

The

MESSENGER



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

JULY 2021

Highlights from the Messiah Church Council Meeting

Messiah Church Council met for a regular monthly council meeting on 6/22/21. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- **Sharon Addair** presented an idea for the congregation; and, after discussion, it was decided that Social Ministry will look into participating in a Lutheran World Relief project.
- **Pastor Ryan** reported on the Congregational Life of the Church stating that we had affirmation of baptism of **Karoline Combs** and **William Schroeder**. In May, he completed his series of "One Chapter Wonders;" and, now in June, his series is Lutheran stories. He will meet with **Reverend Katherine** to set up All Souls' return to use of our facilities (the Fellowship Hall). Pastor Ryan continues to work with members who have health conditions. Pastor Ryan virtually attended Synod Assembly and shared highlights of the meeting.
- The Treasurer reported on our monthly and year-to-date finances. We were about \$11k behind for the month and about \$24k behind for the annual budget. There was a large donation of about \$10k that will show up in June report.
- Council discussed and approved two COP's (Congregation Operating Procedures) – Benevolence and In-Kind Giving.
- **Chris Sondor** suggested Messiah use our property to host a music event/fellowship inviting local churches and the community. We will ask members to join Chris on a team to explore the interest and feasibility of this project that will be supported by Evangelism and Social Ministry teams.
- Council decided to re-start sanctuary worship on Sunday, July 4th. After discussion, council worked through how this would look for the first month with some precautions still in place. Those will be communicated to members.

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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 is on Summer Break through July and August. We will resume our regular gatherings in September.

If you have any questions please contact **Valerie Williams** (vswilliams2005@gmail.com or 240-638-6162).



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

Writing a new chapter

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is with thanksgiving to God and great joy that I tell you we will be returning to the sanctuary for worship on Sunday, July 4th, at 10:45 am! Thanks to the Church council for all their prayerful deliberation over this last year and a half. Thanks to everyone who kept things going during this time and especially for all the cleaning and organizing crews who did so much work these last two months. Thanks to all for your patience, understanding, and love of neighbor.

There are still a number of protocols we need to abide by during this "in-between" time of the pandemic. I won't list them all here; please look over the "Returning to the Building" document that is being sent out separately. Please direct any questions to myself or to the church council.

To give you more time to look that document over, I'll keep this short and share a passage from the apostle Paul in 1 Thesalonians, chapter 5:

- 12 But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; 13 esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 14 And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. 15 See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise the words of prophets, 21 but test eve-

rything; hold fast to what is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil.

23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is a good word for us in any season; but especially now as we embark on this new, and long-awaited, chapter in our life together as Messiah Lutheran Church.

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan

Church Council highlights

Continued from page 1

- Pastor Ryan talked with Council about ELCA's Congregations Lead Initiative* and will send more information to Council.

- **Karen Morris**, Council Secretary

[*Editor's note: more information at <https://www.elca.org/congregationslead>]

Words of Evangelism

"Evangelism is not salesmanship. It is not urging people, pressing them, coercing them, overwhelming them, or subduing them. Evangelism is telling a message. Evangelism is reporting the Good News."



- Richard Halverson



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



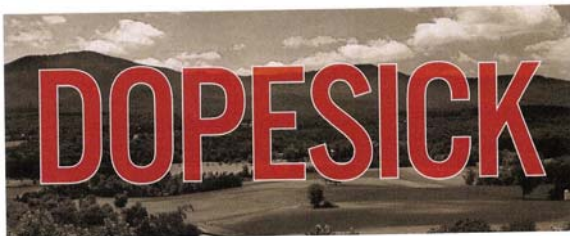
- 2 **Steve & Donna Shaw**

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

July 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

- 1
- 4 Independence Day
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 5 Church Office Closed
- 11 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 18 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 20 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 25 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 31 DEADLINE- Church's annual report to the SCC

Watch the messiahmech.com website and Facebook pages for any updates



For those of you who do not know, "Dopesick" is a Hulu mini-series that has been filmed in different parts of central VA. The filming company has used our parking lot as an overflow staging place, once last fall and, more recently, in March.

On behalf of the Cast and Crew we would like to thank you for your participation in the filming of "Dopesick." We have enjoyed working in Virginia and truly appreciate your support.

Location Department






Make this refreshing treat on a hot summer day.

What you need:

- Baking sheet
- Parchment paper
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- ¼ cup granola or cereal

What you do:

1. On a baking sheet covered with parchment paper, spread yogurt in a thin layer, about ½-inch thick.
2. Drizzle honey evenly over yogurt. Sprinkle granola (or cereal) on top.
3. Freeze about 30 minutes, or until firm.
4. Crack frozen yogurt into pieces and peel away paper. Enjoy!

As sweet as honey

Honey is both a sweetener and a medicine. How can our words be used in the same ways?

Directions: Use the hexagon key to fill in the missing vowels and complete Proverbs 16:24, NIV.

Gro o o o o o s wo r d s

o r o o h o n o o o c o o m b,

swo o t t o t h o s o o l

o n d h o o l o n g

t o t h o b o n o s.

PROVERBS 16:24, NIV

Answer: Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Proverbs 16:24, NIV

Puzzle!

Complete this Bible passage by adding the missing vowels.



Th_r_for_,

_s G_d's ch_s_n p_pl_,

h_ly _nd d_rly l_v_d, cl_th_

y_rs lv_s w_th c_mp_ss_n,

k_ndn_ss, h_m_l_ty, g_ntl_n_ss

_nd p_t_nc_. B_r w_th

_ch_th_r _nd f_rg_v_ _n_

_n_th_r _f _ny _f _y_ _h_s _

gr_v_nc_ _g_nst s_m_n_.

F_rg_v_ _s th_ L_rd f_rg_v_ _y_.

C_l_ss_ns 3:12-13, N_V

Answer: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:12-13, NIV



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; Debbie Walker.

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; **Linda Honan**, sister-in-law of Geoffrey Honan; **David Locke**, father of Davina Winn; **Julie McGaughey**, 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 Turkey, Tunisia, Morocco, and Mali.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 a minimum of two weeks and then be included in our All Saints Sunday activities.

The current prayer list will be reset on July 4 to begin the third quarter. Please contact Davina with names that need to remain on the list. Email her at Messiah-Mech@gmail.com or phone 746-7134 with your requests.



Join Messiah on Facebook!



CFFY July 2021

July 2021

What a difference a month can make! Nearing the end of May, we were still following COVID protocols in most public places. Now, just a month later, we are eagerly anticipating the return to worship in the sanctuary. Praise the Lord! In the interim, the CCFY team came in and cleaned up classrooms, de-cluttered, organized the Sunday School closet and the Library materials.

Summer Vacation

Summertime has always brought with it a change of schedule wherein Sunday School classes mirror the school system and take a break, a mini sabbatical so to speak. Our return to “normalcy” includes this break as we ease back into the rhythms of pre-pandemic life. Behind the scenes, teachers are reviewing materials to use when we are able to return fully to study and worship, hopefully in early September. Meanwhile, the sources that follow may be of interest to nurture your spiritual soul.

Children’s Resources

Another time honored tradition is that of a Vacation Bible School. While we are not planning a live event this summer, the Virginia Synod suggests accessing materials for the theme, River of Life, on the ELCA website. This link will take you to the page where materials can be downloaded <https://elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger#VBS>.

Other materials for children can be found on the website, Ministry to Children, <https://ministry-to-children.com/> and Sunday School Works <https://sundayschool.works/>

Resources for Adults

The Virginia Synod is offering an online book club, Summer Reading 2021. The book for July is *Grace and Gigabytes* and August’s selection is *Growing Young*. Discussion of each will take place the third Monday of each respective month. Sign up is free, but you will need to get a copy of the book on your own. For more information go to the website at <https://www.vasynod.org/event/summer-2021-reading-list/>

Peace & Joy,
Anita Philp

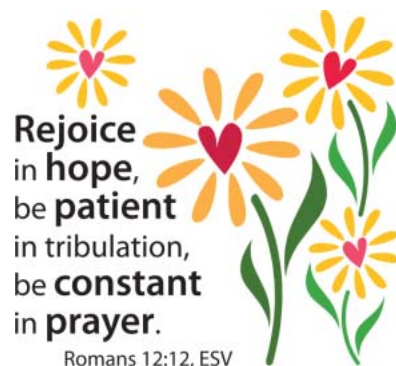


MCEF Update

Mark you calendars now for an opportunity to support MCEF! The John Marshall Alumni Band will present a patriotic concert Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 7 p.m. at the Walnut Grove Baptist Church. A donation of \$2 and a package of new socks or underwear (any age level children or adult) will be accepted.

- Gladys Hubert

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Mechanicsville VA 23111



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. There are many jobs available. To schedule a time to volunteer, contact **Lee Hanchey** at lghanchey@gmail.com or by phone 804-514-3020.

The DEADLINE for the
August, 2021
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, July 18th
(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

