

The MESSENGER

Worship
with us
from
HOME

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

JULY 2020

Highlights from the Messiah Church Council meetings

Messiah Church Council has been very busy the last month. We met by conference calls and one Zoom meeting on 5/26, 5/28, 6/1, 6/2, 6/9 and 6/23. The following are highlights of those meetings:

- At our **5/26/20** Council conference call, we discussed re-opening of Messiah. Our insurance company, Church Mutual, issued new guidelines for churches as well as new guidelines from the CDC. When we re-open we will need to do many things to insure the health and safety of all including: wearing face masks; specific entrances only and exit only; screening; sharing plans with All Souls; cleaning and disinfecting; seating with physical distancing; worship activities; non-worship activities; and extended church closure past 6/10, but no new date until get more definitive guidance from Synod and government. We also talked about finances with a \$2,000 drop in budget showing.
- On **5/28/20** Council had a conference call to discuss **Pastor Ryan's** call. We reviewed how Pastor Ryan's move readiness is progressing, the need for self-quarantine when arriving from California for 2 weeks, **Pastor Carbaugh's** end of his interim call on

June 7 and Pastor Ryan's start on June 8, the unprecedented times with COVID-19 and the needs of Messiah's congregation. Synod thinks Messiah has been very generous in working with Pastor Ryan for the last five months or so while he finished his house remodeling and move.

- **6/1/20** Council met again via conference call to update **Pastor Ryan's** call. Pastor Ryan's house remodeling was almost complete and ready to go on the market. Pastor Ryan could do many of the same things Pastor Carbaugh was doing from a distance by recording mid-week and Sunday services and using e-mails and phone and other methods to keep in touch. Our congregation really needs to also have Pastor Ryan here physically for pastoral care, such as what **Pastor Carbaugh** did to have a small memorial service outside for a

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The Messenger

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Karen Morris Secretary

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

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

Highlights

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- Family, or other needs. Some things just can't be done long distance. The congregation is really excited about Pastor Ryan being our new permanent pastor. Council set a July 1st date for Pastor Ryan to be physically here.
- For **6/2/20** Council had a Zoom meeting with **Pastor Kelly** from Synod to celebrate the ministry of **Pastor Carbaugh**. Council thanked Pastor Carbaugh for his caring, steadiness, sermons, preaching of the Gospel, humor and genuineness. Council felt it was a blessing that he was willing to be our interim pastor. Pastor Car-

baugh said it was his joy to work with Messiah. Pastor Kelly ended our Zoom lifting prayers for Pastor Carbaugh's ministry among us and for Messiah as we move forward with Pastor Ryan.

- **6/9/20** Council had a conference call meeting to discuss a request from the Women's Bible Study group to be able to use the church grounds to have their meetings. Although it was a specific request from one group, it really was about whether or not Council was ready to open the church for non-worship activities. After much discussion of pros and cons, it was decided that in view of the large crowds to

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Pastor's message

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings!

It is my sincere joy and privilege to be writing my very first *Messenger* article to you. I know it has been a long time since the congregation voted to call me as your pastor, and you all have been incredibly patient and gracious as you've waited for our renovation project in California to be completed, for our kids' school year to come to a close, and for us to list and sell our house and move across the country to begin our ministry together in Mechanicsville. Throw in the quarantine, and it's been complicated, to say the least. There have been some bumps in the road, to be sure; but the road is still leading to us being all together. I'm grateful for the technology that is available to us in this day and age that has allowed me to begin recording messages and sermons to be shared while we are not only staying physically distant, but while my family and I are on a different coast.

All that being said, it will be a few more weeks until I can be with you. The good news is: the renovation is finally done, the house is staged, and a photographer will be here a couple of days before you receive this newsletter to make our house look attractive to buyers. The market here has been good, and houses have been selling fairly quickly. We have been looking at houses in Mechanicsville non-stop since December, too. We are ready to load our stuff onto a moving truck. We are ready to go through with our plan to rent an RV and make a safe trip across the country. We are ready to move into a house in Mechanicsville and get settled and put down roots. It's just going to be a couple of more weeks. And I'm genuinely sorry for this latest delay.

I know how anxious folks are for me to be there. To start ministry. To visit the sick and lead worship in person. To share fellowship. To lead Bible studies. I am anxious for all of this too. I am excited to be with you! And please know that I've been meeting with the church council even before I was "official" to be a part of the conversations about reopening. Things are moving in the right direction, and we're in the process of finalizing plans and timetables to make sure everyone - especially those at a higher risk - are safe. Please know, also, that if any other unexpected delays or obstacles come up, I'll be booking a flight.

This hasn't gone according to plan. Not even a little! I know that there's the expression - "People plan. God laughs" - or something like that. I don't think that's the case here; but I do know that God will work good from all things, even the things that don't go according to our plans. In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes about how he thought he would have made it back to Corinth to visit again by now; but instead he got detoured to Macedonia. But he gives thanks to God that he was able to do God's work in Macedonia, and that another apostle, Titus, was able to do God's work in Corinth in the mean time. Paul gives thanks that they are still able to keep in touch and hear about the wonderful things God is doing with them all, even if they are separated.

God is doing wonderful things at Messiah. God is doing wonderful things for me and my family, especially that we will soon be serving alongside of you. This time of separation will pass. I will continue to record services and messages for you. I will continue working towards my goal of calling every household of Messiah and getting to know you better until we can be

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July 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	



- July 2 **Pat Motley**
- 4 **James Anderson**
- 22 **Bob Griffin**
- 23 **Johnnie Collie**
- 25 **Valerie Williams**
- 27 **Curt Glatfelter**

July

- 1 Digital Midweek
- 3 Church Office Closed
- 4 Independence Day
- 5 Digital Worship
- 8 Digital Midweek
- 12 Digital Worship
- 15 Digital Midweek
- 19 Digital Worship
- 21 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 22 Digital Midweek
- 26 Digital Worship
12:00 PM Shepherd's Team Meeting
- 29 Digital Midweek



- July 2 **Steve & Donna Shaw**
- 25 **Kevin & Brandi Hendrickson**

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

NOTE: All calendar events are subject to change.



Pastor's message
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together in person. I will continue to pray for you and give thanks to God for you. I will continue to serve you in any ways I can, no matter what zip code I'm in. And I'll be with you soon.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- **Pastor Ryan Radtke**



Greetings from CA!
Hope to see you all soon!

Back row: Pastor Ryan & Liz.
Front row: Anna, Kate, and Will.



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 Schw erdtfeger's; **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 Ryan, as he begins his journey with us;

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 Vietnam, Turkmenistan, China, and Mauritania.¹

¹ 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.

Important: The current prayer list will be reset on July 5 to begin the third quarter. Please contact **Davina** with names that need to remain on the list. Email her at MessiahMech@gmail.com or phone 746-7134 with your requests.



MCEF Update

MCEF is now OPEN for clients to receive food and/or clothing. The procedure allows the client to select what they need and a volunteer completes their "order" on a drive through basis. Those needing clothing are escorted to the appropriate closet to make their choices. All volunteers and those clients entering the OSS must be a febrile (no fever) and wear a mask.

All donations may be made to the OSS on the first or third Sunday of the month, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. or placed in the grocery cart in the narthex when the church building is opened. Hopefully, school will be starting and needs include underwear and socks for school-aged children, all sizes.

Check out the updated website, **4mcef.com**, and the Facebook page for further information.

- Gladys Hubert

Highlights

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- gether for Memorial Day and for the protests, we should wait a couple of weeks and see if COVID-19 cases increase. So we changed our June monthly meeting to 6/23 and will put it on our agenda.
- Council's regular monthly meeting of **6/23/20** was held by conference call to include:
 - **Pastor Ryan** said he was beginning to make phone calls to connect with Messiah members and he was continuing to record his mid-week and Sunday services for online access.
 - Christian Formation usually recognized Sunday School staff every year in June and made sure this June was no exception. They were all recognized and also given pewter bookmarks.
 - Evangelism team acknowledged **Donna Shaw** for continuing to keep our Facebook updated, **Rosalee Cline** for our website updates and **John Cline** for keeping our outdoor sign updated. The sign welcomed Pastor Ryan.
 - There was one applicant for the Joan Barnes Memorial Scholarship this year.
 - Discussion of re-opening the church facilities and starting with small steps towards some non-worship activities using either the outdoors or building since the governor is moving Virginia into Phase 3 on July 1st. More specifics will be developed early July.
 - **Pastor Ryan** updated council with his transition to Virginia and will communicate that directly to the congregation.

- Recorded and compiled by
Karen Morris, Council Secretary

CFFY Corner

(Christian Formation for You)



CFFY – With summer starting here are Bible studies for all ages! Blessings to all -
Donna Shaw

The Bible Made Easy – For Kids (ages 8-12+) is a complete book of Bible events in story form, yet it offers much more! This creative learning tool helps young readers make sense of the Bible and discover the connection between Bible stories and their individual lives. They will find answers to questions about characters and events as well as explanations of Biblical words, symbols, and truths. There are also line drawings that can be colored in, simple maps, interesting charts and basic timelines that get kids excited about their journey from Genesis to Revelation. 378 pages, paperback. Available on Amazon for \$8.38, \$6.49 on Christianbook.com

Bible Infographics for Kids – Giants, Ninja Skills, Talking Donkey, and What's the Deal with the Tabernacle? (Ages 9-12+) The Bible is far from boring, but sometimes it can feel that way to kids. Spark their excitement for God's Word with this craze-mazing collection of infographic spreads designed to make the Bible come alive for kids and adults alike. These colorful creations visually depict the key concepts, important people, and most unusual facts from the Bible in a new and exciting way. In addition to the incredible infographics found throughout, you and your kids will love playing a Bible timeline board game that folds out from the middle of the book. This game will help your family see God's awesome plan from Genesis to Revelation! 48 pages, hardcover. On Amazon for \$12.99.

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The Bare Bones Bible Handbook for Teens: Getting to Know Every Book in the Bible -- Bestselling author Jim George adapts his popular *The Bare-Bones Bible Handbook* (over 100,000 copies sold) for teens. This fast and friendly overview of every book of the Bible will inspire teens to explore the wisdom and truth of scripture as they discover: What is the major theme of each book of the Bible? What are the most important lessons for everyday life in each book? Who are the key characters, and what do they teach us? What are the key events in each book? This fascinating survey also includes sidebars geared to a teen's interests and life, giving them a solid foundation of knowledge about the most important book ever written. 250 pages, paperback. On Amazon for \$11.99.

Conversations with Jesus – 365 Daily Devotions for Teens - Have you ever wondered what Jesus would say to teens if He could email or text them every day? God never intended for us to journey through life alone or without direction, and *Conversations with Jesus: 365 Daily Devotions for Teens* is the perfect tool for every teen who desires to know more about Jesus and what the Bible says about any life situation. 374 pages, paperback. On Amazon for \$12.95.

Learn the Bible in 24 Hours - For those who have tried and failed to follow through on a plan to study the entire Bible, Dr. Chuck Missler has the answer. *Learn the Bible in 24 Hours* is an ideal study aid to help you grasp the big picture of Scripture. Each chapter is designed for study in an hour or less. Features include: Sound, fresh teaching on Scripture; Historical and cultural insight into biblical passages; Sidebars that highlight the primary concepts of the chapter. There is a Handbook available to use as a workbook too if you're interested! It's a great way to get an overview before dig-

ging in deeper. 329 pages, paperback. On Amazon for \$13.99. Side note: There is also a 10-part video series by the same name, featuring Dr. Missler on YouTube. Start here, if you're interested: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZ3hESj_M8)

Through the Bible in One Year: A 52 Lesson Introduction to the 66 Books of the Bible, Dr. Alan Stringfellow - For more than three decades, this book has brought greater insight into God's Word to thousands of believers. Taking the reader completely through the Bible, book by book, this acclaimed learning tool spells out the progressive, step-by-step revelation of God's will; shows how it has become manifest over the centuries; and explains how it affects believers' lives today. 240 pages, paperback. On Amazon for \$13.99.

Financial support reminder

To continue in your faithful giving, mail in your offering to the church office, 8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111, or use on-line giving through Vanco, which is available on the church website. See messiahmech.com for more details.



Join Messiah on Facebook!



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The weight of hate



No matter the target, hatred weighs us down and distracts us from Godly living.

That's why Paul instructs followers of Jesus to "put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice" (Ephesians 4:31, NRSV) Once that hateful weight is gone, we'll be freed up to "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you" (verse 32).

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The DEADLINE for the
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edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, July 19, 2020

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

Join us for worship on Sunday and for a midweek message on Wednesday by going to 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!