

The MESSENGER



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

MARCH 2021

Church Council highlights



Messiah Church Council met for a regular monthly council meeting on 2/16/21. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- **Pastor Ryan** reported on the Congregational Life of the Church stating that quite a few Messiah members have had quite a few health issues. Individuals are going through treatments for cancer and other health issues. He is working with several other churches in the area to put together ecumenical Lenten services online. Since young people are tired of all the online and zoom classes, Pastor Ryan is going to try using the US mail to send out weekly worksheets and lessons for confirmation class until they can get together in person.

- Council voted to designate Caroline Furnace camp for Lenten offerings.

- All Souls Episcopal Church has been supporting Messiah by continuing to make monthly donations even though they have not used our facilities since March of last year. Council voted to allow half donations from them until they can return to using our facilities.

- The Digital Worship team met and will use council members to have a re-entry conversation with all members of the congregation getting prepared for in-person services again in the future. More information on that project to come.

- Christian Formation is looking at offering themed, monthly, multi-generational evening get-togethers, since we have not been able to have in-person Sunday School. More information to come.

- The Property Team reported that the lawn tractor will be repaired and ready for spring yard work. We still need to get the outdoor painting completed. More proposals will be solicited.

- There are no times for Holy Week services, but there will only be one Easter Sunday service.

Continued on page 2

A look inside....

- Pastor's message P. 3
- Calendar P. 4
- Celebrations P. 5
- Prayer list P. 6
- Christian Formation P. 7

The Messenger

**Published monthly by
Messiah Lutheran Church, ELCA
8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111
Church Office: (804) 746-7134
FAX: (804) 746-5579**

**Rev. Ryan Radtke, Pastor
Email: messiahmechpr@gmail.com
Ph: 507-360-7276
Office hours: TBA**

**Davina Winn, Administrative Assistant
Office email: messiahmech@gmail.com
Office hours: Mon. & Wed. 7:30 am—3 pm
Tues., Thurs., Fri. 7:30 am—12 pm**

**Susie Weaver, Newsletter Editor
Ph: 804-559-3503
Email: susiew51@comcast.net**

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

**Your 2021 Church Council
And Associate Members**

James Anderson Council President
Donna ShawVice-President
Karen Morris Secretary

Dianne Absher **Anita Philp**
Roger Schroeder **Diana Sondor**
Debbie Walker

Council Liaisons

Christian Formation **Anita Philp**
Evangelism **Donna Shaw**
Fellowship **Karen Morris**
Finance **James Anderson**
Property **Roger Schroeder**
Social Ministry **Dianne Absher**
Stewardship **Diana Sondor**
Worship **Debbie Walker**

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

Church council highlights
Continued from page 1

- The filming company who gave us a donation to use our parking lot as an overflow staging place last fall would like to do so again in March.
- Council reviewed when we would use our phone tree and decided that we would only use it for emergency situations – not weather related. For weather closing, it will be posted on our webpage, Facebook, on TV8 and on the church telephone answering recording.

Submitted by
Karen Morris
Council Secretary



Pastor Ryan's office hours are posted for the upcoming week in each Sunday's bulletin. You can reach out to him to schedule an appointment or for any other reason at the following:

messiahmechpr@gmail.com
And 507-360-7276

Pastor Ryan's day off is Monday.

Pastor's message

How long, oh Lord?

There are cobwebs in the sanctuary. There are bulletins from last March drooping from the racks in the pews, a box of last year's annual reports in the back of the church. The only time I have ever preached from the pulpit at Messiah was in December of 2019, when I came to interview. It's been a year of pandemic and quarantine and social distancing and shutdowns and masks. There are a decent amount of you whose faces I have never seen in person. In theory, we're getting closer to the end of this, with vaccines and other efforts to finally be done with this. And I'm thankful for parking lots and FM transmitters and video and the internet and phones.

But it's been a year. A really long year.

Psalm 13

¹How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
²How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
³Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
⁴and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.
⁵But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
⁶I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

The Psalms are home to many laments. The laments of King David when he is mired in the consequences of his sin. The laments of God's people when they, too, are swimming in sin, exiled and humbled. "How long, O Lord?" That's the refrain of the lamenting.

I lament this year of exile and quarantine, of separation and sickness, of fear and frustration. There are days where it feels like God's face has been hidden from us. There are days when I feel like I am bearing pain in my soul and sorrow in my heart. The enemies of disease and discord seem to be exalting. The work of "staying safe," of loving my neighbors through an abundance of

caution, of being careful, though undoubtedly the right thing to do, are exhausting. I am sure that I am carrying tension in the very sinews of my body that I won't know is there until the day when it, along with the lot of us, is finally released. I long for the chance to actually be with all of you. I crave "normal."

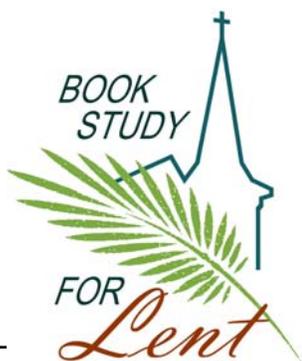
Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Because it seems like our enemies are prevailing. And I am shaken.

Just like shade lies alongside sun, however, most laments are accompanied by an "and yet." Despite the pain, the uncertainty, the futility, the doubt, the tears, the How Longing...*and yet*, I trust in God's steadfast love. I rejoice in the Lord's salvation. I look for the Spirit's activity and blessings, even now, even in the smallest signs. Despite everything else that is happening, and all the challenges of this past year, and the cobwebs in the sanctuary, the Lord has still dealt bountifully with me, with us, and has never forsaken us, no matter how it may feel sometimes.

I don't have an answer to the question, "How long?" But God is steadfast; God has never forsaken us. And I will sing to Lord for that.

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan





March 2021						
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			

Life Together (Apart)

You are invited to join in a Lenten book study on Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s book *Life Together*, which started on February 24th. The first session is a recorded presentation by Pastor Ryan. The Zoom platform will be utilized for the remaining sessions. (Check the website for updates)

This book was written out of Bonhoeffer’s experience leading an “underground” seminary for church leaders in Gramary in the build-up to WWII. What does genuine Christian community look like? And for us today, what does community look like when we are separated in so many ways?

You should be able to find this book through bookstores, libraries, online vendors, or through some form of digital download.

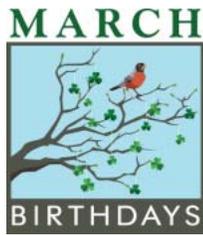
- 7 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 10 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 16 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 21 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
Food collection Sunday
- 24 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 28 Palm Sunday
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship

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



“In seeking a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women comprising the Church’s Calendar of Saints, this unique Lenten devotion is now in its 11th year! Fashioned after NCAA March Madness...”

Check it out at <http://www.lentmadness.org/about/>

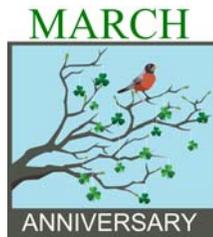


MCEF News

Spring is just around the corner and the clothing closets will be getting ready.

- Winter clothing will not be accepted until in the fall but spring and summer clothing is now being accepted.
- There is a need for women’s 2X and 3X clothing.
- New underwear is always a need for ladies and boys, all sizes; and mens jeans in small to medium sizes.
- Double and King sized sheets are needed in the linen closet.
- Food needs include canned spinach, jelly, instant oatmeal packets, pancake mix and syrup.

- 11 **Bonnie Dworak**
- 16 **Chrisann Hatfield**
- 20 **Susie Weaver**
- 22 **Charlene Glatfelter**
- 25 **Judy Schwerdtfeger**
- 27 **Donna Shaw**
- 29 **Victoria Major**



5 **Roger & Lois Schroeder**

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

The “Fun Raiser” at Chicken Salad Chick continues on the 3rd Monday of each month, mention that you support MCEF and 10% of the sale is donated to MCEF.

Thank you for your support of your of your neighbors in need through MCEF.

- Submitted by **Gladys Hubert**

Bible Quiz

As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, they longingly remembered some of the foods they’d had in Egypt. Which foods were not mentioned?

A. carrots and potatoes
B. onions and garlic
C. fish and leeks
D. melons and cucumbers

Answer: A (See Numbers 11:4-6)

“Always show kindness and love to others. Your words might be filling the empty places in someone’s heart.”

—Mandy Hale





We pray for each other:

Debbie Anton; Johnnie Collie; Family and Friends of Kenneth Deere; Leroy Deere; Wendy DeGraff; Adam Dworak, Sr.; Bonnie Dworak; Ted Ford; Bill Fulop; Steve & Sue Gilnett; "Doc" Konkaki; Linda Krupa; Mac McAllister; Liz Radtke; Lois Schroeder; 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; **Cathy Cadd**, friend of Dianne Absher; **Dwayne Collie**, Johnnie's brother; **Robin Dillon**, friend of Dianne Absher; **John Drazenovich**, former member of Messiah; **Al Driggers**, friend of the Whirleys; **Kathy Fleming**, cousin of the Schwerdtfegers; **Theresa Gunn**, friend of Charlie and Judy; **Carolyn Leonard**, sister of James Anderson; **Suzanne McEwen**, friend of Linda Mahovtas (Covid 19); **Michael Morin**, son of Sally & Charlie Bennett; **Lori Mullen**, friend of Dianne Absher; **Christina Nibali**, sister of Anita Philp; **Brenda Ramsey**, friend of Charlie and Judy; **Pat Ruffner**, friend of the Whirleys; **Roger Sabanosh**, cousin of Karen Morris; **Family and Friends of Jessi Schalle**, niece of Schwerdtfegers; **Dee Schroeder**, sister-in-law of Roger; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Charles Schwerdtfeger, Jr.**, son of Charlie; **Karen Seward**, sister of Debbie Walker; **Sandy Street**, sister of Donna Shaw;

Elaine Turner, friend of Becky Collie;
Family and friends of Liz Zimmerman.

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 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; Those affected by fires and hurricanes; For all who travel; All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Nigeria, India, Iran, and Syria.¹

¹ Open Doors World WatchList 2021
<http://www.opendoorsusa.org>



Lenten offerings

Many of our ministry partners have felt the effects of the Covid restrictions this past year. One who has felt it in particular are the good folks at **Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center**. We encourage you to give a special Lenten offering this year to Caroline Furnace. Just mark your check, envelope, or electronic donation to Messiah that it's for the camp, and we'll send the collective offerings at the end of Lent. We pray that they'll be able to have a full load of campers soon, and we thank God for the amazing things that happen at camp!

CFFY: Christian Formation For You

As we continue traveling through the season of Lent, looking forward to Easter, here are some books and movies that you may enjoy.

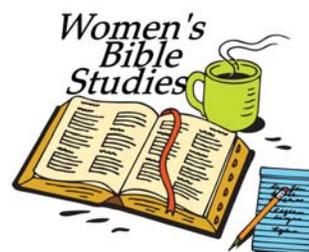
Books:

- ***The Return of the Prodigal Son***
By Henri Nouwen. Inspired by Rembrandt's painting of the same name, the author takes "an unforgettable spiritual adventure.
- ***The Way of the Pilgrim and The Pilgrim Continues on His Way*** - written by an anonymous Russian Christian peasant and translated by Reginald French.

Family-friendly Movies for Holy Week,
all available on Amazon:

- ***The Miracle Maker*** (2000)
An animated movie about the life of Jesus. Starring Ralph Fiennes and Julie Christie.
- ***Jonah A VeggieTales Movie***, (2002)
streaming on YouTube.
Animation, Adventure, Comedy.
- ***Joseph: King of Dreams*** (2000)
A DreamWorks animation, starring Ben Affleck, Mark Hamill, and Maureen McGovern.
- ***The Prince of Egypt*** (1998)
A DreamWorks animation, starring Ralph Fiennes, Val Kilmer, Michelle Pfeiffer, and more.
- ***The Robe*** (1953)
Starring Richard Burton, Jean Simmons, and Victor Mature. An Academy Award winning, epic movie.

Submitted by **Anita Philp**



Women's Bible Study continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall, with proper social distancing in place and masks required.

We have started a new study called "The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi" by Kathie Lee Gifford. If interested in joining us or purchasing a book/study guide please contact **Valerie Williams** by phone or vswilliams2005@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there!

Our Daily Bread



If you use the *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet, I want to point out to you an additional tool on some of the daily lessons. At the bottom of the page, you may find "For further study, read [insert title] at DiscoverySeries.org. "A compilation of over 150 topical studies for your spiritual growth" appears at the top of the home webpage. I recommend you check it out. I have found this extremely interesting and helpful.

Additionally, Our Daily Bread Ministries has a Facebook page, that includes other resources, including an 8-episode series, *The Holy Land with Jack Beck*. Find it at <https://www.facebook.com/ourdailybread/>

- **Susie**

Messiah Lutheran Church
8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111



March 2021

Messenger

page 8



Daylight Savings Time begins
at 2AM ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH

Don't forget to set your clocks!

The DEADLINE for the
April, 2021
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, March 21st
(Please contact me,
if you need a "grace period")

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



Join Messiah on Facebook!