

The

MESSENGER



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

DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020



The Call Committee is excited to announce that our primary candidate will be leading our worship on Sunday, Dec. 8. We will have Fellowship Sunday that day instead of Dec. 1 to allow for informal conversation with him after the service. He will meet with the Call Committee Friday night and Church Council Saturday night of that weekend. Please plan to come on this important Sunday as we continue the call process. The Call Committee truly appreciates your prayers and support as we move forward!

- **Donna Shaw**

Important information for Dec. 8

On December 8, our primary candidate will be with us to preside over worship.

Following the service that day, we will have our monthly Fellowship Time from 12:00 – 2:00 PM which will provide you an opportunity to get acquainted with our

candidate. We are hoping for a casual time for you to get to know him and his family. It's not an interview, it is truly a time for you to get to know them in a personal way.

Knowing that there will be questions after this day, Council and the Call Committee would like to offer the opportunity for you to forward any questions you might have to either group by Dec. 12. Then on Dec. 15, as part of our Annual Business Meeting (**See p.4 for more info**) there will be a Question/Answer time to respond to those questions and any further questions that may be asked that day.

This is an important time for us at Messiah, filled with excitement and anticipation for sure. We know that God has been with us and continues to be with us in our "50 years, what's next?" thinking. This is just a next step towards finding what "next" might be!

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Sally Bennett Secretary

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

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Sue Gilnett, RN... Parish Nurse

Worship changes planned

In keeping with our current worship books, we are making a couple of changes to our worship in January that will help prepare us for a new pastor who will already be familiar with what for us may be a new way of doing things. This is not to say that we have been doing anything wrong. It is more a way to keep up to date with certain aspects of our Lutheran worship that have changed over time.

In the Apostle's Creed, instead of saying 'He descended into hell', we will follow what is suggested in the ELW, our worship book, and say: "He descended to the dead". Both of these phrases have been used in our worship (notice the asterisk in

Continued on page 3

Holiday hiatus for Bible study

The Tuesday morning Bible Study with Pastor Carbaugh will be taking a break over the holidays beginning this coming week. An announcement regarding when we will start up again will be made after the first of the year. You are invited to continue to review the upcoming lessons that are printed in each week's bulletin.



Messiah on Pinterest

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



Pastoral Letter

Are you ready?

That seems to be a common question this time of the year. Are you ready for Christmas? The Advent season is beginning. Advent is all about preparation, about getting ready to welcome the Christ into our midst, about getting ready to celebrate the birth of our Lord. The people in Jesus' day weren't ready - there was no room, not just in the inn, but in their lives, for this God breaking into their world. Are we ready for God to break into our world, our lives?

Are we ready for a new year - 2020? Have you begun to think about how this New Year might be different, really new? Or is it going to be the same old, same old? You see, that's why God came into our world in Jesus - so life could be new again, so light could shine in the darkness, so hope could overcome despair. Are you ready for that to happen? Are you ready for God to do a new thing in your life?

One thing is certain - if we are not looking for it, if we are not open to it and hopeful for it, if we are not ready for it, we will not experience it. God wants to do a new thing in our world, in your life. I'm not sure what that will look like or how it will come about. What I am sure of is that God has come, is coming into our world to make things new again. Hopefully this Christmas and New Year you will be ready to find that something new for you! In the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, I am about to do a new thing; even now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?!" (Isaiah 43: 19).

- **Pastor Carbaugh**

Worship changes

(cont'd from page 2)

the Creed), but this is now the preferred one that seems more consistent with scripture, especially I Peter 3:18-19 where it talks about Jesus, after His crucifixion, making a proclamation to the spirits in prison (descending to the dead). This is also the phrase that most other Lutheran congregations and Christian denominations are using, so that will be helpful too.

The other change is where the Peace will be shared in the service. In no way is this a change to how we are sharing the peace with one another, it is only changing where in the service it is shared. Again, the ELW places the sharing of the peace after the Prayers of the Church and before the Offering. In part, this is based on the passage from Matthew 5:23-24 where it talks about 'leaving our gifts at the altar, and going and being reconciled to one another, and then coming and offering our gifts'. This helps prepare us for receiving the Sacrament of our Lord and is consistent with the place where most other congregations share the peace and, most likely, would be most comfortable for a new pastor.

When we are used to doing something one way for so long, change can be unsettling. But change also provides us with an opportunity to see what has become familiar in a new way. Hopefully, these 'new things' can help put even greater emphasis on these important parts of our worship together. And, before long, this too will be something that will seem like we have been doing all along as well!



Congregational Business Meeting



Our annual congregational business meeting will be held immediately after church on Dec. 15, 2019. During this meeting we will elect council members, vote on our yearly budget, and have a time to respond to your questions you may have about our primary pastoral candidate.

We do hope you plan to attend this most important meeting. Your voice and vote are necessary and do make a difference!

Seasonal help wanted!

As we enter the holiday season of the year, please consider volunteering to fill one of the serving slots for our Tuesday, December 24th, 7PM Christmas Eve service: 1st Lay Assistant, 2nd Lay Assistant (serve grape juice), Greeters (2), and Ushers (2). We already have a volunteer for Lector.

In addition, Monday, January 6th is our joint Epiphany service with All Souls, and it is also the night we “UNdecorate our church” after the service. We need volunteers to stay to take down wreaths, remove tree decorations, and package everything up for Christmas 2020.

At your earliest convenience, please check your calendars and contact **Sally Bennett**: sallybennett3317@gmail.com to volunteer on Christmas Eve and/or **Donna Combs**: dcombs08@comcast.net to offer your help on Epiphany night.



- 10 **Gordon Gunn**
- 14 **Curtis Pfohl**
- 16 **Marilyn Gunn**
- 16 **John Terry**
- 26 **Gary Krupa**
- 30 **Kyle Schroeder**



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



- 4 **Karen Umberger**
- 4 **JoAn Firebaugh**
- 11 **Erna Jung**
- 14 **Max Williams**
- 15 **Grayson Starret**
- 22 **Bill Hatfield**
- 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).





We pray for each other:

Kenneth Deere; Adam Dworak, Sr.; JoAn Firebaugh; Bill Fulop; Elisabeth Gardner; Werner Gardner; Steve Gilnett; Gladys Jordan, "Doc" Kondaki; Linda Krupa; Mac McAllister; Roberta McMillen; Pat Motley; Nathan & Ruth Schroeder and family; Judy Schwerdtfeger.

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Danny Allen, brother-in-law of the Whirleys; **Debra Anton**, sister of Ruth Schroeder; **Ginny Bannister**, friend of Messiah; **Barbara**, friend of the Whirleys; **Family and Friends of Cyndi Bauer**, sister of Lois Schroeder; **Chuck Dupuy**, son-in-law of Joan Barnes; **David and Sandi Elliott**, friends of the Whirleys; **Dylan and Family**, friends of the Whirleys; **Connie Gambini**, friend and coworker of Becky Collie; **Neal Hanchey; Thomas Hancock; Tammy Hood**, sister-in-law of Marilyn Gunn; **Family of Ed Johnson; Jim Jones**, friend of the Whirleys; **Nancy McKinney; Fred Mader**, friend of Erna Jung; **Bob Moyer**, brother of Judy Schwerdtfeger; **Mary Moyer**, sister-in-law of Schwerdtfegers; **Mullen Family**, friends of the Whirleys; **Family and Friends of Dieter Niklas**, brother of Erna Jung; **Family and Friends of Jack Ordazzo; Family and Friends of Evelyn Poulsen**, mother of Roger Schroeder; **Dee Schroeder**, sister-in-law of Roger; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Family and Friends of James Sondor**, father of Chris Sondor; **Sandy Street**, sister of Donna Shaw; **Susan**, friend of the Whirleys; **T.J.**, grandson of the Whirleys;

Pastor Carbaugh as he leads us while we seek a Permanent Pastor; **Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families, especially Ian Schwerdtfeger;** **Law enforcement, firefighters and first responders; The people and pastor, Rev. Katherine of All Souls Episcopal & our shared ministry; All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Russian Federation, Malaysia, Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Bangladesh, Palestinian Territories, and Azerbaijan.**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.

****Prayer List reset****

The Prayer List will be reset on December 1, the beginning of Advent. Please call Davina at 746-7134 or email Messiah-Mech@gmail.com to let her know if you would like a name to remain on the list.

Liturgical supplements

Beginning with Advent, December 1, Liturgical Supplement song booklets will be placed in each pew rack. These booklets should be placed back in the pew rack when done being used each Sunday. It is hoped that bringing this practice back will help those who like to read music while singing as well as help visitors sing music that they may not know. The covers will be the color of the present church season so look for the blue Advent booklet now in the pews!

December 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				

January 2020						
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 First Sunday in Advent
9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship</p> <p>3 7:30 PM Taizé Prayer (Richmond Hill)</p> <p>5 7:00 PM Choir Practice</p> <p>8 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
With primary candidate
12:00—2:00 PM Sunday Fellowship</p> <p>10 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>11 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Meeting</p> <p>12 7:00 PM Choir Practice</p> <p>14 5:30 PM BAM - Movie Night</p> <p>15 9:15—10 AM Tree Trimming event
10:15 AM Festival of Lessons and
Carols with Pageant/Combined ser
vice with All Souls
Congregational Business Meeting
4:00 PM Kaffeeklatsch
5:00 PM German Christmas Service</p> <p>17 10:00 AM Terrific Tuesday Club
(Hanover Parks & Rec.)
6:15 PM Council Meeting</p> <p>19 7:00 PM Choir Practice</p> <p>22 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship</p> <p>23 Secretary on Vacation (12/23 - 12/27)</p> <p>24 Christmas Eve
6:45 PM Carol Sing
7:00 PM Candlelight Service</p> <p>25 Christmas Day</p> <p>29 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship</p> <p>31 New Year's Eve</p> | <p>1 New Year's Day - Office Closed</p> <p>2 7:00 PM Choir Practice</p> <p>5 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship</p> <p>6 6:30 PM Epiphany Party
UN-decorating tree & sanctuary</p> <p>7 1:00 PM Bible Study
with Pastor Carbaugh
7:30 PM Taizé Prayer (Richmond Hill)</p> <p>8 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Meeting</p> <p>9 7:00 PM Choir Practice</p> <p>12 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship</p> <p>14 1:00 PM Bible Study
with Pastor Carbaugh</p> <p>16 Religious Freedom Day
7:00 PM Choir Practice</p> <p>18 Start of the Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity</p> <p>19 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
12:00 PM Annual Reporting Meeting
(Snow date, January 26, 12:00 pm)</p> <p>21 1:00 PM Bible Study
with Pastor Carbaugh
6:15 PM Council Meeting</p> <p>22 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Meeting</p> <p>23 7:00 PM Choir Practice</p> <p>26 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship</p> <p>28 1:00 PM Bible Study
with Pastor Carbaugh</p> <p>30 7:00 PM Choir Practice</p> |
|---|---|

Advent & Christmas



Sunday School: Dec. 1st & 8th, 9:15 am
Trim the tree, etc. on the 15th, 9:15 am.
No Sunday School after that until Jan. 5.

Dec. 1st, 10:45 service: 1st Sunday of Advent

Dec. 8th, 10:45 service: Primary candidate will be presiding/preaching;
Sunday Fellowship following service

Dec. 15th: 9:15-10:00: Annual Christmas tree decoration with Sunday school children. There will be singing, a Christmas lesson, snacks, and preparation for the Nativity Pageant at 10:15.

10:15: Festival of Lessons & Carols with Pageant/Combined service with All Souls; Congregational Business Meeting after worship service

4:00 PM Kaffeeklatsch;

5:00 PM German Christmas Service



Dec. 24th: 6:45 PM: Carol sing.
7:00 PM Candlelight service.*



Monday, Jan. 6th, 6:30 PM:
Epiphany service, *
"UN-decorate" the tree & sanctuary after the service.

* See "Seasonal Help Wanted," p. 4)

Froehliche Weihnachten!

(Merry Christmas!)



A now-annual event at Messiah, the German Christmas Service will be celebrated on December 15, third 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.

Facelift coming!

Along with getting a new roof sometime early next year, Council has voted to get the interior of our building painted as well. Look for a sparkling sanctuary, narthex, classrooms, copy room, pastor's office, hallways, bathrooms, and fellowship hall to be completed in the coming weeks. It's truly going to be a "new" year for us come 2020! God is Good!

Thank you

It has been a very difficult few months for the Schroeder family. We wanted to tell you how much we appreciate the prayers, support & patience. Knowing we have the love of our Heavenly Father & that we are loved by you has made a big difference. You are in our prayers as well. God bless all of you.

- Roger & Lois Schroeder

CFFY Corner

(Christian Formation for You)

Book for Adults - What can the call to discipleship, the adherence to the word of Jesus, mean today to the businessman, the soldier, the laborer, or the aristocrat? What did Jesus mean to say to us? What is his will for us today? Drawing on the Sermon on the Mount, Dietrich Bonhoeffer answers these timeless questions in the ***The Cost of Discipleship*** by providing a look at the difference between "cheap grace" and "costly grace." *The Cost of Discipleship* compels the reader to face himself and God in any situation. Bonhoeffer speaks of "Cheap Grace", grace without discipleship. "Costly Grace" is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. "It's costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life."

Book for Youth - The "Chicken Soup" series has covered a plethora of topics over the years. ***Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul: Stories of Life, Love and Learning*** by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberly Kirberger offers 101 inspiring stories that can help uplift youths' spirits. As the description explains, "being a teen is hard — but you are not alone. This book is filled with stories that will make you laugh and make you cry." It will act as a best friend, keep you company, motivate you, and reassure you that other teenagers have been through the same ups and downs and have come out okay.

Movie – *A Christian Carol* is a modern retelling of a Dickens classic, with a distinctly Christian message. Carol, a cold and calculating businesswoman, experiences a life-changing adventure, as three very special visitors take her on a journey to discover the true message of Christmas. Carol is rude to others and mean-spirited

toward Christmas. However, when three angels visit her to show her the way of God's love, she begins to change. This film will touch everyone with the true message of Christmas. The first angel, Gabriel, shows the story of Jesus's birth, John shows Carol the present-day Christmas, and Paul shows her what is to come. The film's message is clear: Everyone must make choices in life, but without the love of God, no one can love others or themselves. It is a wonderful message of how much we need God in our lives. It received the Dove "Faith-Friendly" Seal for all ages.

Devotional/Study – *Streams in the Desert: 366 Daily Devotional Readings* by James Reimann, editor of the highly acclaimed updated edition of *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers, again brings us the wisdom of the past in the language of today, by introducing this updated edition of *Streams in the Desert*. With fresh, contemporary wording and precise NIV text, the timeless message of the original flows unhindered through these pages, lending guidance and hope to a new generation of believers. We never know where God has hidden His streams. We see a large stone and have no idea that it covers the source of a spring. We see a rocky area and never imagine that it is hiding a fountain. God leads me into hard and difficult places, and it is there I realize I am where eternal streams abide. Day by day, *Streams in the Desert* will lead you from life's dry desolate places to the waters of the River of Life -- and beyond, to their very Source.

- Donna Shaw

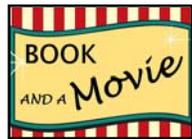
New directories are available!

Your new church directory is ready for you to pick up! Copies are available on a table in the narthex.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study continues to meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7pm (excepting Dec. 24th) in the fellowship hall. All are welcomed to join. We continue to read and discuss "Bad Girls of the Bible and What We can Learn from Them" by Liz Curtis Higgs.

Any questions please contact **Valerie Williams** - 240-638-6162 or vswilliams2005@gmail.com



B.A.M.

The next BAM gathering will take place on Saturday, December 14th at 5:30pm with dinner, book discussion and watching a movie. The title for the next book is "Breakthrough" by Joyce Smith. Several books are available in the Book Lending Box on the table in the Narthex. Please be sure to return books once you have completed reading them so others can enjoy. Meal will include chili, cornbread, salad, and dessert. Please be on the lookout for the sign up sheets coming via email and paper form in the narthex. A head count will be helpful with meal planning.

Any questions please contact **Valerie** (240-638-6162; vswilliams2005@gmail.com) or **Daren Williams** (703-856-4262; dmaxw@hotmail.com).



MCEF News

Many thanks to all who have contributed food for the Thanksgiving bags for our neighbors in need. They express their appreciation when they receive their bag.

This is a reminder that the third Sunday of each month has been designated "Manna Sunday" at Messiah. At this time, the MCEF food pantry is in need of green beans, peas, pancake mix and syrup and jelly.

MCEF is also in need of winter coats, all ages, men's jeans waist sizes 28 to 34 and junior girls winter clothing sizes 14 and 16.

- **Gladys Hubert**

Christmas/Epiphany gifts for our community

We at Messiah have had a tradition of observing the visit of the Magi (Wise Men) on January 6, the start of Epiphany and end of the Christmas season. These Wise Men brought gifts appropriate for a king when they came to pay their respects to the Christ Child.

As a part of our celebration, in past years, we have collected gloves and hats for people in need of warm outer wear clothing, and so have many other groups! At the OSS (MCEF) we have discovered a need that is just as great and not being met! Socks and underwear for people in our community!! This year we will have a collection box in the narthex for your "gift" of socks and underwear. All sizes are needed for men, women, and children but especially adults.

Thank you for helping MCEF meet this need! Questions? Ask **Donna Combs** or **Gladys Hubert.**

Messiah Lutheran Church
8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111



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“Be born in us today”

In 1865, Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal preacher from Boston, went on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Riding horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem for Christmas Eve worship at the Church of the Nativity was so moving that he wrote “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” The hymn’s final stanza addresses the town’s most famous newborn:

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!



The DEADLINE for the
February 2020
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, January 19th

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



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