

# The MESSENGER



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

AUGUST 2017



VBS is open to all ages with a Pre-K/K, Elementary Age (1-5th grade) and Adult session. The fun, food and spiritual fortification begins at 5:30 pm with an optional meal, and the program starts at 6:15 pm (Monday through Thursday, 7/31 – 8/3). Can't join us? Study the word of God at home along with us and discover your strength in God!

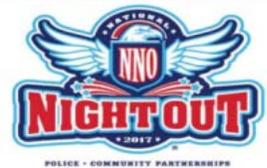
★ Monday: Samuel Anoints David (1 Sam. 16:1-12)

★ Tuesday: Abigail saves the day (1 Sam 25)

★ Wednesday: Jesus Goes to the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

★ Thursday: The Beatitudes (Matthew 4:23-5:12) & Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41)

August 1st, 2017



We'll be hosting National Night Out (NNO) for our neighbors once again on Tuesday, August 1 from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm. (Our VBS Heroes will join us for this portion of our week, but this event is open to everyone of all ages whether attending VBS or not.) Come by for a free hot dog, chips and drink. Jump in our super-hero themed bounce house, play some of the games, or just enjoy our meet and greet with our Hanover County Sheriff's Office Deputies. A fire truck and other surprises and activities are in store for you, your family and neighbors, so invite others to come along. NNO is a national program seeking to improve relationships within communities just like ours.

## A look inside....

- Wedding congratulations ..... P. 2
- Pastor's Letter ..... P. 3
- Attention: Youth! .....P. 4
- Prayers & Celebrations .....P. 5
- Calendar of events .....P. 6. 7
- Synod assembly 2017..... P. 7
- CFFY ..... P. 8
- MCEF/OSS ..... P. 8
- Reformation 500..... P. 9

***The Messenger***

Published monthly by  
**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church ELCA**  
 8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111  
 Church Office: (804) 746-7134  
 FAX: (804) 746-5579  
 Rev. Louis A. Florio, Jr., Pastor  
 Pastor's email: [messiahmechpr@gmail.com](mailto:messiahmechpr@gmail.com)  
 Davina Winn, Church Secretary  
 Office email: [messiahmech@gmail.com](mailto:messiahmech@gmail.com)  
 Susie Weaver, Newsletter Editor  
 Ph: 804-559-3503  
 Email: [susiew51@comcast.net](mailto:susiew51@comcast.net)

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



Congratulations!

We wish to offer our heartfelt congratulations to **Mr. and Mrs. Cori and Victoria (Hatfield) Major** upon their wedding on July 15, 2017. The day was celebrated at Big Spring Farm in Lexington, Virginia, with **Pastor Lou** officiating and **Debbie Walker** serving as the music minister.

Victoria grew up here at Messiah and has remained an active member. Her parents, **Bill and Chrisann**, continue to attend as well.

Blessings upon the new couple's life together in southwest Virginia and congratulations to one and all! New address: Cori and Victoria Major, 22 Carrolton Ct., Weyers Cave, VA 24486.

**Your 2017 Church Council  
 And Associate Members**

**Dean Gustafson** ..... Council President  
**James Anderson** ..... Vice-President  
**Sally Bennett** ..... Secretary

<b>Sharon Addair</b>	<b>Becky Collie</b>
<b>Steve Gilnett</b>	<b>Cheryl B Griffis</b>
<b>Donna Shaw</b>	<b>Susie Weaver</b>

**Council Liaisons**

Christian Education ..... **Donna Shaw**  
 Evangelism ..... **James Anderson**  
 Finance ..... **Becky Collie**  
 Property ..... **Steve Gilnett**  
 Social Ministry ..... **Sharon Addair**  
 Stewardship ..... **Susie Weaver**  
 Worship ..... **Sally Bennett**

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

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

**Sermons online**

Don't forget, recent Sunday sermons are being posted each week at [Messiah-Mech.com](http://Messiah-Mech.com) and our MessiahMech YouTube Channel. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2fCNdhDR\\_Ey20lQjswitw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2fCNdhDR_Ey20lQjswitw)



## Pastoral Letter...

***Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)***

The summer fun is about to end, and “school days, dear old golden rule days” are about to return. I’ve already seen people buying school supplies and clothing for their children, and from conversations, I know people are already trying to get their minds around their return to fall work schedules. It is a busy and often anxious time of year!

Whatever age the child of God might be, we are to look toward the same direction for our hope and encouragement. No matter how big or small the worry, whether your anxiety is about your lack of time, treasure, or talent, you are not meant to be alone. Jesus wants to walk with, guide and comfort you.

Above the hubbub of our days or amidst the darkness of any fear, turn to Jesus. Stop and listen for his still small voice. It can indeed be found in Bible study, daily prayer, and corporate worship. Martin Luther wrote, “I have so much to do that if I didn’t spend at least three hours a day in prayer I would never get it all done.”

Now, we don’t have to spend three hours in prayer, but we do need to be attentive and intentional to help us hear the voice of Christ in our lives. Martin Luther has some things to share with us about prayer:

- His theology of prayer was centered on scripture. – To know the Word of God, we all need to spend time immersed in it. Hearing other viewpoints from ser-

mons and group studies helps us avoid our own voices from unintentionally shouting down Christ’s own.

- His theology of prayer recognized its importance. – Think about your own human relationships. Does conversations and quality time spent with the one’s you love help you to grow closer to one another? It is the same with our relationship with God and Christ’s church.
- His theology of prayer understood the human and humble aspects of it. – We need God. We need others. Prayer helps remind us of these needs even as it helps us share them. Prayer is can be both talking and listening, spoken or sung, original or rote. There’s perhaps no such thing as a bad prayer, but simplicity and honesty can make them better. And if you can’t pray? Remember that the Spirit prays for us as can the church!
- Luther’s theology of prayer is practical. – No issue is too small or unimportant, for we matter to Christ. We don’t need to prattle on, for our prayers can be as simple as calling for help or saying thank you. It is our heart that matters more than our words. Even dwelling upon a daily passage or verse of scripture can help shape our prayer life.<sup>1</sup>

Do not be anxious, but do not forget whose you are either. You belong to Jesus, and you are meant to be a gift to the church and the church a gift to you. So come on by and stay a spell. We have a place for you, and your brothers and sisters need to see you too!

**- Pastor Lou**

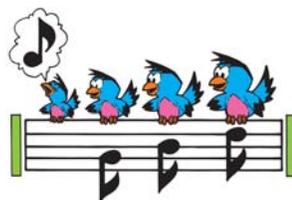
<sup>1</sup> For a fuller exposition on the topic, I commend the essay “Martin Luther on Prayer” as found at <http://gfcto.com/articles/church-history/martin-luther/martin-luther-on-prayer>. I owe a debt to it for my thoughts in this article. Even pastors need to listen!



## Youth Ministry Planning Meeting

We will be organizing for our 2017-2018 session of youth ministry on Sunday, August 27, after worship. If you have ideas, concerns, or desire to help, please join us!

Our Fusion (All Souls/Messiah) Youth Group will return in September. We hope to add offerings our younger year this year as well. As in the past, we will continue to participate in the Richmond Area Lutheran Youth (RALY) and Virginia Synod



## Do you love to sing in church? The choir has a place for YOU!

The month of August is when the choir starts back with its regular schedule, so this is a good time to invite YOU to join us for this year. We are a friendly, relaxed bunch who just enjoys singing. If you have an interest, our practice is weekly, usually on Thursday at 7:00 pm. Talk with **Sally Bennett** or **Donna Shaw**, if you have questions.

## ELCA's National Youth Gathering 2018



Interested in attending? Contact **Pastor Lou** as soon as possible! This event is open to youth about to enter 9th grade through those who will have just graduated high school as of the time of the event, June 27-July 1, 2018.

## Daily Discipleship Bible Study

Our Wednesday Bible study returns in August to a regular Wednesday meeting schedule on August 9 at 2:00 pm.

We will **not** meet on August 2 due to Vacation Bible School.

## THE 2017 VIRGINIA SYNOD VOCATIONS CONFERENCE

August 18-19, 2017

Eagle Eyrie Conference Center near Lynchburg, VA

BEYOND CANDIDACY: WHAT IT'S LIKE  
TO BE A NEW PASTOR

There's still time to register to attend!  
Contact **Pastor Lou** for more information.



## We pray for each other:

**Charlie Absher; Joan Barnes; Kenneth Deere; Adam Dw orak, Mac McAllister; Pat Motley; Ruth Schroeder; Billy Thomas; Marc Thomas; Dick Wright.**

## We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

**Linda Barnes-Depuy**, daughter of Joan Barnes; **Camdyn Fleming; Sam Markovich**, Kristine Florio's father; **The Rev. Samuel Mozolak**, father of Karen & Michael Morris; **Kari Nelson**, Friend of Becky Collie; **Patricia Reed**, neighbor of Annette Buckholtz; **Family and friends of Mary Roberts Schroeder**, mother of the Rev. Elizabeth Yates; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Lorna Snook**, mother-in-law of Jeff Weaver; Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families, especially **Andrew Addair, Ian Schwerdtfeger, & LJ Spray; Law enforcement, firefighters and first responders; ; The people of All Souls Episcopal and our shared ministry; All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Brunei, Bangladesh, Jordan, and Myanmar.**

*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.*



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



August 11 Johnnie & Becky Collie

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).



## Under the Stars

Messiah will be offering a major family-friendly film for outdoor viewing on Friday, August 18 at 7:30 pm.

The event is free and open to the entire community! Bring your lawn chair and blankets, food, and friends if you like. (The movie will be announced once the licensing is confirmed.)

The event is being coordinated by **Tracie Anderson** and **Diana Sondor**. We would like to thank **Tony Scott** for providing all the equipment and know-how.

August 2017						
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 5:00 PM National Night Out (Set Up)  
5:30 PM Hero Central VBS
- 2 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
(CANCELLED)  
5:30 PM Hero Central VBS  
6:00 PM Centering Prayer  
(CANCELLED)
- 3 10:30 AM Men's Bible Study \*  
5:30 PM Hero Central VBS
- 4 Church Office Closed on Fridays  
Pastor's Day Off
- 5
- 6 9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets  
(All Souls Episcopal)  
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC):  
"Catechism: With New Voices"  
Series (First Article of the Creed)
- 7 10:30 AM Worship at  
Hanover Adult Center  
6:15 PM Messiah Lutheran Church  
Constitution and Bylaws Review  
Session
- 8
- 9 9:00 AM Hanover Cares Coalition Mtg.  
2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
- 10 Virginia Lutheran Items Due  
10:30 AM Men's Bible Study \*
- 11 Church Office Closed on Fridays  
First Lutheran Synod in Virginia  
Established (1829)  
10:00 AM Pastor @LFS
- 12
- 13 Commemoration of Florence Nighten  
gale & Clara Maass, Renewers of  
Society
- 13 9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets  
(All Souls Episcopal)  
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC):  
"Catechism: With New Voices"  
Series (Second Article of the Creed)
- 14 Commemoration of Maximilian Kolbe &  
Kaj Munk, Martyrs  
Local Remembrance: Jonathan Daniels
- 15 Commemoration of Mary, Mother of  
Our Lord  
First Lutheran Synod in America  
Established (1748)  
6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 16 Local Remembrance: Br. Roger of Taize'  
2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
- 17 10:30 AM Men's Bible Study \*
- 18 Church Office Closed on Fridays  
Pastor's Day Off  
7:30 PM Family Movie Night
- 19
- 20 Commemoration of Bernard, Abbot of  
Clairvaux  
9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets  
(All Souls Episcopal)  
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC):  
"Catechism: With New Voices"  
Series (Third Article of the Creed)
- 21
- 22
- 23 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
- 24 Commemoration of Bartholomew,  
Apostle  
10:30 AM Men's Bible Study \*
- 25 Church Office Closed on Fridays  
Pastor's Day Off
- 26
- 27 9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets  
(All Souls Episcopal)  
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC):  
"Catechism: With New Voices"  
Series (The Lord's Prayer)  
11:45 AM Youth Ministry Planning Mtg.
- 28 Commemoration of Augustine, Bishop  
of Hippo  
Administrative Assistant on Vacation -  
Church Office Closed  
6:15 PM Mutual Ministry Mtg.

## Calendar of events (cont'd)

- 29 Administrative Assistant on Vacation -  
Church Office Closed
- 30 Administrative Assistant on Vacation -  
Church Office Closed  
2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study  
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
- 31 Administrative Assistant on Vacation -  
Church Office Closed  
10:30 AM Men's Bible Study \*

\* Off site

## Virginia Synod Assembly 2017

As you may know, Donna Combs and Sally Bennett recently attended the Virginia Synod Assembly as voting members from Messiah Lutheran. We want to thank the council for electing us, and you, the congregation, for entrusting us with this important responsibility.

We'd like to share a few highlights:

There were 430 eligible voting members, and the election process needed voting on five ballots: one on Friday, three on Saturday, and one on Sunday morning. The "ecclesiastical ballot" gave us 75 candidates, the next three were whittled down to 57, then seven, then three, and the final ballot had two! Bob Humphrey, pastor of Muhlenberg Lutheran in Harrisonburg, was elected to succeed Bishop Mauney, who has served as bishop for the last 18 years.

Each session began with a worship service complete with appropriate hymns along with communion on Friday afternoon and Sunday morning. And on Saturday evening we were bussed to St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Roanoke for an ordination which was followed by a "high mass"

worship service. The last hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," sung by the packed congregation, resounded throughout the cathedral with its vaulted ceilings.

In between our voting and worship services, we heard reports from the officers and various synod committees, voted for new members of those committees as well as recommendations of the Synod Council. We voted on only one Resolution, to bestow upon Bishop Mauney, the honorary title of Bishop Emeritus of the Virginia Synod, ELCA. In addition, throughout the weekend, we learned more about the Global Mission of the ELCA, as part of our theme: "Ambassadors for Christ: Forwarding Faith."

Since Roanoke College is on top of a hill, at least 50 feet above our parking lot, we climbed up and down stairs throughout the our highly-scheduled weekend. We met delegates, both pastors and lay members, from the tables around us and watched as Pastor Lou attended to his various responsibilities as a member of the Transition Team. All in all, it was an incredible experience!



We offer the **Rev. Elizabeth Yates** and her family our prayers and Christian sympathy at the death of her mother, **Mary Elizabeth Roberts Schroeder**. Her mother passed peacefully into God's hands at 98 years and 6 months on July 20, 2017 in Denver, Colorado. Arrangements are pending. The Rev. Yates has served often as our supply pastor over recent years. To offer your personal condolences, please contact our office for her address.

## CFFY Corner

(Christian Formation for You)

➤ **Enter the Bible** is a free resource for Bible study available through Lutheran Seminary. You'll find a wealth of resources to help you grow in your faith, add depth to your Bible studies and truly discover the people, places and events of the Bible. Use Enter the Bible as a guide and helpful reference tool to accompany you when reading the Bible. Visit <http://www.enterthebible.org/> to create your free account and use *Enter the Bible* each time you open the Word.

➤ **Daily Devotionals from Lutheran Hour Ministries** – This is a daily on-line devotional from Lutheran Hour Ministries. There is an audio version to listen to or a printed copy to read. Go to <https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions/> to check it out.

➤ **The Thirteen Apostles** by J. Ellsworth Kalas, 2012 edition. In this engaging book from popular author J. Ellsworth Kalas, a portrait of each of Jesus' apostles as a servant in ministry, a human being, and individual are drawn from Scripture as well as historical writings and tradition. A chapter is also devoted to Mathias, the successor to Judas Iscariot. Each chapter features a key passage of Scripture. A study guide is included. It is available from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, christianbook.com, Life-way, as well as other Christian merchants.

➤ **Faith Fix Boxes** is an on-line monthly box subscription service to help spark faith conversations between family members. The boxes are geared toward 3yr-6th graders with activities, crafts and family challenges designed to engage the entire family in different ways. Each Faith Fix Box costs \$25 and contains four weeks of faith-based materials. Examples include "God is Love" and "Superhero". These materials have been designed by the director of children's and family ministry at Grace

Lutheran Church in Loves Park, Ill. Go to <https://www.faithfixbox.com/> to check it out! There is also an article about it in the July edition of Living Lutheran (copies are available on the narthex table).

- **Donna Shaw**



## MCEF and OSS (One Stop Shop)

MCEF is progressing toward updating its recently rented central location at 7235 Stonewall Parkway. Our front door is next to the Hanover Adult Center. Painting, construction, flooring, window treatments and general cleaning is progressing.

Through donations and volunteer help, we have been able to keep costs to a minimum. Watch for the new volunteer brochure which will be available in the narthex. Even if you have volunteered in the past, a new application which is in the brochure, must be completed. Job descriptions and times available to volunteer are included in the brochure/application. Volunteer training for the new location will be conducted prior to opening. Volunteer teams will be scheduled and notified by MCEF.

Initial hours of operation will be the same as the current food pantry hours, this will include the clothing closets, linen closet and food pantry. (Monday, 9:30 am – 11 am; Tuesday and Thursday Mornings, 9:30 am to 11 am; Tuesday and Thursday Evenings, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.)

For any questions, see **Pat** or **Glady Hubert**.

## “With New Voices : The Small Catechism In the 21st Century”

To help commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, our sermon series on the Small Catechism with a modern twist will continue throughout August.

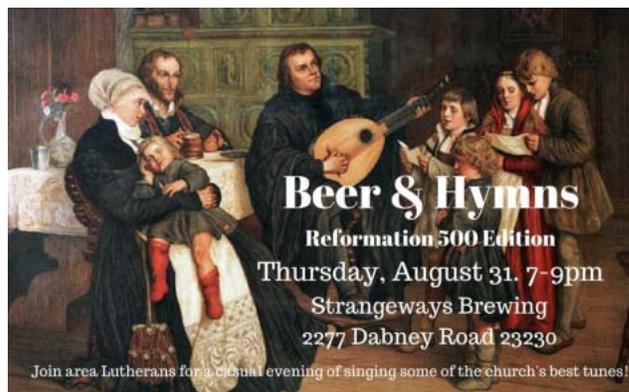
- August 6 – First Article of the Creed (God the Father) at 10:45 am
- August 13 – Second Article of the Creed (Jesus) at 10:45 am
- August 20 – Third Article of the Creed (the Holy Spirit & Church) at 10:45 am
- August 27 – The Lord’s Prayer at 10:45 am

Free commemorative editions of the Small Catechism are available for you in our narthex. The June sermons on Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are posted at [MessiahMech.com](http://MessiahMech.com) under the Reformation500 tab as well as on our YouTube channel (search MessiahMech).



## This month in (Lutheran) history...

The first Lutheran Synod in America was the German Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania, organized in St. Michael's church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1748, with six ordained ministers and an almost equal number of lay representatives from the different congregations. There were, at that time, only eleven Lutheran ministers in all the colonies. As the number of Lutherans grew, Virginia congregations were formed into the Synod of Maryland and Virginia 1820-1829. The first independent synod in Virginia, a preceding body to our Virginia Synod of the ELCA, was established on August 11, 1829.



✧ This is a Richmond Conference event to help mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. All are invited!

✧ Drinking beer is not required at this event. However, Strangeways doesn't serve soft drinks, etc. They do have water on hand. People are welcome to come and sing and enjoy fellowship and NOT drink beer.

✧ This event is being held in what is technically a tasting room, so there is no food menu. However, Strangeways may arrange for a food truck that evening. They will let me know closer to that date. People should really eat before they come.

✧ We will literally sit in a bar (a brewery!) and sing church hymns. Some people will have a brew or two. Musical accompaniment provided by people from Epiphany Lutheran (guitars, violin, bass, etc.)

✧ Carpooling is encouraged because the parking lot is not that big.



Join Messiah on Facebook!

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church  
8154 Atlee Rd  
Mechanicsville VA 23111



August 2017

**Messenger**

page 10

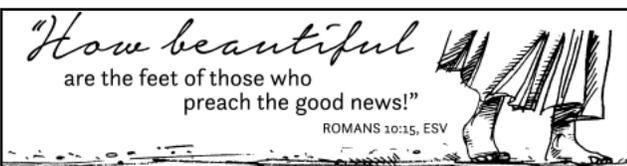


In August, our Sunday worship returns to our regular time of 10:45 am.

Sunday school for all ages begins again on Rally Day, Sunday, September 10, at 9:15 am.

The DEADLINE for the **September, 2017** edition of *The Messenger* is **Sunday, August 20th**

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/>