

The MESSENGER



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

MARCH 2019



Ash Wednesday

As of the writing of this newsletter, there is no firm plan for the Ash Wednesday service on March 6th. Please refer to bulletins, Messiah Midweek emails, and social media for updates.

We will continue to share soup and bread dinner with All Souls members. Messiah will be taking the 1st and 3rd Wednesday (March 13th and 27th). All Souls will be hosting the 2nd and 4th Wednesday (March 20th and April 3rd). For the 5th week (April 10th), we'll combine efforts. **Sally Bennett** will be sending out opportunities for you to contribute to our suppers. If previous years are the standard, supper setup will be at 6:00 pm; supper will be at 6:30 pm.



Rev. Katherine from All Souls is working on the program for Wednesdays during Lent, since we don't have an interim pastor in place at this time. Details will be made available soon. You are invited to be involved and make your 40 days of Lent something that may just strengthen your walk with Christ. Stay tuned!

"You don't know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, 'Lord, I don't know how to pray!' you can be sure you have already begun."
—St. Josemaría Escrivá

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The Messenger

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**Change in procedure for
 Adding announcements**

Those of you who want to place announcements in the Wednesday update and/or in the Sunday bulletin, please send them to Donna Shaw at dmshaw70@gmail.com for inclusion. Please understand that if they are too long, they may be edited.

Also, please send your information on Monday or Tuesday, since some of the notices may be used in both places. Many thanks in advance.



Messiah on Pinterest

<http://pinterest.com/messiahmech/boards/>

**Your 2019 Church Council
 And Associate Members**

James Anderson Council President
Donna ShawVice-President
Sally Bennett Secretary

John Cline **Becky Collie**
Karen Morris **Roger Schroeder**
Daren Williams

Council Liaisons

Christian Education **Donna Shaw**
 Evangelism **John Cline**
 Finance **James Anderson**
 Property **Roger Schroeder**
 Social Ministry **Karen Morris**
 Stewardship **Daren Williams**
 Worship **Sally Bennett**

Shawn WarmbrodTreasurer
Bill Weaver..... Financial Secretary
Sue Gilnett, RN...Parish Nurse

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



Update on interim pastor

Your Executive Committee of the Council remains diligent in working hard to find someone to fill our needed interim pastor position, and we will continue to provide updates of progress when they occur.

If you have any questions or concerns please let us know. Do remain steadfast in faith with us that we will find someone for us in the near future.



Jean Wightman, cookie lady

A COW-tastic Valentines Day!

WOW! The Valentine's Day Cow Cookie Sale on February 10 blew our expectations out of the water! We had 60 cookies to sell, and thanks to our good friends in both the All Souls' and Messiah congregations, they were gone by 10:30. But that didn't stop your generosity! Even with the cookies gone, folks continued to add to our "cow tipping" jar. At the end of the day, we made **\$208.25!** We are around the 80% mark towards our total cow goal. We cannot thank you enough for your enthusiasm and support!

Thank you to **Stewart** and **Isaac Williams** for adding grace and charm to the booth.

And a very, very big THANKYOU! to Mr. Williams at **Williams Bakery** for graciously donating the cookies to our cow cause!

- **Jean Wightman**



Stewart & Isaac



B.A.M. 3 (Book & a movie)

Hopefully you've been reading this amazing story and are getting ready to see the movie on March 23 at BAM 3! Be sure to check the lending box in the narthex to see if a copy has been returned for you to use.

The evening will begin with a pitch-in dinner at 6:00 pm, organized like previous events.

If your last name begins with A-D, bring sandwiches for a dozen people or more.
 For G-J, please bring salads.
 For M-P, please bring a dessert.
 For S-W, bring a soup.
 If your initial isn't listed, free choice!

This is going to be an amazing evening—one you don't want to miss. Even if you don't have time to read the book, come join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and a movie you can only imagine!

Hope to see you at the movie! See **Donna Shaw**, if you have any questions.



March 10th



Leisure Group day trips

Messiah is again teaming up with First English Lutheran Leisure Group for some great day trips!

- On Wednesday, April 3, we will take a two-hour riding tour of Richmond aboard an air conditioned RVA Trolley. We will see the sights and listen as the guide tells us interesting facts about the landmarks, riverfront, architecture, and history of our capital city. We will meet the trolley at 1301 E. Cary Street at 10:00 a.m., but we can probably arrange car pooling from Messiah. After the tour, those interested may have lunch at Sine Irish Pub on E. Cary Street. Cost of the Trolley Tour is \$38 per person. (This does NOT include lunch) Make checks payable to Grace Gulick, and send to Grace at P. O. Box 1712, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. **Reservations must be made no later than March 1, 2019.**

On Tuesday, May 14th, the group plans to travel to Washington D.C. for a tour of the Museum of the Bible.

Reservations by April 19th).

Information for both trips is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. More trips are planned for the fall. Watch for coming events!

Questions? Contact **Donna Combs**.



- March 11 **Bonnie Dworak**
 16 **Chrisann Hatfield**
 20 **Susie Weaver**
 21 **Bee New ell**
 21 **Werner Gardner**
 22 **Charlene Glatfelter**
 24 **Lisa Ravizza**
 25 **Judy Schwerdtfeger**
 27 **Donna Shaw**
 29 **Victoria Major**



- March 5 **Roger & Lois Schroeder**

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

Would you like to help?

In the days and weeks ahead, there is much to be done. If you have an interest in assisting with our Ministry Site Profile or perhaps serving on the Call Committee, please contact **James Anderson**, **Sally Bennett**, or **Donna Shaw**, executive committee team members.



We pray for each other:

Charlie Absher; Ray Ash; Kenneth Deere; Adam Dw orak, Sr.; JoAn Firebaugh; Elisabeth Gardner; Werner Gardner; Steve Gilnett; “Doc” Kondaki; Mac McAllister; Pat Motley; Jack Ordazzo; Ruth Schroeder; Judy Schwerdtfege; Marc Thomas.

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Debra Anton, sister of Ruth Schroeder; **Family & Friends of Chuck Anton**, brother of Ruth Schroeder; **Bowman Balleh**, friend of Geoffrey Honan; **Cyndi Bauer**, sister of Lois Schroeder; **Lewis Brothers**, friend of the Schwerdtfegers; **David and Sandy Elliot**, friends of the Whirleys; **Connie Gambini**, friend and co-worker of Becky Collie; **Mel Gray**, Former member; **Robin Hood**, brother of Marilyn Gunn; **Bill Leaver**, friend of Charlie & Sally Bennett; **Family & Friends of Sam Markovich**, Kristine Florio’s father; **Alvin & Lucille Morlan**, father & stepmother of Donna Shaw; **Dieter Niklas**, brother of Erna Jung; **Evelyn Poulsen**, mother of Roger Schroeder; **Family & Friends of Heather Powell**, first cousin of Becky Collie; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger’s nephew; **Susan; Wanda Umlauf**, mother of Vicar Ginny Banister; **Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families, especially Ian Schwerdtfege;**; **Law enforcement, firefighters and first responders; The people of All Souls Epis-**

copal and our shared ministry; All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Pakistan, Sudan, Eritrea, and Yemen.¹

¹ Open Doors World WatchList 2019

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.

Pray for each other

“Beloved, pray for us.” (1 Thes. 5:25) – Continuing a practice from our 50th anniversary year, your worship team is challenging everyone to actively, intentionally pray for our community’s prayer list throughout the week. In addition, we will be having special intentions for several of our membership households each Sunday.

Help us keep our Facebook presence

During the coming weeks help keep our presence active on Facebook by liking and sharing posts that you see on Messiah’s FB page. In doing so, we reach many more people. You pick and choose what you like or share!

Let’s see how “active” we can be.

March 2019						
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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Church Office Closed on Fridays
Commemoration of George Herbert</p> <p>2 Commemoration of John & Charles Wesley, Renewers of the Church
Read Across America Day/Dr. Seuss' Birthday</p> <p>3 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</p> <p>4</p> <p>5 10:00 AM Richmond Conference Mtg. *
7:30 PM Taizé Prayer (Richmond Hill)</p> <p>6 ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>7 Commemoration of Perpetua and Companions, Martyrs
7:00 PM Choir Practice</p> <p>8 Church Office Closed on Fridays</p> <p>9 Martin Luther Awarded Bachelors in Biblical Studies (1508)</p> <p>10 Commemoration of Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, Renewers of Society
Virginia Lutheran Items Due
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</p> <p>11</p> <p>12 Commemoration of Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>13 6:00 PM Supper Setup
6:30 PM Souper Supper</p> | <p>14 Happy Pi Day!
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Meeting
7:00 PM Choir Practice</p> <p>15 Church Office Closed on Fridays</p> <p>16</p> <p>17 Commemoration of Patrick, Bishop and Missionary
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</p> <p>18 5:00 PM Stevie B night for MCEF</p> <p>19 Feast of Joseph, Guardian of Jesus
6:15 PM Council Meeting</p> <p>20 6:00 PM Supper setup
6:30 PM Souper supper</p> <p>21 Commemoration of Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury & Martyr
World Down Syndrome Day
7:00 PM Choir Practice</p> <p>22 Church Office Closed on Fridays
Jonathan Edwards, Teacher and Missionary</p> <p>23</p> <p>24 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</p> <p>25 Feast of the Annunciation and The Commemoration of St. Dismas</p> <p>26 10:00 AM Terrific Tuesday Club (Hanover Parks & Rec.)
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>27 6:00 PM Supper setup
6:30 PM Souper supper</p> <p>28 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Meeting
7:00 PM Choir Practice</p> <p>29 Church Office Closed on Fridays
Commemoration of Hans Nielsen Hauge</p> <p>30</p> |
|---|---|

Calendar

Continued from page 6

- 31 Commemoration of John Donne, Poet
 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

* Off Site



And the winner is...

Thanks to all the chili chefs and tasters who participated in the Chili Cook-off. We had eight entries and they were all delicious! After careful tasting, and often tasting again, the ballots were counted. The winners were: 1st Place - **Rosalee Cline** (Rootin' Tootin' Double Meat Back Porch Chili), 2nd Place - **Roberta McMillen** (Chilly Chili), 3rd Place - **Erna Jung** (White Chicken Chili). Thanks also go out to everyone who contributed hot dogs, chips, slaw and sweet treats.

Congratulations to our winners (top photo) and all of our contestants (below)!! Start thinking about a recipe for next year!



The A,B,C, & D of Medicare 2019

Medicare Talk at
 Lutheran Church of Our Savior
 9601 Hull Street Road

Saturday, March 16th
10:00 am—11:30 am

Hear from LCOS members who have
 Professional expertise with Medicare,
 including

Craig Nelson

retired occupational therapist & facility
 administrator, current consultant to an
 Illinois healthcare provider

&

Cindy Vik,
 family practice administrator

Please RSVP to **Kayleigh Dumont** at
 LCOS by Thursday, March 7:
 804-276-4271, admin@cosva.org



Join Messiah on Facebook!



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



CFFY Corner

(Christian Formation for You)

MOVIE:

Saved by Grace, 2016, IMBd rating 6.1, rated PG. A retired police officer, despondent over the loss of his family, contemplates a dramatic decision that will change his life forever — until he meets a mysterious woman who, through her personal stories, gives him a reason to re-examine what is most important to him. It also features the story of reconciliation between a father and his son.

This film is a must-see! It earned five Doves, their highest rating and is approved for ages 12+.

ADULT CLASS:

Free from ChurchNext: ***Reading the Bible Through the Lens of Conflict*** by Padraig O Tuama.

Discover new ways to handle conflict by reading scripture through a different lens. In this class, O Tuama unpacks the topic, revealing how peace can come not through agreement, but through a shared regard for scripture and its teaching. Here are the titles of his video presentations: What Is Spirituality of Conflict? Practice; Table of Interpretation;

Peacemaking and Spirituality. Take this course with a class of ChurchNext students from around the world. Registration includes: 24/7 access for 3 months to all video lectures, downloads, and course content. Video lectures with Padraig O Tuama. Downloadable Discussion Questions for groups and The Takeaway, for personal study. Interaction with other students through discussion questions and sharing notes. To access the course go to: <https://bit.ly/2DT7QWc>

YOUTH BOOK:

Joni: An Unforgettable Story is by Joni Eareckson Tada and Joe Musser. The award-winning story of a young woman who triumphed over devastating odds to touch countless lives the world over with the healing message of Christ. Includes photos and illustrations by Joni.

In a split second on a hot July afternoon, a diving accident transformed the life of Joni Eareckson Tada forever. She went from being an active young woman to facing every day in a wheelchair. In this unforgettable autobiography, Joni reveals each step of her struggle to accept her disability and discover the meaning of her life. The hard-earned truths she discovers and the special ways God reveals his love are testimonies to faith's triumph over hardship and suffering.

This book received a 4.25 on Goodreads with over 24,000 votes. For ages 12+.

DEVOTIONAL:

Daily Discipleship and ***Daily Faith Practices*** are online, downloadable Bible studies based on the lectionary used at Sunday worship. Use these Bible Studies for small group discussions, personal devotions, or sermon preparation. These two-page Bible studies connect the Word of God with daily life experiences and strengthen faith practices in everyday living.

Daily Faith Practices: A Bible Study based on the Second Lesson and the Five Gifts of Discipleship.

Daily Discipleship: A Bible Study based on the Gospel Lesson.

<https://bit.ly/2T0wsGe>

- **Donna Shaw**

MCEF News

Do you like to drive and have a desire to help others? The Senior Rides program needs YOU. Accept only the rides that suit your schedule, no minimum required. Take seniors to doctor appointments, grocery shopping, banking and essential services. The pay is \$.25 per mile and a lot of satisfaction. To find out more, talk to **Gladys Hubert**, call Senior Rides @ (804) 357-9360 or email office@4mcef.com.

Pastoral care issues?

In the event of a pastoral care issue going forward, call the church phone number during the days: M-Th, between 8am-3pm and call your council's current executive committee (James Anderson, Donna Shaw or Sally Bennett) if after business hours or on the weekends for an emergency. Their contact information is in your congregational address book. Assisting in this effort is Pastor Katie Pocalyko, Dean of the Richmond Conference, who will find appropriate help when needed.

Say it with flowers



Our altar flower chart has lots of empty dates that could be filled by you! The weekly amount is \$46.00 Just pick a date, write your name, and note a special occasion if appropriate.

Checks should be made out to Messiah Lutheran Church with "altar flowers" on the memo line. Specific dates need to be paid for 2 weeks in advance.

General donations can be made to the flower fund at any time following the same guidelines.



It's not too early!

The Christian Formation Team is looking for a person or persons to organize Vacation Bible School much in the same way that it has been in the past. There is a great team of individuals from both Messiah and All Souls who oversee the different parts of VBS including teaching the preschool kids, leading the older age groups, teaching songs, doing crafts, doing skits, and cooking meals. What is missing is the organizer to get the ball rolling, the person that oversees registration as well as making sure that all bases are covered. We have the blueprint to do it, we just need someone to manage it. This is something that Kristine Florio did for the last several years with great success.

Please see **Donna Shaw**, Liaison for the Christian Formation Team, if you'd like to help in this endeavor.

Traveling? Sick? Bad Weather? Working?

If you can't join us on a Sunday, please remember that online giving (one-time gifts or as repeated donations scheduled by you) is available. Visit our website at messiahmech.com. If inclement weather, we make every effort to publish our operating status on our website (the updates page), WRIC/Channel 8, our voicemail message and social media. In the end, whatever our published status, please use your best judgment to stay safe.



Transition Notes

These notes are taken from the DRAFT minutes of the January 20th Congregational Reports Meeting in order to provide an update on the progress of your Council Executive Committee in procuring the services of an Interim Pastor.

Please note that copies of all council and congregational meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

The Transition and Call Processes: After the reports were finished, James invited **Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick**, Assistant to the Bishop of the VA Synod, and who presided over worship today, to offer some remarks about what will happen as we travel through the transition process.

Pastor Kelly first thanked us for “our faithfulness of community” as reflected in the Prayers of the People as we prayed for Pastor Lou, Kristine, and the people of Christ Lutheran in Fredericksburg, for us and our shared ministry, and for our coming interim pastor and future called pastors.

She said: “There are two tasks immediately before the Executive Committee” (President, Vice-President, and Secretary):

- Establish a call committee at some point and complete the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). This profile, to be created in the Synod portal online, consists of 19 sections, some to be completed by one person, others by teams, and also includes a compilation of congregational responses to surveys. James [Anderson, Council President] noted that the Executive Committee of the Council has already completed sections 1 and 2 but will need help from many others, and he invited those interested to participate in the process. Ulti-

mately, the MSP contains not only our community data, etc. but also our vision for the future of Messiah Lutheran Church. This information will then be shared with pastoral candidates.

- Participate in Immediate Pastoral Care, such as securing the services of supply pastors and interviewing potential interim pastor candidates (Update: we have met in-person with one candidate but determined that the $\frac{3}{4}$ time that we need and the $\frac{1}{2}$ time that the candidate could give did not intersect. The Synod has now recommended another candidate and we have scheduled a meeting in the near future with that individual). We also must be available to respond to emergency calls from members of the congregation and will then contact **Pastor Katie Pocalyko**, Dean of the Richmond Conference, who will find appropriate help. We are to be in communication as best as we can. (Our contact information is in the directory.)

When the call committee is formed, they will meet with **Rebecca Walls** (Virginia Synod office), who handles both interim pastors and those to be called. “This is a prayerful process because we and the call committee must discern the will of the Holy Spirit. The process is confidential but not secretive since one that is secretive will only create anxiety. We need to honor the fact that members of the committee may not be able to answer all of our questions but will share what they can.”

The Synod office will “shepherd” us through the process, and Rebecca Walls and Pastor Kelly will be available for any questions about the process, including how to interview candidates. These interviews can be done in person or by SKYPE. The call committee contacts the candidates (the Synod gives us three at a time) and then goes to hear them preach and preside, either here or there. Candidates

Continued on page 11

Transition notes

Continued from page 10

who post sermons and other presiding activities may also be viewed on social media such as Facebook and YouTube.

Once the committee has a primary candidate, they will meet in person and name him or her, since this candidate cannot continue to interview anywhere else once this is done. The name must be kept confidential within the congregation (this happened with Pastor Lou's call) and cannot be shared on social media.

A second visit will be arranged for the congregation to meet and greet him/her, and at that time the council will interview the candidate and discuss compensation. The candidate then has a week to accept or decline the offer. A special congregational meeting will then be called to approve : 1) the "call" and 2) the compensation. "It is extremely important that after the votes, the confidentiality be kept to allow that pastor to share this information with his/her congregation."

Pastor Kelly then said, "Don't get discouraged, since taking time is important, and we need to discern who we are as God's people without Pastor Lou." She's "excited for what God has in store for us!"

The average time to complete this process, and have a new pastor in place, takes an average of 18 months; but she reminded us that Pastor Lou resigned almost two months ago. So we are now down to almost 16 months! Once having accepted the call, the new pastor has 30 days at least to complete their move to our area.

Where we are at this Point: James took the podium and thanked Pastor Kelly for her insight. He also noted that we have informed the Synod that we seek an interim pastor, and that that process is proceeding (see above). The call committee interviews all candidates for a permanent

pastor and will consist of six members yet to be named. James then asked anyone who might be interested in serving on this committee or to assist with the Ministry Site Profile to share his/her name with a member of the council if he/she feels called to serve.

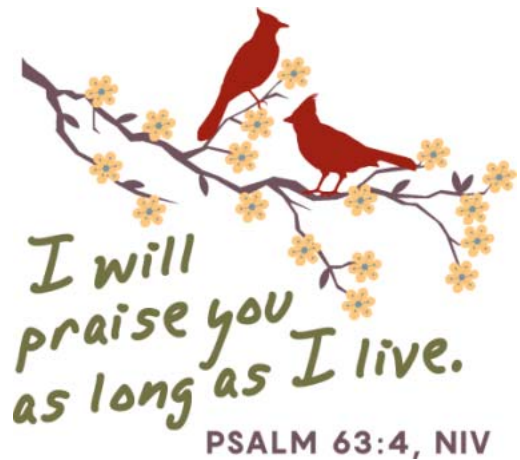
**Respectfully submitted,
Sally Bennett, Council Secretary and
Member of the Messiah Council Executive Committee**

An important **WARNING** from the Virginia Synod

"We have recently become aware of a scam attempt using the Bishop's name asking for gift cards. Please NOTICE - **THIS IS A SCAM**. Scammers use information found on the websites of institutions to send what appears to be an email from the CEO to the treasurer or others asking that a wire transfer be initiated or, as in this case, to others (with contact info on the website) asking for help with some form of financial support, gift cards, etc. Usually, if you look at the return email address you will notice it is not precisely the same as the actual CEO's address. Sometimes it is not at all like the real address. This means the email account has not been hacked, but it is still a dangerous deception. We share this notice, not only to alert you to this scam attempt, but also to the potential for it happening in your congregation, institution or agency."

"You don't know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, 'Lord, I don't know how to pray!' you can be sure you have already begun." — St. Josemaría Escrivá

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8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111



March 2019

Messenger

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To God you shall return

The traditional Ash Wednesday words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return” might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually — that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can’t untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know we don’t have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin’s power over us.

A pastor described Ash Wednesday as the point you can pinch in the middle of a long piece of ribbon, such that when you lift it high, the two ends — one symbolizing our



The DEADLINE for the
March 2019
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, March 17th

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

baptism and the other, our funeral — meet and touch. We come from dust and will return to dust, but we also come from God and will return to God. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we’re always safe in God’s love.