

# The MESSENGER



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

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NOVEMBER 2020

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## Highlights from the Messiah Church Council meeting

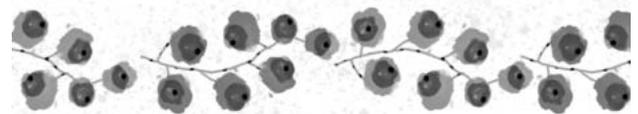
Messiah Church Council met for a regular monthly council meeting on 10/20/20. The following are highlights of the meeting

- **Pastor Ryan** reported on the Congregational Life of the Church stating that he has started 1st communion classes for three children and is organizing confirmation classes for several young people. He has had various contacts with members. He is continuing with a series on prayer for his midweek videos.
- The **Treasurer's Report** revealed that although we are still behind our annual budget needs, we have had slightly more weekly incomes. Messiah Lutheran Church was named as a possible beneficiary in the Newell will. The Dupuy gift process has yet to be completed at this time.
- The **Property Team** reported that all fire extinguishers that needed replacement have been replaced and that the fans in the Fellowship Hall are now working. Security cameras have been purchased and will be installed in the coming weeks.
- **Social Ministry Team** will have the Foster Children Christmas Gift Pro-

gram this year but it will be conducted differently from past years.

- The **Church Directory** will be distributed this Sunday, October 25, 2020.
- Our annual financial audit is completed, signed and filed for 2020.
- The date for Messiah Annual Reporting Meeting will be 1/24/21 with 1/31/21 as an alternate.

**Continued on page 2**



## A look inside....

- Pastor Ryan's office hours ..... P. 2
- Pastor's message ..... P. 3
- Calendar ..... P. 4
- Celebrations ..... P. 5
- Prayer list, Lost & Found ..... P. 6
- Memorials ..... P. 7
- CFFY: Thanksgiving ..... P. 8
- Puzzle page ..... P. 9

### *The Messenger*

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**VISIT OUR MLC WEBSITE:**  
<http://www.messiahmech.com>

## Your 2020 Church Council And Associate Members

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

**John Cline**                      **Becky Collie**  
**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

## Highlights

### Continued from page 1

- The internet service will be changed in the coming weeks to improve our ability to share digital material with the congregation.
- We hope to begin the outside painting and repair of facia in the near future.
- We are in search of 2 people interested in joining our Digit Worship/Church team to plan for the future.

- **Karen Morris**

## Pastor Ryan's office hours

**Pastor Ryan is in the office:**

**Tuesdays 1-5**

**Thursdays 1-5**

**Fridays 9-3**

Dedicated **drop-in hours** (Pastor Ryan is there, if you want to drop in) will be:

**Tuesdays from 2-4 pm**

Otherwise, during posted hours, he will be in the office or making visits, but still in the area. Other times, Pastor Ryan will be working from home (to help with his kids' distance learning), and will still be available via phone and email, which are:

[messiahmechpr@gmail.com](mailto:messiahmechpr@gmail.com)

And

507-360-7276

Pastor Ryan's day off is Monday.

Pastor's message

## Always reforming

This turnover between October and November is a full one for us Lutherans. October 31st isn't just for Halloween; it's also Reformation Day, the day that Luther is said to have nailed those ninety-five theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, and started the whole Reformation going (Happy 503rd!). And November 1st is All Saints Day, where we give thanks for the saints who have gone before us.

These two days might seem unrelated, but Martin Luther's teachings about the complexities of life and the grace of God do help us understand what it means to be a saint, and not just in the life to come, but also in the here and now. Here are three Lutheran "slogans" to highlight what I mean. (And for some reason, even though the Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek and Luther was German, two of these slogans are in Latin, because that's how medieval scholars rolled.)

- **Semper reformanda.**

That means "always reforming." Reform – not starting a new denomination – was at the heart of what Luther was trying to do. He wanted to bring the teachings and actions of the church of his day to be more aligned with the gospel of Jesus Christ: with grace and forgiveness from God, not a church that turned a profit. Not Christians who were scared and unformed, toiling away for salvation that they could never, ever earn. No, Luther was all about God's transforming, reforming love. *Semper reformanda* – always reforming; that's what Luther taught for the church and for our hearts – and for the world. And, in theory, we Lutherans are still reforming today. In this life we'll never be completely reformed – it's an incomplete process; but it's a holy pursuit.

And it's not, "if we reform, then God will love us better." No, its, "Because God loves us, therefore we are free to be reformed."

- Second, we have this one:

- **simil justus et peccator.**

It means: "simultaneously saint and sinner." This is a classic Lutheran both/and. We are both sinners, in need of salvation, and saints, already redeemed. We are forgiven sinners. We are broken saints. We are gifted by the Holy Spirit, made holy and saintly as our life goes on and our faith explores and deepens – but we are never perfect. We still fall short. We live out our faith in this simultaneous identity through the vocations God has given us, witnesses to God's grace that God would work through us saintly sinners, and inviting folks to join our company of sinful saints. Each day we experience the cycle of dying to our sin and being raised to new life, rooted in our baptisms, up to and beyond our last breath.

- Third: **we are justified by grace through faith in Christ.**

Or maybe you've seen this version: we are justified by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Reformation Day invites us to celebrate Luther's extraordinary teachings. All Saints Day puts those teachings in the context of real lives. There are lots of kinds of saints. The ones we commemorate for being famous in some way, for affecting the course of the church or even the world. The public ones. The storied ones. And then there are the ones we commemorate for shaping our lives more directly, the personal saints who affected our worlds. They aren't saints for all the things they said and did. They are saints because God justified them and

**Continued on page 4**

## Always reforming

### Continued from page 3

- made them saintly. They trusted, as best as they could, in God's promises. Promises like: the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Future promises that change our lives today. They were justified by grace, through faith in Christ, who died and who was raised so that we might have abundant life, in this life and the next.

These are all big teachings with very real impacts on our lives. Always reforming; simultaneously saint and sinner; justified by grace through faith in Christ. It puts the focus on God and acknowledges our limitations. God is constantly reforming us into saints, no matter what. Our life of faith is not static. It's a both/and life. It's a life of growth. These teachings help us to be both honest and hopeful, always looking to God, the reformer of sinners and the maker of saints. Blessings to you all through this double dose of festival days!

In Christ,  
**Pastor Ryan**

## Women's Bible study

Meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 in the fellowship hall.

Please bring your own chair and snack. We are continuing with our study from Lysa TerKeurst "It's Not Supposed to be This Way".

If you have any questions or wish to attend please contact **Valerie Williams** at [vswilliams2005@gmail.com](mailto:vswilliams2005@gmail.com) or 240-638-6162.

November 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					

- ALL SAINTS DAY  
 9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation  
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran:  
 Worship Service
- 9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation  
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran:  
 Worship Service
- Happy Birthday, Martin Luther!
- 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation  
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran:  
 Worship Service
- 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 5:30 PM CoolWell Townhouse Annual  
 Homeowner's Meeting (Cancelled)
- CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY  
 9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation  
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran:  
 Worship Service
- 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- THANKSGIVING- Office Closed
- Office Closed - Secretary on Vacation
- FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
 9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation  
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran:  
 Worship Service

\* Watch the Messiah website and Facebook page for any updates



**God, the blessed  
 and only Ruler,  
 the King of kings  
 and Lord of lords.**

1 Timothy 6:15, NIV



- 2 **Linda Krupa**
- 2 **Anita Philp**
- 3 **Lynn Deere**
- 6 **Sharon Griffin**
- 6 **Emily Gunn**
- 8 **Jenn Drazenovich**
- 17 **Roger Schroeder**
- 24 **Ella Anderson**
- 25 **John Cline**



- 18 **Gary & Linda Krupa**
- 24 **Leroy & Lynn Deere**

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).



## Worship Team

Many, many thanks to so many of our Worship Team who have agreed to serve at the FIVE Drive-In services before we go inside on October 25th.

I'd like to recognize and thank those who have served for THREE or more Drive-In services: Acolyte: **Karoline Combs** and Greeter/Ushers as well as **Chris & Michael Sondor** (+ once as Acolyte for Michael). Finally, I'm sending an enormous thank-you to the following "servants" for assisting at FOUR Sunday Drive-In ser-



## News and updates

Donations for Thanksgiving bags are now being accepted in the grocery cart in the narthex. In addition to the usual foods collected, the needs include boxed mashed potatoes, brownie mix and cake mix and frosting. The clients chose the foods they would like to receive (better stewardship of resources). Consult [4mcef.com](http://4mcef.com) for more information.

Now would be a good time to donate winter coats (clean and in good repair), for children and adults. The linen closet is in need of used towels and wash cloths and sheet sets (King and Queen sizes).

Watch for an announcement about an upcoming fund-raiser.

Thank you for your support.

- **Gladys Hubert**

vices: **Daren & Max Williams**, as well as to **Roger Schroeder** for serving at all FIVE Drive-In Sundays!!

Once I learn when we'll be inside permanently for our Sunday services, I'll be able to create serving rotations and schedule serving assignments for everyone. Until then, I'll be making phone calls during the week for the following Sundays, so "Stay Tuned!"

Blessings,  
**Sally Bennett**, MLC Worship Team Leader



## We pray for each other:

**Debbie Anton; John Cline; Johnnie Col-  
lie; Kenneth Deere; Adam Dworak, Sr.;  
Bonnie Dworak; Family & Friends of  
JoAn Firebaugh; Bill Fulop; Steve Gil-  
nett; "Doc" Kondaki; Mac McAllister;  
Ruth Schroeder; Judy Schwerdtfeger.**

## We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

**The Allen Family**, relatives of the Whirleys; **Bonnie Altobelli**, sister of Brenda Laveck; **Family & Friends of Theresa Birkeland; Talisha Chandler**, friend of the Schwerdtfegers; **Cindy Love**, sister of Schwerdtfeger's friend; **Wilana Madden** (on her 99th birthday), friend of the Schwerdtfegers; **Christina Nibali**, sister of Anita Philp; **Pat Ruffner**, friend of the Whirleys; **Dee Schroeder**, sister-in-law of Roger; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Hunter Townsend**, friend of the Whirleys; **Billy Vaughan**, uncle of Charlie Schwerdtfeger; **Family & Friends of Pastor Timothy Waltonen**, former interim pastor for Messiah; **Sam Williamson**, friend of the Schwerdtfegers; **Family & Friends of Liz Zimmerman**, Karen Morris' daughter-in-law's aunt.

**Pastor Ryan**, as he begins his journey with us;

**Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families, All law enforcement, firefighters and first responders; The people and pastor, Rev. Katherine of All Souls Episcopal & our shared min-**

**istry; 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; Those affected by fires and hurricanes; For all who travel;**

**All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Brunei, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Malaysia.<sup>1</sup>**

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

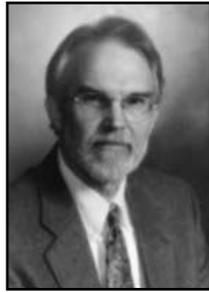
*To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the church office, 746-7134. If leaving a message, include your contact information for follow-up. Unless we hear otherwise, individuals will be removed quarterly.*

Since we ~~Online~~  
can't gather  
in-person,  
we are hosting ... **LOST  
AND  
FOUND**

Lost and Found, the annual Virginia Synod weekend retreat for youth in 7th and 8th grades and their adult advisors, will be DIGITAL this year! The event will take place via Zoom during four blocks of time on Nov. 20-21, 2020 (Friday 6 PM to Saturday 7:30 PM).

For more information and to register for this year's event, visit <https://www.vasynod.org/event/lost-and-found/>.

## Pastor Waltonen Memorial donation



Church Council would like to offer the opportunity for members to help Messiah honor **Pastor Timothy Waltonen** by making contributions to a designated fund in his name. Monies given to this fund will be sent by Messiah to the Lewy Body Dementia Association in honor of Pastor Tim. It is such a privilege for Messiah to honor this gentle giant of a man who was among us for 2 years (prior to Pastor Lou) as an interim pastor.

When donating, please make any checks payable to Messiah and then designate your contribution to the "Pastor Waltonen Fund" and put it in the weekly offering plate by December 1, 2020.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/fredericksburg/name/timothy-waltonen-obituary?pid=196891157>



With deepest sympathy, we mourn the loss of our sister in Christ, **JoAn Firebaugh**, who went before us to her Heavenly Father on October 10. She will be greatly missed by her friends at Messiah and by her family, including **Johnnie and Becky Collie**, and sons **Taylor and Patrick**.

An outdoor memorial service was held on October 17th at Messiah.

Please keep the Collie family and their extended family and friends in your prayers.

Online condolences at  
[www.woodyfuneralhomeatlee.com](http://www.woodyfuneralhomeatlee.com)

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## Solitude as soul care



Richard J. Foster (Celebration of Discipline) says solitude is "more a state of mind and heart than a place: "There is a solitude of the heart that can be maintained at all times. Crowds, or the lack of them, have little to do with this inward attentiveness."

Although Jesus preferred crowd-free alone times, that's not always feasible. But no matter your surroundings and responsibilities, you can carve out intentional time to "be still" (Psalm 46:10). Try these tips for adding solitude to life's rhythms:

- Take a day. Every month or two, enjoy a day of solitude. Turn off your phone and spend the day with God.
- Take an hour. Treat this time as an important calendar appointment. Keep it free to protect your solitude.
- Take a minute. Before a big meeting or as you're answering the phone, breathe deeply and invite God into the moment.

—Janna Firestone

## CFFY: Thanksgiving activities for the entire family



As you begin to plan for Thanksgiving on November 26, please take a look at the following movies, books, and activities. It is hoped that you find them a helpful resource as people focus on the blessings God has given them.

—Donna Shaw

### Movies:

- *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* is a 2019 American biographical drama film directed by Marielle Heller and written by Micah Fitzerman-Blue and Noah Harpster, inspired by the 1998 article "Can You Say ... Hero?" by Tom Junod, published in *Esquire*. It received the Dove approval for all ages, a great family film.
- *The American Heritage Series*- Discover the forgotten and astonishing story of our nation's foundation in the American Heritage Series. From Separation of Church and State, to the Civil Rights Movement, the heroism of our founding Fathers to the building of our nation's monuments, this series will inspire every American to reclaim the Godly, true story of our nation. This series has received the Dove approval for all ages and can be found on Amazon Prime.

### Books:

- *Thanksgiving: A Time to Remember* by Barbara Rainey is a book about the plight of the pilgrims. It reminds us of God's provision and the sacrifices of the people who first came to this country and laid the foundation for us all. This is a book that every family that celebrates a God inspired Thanksgiving should read.

- *Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message* by Jake Swamp is a special children's version of the Thanksgiving Address, a message of gratitude that originated with the Native people of upstate New York and Canada and that is still spoken at ceremonial gatherings held by the Iroquois, or Six Nations. Although written for elementary children, the message is for everyone.

### Activities:

- **Make a Thankful Pumpkin!** All you need is one pumpkin, a permanent marker, and a heart full of gratitude. Each day leading up to Thanksgiving add one thing that you're thankful for, starting at the top, writing across the pumpkin, turning while you go. If you fill one up... just get another one!
- **Make a Thankful Jar** with a mason jar, a ribbon, and small pieces of paper to write on. Once a day or in the week leading up to Thanksgiving, simply write down things you are thankful for and put them in the jar. Then on Thanksgiving, take them out and read them out loud. For children, you could give daily prompts such as friends you are thankful for. (Hint: the ribbon is for decoration).
- If there are children at your Thanksgiving meal, encourage them to serve one another first, taking care of everyone else first and themselves last. Asking children to serve one another teaches them to put others first and follow in the footsteps of Christ.
- On Thanksgiving Day, write down 5 reasons you are thankful for each family member that can then be given to that person. One creative way to do this is to have everyone pin a sheet of paper on his/her back, and then tell everyone to walk around the room at the same time, writing nice messages on the sheets. These sheets can then be read aloud at the dinner table and/or given to the person as a keepsake.

# A taste of history



Add a yummy, authentic touch to your Thanksgiving meal with this recipe.



**What you need:**

- 2/3 cup heavy cream
- pint jar with lid
- strainer
- bowl
- container
- salt



**What you do:**

1. Pour cream into the jar and close the lid tightly.
2. Shake vigorously about 8 minutes, until a solid lump of butter forms. (Take turns with a friend!)
3. Strain the contents, catching the buttermilk in a bowl to save for another recipe.
4. Put the butter in a container. Add salt to taste.
5. After chilling the butter, enjoy on fresh bread.



**Bible Quiz**

After Jesus healed 10 men at one time, how many returned to thank him? What had been their ailment?

A. five; blindness  
 B. all 10; deafness  
 C. one; possession by demons  
 D. one; leprosy

Answer: D (See Luke 17:11-19.)

## PUZZLE

### Glad gatherings

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	They	found	broke	bread	acts	in
2	houses	their	homes	beautiful	and	round
3	ate	world	beginning	together	follow	thought
4	with	numbers	glad	happiness	lesson	and
5	thanks	sincere	disciples	gathering	hearts	tradition
6	celebrate	good	praising	Christian	God	river

Cross out all words in column E with double letters.  
 Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.  
 Cross out all words in column B that end in d.  
 Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.  
 Cross out all words in row 5 with 3 syllables.  
 Cross out all words in the table with 9 letters.  
 Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ . ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Answer: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47, NIV

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NOVEMBER 1

November 2020

**Messenger**

page 10



The DEADLINE for the  
**December 2020/January 2021**  
edition of *The Messenger* is  
**Sunday, November 15th**

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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