

The

MESSENGER



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

JUNE 2021

Highlights from the Messiah Church Council Meeting

Messiah Church Council met for a regular monthly council meeting on 5/18/21. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- **Pastor Ryan** reported on the Congregational Life of the Church, stating that we will have confirmation on May 23rd of **Karoline Combs** and **William Schroeder**. The rest of the confirmation class received their first set of materials in the mail. He has been working with the Digital Team to check on the licensing for the hymns we put online and working with the Christian Formation liaison on the multi-generational night that will be in July. Pastor Ryan has helped with the de-cluttering and considering how to work with the Sunday School teachers and their curriculum. Pastor Ryan continues to work with members who have health conditions. He met with the Evangelism Team virtually.
- The Treasurer reported on our monthly and year-to-date finances. We are tracking similar to last year, but we need to be careful with our money because we are behind compared to our budget by about \$13,000 this early in the year.
- The Evangelism Team reported on the progress of cleaning and de-cluttering the church getting ready for our re-entry into inside worship again. There has been a lot of progress by several very dedicated members of the Evangelism Team and our congregation. This Saturday is a scheduled clean-up day for the whole congregation to participate concentrating on the outside.
- The Property Team reported that the outside painting, approved by Council, was in progress and may be finished by our Saturday clean-up day. There was discussion of how to repair the lights in the church lawn sign and how the lawn mower was working since the repair. The Council voted to purchase a new air handler since the old one is no longer manufactured and we are having difficulty finding companies who would work on it.

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Your 2021 Church Council And Associate Members

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Donna Shaw Vice-President
Karen Morris Secretary

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

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 Evangelism **Donna Shaw**
 Fellowship **Karen Morris**
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 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 will meet one more time in the month of June, on June 9 at 6:30pm, before breaking for the summer. During this gathering we will be enjoying fellowship and a Christian themed movie to wrap up our year of studies together. Please join us!

We will resume our regular gatherings in September. If you have any questions please contact **Valerie Williams** (vswilliams2005@gmail.com).



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

Who will you be bringing with you?

When we get to go back inside the church, who will you be bringing with you? So many people have been working to clean up and clean out the building. Who do you want to show it to? Some of the work has been on the cobwebs in the sanctuary, the clutter in the office that inevitably piles up when activity is down, as well as other things that are a direct result of a more than a year out of sync. But a lot of the work is addressing projects and clutter and inactivity that predates the pandemic. People are excited – I've heard a few people say, "It's like a new church!" I'm excited, too.

So, who will you be bringing with you? Who do you want to share your homecoming excitement with? Did you know that people are far, far more likely to visit a church when they are invited by a friend or neighbor (rather than the pastor)? I think it's because they see it as a pastor's duty to invite folks to church...but if their friend, their neighbor, their co-worker, says, "We've got this cool event happening at church – you should come!" – they're more likely to take that invitation as a personal, sincere request. If you say, "I'm so excited to go back to my church," they might ask, "Why?" And guess what? Then you get to tell them why! Tell them how you experience God at Messiah. Tell them what is special about this place. Tell them why you come, and invite them to see for themselves.

Of course, this also means that we make sure that we are ready to receive. Not just cleaning up the dust and untidiness. It means seeing our building, our service, our church from the point of view of a visitor. Someone who might not know all our routines and inside jokes. It means showing gracious welcomes and happy inclu-

sion. It means patience and good humor as we make it through all the adjustments of re-entry, the anxiety some still feel about coming back inside or wearing masks or hugging, no matter how long that adjustment period takes. It means modeling our love and hospitality after Jesus' love and hospitality.

We're getting very close to coming back in the building. The CDC and the state are lifting restrictions thanks to the vast number of folks getting vaccinated. Case numbers are down. We're almost done getting the premises ready, the repairs made, the messes cleaned. After so long waiting, the timetable sped up significantly over the last few weeks, and we're speeding up our plans in accordance. You've been patient and you've persevered. We've all adapted and adjusted as we've needed to. The finish line is in sight. Hang on just a little longer.

And while we're in the homestretch, ponder my question – when we get to back inside the church, who will you be bringing with you? Who do you want to share your joy with? Pick up your phones, get out your stationary, flex your thumbs' texting muscles. Make some invitations.

On the cusp of this new chapter, Pauls' words from 2 Corinthians 5 come to mind: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us..."

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan



2021 Joan Barnes Memorial Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that applications for the Joan Barnes Memorial Scholarship have been available since 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 must be received or postmarked on or before the absolute 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, if you have any questions.

June 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			

- 6 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 9 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 12 Virginia Synod Assembly
- 13 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 20 Father's Day
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 22 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 23 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 27 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship



Join Messiah on Facebook!

Church Council highlights

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- Social Ministry Team reported that they were able to provide gift cards of \$200 and \$50 as well as clothes, diapers, wipes, formula and a bathtub to a foster family for an emergency infant placement.
- The Worship Team reported that the Scholarship information is on our website and in the bulletin and are accepting applications that are due by June 21st.
- Council discussed our church re-entry progress and timing. Council wants to see how Gov. Northam's lifting of restrictions on May 28th, followed by Memorial Day weekend, affects COVID numbers. If there is no spike, then re-entry should follow soon after.

- **Karen Morris**, Council Secretary





- 13 **Adam Dvorak Sr.**
 14 **Wesley Williams**
 15 **Lois Schroeder**
 18 **Rosalee Cline**
 20 **Karoline Combs,**



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

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

“One Chapter Wonders”

For the past several weeks, **Pastor Ryan** has been sharing this series of Midweek Messages. The series, available on Messiah's YouTube channel, focus on Haggai, Obadiah, 2 John & 3 John, Jude, and Philemon. These five books of the Bible that are only one chapter long (and Haggai that's only two), may be short, but each make an impact. Pastor Ryan also stresses in this series that, with only a study Bible and a Bible dictionary, you can enhance your understanding of the Bible. Please check out these videos along with the accompanying study notes and watch for more midweek messages to come.



“Confirmation, which is now commonly called Affirmation of Baptism, is the time when young people declare for themselves that they will live out the promises made for them by their parents and sponsors in their baptism (that is, of course, assuming that they were baptized as an infant). The [time] spent in confirmation classes are intended to continue, more intentionally, the exploration of faith, faith and life, and faith and the church so that students can make that affirmation of baptism statement of faith in the hope and trust that God will continue to lead and guide them in all the aspects of their lives now and in the future.” *(Living Lutheran, 8/11/2014)*

On Sunday, May 16th, we celebrated with **Karoline Patricia Combs** and **William Nathan Schroeder** as they affirmed their baptisms and started a new chapter in their lives of faith.

Please show them your love and support, and shower them with prayers for this important milestone.

Words of Evangelism

"The simple definition
of evangelism:
Those who know telling those
who don't."



Leith Anderson



We pray for each other:

Debbie Anton; Annette Buckholtz; Bruce Carr; 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; **Mary Jo Blake**, friend of Sharon Addair; **Cathy Cadd**, friend of Dianne Absher; **Dwayne Collie**, Johnnie's brother; **Robin Dillon**, friend of Dianne Absher; **Penny Doyle**, great niece of Shirley Starret; **Family and Friends of Dave Eilertson**, friend of Becky Collie; **Julie McCaughey**, sister-in-law of Linda Mahovtas; **Michael Morin**, son of Sally & Charlie Bennett; **Bob & Mary Moyer**, Schw erdtfeger's relative; **Lori Mullen**, friend of Dianne Absher; **Christina Nibali**, sister of Anita Philp; **Pat Ruffner**, friend of the Whirleys; **Roger Sabanosh**, cousin of Karen Morris; **Ken & Dee Schroeder**, brother and sister-in-law of Roger; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Karen Seward**, 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 Uzbekistan, Laos, Turkmenistan, and Algeria.¹

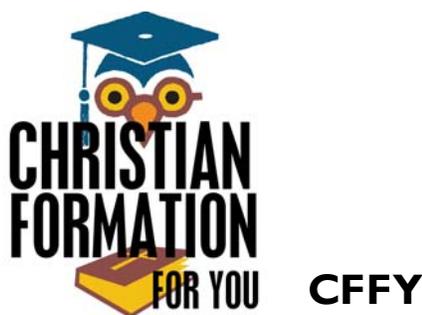
¹ Open Doors World WatchList 2021
<http://www.opendoorsusa.org>

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

All Souls Community Garden



Help put the "Community" in the Garden! The All-Souls Community Garden depends on the good hearts of volunteers to plant and harvest the vegetables. The Garden is located on Atlee Rd. in Mechanicsville. Items are shared with MCEF and other Mechanicsville food banks. Church and community groups as well as individuals are needed. Students in middle and high school, and even college ages are especially welcomed. Garden lessons are available for younger children. Jobs include planting and picking produce, tilling, pulling weeds, washing and weighing produce, and delivery to food banks. To schedule a time to volunteer, contact **Lee Hanchey** at lghanchey@gmail.com.



The time after Pentecost is sometimes referred to as “Ordinary time”. How wonderful that sounds after the fourteen months of social distancing we have experienced. Our Church <https://ministry-to-children.com/family> is also returning to “ordinary” with a return to inside worship. While we aren’t starting Sunday School classes just yet, it is on the horizon and that is exciting “ordinariness”!

We are the Body of Christ

What does being part of the Body of Christ mean to you? Coming this summer, we will explore this idea in a fun-filled event that will include a meal, skit, craft and conversation. Stay tuned for further details coming soon!

Resources for Children

While we wait for the return to ordinary, check out this link <https://ministry-to-children.com/> for an abundance of ideas and activities related to the Holy Spirit, Discipleship and more for children.

Resources for Adults

The time between Pentecost and Advent is twenty-five weeks. This is a good time to recharge and reflect. God Space <https://godspacelight.com/seasons-blessings/> has a multitude of options for prayer, reflection and learning with devotionals, suggested reading and more.

We are the Body of Christ

By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? 1 Corinthians 6:14-15

Peace & Joy,
Anita Philp



Dear Pastor Radtke and Members of the Congregation,

We are so very grateful for you!

You have provided our Richmond programs so much for adoptive and foster families! The outpouring of supplies gathered together so quickly for the newborn placed in foster care has set the child and caregivers up to start from a place of love and abundance.

The gift card, diapers, wipes formula, newborn clothing, blankets, and bathtub will all create a safe and healthy place for this child to be nurtured and cared for. Foster placements can take place with little notice and your outpouring has truly assisted this family start out in the care of the infant.

Many blessings,
Melissa Leecy
Director of Philanthropy, enCircle

*[Lutheran Family Services is now enCircle!
For more information, go to encircleall.org]*

Messiah Lutheran Church
8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111



No boundaries



Love is a commitment to seek the good and to work for the good and welfare of others. It doesn't stop at our front door or our neighborhood, our religion or race, or our state's or [our] country's border. This is one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth, as the hymn goes. It often calls us to step outside of what we thought our boundaries were, or what others expect of us. It calls for us to sacrifice, not because doing so feels good, but because it's the right thing to do.

—Bishop Michael Curry, *Love Is the Way*

The DEADLINE for the
July, 2021
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, June 20th
(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

