

The

# MESSENGER



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

NOVEMBER 2016



## School Inventory and Church Yard Sale

On Friday Nov. 4, the Transition Team is hosting a Preview / Sale event of school inventory for members of Messiah along with area parochial preschools, All Souls, and prior MLS staff. The event is scheduled from 3-7 PM.

The following day, Saturday, November 5, the Transition Team will hold a community sale of school inventory from 8 AM – 1 PM.

Members of Messiah and All Souls, along with their families, are invited to set up personal yard sale tables on the lawn in front of the church. There is no cost to set up a table, but donations are welcome. You would be responsible for bringing your own table, setting up your merchandise, and then taking unsold items with you.

Lastly, please see the sign-up sheets in the narthex for securing a space on the lawn as well as volunteering to help with the School Sale. The Transition Team thanks you in advance for your support and help!

## All Saints Sunday, 11/6

On All Saints Sunday, we give thanks for the saints, believers in Christ, who have entered the Church Triumphant. Bring a long-stemmed flower of your choice to worship. During the service, it will be used to symbolically give thanks for a saint or saints in your life who shared their faith, hope and love with you and now reside with God.

## Faith Build

Our build day with All Souls Episcopal is scheduled for Friday, November 4.

Please sign-up at our welcome table. Lunch is provided. No experience is necessary. Lunch is provided.

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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>



## Are YOU being called?

Our yearly election for congregational council comes up again this December. According to Messiah's Constitution and By-Laws, our council oversees all business matters of the church. Council members meet once monthly to conduct this administrative business of the church. If needed, members can phone in or take an excused absence. In addition, council members serve as liaisons to our nine congregational ministry areas. As a liaison, you are not required to serve or be in charge of any ministry efforts, but we do ask that the assigned council member facilitates communication between the ministry team and council. A yearly one-day retreat is also offered. The term is for three years. Even if you cannot attend every monthly meeting, please consider serving.

Contact our Council President **Laura Harris** ([lauraharris5182@gmail.com](mailto:lauraharris5182@gmail.com)) or our office with any questions, to nominate someone, or to offer your service.

## 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.**

## Treasurer needed

If you have basic business or mathematical skills, please consider helping us as the congregation's volunteer treasurer, starting no later than January. Our current treasurer, **Paula Barwick**, is moving out of the area due to family needs. By our Constitution and By-Laws, a congregational member must be elected by council to oversee our finances, oversee the payment of bills, and report back to council on our financial status each month. **Davina Winn**, our administrative assistant, is being trained to handle much of the weekly accounting commitments in her

**Continued on page 3**

Pastor's Letter...

## **We are all strangers in a strange land**

"Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah in marriage. She bore a son, and [Moses] named him Gershom; for he said, "I have been an alien residing in a foreign land."(Exodus 2:22)

Throughout scripture, we often sense the feeling of isolation and yearning for home. The people of God faced conquest, exile in foreign nations, and during the diaspora never quite fit in. Even in Jesus' time, faithful Jews lived within a predominately Greco-Roman culture. It got even worse once Jesus preached a message contrary to the way the world so often operates. Jesus bluntly told his disciples, "If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you" (John 15:19).

The truth remains, if Christian, we won't ever feel like we fit in perfectly. God has put a yearning in our hearts for a heavenly home. The peace and justice promised us is not of this world. The faith, hope and love we possess isn't always recognized or appreciated. Perhaps in this year's caustic national election cycle, it has been particularly so.

Yet recall what Jesus also said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me" (John 14:1). He prepares for us a new home even now in his heavenly kingdom. We need seek to only follow Jesus in trust. Injustice and fighting will happen in this world. There will be wars and rumors of war with many things to rightly fear. Yet, Jesus promises these things must happen, but good will also come from them for the people of God.

This world can never fully satisfy us, so why play its political games? Pray for the "city of your sojourn" (Jeremiah 29:7). Be kind to those who persecute you or with whom you disagree. Vote your conscience, seeking to conform to God's will as best as you understand it from your prayers and scripture; but also trust God will forgive you if you err. Never conform to the political hype and hatred, but conform to Christ. Love one another. Ask for the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

There is much to bother many of us about this election, and we may at times feel like casting stones. Yet we are called to be light in the darkness, ambassadors for Christ. We need not fear. No matter who wins the election, God promises to lead us home.

Remember what Paul tells us: "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone" (Eph. 2:19-20). Why be lost in anger? Why waste our time in fear? Politicians come and go, and we have more important work to do.

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

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## **Treasurer Continued from page 2**

role as Administrative Assistant for Messiah. This should alleviate much of the work associated with this position in the past. The treasurer serves with a finance committee (the pastor, stewardship liaison, finance liaison, and financial secretary as a minimum) in shepherding the creation of the yearly budget. A familiarization with QuickBooks is helpful, but not required. Training is provided.



## Lost and Found youth retreat - November 18-20

Lost and Found is the Virginia Synod's annual weekend retreat for youth in 7th and 8th grade and their adult advisors. There are Large Group gatherings that consist of singing, energy, comedy, worship and a presentation on our event theme. After each Large Group gathering each person is part of a Small Group made up of about 8 youth and a couple adult leaders where participants will get to know other Lutheran youth from Virginia and discuss life, faith and other topics that arise throughout the weekend.

For more information, and to register for Lost and Found click here: <http://www.vasynod.org/event/lost-and-found/>

Be sure to let **Pastor Lou** know of your interest in attending.

## Outstanding expense reimbursements

In preparation for 2017 budget planning, any outstanding expense reimbursement requests should be submitted as soon as possible so we can accurately project budget needs for 2017.

Please do not wait until December to submit them. Council liaisons, please notify your respective ministry team members as soon as possible and provide intermittent gentle reminders through the 1st week of December!

## Daily Discipleship Bible Study: A new day

Effective immediately, our Daily Discipleship Bible study group will meet on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm.

During this Bible study, we review the readings for the following Sunday and help **Pastor Lou** prepare for his sermon. You are welcome to join in as available or every week!

## Thank you

Many thanks to all who expressed concern or sent emails or cards during my recent "illness". I appreciate all who were there for me.

- **Judy Schw erdtfeger**

## Thanks...

- To the School Transition Team for all their work clearing out, cataloguing, and selling items related to our recently closed preschool: **Jake Addair, Tracie Anderson, Donna Shaw, Laura Harris,** and **Susie Weaver.**
- To **Jake Addair** for stripping and waxing our floors and heading up our roof repairs.
- To **Paula Barwick** for her many years faithfully serving on council and as treasurer.
- To **Laura and Jason Harris** for all their help overseeing CreationFest, as well as **Sharon Addair** and **Lois Schroeder.**

## THE POWER OF PRAYER

### We pray for each other:

**Charlie Absher; Adam Dworak, Sr.; Pat Motley; Judy Schw erdtfeger; 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; **Frank Greenday**, former member; **Robert Johnson**, brother-in-law of the DiGrazias; Family & Friends of **Bryan Lacy**, friend of Pastor Lou & L'Arche; **The Rev. Samuel Mozolak**, father of Karen & Michael Morris; **Annette Pfohl**, friend of Messiah; **Tim Schroeder**, nephew of Roger; **Loma Snook**, mother of Susen Weaver; 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 Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, and Mali.**

*To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the church office, 746-7134. If leaving a message, include your contact information for follow-up. Unless we hear otherwise, individuals will be removed quarterly. Memorial prayers will run a minimum of two weeks and then be included in our All Saints Sunday activities. Our list was reset on 10/2.*



November 3 **Lynn Deere**  
6 **Darren Williams**  
9 **Becky Collie**  
14 **Christine Starret**  
16 **Debbie Walker**  
18 **Mike Knepper**  
23 **Donna Combs**  
23 **Teresa Gigante**  
30 **Andrew Addair**



November 24 **Leroy & Lynn Deere**

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)

November 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			

## Calendar of events

- 1 All Saints Day  
National Adoption Month Begins  
9:30 AM Richmond Conf. Mtg.
- 2 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)  
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 3 Local Remembrance: Dedication of  
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church  
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study \*  
6:00 PM Cool Well Townhouse  
Annual Meeting
- 4 Church Office Closed on Fridays  
Pastor's Day Off  
8:00 AM Hanover Habitat Build Day  
3:00 PM School Sale Presale
- 5 8:00 AM Church Yard Sale and  
School Inventory Sale
- 6 Daylight-Saving Time Ends  
9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets  
(All Souls Episcopal)  
9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages  
(Messiah Lutheran)  
10:15 AM All Souls: Pot Luck Brunch  
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC)  
12:00 PM Worship Team Meeting
- 7 Commemoration of John Christian  
Frederick Heyer, Batholomaeus  
Ziegenbalg, & Ludwig Nommensen,  
Missionaries  
10:30 AM Worship at Hanover  
Adult Center
- 8 7:30 AM Pastor @ VCC Mtg. \*  
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 9 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)  
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Mtg.
- 10 Happy Birthday, Martin Luther!  
Virginia Lutheran Items Due  
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study \*  
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 11 Church Office Closed on Fridays  
Commemoration of Martin, Bishop of  
Tours and Søren Kierkegaard,  
Teacher  
Martin Luther Baptized  
Pastor's Day Off  
Veterans Day
- 12
- 13 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)  
12:15 PM Forum: Bishop Election 2017
- 14
- 15 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 16 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
- 17 Children's Grief Awareness Day  
National Adoption Day  
10:00 AM Pastor @Habitat Meeting \*  
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study \*  
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 18 Church Office Closed on Fridays  
Pastor's Day Off
- 19
- 20 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)
- 21
- 22 7:00 PM Community Thanksgiving  
Service \*  
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 23 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
- 24 Thanksgiving Day  
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study \*  
Commemoration of Justus Falckner,  
Jehu Jones, & William Passavant,  
Pastors
- 25 Church Office Closed on Fridays  
Pastor's Day Off
- 26

Calendar continued ↗

- 27 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)
- 28
- 29 6:15 PM Mutual Ministry Meeting
- 30 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)  
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Mtg.

\* Off site



## Community Thanksgiving Service

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ from All Souls Episcopal, Messiah Lutheran, New Hanover Presbyterian, Pleasant Grove Baptist, and Shady Grove United Methodist in giving thanks to God.

Our annual service will be hosted by the good folks at New Hanover Presbyterian, 10058 Chamberlayne Rd., on Tuesday, November 22nd at 7:00 pm.

## Worship Team meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Sanctuary right after our worship service on November 6.

## Please support Messiah's ministry

Online giving – one time gifts or as repeated donations scheduled by you – is now available at <https://messiahmech.com/stewardshipdonate/>

## Bishop election information

In June 2017 at the annual Virginia Synod Assembly, our synod will elect a new bishop. An optional forum for Messiah members of all ages will be held on **Sunday, November 13**, following worship. We will meet in the sanctuary. Lunch will be served. In addition, you may review information about the upcoming election on your own at the Virginia Synod website: <http://www.vasynod.org/resources/transition-team/>

A mission site profile for the Virginia Synod is being created. To assist with this process, your input is requested. An online survey is available through the above link. In addition, we will provide paper copies for those without internet access. Copies will be offered and collected at our welcome table. You might like to wait on completing the survey until participating in our forum, but it is not required. Everyone (including youth) is encouraged to complete a survey!



## “Take the Plunge”

Volunteer Opportunities  
from Social Ministry



- **Telebridges Volunteer – Senior Connections, The Capital Area Agency on Aging**

Senior Connections is dedicated to helping older persons maintain their quality of life and independence as they age. Telebridges Volunteers provide support and socialization through telephone checks-ins to make sure a senior is okay. TeleBridges volunteers will not solve problems, but will provide a listening ear. Must be at least 18; Orientation or Training provided; make 2-5 brief calls per week; have a sensitive, caring and non-judgmental attitude; have the ability to empathize with, but not advise seniors. For more information call Shana Beverly at (804) 343-3024.

- **Become an e-mentor: Inspire teens to dream and plan for their future! – iCouldBe.org**

iCouldBe is an interactive and collaborative e-mentoring program for academically at-risk and low-income youth that is unlike any other e-mentoring program available today. iCouldBe achieves its mission through the monumental commitment of thousands of mentors and mentees who join together to build trusted and nurturing relationships on a safe, secure and highly advanced social software platform. As a mentor, you can interact with your mentee whenever you have time. You'll be notified every time your mentee needs your advice or feedback on their activities - usually just one day per week. Mentors can plan on spending up to one hour per week throughout the school year responding to your mentees. To ensure your busy work, family, and travel schedules won't prevent you from being a great mentor, you can respond from any com-

puter in any location at any time of day or night. At iCouldBe, you'll find great multimedia content - videos, web resources, inspiring notable quotes, and much more to enhance your mentoring experience and help your mentees make meaningful academic and life decisions. For more information contact Kate Schrauth at (646) 734-8133 or visit <http://www.icouldbe.org>

- **Hanover Companions – At Home Care Hospice**

Volunteering with At Home Care Hospice allows you the unique opportunity to open your heart to our patients and families. Companion/Respite volunteers provide ongoing support and reassurance to patients and their families residing at home or in skilled nursing facilities. Respite care allows caregivers to take care of necessary errands, get some time away or just take a nap. We ask that volunteers commit to at least six months of service and volunteer every week, every other week, or at least once a month for 1-3 hour periods. The Volunteer Services Coordinator can accommodate volunteers with different schedules. Don't hesitate if you work a full-time job, we still need you! Call 866-497-2110 for more information.

## Tastes good. Does good.

Delicious Lutheran World Relief (LWR) fair trade coffee and chocolate helps hard working farmers support their families and uplift communities.

To help celebrate 20 years of this effort, LWR is offering special pricing. Go to [lwrcoffee.com](http://lwrcoffee.com) and use discount code LUTHERANS20 to receive 10% off your purchase. Offer valid once per customer and expires on December 13, 2016 at 11:59 pm EST. Other conditions apply. See their website for more.

## Shopping for good

With the holidays coming, you might be shopping at Kroger more often. If so, you can help Messiah earn money just by shopping. All you have to do is register your Kroger Plus card with the Community Rewards; and, when you shop and scan your card, Messiah will get a rewards check quarterly. Please go to their website, <http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>, for more information and to enroll. You can also call 1-800-Krogers, and choose option 3.

If you have enrolled previously in this program, please log in to your account or call to verify you are still enrolled. You will need to re-enroll once a year as a requirement of Kroger. If you have not enrolled in this program, please consider taking a few moments to do so. You can also share with friends and family and have others enroll as well. Please contact **Laura Harris**, if you have any questions or concerns.

You may also enroll at <https://www.igive.com>, where you can shop on hundreds of popular internet websites and benefit Messiah.

Shop often on Amazon.com? Sign up for Amazon Smile: (<https://smile.amazon.com/>) and designate Messiah Lutheran as your charity of choice.

More information about all these programs is available on the [www.MessiahMech.com](http://www.MessiahMech.com) Stewardship page. None of these programs charge you additional fees, yet return a percentage of your shopping back to Messiah as a donation.

## New local non-profit

Ashland Open Door (AOD) was formed by business leaders, local churches, concerned citizens, and community partners to address the needs of motel families at risk for homelessness in Ashland. It was decided that the best way to go about serving these families was to hire a Family Services Coordinator. The purpose of this position is to connect with families in motels, share community resources, and ultimately work toward permanent housing options. There are currently 17 families receiving assistance, either financially, with case management services, or both. Gaps in services in the community are continuing to be identified and addressed by AOD as the group continues to structure itself to best serve the citizens of Ashland.

## MCEF highlights

- Pantry. Now accepting Thanksgiving bags. Decorated, double-bagged paper grocery bags with handles. See website (below) for list of items to include.
- Christmas Parade of Mechanicsville. MCEF will have a float and collect canned food along the route. Sunday, December 4th at 2:00 pm.
- See complete highlights on bulletin board in the narthex.

Website:  
<http://www.4MCEF.com>



Join Messiah on Facebook!

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church  
8154 Atlee Rd  
Mechanicsville VA 23111



**Before you go to bed  
on November 5**

November 2016

**Messenger**

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Veteran's Day is Fri-  
day, November 11th,  
the date of the armi-  
stice of World War I.  
We give thanks for  
and remember all  
our veterans. Look  
to participate in

many offerings at many military cemeter-  
ies and military bases.

Locally, Hanover County holds a public  
event at Hanover Wayside Park (located  
on U.S. Rt. 301 about a mile north of  
Hanover High School) at 2:00 pm. Dedi-  
cated in 2007, the Hanover Veteran's Me-  
morial honors Hanover military veterans  
who were killed in hostile action from  
World War I to the present day, and those  
who have or are currently serving in the  
Armed Forces. Parking is available on  
site.

The DEADLINE for the  
**December, 2016/January, 2017**  
edition of *The Messenger* is  
**Sunday, November 13th**

Please call me with your  
submission, hand me a written  
submission OR email  
[susiew51@comcast.net](mailto:susiew51@comcast.net)



**Messiah on Pinterest**

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