

The MESSENGER



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

AUGUST 2021

Highlights from the Messiah Church Council Meeting

Messiah Church Council met for a regular monthly council meeting on 7/20/21. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- Pastor Ryan reported on the Congregational Life of the Church stating that we are doing well with our inside worship services and he and the Christian Formation team are working on the next phase of reopening with Sunday School and Rally Day. Pastor Ryan has talked with several households who are interested in joining our congregation probably at the end of August or September. He has also been in touch with families who lost loved ones in the last year or so and they are thinking of having a combined memorial service. Pastor Ryan has talked with the Worship Team about acolyte training and he has reached out to several community organizations that we have worked with in the past. We had one senior graduate this spring that we will schedule to celebrate. His mid-week online is on the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Pastor has continued with visiting, care and communion for those with health problems.
- The Treasurer's report was reviewed and we are still running behind with our income and budget needs. The Financial Secretary

reported that our financial monthly needs are \$3900 and our average monthly income has been about \$3042. He reported that All Souls has started back to their full regular monthly donation since they started back to using our Fellowship Hall.

- Council discussed and approved the Weather and Emergency Alert Procedures COPS and decided that the Restricted Gifts was redundant and was already included in our COPS for Restricted Funds and Memorials.
- Our audit committee will schedule a date for the annual audit.
- Shawn Warmbrod, church treasurer, agreed to take the SEC designated role (previously held by John Cline).

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The Messenger

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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

Altar flowers



If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, please follow the procedures below:

- Pick an empty date on the chart and write your name.
- Please make your check for \$46 payable to "Messiah Lutheran Church" with the word "Flowers" on the outside of the Envelope, and place it in the offering plate. If you would rather make a general donation for altar flowers to help ensure that we have fresh flowers on the altar weekly (except for Lent), as needed for vacant Sundays, follow the directions above, but instead write "line-item altar flowers" on the Memo line on your check and on the outside of the Envelope.



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

“Cautiously optimistic.” “Preparing for the worst but hoping for the best.” “Covering the brakes.” I feel like that’s where we’re at right now as a congregation. We’ve been back in the sanctuary, and I feel good about it. And I’ve heard that I’m not the only one who feels that way. But I’m also keeping an eye on the news, and on the case counts. There’s a lot of worry, and misinformation, and celebration, and shifting opinions, on vaccines. But they seem safe and effective. But then there’s the delta variant, and others. Will there be more shutdowns or restrictions? Maybe. No one really knows.

In the meantime, we’re trying to make up for some lost time. We’re awarding a scholarship. We’re planning a service of celebration and remembrance for those who have died in the last year from our Messiah family. We’re coordinating schedules to welcome some new members, some who have been patiently waiting for some time. We’re getting our teams together to plan for old events to come back, for new ministries to be explored, and to figure out what Sunday school will look like. We’re reaching out to ministry partners in the community. We’re hoping to have some fun on Rally Day in September, and get your pastor officially installed, finally. (It’s not like I have a warranty that will expire, but still...)

It’s been a balancing act, to be sure, for the last eighteen months. Balancing on the one hand our God-given mandate to love our neighbors as ourselves, our Lutheran Small Catechism teaching that “We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all of life’s needs.” And balancing on the other hand our frustration and impatience and grief over what we are missing. Balancing the challenges and oppor-

tunities of virtual services and streaming videos. Figuring out what to resume and what shape it can take, and what new things to try, because why not try?

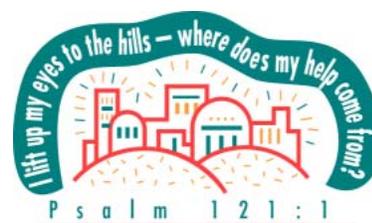
Throughout all of this, no matter how we feel on a given day, God is faithful. One of my favorite Psalms is Psalm 121:

I lift up my eyes to the hills —
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your
right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by
day, nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all
evil;
he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

We’re still figuring things out and making adjustments. But we move forward with faith in the God who neither slumbers or sleeps, and who watches over our going out and our coming in, the one who shepherds our particular limb in the body of Christ, our church family, through it all. Whatever happens, the Lord is keeping our life. And, really, what more can we ask for?

Peace and blessings be with you all.

Pastor Ryan

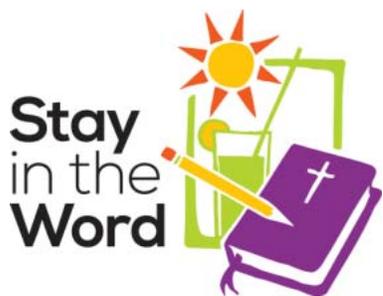


Church Council highlights

Continued from page 1

- Social Ministry met and decided on one of the Lutheran World Relief Kits (the personal care kit) as a project for this winter. They purchased pediatric pads for our AED. They are looking at ministries we have had in the past to see if they can find a person who would be interested to lead. Other considerations: a blessing of animals in the parking lot in October, volunteering at the hospital across the street, Worth Day (helping children out of foster care system) and combining with other churches in some ministries.
- Worship Team has a recipient for the scholarship and will announce that soon
- Council discussed Synod's Congregation Lead Initiatives. Pastor Ryan will get answers to some questions that were raised. Council had some concerns about the timing of this initiative.
- Council discussed needing to update the church directory and maybe it was time to have a picture directory again – maybe inviting the community to come for family pictures too as an outreach to the community.

- **Karen Morris**, Council Secretary



In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ, we remember before God our sister **Judy Schwerdtfeger**, who died the evening of Friday, July 16th.

A memorial service was held at the church on Saturday, July 31st at 1 pm. A reception was held in the fellowship hall after the service.

Please pray for Charlie and all of Judy's family.

We give thanks to God for Judy, and ask for God's strength and peace.



Help Wanted

Now that we're back to worshipping in the sanctuary, being a **greeter** or an **usher** is much easier. Less walking. No standing in the hot sun, rain, or freezing air. How easy is that! The other thing is that almost anyone can do either of these ministries. And, yes, these are ministries of service.

So what are you waiting for? All you have to do is contact **Sally Bennett** at sallybennett3317@gmail.com. She will make a place for you on her schedule. Sign up today!



2 **Katryn Combs**
 4 **Doris Ewing**
 4 **Bill Weaver**
 16 **Kyle Starret**
 30 **Patrick Collie**



11 **Johnnie & Becky Collie**

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

Words of Evangelism

"It is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighbor."

- Martin Luther



August 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				

August

- 1 10:00 AM All Souls Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship (Sanctuary or Drive-In)
- 8 10:00 AM All Souls Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship (Sanctuary or Drive-In)
 12 noon Fellowship Sunday
- 15 10:00 AM All Souls Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship (Sanctuary or Drive-In)
- 17 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 22 10:00 AM All Souls Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship (Sanctuary or Drive-In)
- 29 10:00 AM All Souls Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship (Sanctuary or Drive-In)
- 30 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
- 31 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)

September

- 1 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
 2 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
 3 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)

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

MCEF Back-to-School Needs

Schools will be reopening sooner than we can imagine! Students will be needing essential supplies which can be costly for many families. In mid-August, MCEF will have "Back-to-School" hours for our clients to help with clothing and school supply needs. Items needed include:

Basic school supplies such as pencils, pens, dry erase markers, notebook paper, crayons, colored pencils, markers, scissors, glue sticks, spiral notebooks, binders, hi-lighters, composition books (blk/white type) pencil boxes or pouches, computer paper for homework, kg/first grade tablets, and book bags.

Current clothing needs for school age include girls sizes 4-5 (summer/early fall) boys jeans size 6-7, boys clothing size 10, clothing sizes/styles for teens, underwear (girls size 14-16), boys (sizes small & med) men's and women's (adult sizes for older youth/teens) reminder for boys' and men's underwear-BOXER BRIEF styles please! We will gladly accept other sizes too, as well as, hooded sweatshirts and light weight jackets (all sizes).

We also have a **need for toddlers summer clothing** (especially girls size 3)

I know you will soon be asked to help with school supplies for enCircle (Luth. Family Services) (next column) My hope is you can support BOTH organizations with this great need. Even a few items will be a great help! Having the right supplies on the first day of school is a BIG step toward a good school year!

Items for MCEF can be left in the MCEF basket in the narthex or you can give them to **Glady Hubert** or **Donna Combs**! Thank you very much!!!



School Supplies for Foster Children

We are collecting school supplies for foster children. The items are written on Post-It notes, on a poster, in the narthex. Take the notes, for the supplies that you would like to purchase, and please bring them back to church, by the deadline of August 15th. Place them in the collection box in the narthex.

Social Ministry and Lutheran Family services are so grateful for the kindness of our congregation. If you have any questions, call **Sharon Addair** at 543-9709. Thank you for caring!

- Your Social Ministry Team

Women's Bible study

Women's Bible Study is on Summer Break through August. We will resume our regular gatherings in September.

If you have any questions please contact **Valerie Williams** (vswil- liams2005@gmail.com or 240-638-6162).



Join Messiah on Facebook!



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; Family and Friends of Judy Schwerdtfeger.

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Family & Friends of Mary Jo Blake, friend of Sharon Addair; **Dwayne Collie**, Johnnie's brother; **Linda Honan**, sister-in-law of Geoffrey Honan; **David Locke**, father of Davina Winn; **Emily Mitchell**, fiancé of Geoffrey Honan; **George Playfair**, relative of Karen & Michael Morris; **Pat Ruffner**, friend of the Whirleys; **Friend of Glenda Schroeder**; **Ken & Dee Schroeder**, brother and sister-in-law of Roger; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew.

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 acts of violence, at home and abroad; For all who travel; All those persecuted in any way for their faith in

Christ, especially in Qatar, Colombia, Bangladesh, and Burkina Faso.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.

Cleaning Team: Back to Square One



We got through the Covid-19 challenge, and many of our church family members volunteered to clean according to the protocols. THANK YOU!

Many of them had also, previously, taken turns on the weekly cleaning team, so the “normal” upkeep of our building was maintained. THANK YOU!

So now, with the new school year approaching, I feel we are ready for a reset—back to “square one.”

If you are willing and able to take a turn at some simple cleaning in our building, sometime after the Sunday church services (any time during the week, before the NEXT Sunday), then we need your help. There will be no compensation, except the thanks of a grateful congregation.

For more information, questions, or to be listed on the “team” roster, please contact **Susie Weaver** by email (susiew51@comcast.net) or by phone.



CFFY August 2021

July 4, 2021 was indeed “independence” day for our congregation. After fifteen long months of pandemic precautions, we assembled together to worship God, our creator, in the sanctuary. With few exceptions (no “wandering” while we share the peace), we returned to our regular worship practices and it feels wonderful. Next up, return to Sunday School in September. The month, the Christian Formation team will meet to plan for the upcoming year.

Special Event Update

In a previous newsletter, a special, fun, intergenerational event was promised to be on the horizon. This remains so, however, return to “normalcy” has brought with it unanticipated challenges not the least of which is catching up with delayed events and reuniting with family and friends. Additionally, the August-like heat we have been suffering since early June makes an outdoor event far less practical. For these reasons, we will be holding this event a little later and will keep everyone updated with the five W’s when we are able. Thanks for your understanding.

Children’s Resources

If you are looking for an at home program to share with your children, the ELCA is providing resources to create a VBS experience at home. Use the link that follows to locate information on how to download materials for River of Life, on the ELCA website: <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

There is still time to join the online book club sponsored by the Virginia Synod! August’s selection is Growing Young. Discussion of each will take place on the third Monday of August. 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

New Normals are Messy: Conversations in Ezra and Nehemiah

"It's so good to be back in the sanctuary after so long apart and away!" That's not something that you'll hear only from churches getting back together as the pandemic wanes. It's also something said by the people of Israel after 70 long years of exile. But there were some bumps on reentry. Our midweek messages for the next few weeks will explore the post-exile books of Ezra and Nehemiah and see what they have to teach us today.

Now streaming at our YouTube digital channel.

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Mechanicsville VA 23111



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A prayer about slowing down

God beyond time ... teach us to pause in this moment, to tuck ourselves into the curve of your slow arm, that we may know the miracle of now, the gift of this moment: you beside and beyond us, wel-

The DEADLINE for the **September 2021** edition of ***The Messenger*** is **Sunday, August 22nd**
(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

coming us outside of all we measure, and standing with us in it. May we see the goodness of our still hours and days, sunrises, sunsets, and the darkness where our rest is found.

—Micha Boyett in *A Rhythm of Prayer* (edited by Sarah Bessey)