

The

MESSENGER



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

SEPTEMBER 2021

Highlights from the Messiah Church Council Meeting

Messiah Church Council met on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. Here are the highlights from that meeting.

- Life of the Church news includes that Pastor Ryan has met with Social Ministry, Christian Formation and Evangelism teams. We will be welcoming new members on August 29th, and there will also be a service of Remembrance & Healing for members who have passed away during the last year when gatherings were restricted. On September 26th, there will be a second First Communion service for the students who did not have the traditional service in 2020. Rally Day will be held on 9/12/21. Pastor's installation service will also take place on 9/12/21 at 3:00 with Katie Pocalyko presiding
- The mid-week message, "New Normals are Messy," is a study of the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Pastor is considering holding virtual meetings for his next study, depending on interest.
- The Treasurer's report was reviewed and the take away is that both income and expenses have increased from the same period last year. We have incurred several large expenses with the A/C unit, the roof and the exterior painting. Year to date, we are \$16,797 behind budget.
- The Wi-Fi in our building has been enhanced using an Eros system. All Souls has also noticed an improvement in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Ryan met with Reverend Katherine and they are happy to be back inside for worship. They are also looking forward to the day when they can return to the Sanctuary. Church Council will meet with All Souls Vestry in September, if all goes well.
- There will be a reception to include refreshments after both the service of Remembrance and Pastor Ryan's installation. These will take the place of first Sunday refreshments for September.
- Pastor Ryan has been in contact with enCircle and local churches about outreach possibilities and or opportunities. He and Sharon Addair met with enCircle about assisting with a possible

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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

Church Council highlights

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mission for which they have applied to the federal government's grant program.

- Church Council reviewed the COPS (church operating procedures) for unrestricted gifts. This and the updated reimbursement form will be completed at the September meeting. The budget review will be completed in September. All standing committees should plan to meet and review budget needs prior to the September Council meeting scheduled for September 21st.
- COVID-19 continues to impact Hanover County where recent infection numbers are high. In order to protect our most vulnerable members, espe-

cially children who are unable to receive the vaccination as yet, we encourage everyone to continue social distancing, hand washing, and mask wearing at Church.

- **Anita Philp**, Church Council

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



Whenever we baptize an infant or child, the first question we ask them during the baptism rite goes like this: “Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?” And they are prompted to say, “I do.” And then we ask them to also say “I do” to a whole list of responsibilities: “to live with them among God’s faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in prayer...” (We’ll finish the list in a minute.)

“Rally Day” is typically the first Sunday after Labor Day in September, when we all rally together and have a congregational pep rally for our Sunday school students and teachers. It’s time to kick things off for another year of learning! It’s when the congregation once again gathers together in fellowship and celebration to support the parents of the baptized. Sunday school is one part of our life together as God’s faithful people. All of us can learn and deepen our faith, and we especially pour our love and care into our youngest brothers and sisters as they are growing on so many levels – we want them to have the good soil of God’s Word and God’s love. So parents bring their kids, and other adults teach, and other adults learn, and we all grow together.

And we worship together, too – bringing one another to the word of God and the holy supper. We recite and dig into and teach the Lord’s Prayer and the Creed and the Ten Commandments. We turn to things like the Small Catechism to help us understand these core faith teachings, and how to apply them in our lives. We nurture one another as we pray for God’s people near and far, neighbor and

stranger, specific and general, sinners and saints, living and dead.

I’m excited that this year we’ll be able to really focus on this baptismal promise: “place in their hands the holy scriptures.” As the Sunday school begins using a new elementary curriculum this fall, each student will receive a brand new Bible, just for them. As I start Confirmation classes, each student of mine will also be using a new Bible. In other words, we really will be placing Scriptures in our young folks’ hands – literally!

I invite everyone to ask some of these newly Bible-toting brothers and sisters to do a little show-and-tell with you. Ask to see their new Bibles. Have a look inside. Share one of your favorite Bible verses or stories. Place in their hands the holy scriptures, and not just literally – help them to feel the comforting presence of the Bible in their hands by sharing how the Bible is a part of your life.

The rest of the promises go like this, and the first part of the list – especially the Bible – helps you carry out the second part: “...so that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.” And you can put those values and practices in their hands, too.

As we celebrate this milestone and this new year of learning, it might seem daunting, especially with the uncertainty that still looms in our world right now. But remember the very first thing we ask parents: “Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God...”

It’s the Holy Spirit that calls us; it’s God’s love and grace that we trust, through Christ, that makes any of this possible,

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Pastor's message

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and that makes all of it joyful. Before they say "I do" to anything – before any of us who are called Christians set out to live in faith – it's God who makes it possible.

In Christ,

Pastor Ryan



Put these words of mine in
your heart and soul
Teach them to your children

Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NRSV

Lutheran Disaster Response - Haiti

In August, a devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti. Over 1,400 people were killed and thousands more were injured and many left homeless.

Gifts to ELCA's "Haiti Crisis" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the earthquake until the response is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long lasting support. Please donate at ELCA.org/disaster.



In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ, we remember before God our brother **Charlie Schw erdtfeger**, who died recently.

Please pray for Charlie's family. Details regarding a memorial service will be shared when they are available.

Women's Bible study



Women's Bible Study plans to resume on Wednesday, September 22nd at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall.

We will be starting a new study called "**The Chosen**". No need to purchase a book or study guide. Everything will be completed together when we meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month throughout the study.

Please contact **Valerie Williams** (cell- 240-638-6162 or vswilliams2005@gmail.com) with any questions.

ALL are Welcome and we can't wait to see you there!



- 2 **Amy Delph**
- 8 **Dean Gustafson**
- 8 **Beth Carpenter**
- 10 **Sheila Whirley**
- 23 **Kirsten Combs**
- 24 **Roberta McMillen**



- 3 **Anita (& Mark) Philp**
- 9 **Dak & Sherry Kondaki**
- 17 **Daren & Valerie Williams**
- 28 **Chrisann & Bill Hatfield**
- 30 **Jean (& John) Martin**

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



As Messiah resumes in person church activities and ministries, we continue to be thankful for the continued time, effort and support our members provide for these initiatives. As we look for ways to support our ministries, our mission in the community and one another, we ask that you prayerfully consider where you can begin, continue or increase the gifts that will continue to allow the Church to grow and benefit the members and the community.

- **The Stewardship Team**

September 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		

September

- 1 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
- 2 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
- 3 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
- 5 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
11:45 AM Shepherd's Team Meeting
- 6 Church Office Closed
- 8 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 12 9:15 AM Rally Day (sanctuary)
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
3:00 PM Pastor Ryan Radtke
Installation
- 19 Manna Sunday/Food collection
9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 21 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 22 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 26 9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship

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

Words of Evangelism



EVANGELISM
is just one beggar
telling another beggar
where to find bread.

- **DT Niles**

MCEF news

Summer is drawing to a close and by the time you read this, there will have been a Back-To-School shopping opportunity for children of current clients. Many Thanks to all who donated clothing, new underwear and school supplies for children in Mechanicsville.

Save the date: Saturday, September 11, 2021 for the annual concert by the John Marshall Alumni Band at 7:00 at Walnut Grove Baptist Church, 7046 Cold Harbor Road. This is a "Food and Fund Raiser" for the MCEF Pantry with admission being a donation of \$2 and a nonperishable food item (canned or boxed). Come and support MCEF's local missions.

Current food needs are pork and beans, applesauce, ketchup and large cans of soup (18.5 oz.) size.

Your support is always greatly appreciated.

- **Gladys Hubert**

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Join Messiah on Facebook!



CFFY September 2021

Didn't this summer fly by? Maybe it's because last summer was so different? Even this summer's intense heat didn't make the days seem to pass more slowly, and now we've arrived at September once again.

The return to school also signals the return to Sunday school for children of all ages! Please plan to join us on Sunday, September 12th for Rally Day. We have some fun activities in mind as we return to learn.

Since All Souls has returned to our building and because we are seeing an upsurge in Covid-19 in our county, we will meet in the Sanctuary for our Rally Day kick-off event at 9:15 am. For the time being, we will keep our congregations separated with All Souls using the Fellowship hall and a couple of the Sunday School rooms. Details will be shared on the 12th. Hope to see everyone there!

- **Anita Philp**

Need masks?



As kids are going back to school, some families might consider stocking up on masks so their kids aren't wearing the same mask day after day. MCEF graciously shared some bounty of masks (and hand sanitizer) with the church. If you or someone you know could use these items, please contact **Pastor Ryan or Davina**.



We pray for each other:

Debbie Anton; Annette Buckholtz; Bruce Carr; Johnnie Collie; Leroy Deere; Adam Dworak, Sr.; Bonnie Dworak; Ted Ford; Jackie Garbett; Steve & Sue Gilnett; Karen Jones; "Doc" Kondaki; Mac McAllister; Ruth Schroeder; Family of Charlie Schw erdtfefer.

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Allen Family, friends of the Whirleys; **Family & Friends of Mary Jo Blake**, friend of Sharon Addair; **Cathy**, mother of Lori and Robin, relative of Dianne Absher; **Dwayne Collie**, Johnnie's brother; **Linda Honan**, sister-in-law of Geoffrey Honan; **Kenny**, cousin of Dianne Absher; **Lenny**, cousin of Dianne; **David Locke**, father of Davina Winn; **Lori**, friend of Dianne Absher; **Emily Mitchell**, fiancé of Geoffrey Honan; **George Playfair**, relative of Karen & Michael Morris; **Robin**, friend of Dianne; **Ronnie**, uncle of Dianne; **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; **Stephanie**, cousin of Dianne; **Roger Subit**, brother-in-law of Betty and Bill Fulop; **Tyson**, grandson of Erna Jung;

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 re-

searchers and scientists; Schools, workplaces, government institutions and municipal agencies; Those affected by natural disasters; The people of Haiti and Afghanistan; All those affected by acts of violence, at home and abroad; For all who travel; All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Tajikistan, Nepal, Central African Republic, and Ethiopia.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.

Scholarship awarded



The Joan Barnes Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that **Taylor Bryce Starrett**, one of Messiah's 2021 high-school graduates, is the recipient of a \$1000 scholarship award for his freshman year at Virginia Tech. In addition, he is eligible to apply for another \$1000 for each of the next two academic years.

Because of his lifelong interest in and enjoyment of playing video games, Taylor will pursue Computer Engineering at Virginia Tech and explore both hardware and software elements as well as learning coding and building computers. Taylor was enrolled at a specialty center for engineering in high school, so he is well prepared and anxious to begin his studies. Congratulations!

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Answers

Answers to prayers
come in various ways,
sometimes in minutes,
sometimes in days.

And some take years to fully unfold
the harvest of love
and blessings they hold.

Answers to prayers
come in various forms,
sometimes in sunlight,
sometimes through storms.
Some blossom early,
and some blossom late,
but each one will flower —
have faith and wait!

—Helen Inwood, *His Mysterious Ways*



The DEADLINE for the
October 2021 edition of
The Messenger is
Sunday, September 19th

(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

Check out Messiah’s videos on

