, 2016
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, August 21st

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



Messiah on Pinterest

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