

The MESSENGER



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

DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019



Follow the Star – Advent & Christmas 2018

Jesus said, "I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star"
(Revelation 22:16).

12/2 First Sunday in Advent – Worship with Holy Communion will be at 10:45 am. We will dedicate our new Advent wreath! Messiah members are asked to remain for its annual business meeting following worship.

12/9 Second Sunday in Advent - Worship with Holy Communion will be at 10:45 am. If inclement weather on December 2, we will hold our annual business meeting after this worship. Come back for our popular Kaffeeklatsch at 4:00 pm with German Christmas Service at 5:00 pm.

12/16 Third Sunday in Advent - At 9:15 am, come with your entire family to help sing carols and decorate our sanctuary tree. It's a family favorite! Light refreshments will be



offered. During our special combined worship with All Souls Episcopal at 10:15 am, we will enjoy a festive combined choir and Lessons & Carols. If your child would like to participate in our Nativity Play, please contact our office or speak with Lois Schroeder (Messiah) or Donna Haynes (All Souls).

12/23 Fourth Sunday in Advent- Holy Communion at 10:45 am. (No Sunday School will be held from this date until January 6)

12/24 Christmas Eve Service with candlelight ceremony and Holy Communion will be held at 7:00 pm! Our worship includes special fun for younger children (along with a small gift) as they gather around our tree with **Pastor Lou**. This year's theme: "Follow the Star."



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The Messenger

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**Your 2018 Church Council
 And Associate Members**

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Donna ShawVice-President
Sally Bennett Secretary

Sharon Addair **Becky Collie**
Karen Morris **Susie Weaver**
Daren Williams

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 Worship**Sally Bennett**

Bill WeaverTreasurer
Jake Addair Financial Secretary
Sue Gilnett, RN...Parish Nurse

Trustees: **Leroy Albertson,**
Gordon Gunn, and **Pat Hubert.**



**Froehliche
 Weihnachten!**

(Merry Christmas!)

It is almost a tradition at Messiah to host this event. This year it will put you in an early Christmas mood since it will be celebrated on December 9, second Sunday of Advent.

"Kaffeeklatsch" in the fellowship hall will start at 4 P.M. There will be German goodies like cakes, stollen and cookies and German coffee.

The service will start at 5 P.M. with German readings and hymns. The sermon will be in English for everybody to understand. **Pastor Vic Schmick** will do the sermon and **Pastor Lou** will assist. Again this year there will be two solos, **Soprano Danah Dargon** and flutist **Stephanie Fenske**.

Everybody is invited. Members of the German Sportclub are looking forward to welcoming you !



**Congregational
 Business Meeting, 12/2**

Please make every effort to attend our annual business meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2018 following our 10:45 am service. We will elect new council members and approve our 2019 budget. We need everyone's assistance in reaching our quorum.

Pastoral Letter...

The Morning Star

In Isaiah 14:12, Lucifer is described as a morning star which has fallen from glory. People might still be attracted to his false promises, yet Lucifer's hold over the world can only lead to sin and death. His reign is darkness.

As a New Heaven and New Earth are established at the end of time, Jesus claims for himself the title of morning star in Revelation 5:5. Yet, Jesus didn't fall as Lucifer did. He lowered himself to come to this world in human form. He did so to save us from sin and death because he loves us. In the end, only God's light will shine. Jesus is the light.

Today as Lucifer's power continues to decline, Jesus' light is only really beginning to dawn. Yet through the imagery and promises of the Book of Revelation, we learn how the story ends. Jesus will have total victory over all darkness. We who hold onto him through faith will be saved. In that loving light, we should not be afraid of the future - whatever it holds - for Jesus' love holds our present and future. His light seeks to enfold and protect us into eternity.

When we think of the infant Jesus at Christmas, we usually imagine heart-warming images. We don't often think of this cosmic struggle which surrounds us day after day. Yet the Bible speaks plainly teaching us that although Jesus has won the war through his resurrection, the powers of evil afflict us still. The battle continues until the day Jesus comes in glory, but don't give up hope. God is at work. Jesus proves to be the promised Emmanuel, God with us.

Yes, the nativity of Christ is only part of a greater story; a story that touches and has the power to transform our days. Jesus

invites us to surrender to that power - to trust in him alone - so that his love, light and life may dawn through our lives. While we wait for the fullness of dawn, we are to reflect his light; sharing our hope with the world.

Through our faith and baptism, we have become children of the light. We are claimed to be part of a sacred story overflowing with Christ's light and love. So amidst dark times, live boldly and generously. Walk on in peace. Most of all, do not be afraid. The darkness has no lasting hold over us. For we who have faith have a spark of the Morning Star burning in our hearts. Whatever happens, the Light has come to lead us home. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5).

Kristine and I wish you a blessed Christmas and new year.

Pastor Lou

Praying, Believing, Doing

Dr. Karen B. Westerfeld Tucker, an elder in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church, will present the theme, "Praying, Believing, Doing: an Ecumenism of Liturgy and Life" at the annual Virginia LARCUM Conference in Charlottesville on November 30 through December 1. Tucker taught at Duke University for 15 years before she became professor of worship at Boston University where she serves. She is the author of United Methodist worship publications, is the former president of the international and ecumenical Societas Liturgica and served as chairperson of the Committee on Worship and Liturgy of the World Methodist Council.

Morning Worship & Annual Epiphany Party!



On January 6th, Sunday school returns at 9:15 am. Our worship with Holy Communion will be offered at 10:45 am.

At 6:30 pm, come back to join All Souls Episcopal and Messiah Lutheran as we close out the 12 Days of Christmas with our annual vesper service of light, bonfire and celebration! As the Magi were said to bring gold, frankincense and myrrh to honor the newborn king, attendees are invited to honor the Jesus found in our neighbors in need by donating hats, scarves and gloves. Bring a sample of your Christmas greens to burn in our bonfire (weather permitting) and any remaining Christmas treats to share. Children will be able to pick from our Epiphany cupcakes. (Those children who find one of the three chocolate gold coins win prizes.) Members of L'Arche Metro-Richmond will once again be invited as our special guests.

A great time for sharing... ...your faith.

The upcoming holidays are a great time for some easy EVANGELISM.

Take the time to invite your relatives, neighbors, coworkers or friends to attend any of our services with you and your family. The holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas are joyous times to share the love and peace of Christ with others. Check the calendar for dates and times of events.

-Karen Morris



December 10 **Pastor Lou Florio**
10 **Gordon Gunn**
14 **Curtis Pfohl**
16 **Marilyn Gunn**
16 **John Terry**
26 **Gary Krupa**
30 **Kyle Schroeder**



December 9 **Curt & Charlene Glatfelter**
23 **Paul & Victoria Knab**



January 4 **Karen Umberger**
4 **JoAn Firebaugh**
11 **Erna Jung**
14 **Max Williams**
15 **Grayson Starret**
22 **Bill Hatfield**
23 **Brandi Hendrickson'**
31 **Mary Grace Delph**

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

With Christian Sympathy...

Herbert Chappell, father of **Rosalee Cline**, entered the Church Triumphant on November 9, 2018. A funeral was held on November 16 officiated by the Rev. Cathy McKinney. Donations in Herbert's honor may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Continue to pray for the consolation of Rosalee and all those who mourn, ever hopeful in the Resurrection and new life promised us by Jesus.

We pray for each other:

Charlie Absher; Ray Ash; Kenneth Deere; Adam Dworak, Sr.; JoAn Firebaugh; Elisabeth Gardner; Steve Gilnett; Ruby Habron; “Doc” Kondaki; Mac McAllister; Pat Motley; Ruth Schroeder; Marc Thomas.

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Deborah Anton, sister of Ruth Schroeder; **Cindy Bauer**, sister of Lois Schroeder; **Nan Beresford**, friend of Kristine Florio; **Family and Friends of Herbert Chappell**, father of Rosalee Cline; **Dennis Dunn**, friend of Doris Ewing; **David and Sandi Elliott**, friends of the Whirleys; **Family & Friends of Alice Gunn**, friend of Charlie & Judy Schwerdtfeger; **Eddilou Jarnevich**, friend of the Florios; **LeRoya Jones**, friend of the Clines; **Bill Leaver**, friend of Charlie & Sally Bennett; **Iris Locke**, mother of Davina Winn; **Sam Markovich**, father of Kristine Florio; **Alvin & Lucille Morlan**, father & stepmother of Donna Shaw; **Dieter Niklas**, brother of Erna Jung; **Wayne Peace**, friend of Charlie & Judy; **Evelyn Poulsen**, mother of Roger Schroeder; **The Ruffner Family**, friends of the Whirleys; **Greg Schaale**, brother-in-law of Judy & Charlie Schwerdtfeger; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger’s nephew; **Lorna Snook**, mother-in-law of Jeff Weaver; **Jim and Tammy**, friends of Jake and Sharon Addair; **The Rev. Dr. Howard Thime**, former member of Messiah; **Wanda Umlauf**, mother of Vicar Ginny Banister; **Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families, especially Andrew Addair, Ian Schwerdtfeger & LJ Spray; All law enforcement, firefighters & first responders; The people and pastor of All Souls Episcopal & our shared ministry;**

All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Bangladesh, Algeria, China, Sri Lanka, Azerbaijan, Oman, Mauritania, Bahrain, Colombia, and Djibouti.

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.



Lily’s Elves

Don’t forget to support **Lily** in her fight to help end Juvenile Arthritis. The granddaughter of **Jake and Sharon Addair**, you might have met Lily and her family during CreationFest or worship. She has been fighting the disease for five years since the age of three. Lily invites you to support her Jingle Bell Run Team, Lily’s Elves for Arthritis. This walk/run will be held on December 8 in Richmond at Mary Munford Elementary. If you would like to donate or even join her team, visit: <https://events.arthritis.org/team/lilyselves> To keep in touch with Lily’s Journey, visit her blog at <https://sites.google.com/view/lilyselves>

| December 2018 | | | | | | |
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| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

Calendar of events

- 1
- 2 First Fellowship Sunday
Local Remembrance: Jean Donovan
9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Lutheran:
Faith Formation for All Ages
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
11:00 AM All Souls Episcopal:
Faith Formation for All Ages
11:45 PM Annual Business Meeting
(Snow Date 12/9)
- 3
- 4 10:00 AM Richmond Conference Mtg. *
7:30 PM Taizé Prayer (Richmond Hill)
- 5 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
- 6 Commemoration of Nicholas,
Bishop of Myra
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 7 Church Office Closed on Fridays
Pastor's Day Off
9:00 AM Pastor @HCSO
- 8 8:00 AM Lily's Elves Breakfast
(National Arthritis Foundation Private
Event)
- 9 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Lutheran:
Faith Formation for All Ages
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
11:00 AM All Souls Episcopal:
Faith Formation for All Ages
4:00 PM Kaffeeklatsch
5:00 PM German Christmas Service
- 10 Human Rights Day
Martin Luther Burns the Popes Decree
of Excommunication (1520)
Virginia Lutheran Items Due
- 11 6:00 PM Heroes and Helpers Event *
6:15 PM Council Meeting
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 12 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Meeting
- 13 Commemoration of Lucy, Martyr
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 14 Church Office Closed on Fridays
Pastor's Day Off
- 15
- 16 9:15 AM Carols & Christmas Tree
Decorating
10:15 AM Worship Service &
Christmas Pageant (Messiah
Lutheran & All Souls Episcopal)
- 17 5:00 PM Stevie B night for MCEF
- 18 10:00 AM Terrific Tuesday Club
(Hanover Parks & Rec.)
- 19 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
- 20 Commemoration of
Katharina von Bora Luther
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 21 Church Office Closed on Fridays
Pastor's Day Off
6:30 PM Lutheran Family Services
Christmas Party
- 22
- 23 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
11:00 AM All Souls Episcopal:
Faith Formation for All Ages
- 24 Office Closed - Secretary Out
5:00 PM All Souls Episcopal
Christmas Worship
7:00 PM Messiah Lutheran
Christmas Worship
- 25 Office Closed - Pastor & Secretary Out
Our family of faith at Messiah wishes
you a blessed Christmas!
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 26 Feast of Stephen, Deacon & Martyr
Office Closed - Secretary Out
Pastor Vacation
- 27 Feast of John, Apostle & Evangelist
Pastor Vacation
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents
Pastor Vacation
Pastor's Day Off
- 29 Pastor Vacation

- 30 Pastor Vacation
 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
 31 Have a safe & happy New Year's Eve!
 Pastor Vacation

| January 2019 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

- 1 Feast of the Name of Jesus
 New Year's Day - Office Closed
 Pastor Vacation
 The members of Messiah Lutheran
 wish you a year full of blessings!
 2 Commemoration of Johann Konrad
 Wilhelm Loehe, Renewer of the
 Church
 Pastor Vacation
 3 Pastor Vacation
 7:00 PM Choir Practice
 4 Church Office Closed on Fridays
 Pastor's Day Off
 5
 6 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
 9:15 AM Messiah Lutheran:
 Faith Formation for All Ages
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
 11:00 AM All Souls Episcopal:
 Faith Formation for All Ages
 6:30 PM Epiphany Party
 7
 8 10:00 AM Richmond Conference Mtg. *
 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
 7:30 PM Taizé Prayer (Richmond Hill)
 9 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Meeting
 10 Virginia Lutheran Items Due
 7:00 PM Choir Practice
 11 Church Office Closed on Fridays
 Pastor's Day Off
 12

- 13 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
 9:15 AM Messiah Lutheran:
 Faith Formation for All Ages
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
 11:00 AM All Souls Episcopal:
 Faith Formation for All Ages
 14 Commemoration of
 Eivind Josef Berggrav, Bishop
 15 Commemoration of Martin Luther King,
 Jr., Renewer of the Church & Martyr
 6:15 PM Council Meeting
 16 Religious Freedom Day
 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
 17 Commemoration of Antony of Egypt,
 Renewer of the Church
 7:00 PM Choir Practice
 18 Church Office Closed on Fridays
 Feast of the Confession of Peter
 Pastor's Day Off
 Start of the Week of Prayer
 for Christian Unity
 19 Commemoration of Henry,
 Bishop and Martyr
 20 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
 9:15 AM Messiah Lutheran:
 Faith Formation for All Ages
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
 11:00 AM All Souls Episcopal:
 Faith Formation for All Ages
 11:45 PM Annual Reports Meeting
 (Snow date 1/27)
 21 Commemoration of Agnes, Martyr
 22 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
 23 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Meeting
 24 7:00 PM Choir Practice
 25 Church Office Closed on Fridays
 Feast of the Conversion of Paul
 Pastor's Day Off
 26 Commemoration of Timothy, Titus, and
 Silas, Missionaries
 27 Commemoration of Lydia, Dorcas and
 Phoebe, Witnesses to the Faith
 International Holocaust
 Remembrance Day
 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
 9:15 AM Messiah Lutheran:
 Faith Formation for All Ages

Continued on page 8

Calendar of events

Continued from page 7

- 27 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
 11:00 AM All Souls Episcopal:
 Faith Formation for All Ages
 28 Commemoration of Thomas Aquinas,
 Teacher
 29
 30 2:00 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
 31 7:00 PM Choir Practice

* Off Site

LFS Christmas Party for Foster Children

Our Social Ministry team will be hosting a Lutheran Family Services' Christmas Party for local foster children and their families on Friday, December 21, at 6:30 pm. Along with sharing in Christmas activities and a simple dinner, songs will be sung around our tree and gifts distributed. If you can help welcome our special guests, please contact **Sharon Addair.**

Fellowship thanks

I want to thank EVERYONE that worked so hard to make our 50th Anniversary dinner a huge success! From set up to clean up, the teamwork was amazing. What a special day!

Please remember 1st Sunday fellowship following the service on December 2nd. We have done this as part of our year-long anniversary celebration, but why stop now! The fellowship team would like to continue this on into 2019.

- **Becky Collie**

Annual Reports meeting

Join your brothers and sisters of Messiah Lutheran as we share the story of our past year and look toward a future filled with hope. Our Annual Reports Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 20, after worship. The new council for 2019-2020 will be installed and ministry reports shared.



Award Presented

Pastor Lou Florio formally received his award from the National Sheriffs' Association on November 8, 2018. It was presented to him by Hanover County Sheriff, **Col. David Hines.** Pictured (l-r) Chaplain Program Coordinator **Lt. Terry Sullivan;** Colonel Hines, and Crime Prevention Officer **Deputy Jim McLaughlin.** Pastor Florio recently was awarded the Medal of Merit from the National Sheriffs' Association for his "contribution to the community, and to the field of law enforcement and criminal justice." He had been nominated by the Hanover County Sheriff's Office for National Chaplain of the Year (2017). The Hanover County Sheriff's Office wishes to thank Messiah Lutheran members for their ongoing support of Pastor Lou's ministry to the men and women of the agency, their families and our community as well as Messiah's participation in Worship Watch.

New Lectionary Year – The Gospel of Luke (Year C)



On December 2, 2018, Advent begins, and with it a new lectionary year with the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). The RCL follows a three-year cycle: Year A (Matthew), Year B (Mark), Year C (Luke). The Gospel of John is interspersed throughout each year. In addition to the assigned Gospel text, a Hebrew text and New Testament letter or other writing is heard each week. These additional readings are usually selected based upon themes or reflect the feast days or commemorations of the liturgical calendar.

Year C focuses on the Gospel of Luke. The semi-continuous Old Testament readings are of prophetic proclamation chosen in chronological order and highlighting Jeremiah. The second, New Testament, readings are chosen mainly from Galatians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy and 2 Thessalonians. The symbol for Luke is traditionally a winged ox. The early church made the connection between Luke and an ox because of the book's several references to sacrifice and Jesus as our ultimate High Priest. Oxen were often used in temple sacrifices. A serpent-entwined rod traditionally representing the field of medicine may also be seen.

The Gospel of Luke is the longest of all the Gospels. Luke is commonly believed to have been a gentile physician who came to assist the Apostle Paul with his ministry. His Gospel is the only Gospel written by a Gentile. Paul was likely highly educated, and so Christian tradition, starting from the 8th century, states that he was the first icon painter. In art, you will often find him depicted painting or writing.

You can often spot hints of his background through the very physical details in his writings and the language used. Luke's Gospel is particularly packed with interesting and distinct parables. These include the popular parables of the prodigal son (15:11-32) and the good Samaritan (10:29-37). Likely reflecting his culture, the Gospel According to Luke mentions women more often and in a more favorable light than the other Gospels. It also seems more inclusive of Gentiles and outsiders.



Update

Thank you for your continued support for the missions of MCEF.

Current needs for the food pantry include canned beans (other than black beans and green beans), applesauce (preferably not individual size packages) and jellies.

Clothing needs include men's and women's extra large and larger sizes of winter clothing, sweat pants, pajamas, T-shirts (long and short sleeve) and new underwear and socks. All clothing for school age children is needed. Clothing must be clean, in good repair and have a size label.

Financial support is always needed and appreciated, directly or designated through the church offering.



Join Messiah on Facebook!



CFFY Corner

(Christian Formation for You)

MOVIE:

God's Compass (2016): On the night Suzanne Waters celebrates her retirement, she is faced with a series of crises that she could not have imagined. Trusting God's direction, her "North" becomes clear as she takes in a delinquent teenager, Eli. Her connection with Eli reveals a miraculous blessing that brings her and her son David's family through healing and a joyful confirmation that God has a plan for each of us, our "True North." This film features themes of devotion, love, forgiveness, and God's direction, hence the movie's title, "God's Compass." As Suzanne says at her retirement party, "God has plans for you. Don't chase what doesn't matter." We are pleased and happy to award the movie our "Faith-Friendly" Seal for ages 12-plus. The film has also earned our best rating, five Doves. It has an IMDb rating of 6.5 and is 1 hr. 39 minutes in length.

ADULT BOOK:

Orphan Train is by Christina Baker Kline, the author of *Bird in Hand* and *The Way Life Should Be*. Here she delivers her most ambitious and powerful novel to date. It's a captivating story of two very different women who build an unexpected friendship: a 91-year-old woman with a hidden past as an orphan-train rider and the teenage girl whose own troubled adolescence leads her to seek answers to questions no one has ever thought to ask. Rich in detail and epic in scope, *Orphan Train* is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of second chances, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are. It received a 4.12 rating on Goodreads with over 400,000 reviews and is listed as historical-fiction.

YOUTH BOOK:

Living It Up to Live It Down, a book by Ronica Stromberg, is about a young girl living with her non-believing family who finds it difficult to practice her faith. While looking for a Christian friend at her new middle school, she assumes that the preacher's daughter will make a perfect candidate. This book received a 4.3 on Goodreads under the category of Christian books for youth.

DEVOTIONAL:

Dying to Live: The Power of Forgiveness is a devotional book written by Harold L. Senkbeil. This book explores the struggles of daily life in light of our fundamental problems of sin and death, but it goes on to show how life can be transformed by the forgiveness bestowed by Christ in His Word and Sacraments. This book is available in paperback and ebook formats.

- Donna Shaw



BAM2 ThankYOU!

Thank you to those who joined us for the second BAM event, "Same Kind of Different as Me." After an amazing potluck meal, we shared laughter and tears through an amazing, touching, true story.

For those of you who would still like to read the book, check out our BAM library for a copy to borrow. It is in the classroom on the right going into the fellowship hall.

Our next BAM event will be in March. Stay tuned for details and plan to join us at the movies!



Many old friends return

During our 50th anniversary, we had many old friends return to celebrate with us. This included beloved pastors from our past and their family members. In this picture of our head table you see (left to right): the **Rev. Timothy F. Waltonen** (Interim Pastor, 2005-2007), **Jan Waltonen**, **Connie Rhinesmith**, the **Rev. Gary Rhinesmith** (1986-1993), the **Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick** (former member of Messiah, she currently serves as Assistant to the Bishop of the Virginia Synod, ELCA), **Nancy Matthews** (her spouse, the Rev. Larry Matthews, served at Messiah, 1973-1979 and died in 2017), **Kristine Florio**, and the **Rev. Louis Florio** (2007-present). The Rev. Rhinesmith celebrated his retirement with members of his last congregation, All Saints Lutheran (Bowie, MD), on November 3. His first call as pastor was at Messiah Lutheran, and he celebrated our anniversary with us the next day.

What a year! What a day! SO, what's next?

On All Saints Sunday, November 4, 2018, Messiah gathered with friends and family to celebrate 50 years! Thanks to all our

50th Anniversary worship leaders: the **Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick**, Assistant to the Bishop of the Virginia Synod, ELCA (one of our three former members to become a pastor); the **Rev. Louis Florio** (our seventh called Pastor); **Vicar Ginny Banister** (Assisting Minister, representing our three former seminary interns), **Victoria Gustafson** (Acolyte & Crucifer); **Grace Anderson** (Book Bearer & First Lector, representing our youth), **Sally Bennett** (Second Lector, representing our adults); **Patrick & Gladys Hubert** (Prayers of the People, representing our married couples and families). Last January, Pat & Gladys Hubert affirmed their marriage vows at Messiah Lutheran after 50 years of marriage. A new chalice, paten and communion plates were dedicated during the service. They were a gift in the memory of our third pastor, the **Rev. Larry Matthews**, from his family. Pictures from our day, our 50th anniversary year, and our #50factsaboutme campaign are posted on our photo gallery. Our anniversary video is available on our website and social media. If you have pictures to share, please forward them to our office.

More thanks!

- ★ Thanks to **Scot Shaw** for his 50th anniversary logo artwork. It was used with social media all year and in our worship space the day of our event. You can get your own commemorative pen with our anniversary logo in our narthex.
- ★ Thanks to all those who pledged during our Forwarding Faith Campaign and to those who participated in our BAM (Book And Movie) event, 3 Priests event, and our annual Community Thanksgiving Service at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

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Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111



December 2018/January 2019

Messenger

page 12

More thanks

Continued from page 11

★ Thanks to **Becky Collie** and the Fellowship Team for all the hard work preparing for our many 50th anniversary guests.

★ Thanks to **John Cline** for his extra work caring for our shrubbery. It looks great!

★ Thanks to **Donna Shaw** and **Susie Weaver** for their work organizing our archives for the future and creating a special historical display in our welcome area. The display covered historic highpoints by decade.



The DEADLINE for the
February 2019
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, January 20th.

Please call me with your
submission, hand me a written
submission OR email
susiew51@comcast.net



Messiah on Pinterest

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