

The

# MESSENGER



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

MAY 2021

## Highlights from the Messiah Church Council Meeting

Messiah Church Council met for a regular monthly council meeting on 4/20/21. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- **Pastor Ryan** reported on the Congregational Life of the Church, stating that he has wrapped up Lenten activities – book study, mid-weeks, ecumenical Lent videos, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Pastor has developed new curriculum for confirmation class of 6 students. Pastor Ryan had a Shepherd’s Team meeting, a Council Retreat, and he is currently preparing our being in the season of Easter. There are a couple members moving away from our area and he has been communicating with a couple people who are interested in Messiah membership.

- **The Evangelism Team** reported a planned meeting coming up. They need a small group of people to help with live streaming our service. There have been 50 views of our live streaming service.

- **The Social Ministry Team** reported that they were able to gather clothes,

shoes, socks, etc. for the McGuire V.A. Medical Center. The Center needed these things so that people who are treated there and don’t have clothes to be released to leave the Center can be dressed. The donations amounted to over \$400 worth of items. The Center was very appreciative of the donation.

- **The Worship Team** reported that the Scholarship information will be on our website and in the bulletin as of May 3rd.

- Council considered 3 quotes for painting the outside of the church. More information is needed before a final decision is made. This painting is within the property team’s budget for the year and was needed after the new roof was put on the church.

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***The Messenger***

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

**Your 2021 Church Council  
And Associate Members**

**James Anderson** ..... Council President  
**Donna Shaw** .....Vice-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 Warmbrod** .....Treasurer  
**Bill Weaver**..... Financial Secretary  
**Sue Gilnett, RN**...Parish Nurse

**Women's Bible study**



Women's Bible study has completed "The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi" study and will spend the remaining 3 gatherings until summer break watching Christian-themed movies, discussing them, and enjoying fellowship together.

Women's Bible Study meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall. Social distancing, masks, and safety measures taken during each meeting. Please join us!

If you have any questions please contact **Valerie Williams** (vswilliams2005@gmail.com or by phone.



**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

## Happy Birthday, Church!

Later this month we'll be celebrating the Day of Pentecost. After Christmas and Easter, this is the next biggest holy day on the Christian calendar, the birthday of the church. For some reason, Hallmark hasn't gotten a hold of this one yet.

Pentecost is important because it marks the beginning of the fully empowered, Spirit-filled Christian Church on earth, the body of Christ in action. The disciples and the growing church take on all the things that Jesus did – healing and teaching, showing love and performing acts of service and charity, studying scripture and meeting in fellowship. And it all starts with the Holy Spirit whooshing into the locked room where the disciples were sheltered, alighting on them like tongues of fire, launching them into the public square in the midst of a festival, and speaking the good news in as many languages as the people there spoke.

The gospel was let loose in the world, through those who believed in Jesus. There was no putting back in.

Now, on the one hand, you might see some parallels with our current situation. We are getting close to an end to our isolation after more than a year of pandemic and restrictions. I know that folks are asking when we can return. Rest assured that the church council is starting to figure out the “when” and the “how” of that return. We're consulting with the Synod Office, the state's and CDC's guidelines, and our insurance company. We're making sure that the building is ready and that we are continuing to do everything we can to ensure the safety of everyone, members and visitors alike, who come through our doors, especially those who haven't been able to get vaccinated yet, and especially with so many uncertainties like vari-

ants still looming. Soon we'll be launched back into the public square.

On the other hand, there has never been any reason, even during all of this, not to speak the good news in as many ways as there are people we meet. Spiritually speaking, there is nothing stopping us from doing the things that Jesus taught us to do – healing and teaching, showing love and performing acts of service and charity, studying scripture and meeting (even virtually) in fellowship. There is nothing to hold us back from proclaiming love, and forgiveness, and grace, into the world.

Some people are ready to get back out into the world. They have been for a while. Some people still barely leave their houses. The vaccines are changing the landscape, but we still aren't all the way there. We'll do the preparation needed to get back in the building safely. We'll continue to do all we can to put others' safety and well-being first, and be patient and understanding with the spectrum of readiness within our church family. And no matter what, we'll welcome the Spirit's whooshing when there's someone – anyone – who needs to hear the good news in our vicinity. (Which, of course, is all the time.)

So: Happy Birthday, Church!  
Find some ways to celebrate this month.  
Invite some folks to the party!  
Let the good news loose!

In Christ,  
**Pastor Ryan**





## 2021 Joan Barnes Memorial Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that the applications for the Joan Barnes Memorial Scholarship will be available beginning May 3, 2021.

Please go to the church website, <https://messiahmech.com/> and click on the "About" tab. The Application(s) and Application Information for the scholarships will be found on the drop-down menu.

Applications should be postmarked on or before the deadline of June 21, 2021, with no exceptions. There are applications for first time applicants and a different application if you have received a previous scholarship.

You can contact **Sally Bennett** at [sally-bennett3317@gmail.com](mailto:sally-bennett3317@gmail.com), if you have any questions.

May 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					

- 2 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 9 Mothers Day  
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 12 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 16 MCEF Collection  
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 18 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 23 PENTECOST  
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 26 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 30 TRINITY SUNDAY  
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 31 Memorial Day  
Church Office Closed


Join Messiah on Facebook!

### Church Council highlights

Continued from page 1

- The **Audit Committee** for 2021 was elected by council: **Erna Jung, Charlie Bennett and Steve Gilnett.**
- Council will put review and creation of new Church Operating Procedures on their monthly agenda.
- Re-entry Conversations are continuing by council members. They should be completed by next month's meeting with a

summary submitted to Pastor Ryan. Council will put summaries up for congregation members to see and be able to comment on and prioritize.

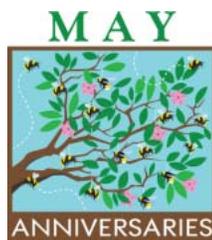
- Council elected our delegates for Virginia Synod Assembly: **James Anderson and Anita Philp**

- Council scheduled a special Zoom meeting to start planning for our getting back to worship in our sanctuary.

- **Karen Morris**, Council Secretary



- 10 **Leroy Deere**
- 12 **Jessica McKenna**
- 23 **Dale Umberger**
- 26 **Mac McAllister**



- 18 **Adam Sr. & Bonnie Dworak**

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

## MCEF update

- Mechanicsville residents in need are being served with food, clothing and financial assistance for qualified services throughout this year of Covid. The Senior Rides program has been awarded a grant which will help to rebuild the program post-Covid, rides are continuing to be offered.

- MCEF was gifted 4 cemetery plots at Signal Hill Cemetery which are available for a donation, if interested contact **Pat Hubert**, 814-449-2612.

- Current needs of the One Stop Shop include canned peaches, black-eyed peas, jelly and mayonnaise. Clothing needs are knit boxer briefs for men, kids' underwear in all sizes, women's underwear in average sizes, all new please.

Thank you to all for your generous donations.

- **Gladys Hubert**

## Exploring Personal Evangelism: Jump Start #3:



This month's tip is where the rubber begins to meet the road when doing personal evangelism. Here's what you might like to try: Strive to speak a Good Word about God to Somebody each day. Now, before you stop reading, bear with me. Remember that God is so majestic and His blessings are so numerous that we have no reason not to speak of His good-

ness! And you can start small! First, try speaking these words and thoughts to someone who believes. This helps you to practice and become more comfortable to speak with someone you may not know as well or who may feel they have not experienced God's greatness. Practice may not make perfect, but it will give you confidence to take that next step.

Remember, God is ready and waiting to give you a hand.

- **Donna Shaw**



## We pray for each other:

**Debbie Anton; Johnnie Collie; Leroy Deere; Adam Dworak, Sr.; Bonnie Dworak; Ted Ford; Steve & Sue Gilnett; Karen Jones; "Doc" Kondaki; Mac McAllister; Ruth Schroeder; Judy Schw erdtfeger.**

## We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

**The Allen Family**, relatives of the Whirleys; **Cathy Cadd**, friend of Dianne Absher; **Dwayne Collie**, Johnnie's brother; **Robin Dillon**, friend of Dianne Absher; **Family and Friends of Al Driggers**, friend of the Whirleys; **Junie Loving**, friend of John Mahovtas; **Julie McGaughey**, sister-in-law of Linda Mahovtas; **Lynn Mesco**, friend of Rosalee Cline; **Michael Morin**, son of Sally & Charlie Bennett; **Lori Mullen**, friend of Dianne Absher; **Christina Nibali**, sister of Anita Philp; **Pat Ruffner and Mr. Ruffner**, friend of the Whirleys; **Roger Sabanosh**, cousin of Karen Morris; **Dee Schroeder**, sister-in-law of Roger; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Karen Sew ard**, daughter of Debbie Walker.

**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 natural disasters; All those affected by the recent acts of violence; For all who travel; All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in China, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Mauritania.<sup>1</sup>**

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

## Prayer list reset

The prayer list was reset on April 4, to begin the second quarter.

Please contact Davina with names that need to be returned to the list and any you would like her to add. Email her at [MessiahMech@gmail.com](mailto: MessiahMech@gmail.com) or phone 746-7134 with your requests.



## Information on vaccinations

The Virginia Department of Health recently released a downloadable Virginia COVID Info Toolkit with information on vaccines and the vaccine registration system. You can access the information at <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/patient-education/>.

If you need to register for the vaccine, confirm your registration, or update your record, go to:  
<https://vaccinate.virginia.gov/>



## CFFY (Christian Formation for You)

May is upon us! This month, we will celebrate Pentecost, the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the third most important season of the Lutheran Church and is considered the “birthday of the Church”. Jesus’ disciples were amazed at the power that the Spirit bestowed upon them as they shared the good news that Jesus’ sacrifice, death and resurrection represented with people who spoke a variety of languages. The “tongues of fire” that descended on the disciples made it possible for all to understand the message. Let us rejoice in the redemption that Christ’s sacrifice provided!

Here are some resources that you may use at home to explore this season of the Church:

### Free Lessons:

**For adults**, God Space at <https://godspacelight.com/2019/05/16/resources-for-pentecost-2019/>

**For families with young people**, <https://www.teacherplanet.com/content/pentecost>

**Books every Christian should read about the Holy Spirit**; <https://smartandrelentless.com/top-5-books-about-the-holy-spirit-that-every-christian-should-read/>



### Nine Christian movies that teach about the Fruit of the Spirit

<https://insider.pureflix.com/movies/9-christian-movies-that-teach-the-fruits-of-the-spirit>

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.*

Galatians 5: 22-23

Submitted by **Anita D. Philp**



## Our journey to Emmaus

All ages are invited into a synod-wide faith formation experience: Our Journey to Emmaus. **Participants will engage the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24) in seven movements over seven Sundays beginning on May 2.** Each weekly email will have a portion of the story, reflections for all ages, and movement activities for all types of bodies. You can sign up for weekly emails by registering below. You may participate with your congregation or ministry or on your own.

If you have questions, please contact **Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick** ([bayerderrick@vasynod.org](mailto:bayerderrick@vasynod.org)). Here is the link to register:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfMGfBsa5A5pD5sBlwf96UqeYouGA00J6V7YxebaSAKYeoyjQ/viewform>

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## Worth celebrating

While going through the so-called “daily grind,” it’s fun to anticipate special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries and holiday meals — especially when other people cook and clean up! Although every day is full of countless reasons to rejoice, we may not always feel like celebrating. Life’s concerns pile high, distracting us from gratitude, joy and intentional acknowledgment of our blessings.

When you need a reason to smile and celebrate, head to [www.NationalDayCalendar.com](http://www.NationalDayCalendar.com). Almost every food item and hobby now has its own day, and you’ll even find gems such as National Be Late for Something Day (September 5, if you want to plan ahead!).

These fun “occasions” can help you embrace small joys and may even inspire you to celebrate them with family or friends. As you do, consider what it is about today and each gift from God that makes this day special.

The DEADLINE for the  
**June, 2021**  
edition of *The Messenger* is  
**Sunday, May 16th**  
(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](mailto:susiew51@comcast.net)