

# The MESSENGER



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

OCTOBER 2016

Our popular craft fair & more returns on  
**Saturday, October 8,**  
**9:00 am – 2:00 pm:**



**Food, games, crafts for sale, kids activities, live music and more –**  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm



**Silent Auction:** A shirt signed by NASCAR drivers **Michael McDowell, Clint Bowyer,** and **Kenny Schrader**), **2 Miss Sprint Cup, President of Richmond International Raceway,** and **Sullivan Stapleton** from NBC'S hit TV show "The Blacklist."



**Wild Earth Encounters: FREE exotic animals show** – Encounter the Creator and experience wildlife and science in a whole new way. – 11:00 am  
[wildearthencounters.com](http://wildearthencounters.com)

The event is FREE to attend. Come out and enjoy the day with us!

**Special invitation cards** for friends & neighbors AND those for vendors (still needed) are in a basket in the narthex. Please take some and help to promote CreationFest 2016. Thanks!

**Pet Blessing** – All of God's creatures are welcome. (Please properly restraint or crate all pets for their safety and the safety of others.) – 1:00 pm



**Bake sale:** . Proceeds will benefit our Foster Children Christmas Gifts program.

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*The Messenger*

Published monthly by  
**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church ELCA**  
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VISIT OUR MLC WEBSITE:  
<http://www.messiahmech.com>

**Your 2016 Church Council  
And Associate Members**

**Laura Harris** ..... Council 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**  
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.**

**New office hours**

**Davina Winn**, our Administrative Assistant, will be staffing our office during the following hours:

Monday – Thursday, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm



**Donna Rodgers**, a former member of Messiah, died on Thursday, September 1st. Many at Messiah remember Donna as an enthusiastic volunteer, loving wife and mother, joyful singer/soloist, and a dedicated crafter. Donna and her husband Tom moved back to their beloved Marion, VA, some years ago. Donna had three children: Lori, Anisa, and David. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the family at [www.seaverbrown.com](http://www.seaverbrown.com). Anyone interested in personally contacting her children may contact **Donna Shaw** for the addresses.



**OKTOBERFEST**

Potluck Dinner

Join us for our Reformation Sunday service on

**Sunday, October 30th at 10:45 am,**  
then stay for our pot luck celebration.

Bring your German inspired dish or other favorite food to share.

Pastor's Letter

## “Reformation 500” has begun

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

It is always a great time to be a Lutheran Christian, but it is especially so this coming year. The world will be celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of his 95 Theses in 1517 from October 31, 2016 through October 31, 2017. This initial critique of the medieval Roman Catholic Church ignited a theological firestorm – what became known as the Reformation. The initial hope was to reform the church and preserve unity. Soon persecution and politics interfered, and Luther's followers became known as the very first Protestants (protesting errors of the church).

Some more conservative Roman Catholic believers still call the event the Protestant Revolt, and indeed, a series of religious wars and persecutions did follow. Yet, along with a new spring for Christ's church blown in by God's grace, historians note many positive reforms beyond religion. Universities, government, the law, and economic structures all benefitted.

A number of Luther's proposals were eventually accepted by the Roman Catholic Church in the 20th Century as seen within their own Vatican II reforms of the 1950s and beyond. Since then, ongoing dialog between Roman Catholics and Lutherans has resulted in forward movement toward reconciliation, and yes, even shared communion. It isn't unusual to hear Martin Luther's name mentioned in a positive light in Roman Catholic worship. In fact, the Vatican recently named a public square after him.

This October, the world celebration kicks off in Lund, Sweden, where the Lutheran World Federation was founded in 1947. Pope Francis, together with leaders of the

Lutheran World Federation and representatives of other Christian Churches, will share in a special, televised worship service on October 31st.

I anticipate we might have more visitors over the coming year, and we at Messiah hope to offer you and our community many opportunities to better understand our Lutheran form of Christianity. Within our newsletter, you will find a list of resources to start your own exploration. (See page 4) I hope you will take advantage of them. In fact, I hope you will invite your coworkers, neighbors, friends and family to do so as well.

Christ's peace be with you,  
**Pastor Lou**



## Church council: It's that time again

*The members of the Congregational Council (except the pastor(s)) shall be elected at a legally called meeting of the congregation during the month of November/ December.*

- Constitution,  
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

Yes, it's that time of year again. There will be several vacancies on the Church Council that will need to be filled for 2017.

If you are interested in serving in this valuable leadership role and would like more information about it, you can talk with any present Council member or **Pastor Lou**.

## Initial Reformation 500 Resources

**Augsburg Fortress Book Fair** – Order Reformation related books for all age levels in our welcome area through October 9<sup>th</sup>!

**From Conflict to Communion** – The groundbreaking study booklet published by Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church will be posted for download on our website and Facebook page, or call our office for help. Our Sunday school adult forum will review this booklet starting October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:15 am.

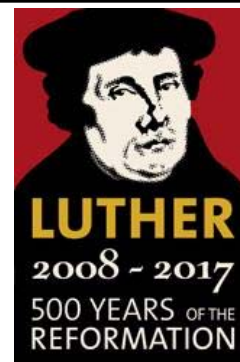
**SparkHouse Book Fair** – Coming soon to Messiah with children’s books!

**ELCA commemorative website** – [elca500.org](http://elca500.org)

**LCMS commemorative website** – [LutheranReformation.com](http://LutheranReformation.com)

**Evangelical Church of Germany** - [Luther2017.de/en](http://Luther2017.de/en)

**Lutheran World Federation 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly** – Runs from May 10-May 16, 2017. Visit [LutheranWorld.org](http://LutheranWorld.org) to learn all about it and follow its progress. They also have a Facebook page and Twitter account.



**“Road to the Reformation” Facebook Page** – sponsored by Fortress press

**Luther 500 Festival (Germany)** – Check out [Luther500Festival.com](http://Luther500Festival.com)

**PlayMobil Martin Luther** – The fastest selling PlayMobil figure in history is available from [Concordia.com](http://Concordia.com) and other sellers for \$9.99.

**Best Lutheran Related Book List** on GoodReads.com – Find a good book, rate some, or add you’re your own favorite(s) to the list: [https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/12277.Best\\_Lutheran\\_Related\\_Books](https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/12277.Best_Lutheran_Related_Books)

**Lutheran publishing houses** – [AugsburgFortress.org](http://AugsburgFortress.org) (sponsored by the ELCA) or [CPH.org](http://CPH.org) (sponsored by the LCMS)

More to come!

## I’m clean!

Church reformer Martin Luther once had a nightmare about being judged by the devil. From a scroll, Satan was reading all the sins Luther had ever committed.

“What hope of heaven do you have as a miserable sinner?” the devil accused.

Feeling despondent, Luther remembered the cross. “There’s one entry which thou

hast not made, Satan,” he said.

When the devil inquired about it, Luther responded confidently: “The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7, KJV).

Praise God that he sent Jesus to be our Deliverer (Psalm 18:2) so we are no longer held hostage by Satan’s accusations!

### 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:

**Ashley Allen**, granddaughter of the Whirleys; **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 and family of **Reena Jadav**; **Robert Johnson**, brother-in-law of the Di-Grazias; **Luna Krystal** and **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; **The Rev. Samuel Mozolak**, father of Karen & Michael Morris; **Annette Pfohl**, friend of Messiah; **Jordan Powers**, great-nephew of the Whirleys; **Ed Promin & Janet Promin**, relatives of Marilyn Gunn; Friends and family of **Donna Rodgers**; **Tim Schroeder**, nephew of Roger; **Lorna Snook**, mother-in-law of Jeffrey Weaver (Susen); **Friends & Family of Donna Trimmer**, friend of the Schwerdtfegers; **Betty Watts**, friend of the Whirleys; **Dorothy Wells**, friend of the Schwerdtfegers; **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 Tanzania, Algeria, Bhutan, Comoros, & Mexico .**

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



- October 5 **Steve Shaw**  
 6 **Darren Williams**  
 9 **Becky Collie**  
 14 **Christine Starret**  
 16 **Debbie Walker**  
 18 **Mike Knepper**  
 23 **Donna Combs**  
 30 **Andrew Addair**



- October 7 **Charlie & Judy Schw erdtfeger**  
 12 **Dean Gustafson & Beth Carpenter**  
 22 **John & Jenn Drazenovich**  
 25 **Jeff (& Susen) Weaver**  
 28 **James & Tracey Anderson**

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



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



October 2016						
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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 9:00 AM ACTS Class: Biblical Models of Leadership \*
- 2 "Raise the Roof Tickets" Due  
World Communion Sunday  
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 10:30 AM Worship at Hanover Adult Center
- 4 Commemoration of Francis of Assisi, Renewer of the Church and Theodor Fliedner, Renewer of Society  
9:30 AM Richmond Conference Mtg.  
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
- 5 6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
- 6 Commemoration of William Tynsdale  
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study \*  
7:00 PM Choir Practice  
7:00 PM World Habitat Day Prayer Event \*
- 7 Church Office Closed on Fridays  
Commemoration of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Pastor  
Pastor's Day Off
- 8 Katie Von Bora becomes a nun (1515)  
9:00 AM CreationFest: Craft fair, pet blessing & more  
9:00 AM Leadership Program for Musicians \*
- 9 Reformation 500 Bookstore (Ends)  
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)
- 10 Columbus Day  
Virginia Lutheran Items Due
- 11 7:30 AM Pastor @ VCC Mtg. \*  
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 12 6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)  
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Mtg.
- 13 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study \*  
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 14 Church Office Closed on Fridays  
Pastor's Day Off
- 15 Commemoration of Teresa of Avila  
8:00 AM Over the Edge for Special Olympics \*  
9:00 AM Sack Hunger Event
- 16 World Food 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)  
3:00 PM Conference Mtg. - Bishop Transition \*
- 17 Commemoration of Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch & Martyr
- 18 Feast of Luke, Evangelist  
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 19 Martin Luther Receives Doctorate (1512)  
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
- 20 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study \*  
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 21 Church Office Closed on Fridays  
Martin Luther Accepted to Wittenberg Faculty (1512)  
Pastor's Day Off
- 22
- 23 Commemoration of James of Jerusalem, Bishop & Martyr  
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)
- 24
- 25 10:30 AM Pastor @LFS Board Mtg.  
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study (POSTPONED TO 10/26)  
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

- 26 Commemoration of Philip Nicolai,  
Johann Heermann, & Paul Gerhardt,  
Hymnwriters  
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)  
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Mtg.
- 27 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study \*  
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 28 Church Office Closed on Fridays  
Feast of Simon & Jude, Apostles  
Pastor's Day Off
- 29 9:00 AM ACTS Class: Biblical Models of  
Leadership \*
- 30 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)
- 31 Reformation Day  
4:00 PM Trunk or Treat

\* Off site



## Trunk or Treat

Our second annual Trunk or Treat event is tentatively being scheduled for this coming Halloween, Monday, October 31st at 4:00 pm.

If you can participate (decorate your vehicle and pass out candy), please let **Pastor Lou or Kevin Hendrickson** know. Look for more information in our upcoming bulletins.



## “Raise the Roof” Raffle

Prizes:

**1st** – \$250 Home Depot Card

**2nd** – Wendell August Forge “Amish Barn raising” Hostess Tray

**3rd** – Amish inspired food basket.

Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10.  
Contact our office or see us on Sundays to purchase your tickets.

All proceeds go toward the Faith Build.

## Faith Build has begun!

Thanks to all those who helped us “Raise the Roof” this Rally Day, especially our special guest, **Linda Tiller**, Executive Director of Hanover Habitat. She thanked Messiah for our active involvement in Hanover Habitat as a Covenant Congregation. She also shared information of Faith Build, an effort by the faith community of Hanover County to finance and build a Habitat home from start to finish.

To learn more about the program, check out the official campaign video highlighting Messiah Lutheran’s involvement on our website’s “Updates” page.

Stay tuned for our upcoming build day to be announced soon in our Sunday bulletin. We hope you can participate!

## “Take the Plunge”

Volunteer Opportunities  
from Social Ministry



### Volunteer Officer of Elections – Hanover County

This is a sworn appointment by the Hanover County Electoral Board. The volunteer enforces and safe guards the election process by the Virginia Code § 24.2 to ensure a fair and impartial election. This will include but not limited to:

- Assisting in certifying the number of votes cast at the precinct
- Attending all required training
- Demonstrating voting equipment
- Issuing ballots to voter
- Setting up and closing the polls

The Hanover County Electoral Board is responsible for conducting elections in our county. The County of Hanover currently operates 37 voting precincts. Approximately 200 election officials serve during each election held in the county representing the Democratic and Republican parties. Election officials must provide their own transportation to and from the polls on Election Day.

To become an Officer of Election in Hanover County, you must:

- Be a United States citizen
- Be a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Be 18 years old by the next general election
- Have had your voting rights restored if you have ever been convicted of a felony
- Have had your capacity restored if you have ever been declared mentally incapacitated in a Circuit Court.

Those appointed must be:

- Qualified voter of the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Committed to the electoral process
- Available to serve the entire time the polls are open on Election Day

Hours: 5.00 a.m. until the last ballot is counted. The polls are open from 6.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. All election officials must report to the polls at 5:00 a.m. and remain until results are reported to the Hanover County Electoral Board after the polls close at 7:00 p.m.

Location:

Every effort is made to assign election officials to a polling place in which they vote or as close to their home as possible.

Training:


Election officials are required to attend instructional training prior to each election to receive the most up-to-date information available to assist them in their duties at the polls. No special education or experience necessary. We will train you. Training sessions are held in the month prior to each election. The General Registrar staff will schedule you to attend a training session.

For more information call: 804-365-6075

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

It's intriguing to think of people in Bible times experiencing the same cycle of seasons we do. Which of these books *doesn't* mention autumn?

- A. Matthew
- B. Jeremiah
- C. Proverbs
- D. Jude



Answer: A (See Proverbs 20:4; ESV; Jeremiah 5:24; Jude 1:12.)





## Messiah Lutheran School: Final farewell

On September 4, 1995 Messiah Lutheran School opened its doors to serve the children of God. The MLS mission has been to invest in the lives of children and their families by providing a quality education and to offer them a strong Christian foundation for their future. The MLS philosophy has been to provide a safe place where children could grow and develop, feel welcomed and valued, all in an atmosphere that was lovingly accepting, wisely guiding, and consistently faithful.

Over the school's 21-years of service we have cared for and educated close to a 1000 families. We are forever grateful to the directors, assistant directors, coordinators, teachers, staff, and families who have been a part of our mission throughout these many years. Their gifts and talents enriched our program and forever touched the lives of those they served.

The building has been brighter because of the smiles of these children, and the footsteps they have left in our hearts as well as through our doors. It has been a blessing from God to everyone who has been a part of this mission, to our community that we have served, and to the congregation that made this ministry possible. ↗



Join Messiah on Facebook!

As a parent of children attending MLS for the last 7 years, it has truly been a blessing in my life and in the lives of my children. The love, the joy, and the gift of God will forever be ingrained in our hearts and our lives. I am thankful for the friendships my children and I have made through this venture. I thank Messiah Lutheran Church for their extended ministry and for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of this mission, not only as a parent, as a board member, but as an acting director. I wish all of you best in your new endeavors.

Sincerely,  
Julie Mielke

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## MCEF highlights

- At the recent annual meeting, the churches representatives voted to proceed with the filing of the compliance letter to the Hanover Planning Commission for the build-out of the proposed MCEF One-Stop-Shop. Check out the website at [www.4MCEF.com](http://www.4MCEF.com) to see a virtual tour of the build-out.



- Thanksgiving Bags, see bulletin board for items to be included in bags, start collection on October 17.
- See Highlights of the meeting on bulletin board in the narthex.
- Food Pantry focus for October is canned fruits and boxed cereal.

- Gladys Hubert

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October 2016

**Messenger**

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## In communion

In 1936, a group of pastors launched World-Wide Communion Day. Amid the Great Depression, they were looking for a way to meet people's spiritual needs and unite Christians in their dedication to Christ.

The observance, now known as World Communion Sunday, is held on the first Sunday of October. For eight decades, it has served as a reminder that Christians around the globe share the same meal in remembrance of Jesus.

The DEADLINE for the  
**November, 2016**  
edition of *The Messenger* is  
**Sunday, October 18th**

Please call me with your  
written submission, place your written  
submission in the "Newsletter" mail slot  
OR email [susiew51@comcast.net](mailto:susiew51@comcast.net)



**Messiah on Pinterest**

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