

# The MESSENGER



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

JUNE 2020



## Messiah Council highlights

Since our church facilities have been temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and our Council minutes are not able to be viewed as hanging in the Narthex bulletin board, council decided to put a “highlights” from the monthly council meetings in our monthly Messiah Newsletter. If anyone wants a full copy of the minutes you can e-mail [MessiahMech.com](mailto: MessiahMech.com) and request it.

### Highlights from the May 19, 2020 Messiah Church Council meeting

Council discussed the following items:

- Recognizing the service of our interim, Pastor Carbaugh
- Transitioning of our new permanent pastor, **Pastor Ryan** and his family, to Virginia and beginning his work at Messiah
- Life of the church: Pastor Carbaugh reported there will be several things he will transition to Pastor Ryan to complete such as confirmation of 4 young people and first communion for 3 children.

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## A fond farewell to you, Pastor Carbaugh!

It is with grateful hearts that we bid farewell to you Pastor Carbaugh, interim pastor for the past year. Even though we are excitedly beginning a new journey with Pastor Ryan, we can truly say that we have been blessed by your kind, gentle spirit and encouraged by your messages, sermons, and subtle spiritual leadership. You have been with us through many glad times and have ‘caught’ that Messiah spirit! You’ve also been with us through sadder times which have touched our hearts forever.

We pray that you and your family remain safe and healthy during the coming months. We also pray that you now enjoy that full retirement that you left in order to serve us. We ask for God’s blessings upon you as we bid farewell...not goodbye...just farewell. Godspeed good and faithful servant. Godspeed.

## A look inside....

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**The Messenger**

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VISIT OUR MLC WEBSITE:  
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**Your 2020 Church Council  
 And Associate Members**

**James Anderson** ..... Council President  
**Donna Shaw** .....Vice-President  
**Karen Morris** ..... Secretary

**John Cline**                      **Becky Collie**  
**Karen Morris**                 **Anita Philp**  
**Roger Schroeder**             **Diana Sondor**

**Council Liaisons**

Christian Formation ..... **Donna Shaw**  
 Evangelism ..... **John Cline**  
 Finance ..... **James Anderson**  
 Property ..... **Roger Schroeder**  
 Social Ministry ..... **Anita Philp**  
 Stewardship ..... **Diana Sondor**  
 Worship ..... **Karen Morris**

**Shawn Warmbrod** .....Treasurer  
**Bill Weaver**..... Financial Secretary  
**Sue Gilnett, RN**...Parish Nurse

**Are we  
 designated?**



Over the years Messiah members have enrolled in donation programs through Kroger’s Community Award Program and Amazon Smile that allow for you to choose a charitable organization to receive a small donation based upon what you spend in these places. If you would like for Messiah to be your designated organization at one or both of these businesses, please enroll directly with them and specify us. If you’ve already enrolled and would like us to receive donations, please check to see if Messiah is your charitable organization.

With God’s will and your generosity, Messiah will continue to survive!

**Thank you!**

Church Council would like to thank all members who have been able to continue donating regularly to Messiah. Your generosity has helped us to continue to fully pay staff members as well as meet all current monthly obligations without seeking financial assistance to do so. Even though apart, God is among the good people of Messiah! Stay safe until we are together again!



*Pastor's Message*

## The power of Pentecost

The Day of Pentecost falls at the end of May - May 31 to be exact. Along with Christmas and Easter, it is one of the three most significant days in the church calendar. Jesus has ascended into heaven and, as He has promised, He is sending the power of God's Spirit to move among the people, and to move the people to action. It is a powerful experience, and one that clearly stirs up God's people to be the church in the world. Some call it the birthday of the church because it is then that Jesus' followers truly come alive and live for God.

It is that power that each of us has received in our Baptism. We have been empowered for faith and for serving. We have been empowered for being the church together. And even though the church seems different these days - we are still the church; we are still God's people together; we are still the community God has called into being to love one another and to love the world. No matter how much things seem different or how much things change around us, the church is alive and well - and that is evident here at Messiah now, and into the future.

One of my favorite Pentecost hymns includes these words - which seem to be appropriate and meaningful in every age:

"Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free;  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
Then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;  
And down in the city, you called once again,  
When you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.

From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;

Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.

With bold new decisions your people arise."

This same Spirit is blowing through you and through this congregation. This same Spirit is calling out to you from tomorrow to bring you to a new place. There are decisions that have been made that are leading you into your future, and you will continue to make bold new decisions so you will arise, 'rise up', to a bold new day in the life of Messiah. Such is the power of God's Spirit, first given at Pentecost, and given each day in our lives and in the life of God's church.

**-Pastor Carbaugh**

Worship  
with us  
from  
HOME

Join us for worship on Sunday and for a midweek message on Wednesday by going to [messiahmech.com](https://messiahmech.com) and choosing the Digital tab;

or go to Messiah Mech Digital on the YouTube channel;

or visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>

However you choose to be with us, we will be happy that you did!

## A Hearty Welcome to You, Pastor Ryan!

It is with much pleasure that we welcome you, Pastor Ryan Radtke, new permanent pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church! Just writing those words brings such excitement! Although we are in strange times, Messiah can look expectantly at the future and wonder what God has in store for us when you're physically here. We pray that the sale of your home, the moving of your family, and the settling here in Virginia occurs without angst and complication.

Until then, keep safe and stay well. We will be ready to give you that big Messiah welcome when the time comes! God's peace to you and your family until then!

June 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				

- 3 Messiah Digital Midweek
- 7 Trinity Sunday  
Messiah Digital worship
- 10 Messiah Digital Midweek
- 14 Messiah Digital Sunday
- 16 Council meeting 6:15 pm\*
- 17 Messiah Digital Midweek
- 20 First day of summer
- 21 Fathers Day  
Messiah Digital Sunday  
Newsletter deadline
- 24 Messiah Digital Midweek
- 28 Messiah Digital Sunday

- conference call

NOTE: All calendar events are subject to change.



June

- 9 **John Drazenovich**
- 13 **Adam Dworak Sr**
- 14 **Wesley Williams**
- 15 **Lois Schroeder**
- 16 **Victoria A Knab**
- 18 **Rosalee Cline**
- 20 **Karoline Combs**
- 27 **Jessica Glusing**



June

- 5 **Teresa (& Mike) Gigante**
- 16 **Ken & Sheila Whirley**
- 21 **Gordon & Marilyn Gunn**

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).



Unfortunately, during this pandemic time, the Virginia Synod has canceled the following events for this year: Synod Assembly, Power in the Spirit, Kairos, and Launch.

The Junior- High event in July is still on the calendar at the present time. For more information, go to the Synod website: <https://www.vasynod.org/>.



## We pray for each other:

**Kenneth Deere; Adam Dworak, Sr.; JoAn Firebaugh; Bill Fulop; Elisabeth Gardner; Werner Gardner; Steve Gilnett; Geoffrey Honan; "Doc" Kondaki; Linda Krupa; Mac McAllister; Roberta McMillen; Pat Motley; Nathan and Ruth Schroeder and family; Judy Schw erdtfeger.**

## We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

**Danny Allen**, friend of the Whirleys;  
**Boyd Allison**, friend of Jean Wightman;  
**Family & Friends of Dennis Anderson**, father of James Anderson; **Joe Griffin**, friend of Anne Mason; **Pete Gunn**, friend of the Schwerdtfeger's; **Family and friends of Maebry Anne Haislip; Christina Nibali**, sister of Anita Philip; **Dee Schroeder**, sister-in-law of Roger; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Family and friends of Wanda Umlauf**, Vicar Ginny Banister's mother; **T.J.**, grandson of the Whirleys;  
**Pastor Carbaugh** as he walks with us in this interim time;  
**Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families, especially Ian Schw erdtfeger;**  
**Law enforcement, firefighters and first responders;**  
**The people and pastor, Rev. Katherine of All Souls Episcopal** & our shared ministry;  
**Hospitals, nursing homes, & other health care facilities; The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; The World Health Organization; Medical researchers and scientists; Schools; Workplaces; Government institutions**

**and municipal agencies; For all who travel;**  
**All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Algeria, Uzbekistan, Myanmar, and Laos.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Open Doors World WatchList 2020  
<http://www.opendoorsusa.org>

*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.*



## A surprising solution

The only solution for being broken is ... brokenness. By brokenness, I mean the acknowledgment of it, the full and unflinching acceptance that we are bankrupt, poor in spirit and have nothing to offer. In our culture, that's a hard sell. ... Brokenness is not trending on Twitter. It's not written on anyone's résumé, and it's no business strategy at all. It is, however, the one hope Jesus holds out for us, the inside-out, upside-down way that is somehow the only path that ultimately is right side up. Embrace the paradox: brokenness is the way to wholeness.

- Kyle Idleman, *The End of Me: Where Real Life in the Upside-Down Ways of Jesus Begins*

## Church council

Continued from page 1

[Pastor Carbaugh] also reported discussing with Rev. Katherine from All Souls about re-opening with the two congregations. Finally, he told council that it had been a joy to be part of Messiah and serve in our midst.

- Treasurer's Report and Financial Secretary's Report were reviewed.

We fell more behind in May of our income vs. expenses. We will look at some ways to try and save a little more money on utilities. Our loan from Thrivent was approved and deposited. That enabled us to pay A+ \$15,000 towards the balance due on our roof replacement. Our new mortgage will start in June and our monthly payments will decrease by about \$400 due to extending the time to repay and our lower mortgage rate. We continue to be grateful for and appreciate our members' faithful support of our church during these times.

- Most of our Ministry Teams and Old Business are in a holding pattern due to the pandemic and our church temporary closing while we try to extend our digital and long-distance communication and connections through e-mails, telephone calls, website, Facebook and other resources.

- We will have another special council conference call at the end of May to discuss our church re-opening as this is an on-going concern with constant updates from Synod, the government and health care professionals. Council is committed to re-opening as soon as we get the guidelines to do so safely for our Messiah family.

- **Karen Morris**

Church Council Secretary



## VA Synod News

- The May edition of **The Virginia Lutheran** (the VA Synod's monthly newsletter) featured Messiah's "Sign Man" message, previously included in our own May newsletter. We're glad we could share that message outside of Mechanicsville. [Personally, I miss the "Sign Man" posts on Messiah's Facebook page... hint.]
- This same publication also includes some very interesting stories, including:
  - An article about **Jennifer Boykin**, president of Newport News Shipbuilding and member of First Lutheran, Norfolk, and her company's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Reflections on 50 years of ordination of women in the ELCA, by **The Rev. Jean Bozeman**
  - An introduction to "A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment: A Policy Statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," which was adopted at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

These and more can be found at <https://www.vasynod.org/news/publications/the-virginia-lutheran/>



While the One Stop Shop location is physically closed to clients, food is still being distributed to those in need. A call to the MCEF phone, 357-4093, will initiate a return call. That will enable the client to choose foods that they need. An appointment for pick up will be made. The OSS is now accepting donations by appointment.

The MCEF website has been revamped, check it out at [4mcef.com](http://4mcef.com). The donation button is located near the bottom of the opening page.

Plans are being made to open soon following CDC protocol.

- **Gladys Hubert**



COVID-19 is threatening vulnerable communities, and Lutheran World Relief urgently needs cloth face masks to send to them. The cloth mask you sew in your living room will provide love and protection to a neighbor in need halfway around the world. How many will you make to help stop the spread?

To sign up and get more information go to: [www.lwr.org/masks](http://www.lwr.org/masks).

## Joan Barnes Memorial Scholarship



Your church council is pleased to announce the application process for the 2020 Joan Barnes Memorial Scholarships, which have been funded through the Estate of the late **Joan M. Barnes**, a member of our congregation. They will be awarded “for the furtherance of post-secondary education of youth of Messiah Lutheran Church.” Those who will enter or are enrolled in post-secondary education, either in an undergraduate college/university program or at a technical school,” may apply. A former educator and life-long Conservative Christian, Joan Barnes’ only requirement upon making plans for this scholarship before she passed away was for recipients “to make the most of the educational opportunities that are presented to you.”

Due to some complications last year, we have changed the format for 2020, and the scholarships will be for \$1000 each year, up to a total of \$3000. For each of the applications after this initial 2020 one, our 2020 recipients will need to fill out forms with all of the pertinent information for each year that follows.

All information along with the application has been put on the church website and can be found under the “About” tab. If you have specific questions about the scholarship or application process, please contact **Sally Bennett** at [sallybennett3317@gmail.com](mailto:sallybennett3317@gmail.com) and she will assist you.





## CFFY Corner

(Christian Formation for You)

Here is another selection of movies and books that you might enjoy during our time of social-distancing.

Blessings to all - **Donna Shaw**

### Four Movies:

- **The Case for Christ** (2007): This is a very powerful documentary. Lee Strobel, the former atheist, goes on a search to prove the existence of Christ. He is amazed in what he discovers in his journey. He interviews several professors, studies the history of Christ himself, and discovered some things which enlightened him, such as the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) fit in accurately with history. Although this subject might not keep young children's attention, it was awarded Dove "Family-Approved" Seal for all ages. It can be found on Prime Video, Vudu, YouTube, and Netflix.
- **God's Not Dead** (2014): This is a powerful film. Kevin Sorbo turns in a brilliant performance as a Philosophy professor who starts his new class by insisting that his students sign a paper stating "God is dead". One student, named Josh, refuses to do so and Professor Jeffery (Sorbo) tells him he must debate the topic that God is dead and give convincing evidence that he is not. Josh accepts the challenge and the viewer later learns why Professor Jeffery has been bitter at God for a long time. It should be noted that the professor's girlfriend is a Christian but he just can't seem to outrun God. This movie is Dove approved for ages 12+

and can be found on Prime Video and Netflix.

- **The Two Popes** (2019) - Two giants of the acting world, Anthony Hopkins and Jonathan Pryce, battle with wits and religious debate as Pope Benedict XVI and Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio (the future Pope Francis), respectively. Sometimes deep and poignant, sometimes incredibly funny, the script by Anthony McCarten, based on his book *The Pope*, provides an excellent opportunity to see these actors, and the Popes they play in the film, in incredible new ways. This movie is Dove approved for ages 12+ and can be found on Netflix.
- **The Ultimate Gift** (2007) - Howard "Red" Stevens leaves his grandson, Jason, an unusual inheritance. Jason has to pass certain tests before he learns what that final inheritance will be. It includes working hard for the first time in his life, and helping others out. Twelve tasks, which Red calls "gifts," each challenging Jason in an improbable way, the accumulation of which would change him forever. This movie is Dove approved for ages 12+ and can be found on Prime Video, YouTube, Vudu, and Tubi.

### Three Books:

***Reading the Bible with Martin Luther: An Introductory Guide*** - Prominent Reformation historian Timothy Wengert introduces the basic components of Martin Luther's theology of the Bible and examines Luther's contributions to present-day biblical interpretation. Wengert addresses key points of debate regarding Luther's approach to the Bible that have often been misunderstood, including biblical authority, the distinction between law and

**Continued on next page**

## CFFY Corner

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gospel, the theology of the cross, and biblical ethics. He argues that Luther, when rightly understood, offers much wisdom to Christians searching for fresh approaches to the interpretation of Scripture. This brief but comprehensive overview is filled with insights on Luther's theology and its significance for contemporary debates on the Bible, particularly the New Perspective on Paul. Goodreads rating of 4.4.

***Rising with Jesus: God Pleasing Prayers to Start Your Day*** – by Donald Patterson (2020). Prayer is a heart to heart talk with God. So often, our prayers share what's on our hearts, but that doesn't mean they are what God wants to hear. In a mutual relationship, we all want to be heard as much as we want to hear. Patterson firmly believes that God wants to hear us pray about the things that are impor-

tant to him as much as we pray about what's important to us.

***God's Guest List - Welcoming Those Who Influence Our Lives*** (2011). Who is on God's "guest list" for your life . . . and why? The answers may surprise you. Through touching true stories and inspiring insight Debbie Macomber takes readers on a journey to discover the shaping influence others have on us and the power we have to shape and influence those whose paths cross ours. Each of us have "influencers" that have affected our lives—some from a distance, some through word or deed, some through example, be it good or bad. Often, we don't even recognize the deep impact others have had and how God has used them to shape us into who we are. By pausing to recognize these influences, we begin to grasp how God's guest list has a purpose far beyond what we imagined.

## Try this alternative to walking in your neighborhood.

For more information, see <https://www.facebook.com/HanoverParksRec/>

Hanover County VA  
PARKS & RECREATION
**PARK USE GUIDELINES**  
Please do your part to protect yourself  
and others while visiting the park

 **Stay home if you are sick** 

 **Wash or sanitize your hands before coming to and  
after leaving the park**

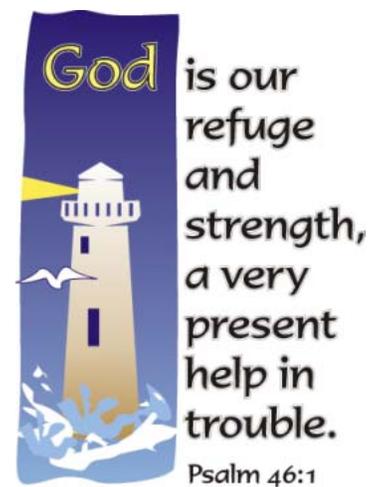


**Keep 6-foot distance between you and others and  
do not gather in groups.**

 **Smiling does not spread germs.**  
We can all use a friendly smile, wave or hello as we pass by!

**Be advised that park amenities are not  
sanitized, so please use with caution.**

Messiah Lutheran Church  
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Mechanicsville VA 23111



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**Join Messiah on Facebook!**



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The DEADLINE for the  
**July 2020**  
edition of *The Messenger* is  
**Sunday, June 21st**

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



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