

The

MESSENGER



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

OCTOBER 2021

Highlights from the Messiah Church Council meeting

Messiah Church Council met for a regular monthly council meeting on September 21, 2021. The following are highlights of the Meeting:

- **Pastor Ryan** reported on the Congregational Life of the Church stating that he met with Rev. Katherine from All Souls and they agreed that we shouldn't force getting back together while we are in this Delta variant of COVID, and that there are things to work out with our getting back to using the same spaces. He also said we had our reception of three new families, a healing service, Rally Day, his installation, and Shepherd's Team and Evangelism Team meetings. He is also getting the confirmation class and First Communion class organized and scheduled. He is continuing to have many hospital visits for members. Pastor Ryan sent letters out to families of children in 8-12 grades about the National Youth Gathering.
- The Treasurer's report was reviewed and we are still running behind with our income and budget needs. In August we spent \$3,000 more than we collected and for the year we have spent \$16,000-\$20,000 more than our income. The Financial Secretary

reported that our air handler cost and installation was covered by a generous donation. And **Daren Williams** saved the church about \$1000 by taking down and putting up the ceiling tiles. Council discussed ways we could raise some more money to cover our short falls in income. Thrivent has two programs that members might use: Thrivent Action Grant and Thrivent Choice Money.

- Christian Formation Team has Rally Day and the start back of regular Sunday School classes.
- Evangelism Team got visitor bags together.
- Fellowship Team is looking at a fall Chili Cook-Off and the return of our congregational Thanksgiving dinner.

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**Your 2021 Church Council
 And Associate Members**

James Anderson Council President
Donna ShawVice-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 WarmbrodTreasurer
Bill Weaver..... Financial Secretary
Sue Gilnett, RN...Parish Nurse

Church Council highlights

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- Messiah Church Council will meet on September 22 with All Souls Vestry. This is a regular meeting that both congregations started to have a couple years ago but had to suspend in 2020 due to COVID.
- Council set the dates for the Annual Congregational Business Meeting: November 21, with an alternate date of December 5.

— **Karen Morris**
 Church Council Secretary

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.



It’s Pastor Appreciation Month!

Pastor's message

A couple of months ago, at an Evangelism Team meeting, we were trying to make sure we had a clear sense of our purpose. Here's what it says in the bylaws: "The Evangelism Team facilitates the spiritual growth of our members and reaches outside our membership to share the Good News and to invite others into the community of Christ." And there's a list of more specific ways in which that purpose is carried out.

I got to talking – as pastors are wont to do. I was posing the question: have you experienced the gospel? Myself, I grew up in the church. The rituals, the teachings, the devotions, the activities, all of it – it's routine, it's structure, it's what I fall back on when I need support. But have I ever experienced the gospel, the good news? Have I ever been knocked over, breath taken away, by grace, or forgiveness, or the love of Christ? To be honest: sparingly. Not in that fall-on-your-knees kind of way that you see in the Gospels and Acts. But more in the, the-gospel-is-the-companion-on-my-journey kind of way. Familiar, but therefore sometimes taken for granted.

When I think of people truly experiencing the gospel, I think of the stories I've heard of folks who have attended the National Youth Gathering (coming summer of 2022!). I think of my times at camp, surrounded by creation and hearts more open. I think of stories from prison ministry, or ministry with the developmentally disabled, or folks who have attended deeply intentional weekend retreats like Via de Cristo or Crucio. I think of extraordinary experiences, outside the norm. I think of worship service I attended at an Apostolic church, with folks alternately weeping and praising, singing and praying, a fluid act of worship with your whole self.

Maybe that's why Lutherans historically haven't been very comfortable sharing the gospel in our country and our society. Maybe it's because we tend to relate to the gospel as a teaching, or as a daily companion on our journey, and not as much as an experience.

Belonging to a church, ascribing to a certain denomination of Christianity, being involved in a congregation – these aren't givens anymore in our society, and they've been less and less so over the last few decades. Folks who were raised in the church – our kids, our grandkids, our peers – simply don't go anymore. It's not always because of a disagreement or a scandal or disillusionment. It's just not something that feels important anymore. And so it fades.

Reformation Day comes, once again, on October 31st. And the things that really helped to get the Reformation going were experiential: having the Bible in your own language for the first time. Being told that you didn't have to bail your loved ones out of purgatory, but rather that God was gracious and merciful, and that God's love and forgiveness were free and unmerited. Imagine the relief! Martin Luther, it would seem, was an experience all to himself, in his brash proclamation and prolific onslaught of words, words, words – but almost always words about God's unconstrained love for us sinners.

I kind of got on a roll at that Evangelism meeting. In the events and ministries that we plan as a team, and as a congregation – and also in the daily interactions and service that all of us are a part of as Christians – how do we evangelize? How do we share the good news in word and deed? How do we, with the Holy Spirit's help and guidance, help and guide others to experience the gospel? How do we share and represent and enact God's love in such a

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Pastor's message

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way that folks say "Whoa!" with the impact of God's forgiveness, God's welcome, God's invitation, God's healing, God's reconciliation, God's Son given for us?

I don't have all the answers. I truly believe we are entering a new chapter in the story of Christianity in our context. I have ideas. I'm excited to dream and try things together, succeed or fail. I know that we must be full of sincerity, and not gimmicks. And I know, most of all, that God will direct our steps, and that God will keep extending the gospel to us, as well, so that we may fully experience it ourselves, and fully grasp what a gift it is that we have to offer to others.

May the God for whom nothing is impossible bless you, expand your hearts past their limits, open you to experiencing the gospel deeply, and empower you to share what you have received. Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan



Women's Bible study

Join Women's Bible Study on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of October (13th and 27th) at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be watching and discussing "**The Chosen**" series. No study materials are needed, just bring yourself! We look forward to having you join us.

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

Words of Evangelism

"The single greatest gift you can give someone is an introduction to the God who asked his Son to go the unthinkable distance to redeem them."

- Bill Hybels

"Just Walk Across the Room"
(2006)



HELP urgently needed!

We now have **three** full-time greeters as well as **one** who can serve only 10 months a year. Two of our summer greeters have gone back to their Sunday-School classes. In order to have a "reasonable rotation" rather than once every three Sundays for 2021, except for October & December, we'll have greeters serving once every four Sundays.

If you could help us out, we would be very grateful. Even if you'd just like to serve in the rotation (1 in 4 Sundays for October and/or December) that would be a great help.

Please send your reply to sallybennett3317@gmail.com. I'll write back to you to let you know what you will need to do when you are a MLC Greeter.

Blessings to you and yours,
Sally Bennett, Worship Team Chair



- 1 **Dean Anderson**
- 5 **Steve Shaw**
- 6 **Daren Williams**
- 9 **Becky Collie**
- 14 **Christine Starret**
- 15 **Tracey Anderson**
- 16 **Debbie Walker**
- 18 **Mike Knepper**
- 23 **Donna Combs**
- 23 **Teresa Gigante**
- 28 **Allen Anderson**



- 12 **Dean Gustafson & Beth Carpenter**
- 28 **James & Tracey Anderson**

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

October 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						

October

- 3 World Communion Sunday
9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 10 9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 11 Columbus Day
Church Office Closed
- 13 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 17 9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 19 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 22 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
- 24 9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 27 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 31 Reformation Day
9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship

Dear Pastor Ryan and Messiah friends,

I want to thank Pastor Ryan and all of you for your calls, cards, emails and especially everyone's prayers these past months. My last cystoscopy and urine cytology did not reveal any cancer cells in my bladder. Thanks be to God! I now go on a maintenance program with the clinical trial I have been participating in. It feels really nice to share good news. With heartfelt thanks!

Sincerely,
Leroy A. Deere



Many THANKS to **Jake & Sharon Addair, Roger Schroeder, Bill Weaver, Daren Williams** (and James River Heating and Air) for making sure the new air handler was properly installed in the ceiling, so that Davina's office and the Sunday school rooms could be cooled.



We pray for each other:

Debbie Anton; Annette Buckholtz; Bruce Carr; Johnnie Collie; Leroy Deere; Adam Dw orak, Sr.; Bonnie Dworak; Ted Ford; Jackie Garbett; Steve & Sue Gilnett; Karen Jones; "Doc" Kondaki; Mac McAllister; Ruth Schroeder, Ken Whirley.

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Allen Family, friends of the Whirleys; **Family & Friends of Mary Jo Blake**, friend of Sharon Addair; **Dwayne Collie**, Johnnie's brother; **Lisa Fox**, cousin of Donna Shaw; **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; **Roger Subit**, brother-in-law of Betty and Bill Fulop; **Susen Weaver**, daughter-in-law of Bill & Susie; **Tyson**, grandson of Erna Jung; **Cathy**, mother of Lori & Robin, relative of Dianne Absher; **Jackie & Darlene & Family**, friends of Rosalee Cline; **Kenny**, cousin of Dianne Absher; **Lenny**, cousin of Dianne Absher; **Lori**, friend of Dianne Absher; **Robin**, friend of Dianne Absher;

Ronnie, uncle of Dianne Absher; **Stephanie**, cousin of Dianne Absher

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; All those affected by COVID, in all areas of life, and for a way forward; Hospitals, nursing homes, & other health care facilities; The CDC and other medical researchers and scientists; Schools, workplaces, government institutions and municipal agencies; Those affected by natural disasters; 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 Mexico, Jordan, Brunei, and Democratic Republic of the Congo.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.*



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Join Messiah on Facebook!

CFFY October 2021

Christian Formation October 2021

Thanks to all who participated in Rally Day festivities! A good time was had by all. It is so nice to be back in the church for worship and now, Sunday school as well!

The summer heat has given way to the crisp, cool air of autumn. Sunday school is back in session with a new curriculum for the youth through middle school. Weekly lessons follow the lectionary and the hope is that this synchronous teaching will foster family discussions.

Women's Bible study is back too! (See page 4)

Peace & Joy

Respectfully submitted by **Anita Philp**



On Sunday, August 29th, Messiah received five new members:

Philip Theurer, Mark & Kari Blosser, and **Jim & Nancy Berg**, all residents of Mechanicsville.

If you haven't already introduced yourself, please make sure to personally welcome these folks.

MCEF notes

- Looking back: School supplies, clothing and new socks and underwear were provided to 33 children; 91 families were provided with groceries; 66 rides were provided to seniors for appointments and essential services.
- The wonderful 911 Concert and NASCAR races made donations to MCEF.
- Looking ahead: Clothing closets taking fall clothing donations currently, winter jackets in November. →
- Accepting Thanksgiving bag donations October 17.
- A "school store" is being set up in Hanover for the excess of school supplies that have been donated, details being ironed out.
- Many thanks for the generous donations of food, socks, underwear, school supplies and financial support.
- Donation Sundays at the One Stop Shop are the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, 2:00 - 3:30.
- Current needs: apple sauce, shampoo and deodorant.

- **Gladys Hubert**

Messiah Lutheran Church
8154 Atlee Rd
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**World
Communion
Sunday**



October 3rd

October 2021

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*My times are
in your hands.*
PSALM 31:15, NIV



Time to hit delete?

If we really have too much to do, there are some items on the agenda that God did not put there. Let us submit the list to him and ask him to indicate which items we must delete. There is always time to do the will of God. If we are too busy to do that, we are too busy.

—Elisabeth Eliot

The DEADLINE for the
November 2021 edition of
The Messenger is
Sunday, October 17th
(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

