

The

MESSENGER



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

NOVEMBER 2021

Highlights from the Messiah Church Council meeting

Messiah Church Council met for a regular monthly council meeting on 10/19/21. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- **Congregational Input** – Sharon Addair sent in information about the Christmas gift project. Since Encircle would only have 3 children this year, we are going to expand the project to include those children who have aged out of foster care, but still need our love and support. Council supports this Expanded Christmas gifts project.
- **Pastor Ryan** reported on the **Congregational Life of the Church** stating that he received some general cards from a Sunday School class that he can use when he goes on visits. He discussed the National Youth Gathering and unless there are more youth interested in attending, he may see if the couple who are interested can go with another local congregation to cut expenses. He is still working on doing something for a pet blessing. Pastor Ryan is working on our Reformation, All Saints Sunday and Advent services.
- The **Treasurer’s report** was reviewed and we are still running behind with our income and budget needs. In August we had \$53,000 cash on hand and at the end of September we had \$47,000 cash in hand. Our resources

are shrinking. The Financial Secretary reported that our fan coil has been installed and paid for and working, with the ceiling replaced.

- **Evangelism Team** reported the welcome bags are being distributed with Roger Schroeder distributing. The website team had a Zoom meeting with discussion about the church’s website. A Mevo camera has been purchased for putting our services on Facebook Live and still working on set up and how to use. The initial meeting for a quilting group is set for 11/10/21 at 10 a.m.
- **Fellowship Team** is looking at a fall Chili Cook-off and the return of our congregation Thanksgiving dinner.
- **Property Team** reported that Roger replaced the lights in the ladies restroom. After he gets more bulbs he will work on the men’s restroom and Sunday School rooms.

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VISIT OUR MLC WEBSITE:
<http://www.messiahmech.com>

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

Highlights from Council meeting Continued from page 1

- **Worship Team** reported the COVID prayer has been removed and folded into other prayers. We still need more ushers. All Saints Sunday will have the bell to ring after each name is read and our wreath for flowers.
- Council reviewed the proposed **budget for 2022** and, with a few changes, council approved it for presenting to the congregation meeting.
- Council set the date for the **Annual Reporting meeting** at 1/16/22 with the alternate date of 1/23/21.
- While discussing COVID-19, it was brought to council's attention that a couple of members have asked about **singing and choir**. Council decided that it was time for another survey of

the congregation members to see where they are. Another person commented that the size of the music for hymns in the bulletin is getting very small and the words are hard to read.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Morris, 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.

Pastor's message

November 1st is All Saints Day, also known as All Hallows Day, which is where All Hallows Eve – you know, Halloween – gets its name. We usually commemorate All Saints Sunday on the first Sunday in November.

When we talk about saints, we're not just talking about your Francises, Teresas, Catherines, and Augustines, or only the disciples and apostles. We're talking about everyone who has died in the hope of the resurrection. Martin Luther wrote that we are all simultaneously saints and sinners – still snagged up in our mistakes and shortcomings and sins, and at the same time saved and freed to love and serve God and neighbor.

It's not our good deeds and carefully polished haloes that make us saints; it's nothing but God who makes us saints. To be a saint means that God has blessed us and gifted us and equipped us through the forgiving waters of baptism. We have been set apart, by God, to do holy things.

And “holy things” aren't limited to miracles and healings and powerful preaching and talking to animals and scholarly theologizing or any of those other things like that. Holy things also include sitting at someone's bedside. They include speaking up when you hear someone dehumanizing others. They include what the Sunday school kids did recently, making hand-made cards for me to share with the folks I visit who are sick or homebound. They include picking up litter around the park. They include being honest in your work, faithful to your spouse, loyal to your friends, patient with your children. They include loving your neighbor as yourself, every day, every minute. They include spending time in prayer, reading Scripture, witnessing to God's love in your life, personally.

We saints are set apart to do holy things, and

we can be saintly despite our simultaneous sinfulness because God the Holy Spirit blesses us and gifts us and equips us. We mourn and celebrate the saints who have died on All Saints Sunday because in some way God's love shone through them, reflected off of them, was channeled through them, and beyond, into our lives and into the world. We celebrate how God worked through them to do holy things. And we also celebrate on All Saints Sunday the saints who have been baptized because they have more recently embarked on this saintly march through life, and we are here to cheer them on, help them, and work alongside them.

Being saintly isn't something we do; it's something God does through us. God makes us saints; God makes us holy; God makes us sacred. That's how we are able to love God and neighbor; and that's how we are called to *see* our neighbors – as similarly set-apart and sacred sinner-saints. In this way God makes us sacramental. Just as God takes something ordinary – like water, or bread, or wine – and with words of promise turns them into something extraordinary – like a baptismal wash and saving body and blood – God takes us ordinary folks, fills us with promise and grace, and sends us into the world to do the extraordinary work of being saints.

By the end of the month of November, the new year begins with the season of Advent. We wait and watch and prepare for Christ to come again, to complete what was begun through the cross and empty tomb. To complete our baptismal transformation and remove the sinner-hyphen from our saintliness, gathering us into heaven with all the saints in eternal communion. God's future shapes our present. God's grace shapes our lives. God's hallowing shapes our service. God's love shapes us sinners as bona fide saints. Go in peace, you saints of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan

Women's Bible study



Women's Bible Study will meet the 2nd Wednesday of November only (11/10).

Please join us at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall to continue our viewing and study of "The Chosen".

Just bring yourself. We look forward to seeing you there! Have any questions? Contact **Valerie Williams** (vswilliams2005@gmail.com).

Messiah receives a .5% donation when you shop on Amazon!

You may have heard that the Christmas shopping season is starting a little earlier this year. The Stewardship Team would like to remind everyone to sign up and use Amazon Smile! Signing up is easy and does not interfere with Prime Membership benefits. Amazon donates .5% of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations of your choice. Step 1: Visit smile.amazon.com Step 2: Sign in with your Amazon account credentials. Step 3: Search for "Messiah Lutheran Church Mechanicsville". Step 4: Start SHOPPING! *Please remember to bookmark **smile.amazon.com** for easy access every time you shop. You MUST add the "smile" for this program. Thank you all and happy shopping!



Words of Evangelism

"Our responsibility is to get God's Word to their ears. Only God can get the word from their ears to their heart."

- Albert Mohler



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



- 2 **Anita Philp**
- 3 **Lynn Deere**
- 6 **Sharon Griffin**
- 6 **Emily Gunn**
- 17 **Roger Schroeder**
- 24 **Ella Anderson**



- 24 **Leroy & Lynn Deere**
- 27 **Ryan & Liz Radtke**

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



Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Hurricane Ida Response, Haiti Crisis, U.S. Wildfires, and Afghan Humanitarian Crisis is just a few disasters that can use your support. Learn more at ELCA.org/disaster, for more information and how you can help.

November 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				



November

- 6 Turn your clocks back before bed - Daylight Savings Time ends
- 7 9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:00 AM All Souls Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 9 6:00 PM Cool Well Townhouse Annual Homeowner's Meeting
- 10 Happy Birthday, Martin Luther!
6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 12 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
- 14 9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:00 AM All Souls Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 16 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 21 9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:00 AM All Souls Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 24 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 25 THANKSGIVING
Church Office Closed
- 26 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
- 28



*First Sunday
of Advent*

- 9:15 AM Christian Formation
- 10:00 AM All Souls Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship

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



We pray for each other:

Debbie Anton; Annette Buckholtz; Bruce Carr; Johnnie Collie; Adam Dworak, 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; **Dwayne Collie**, Johnnie's brother; **Jane Ferri**, friend of the Whirleys; **Lisa Fox**, cousin of Donna Shaw; **David Hebel**, friend of Anne Mason; **Robin Humphrey**, daughter of Ray Ash; **Eamon Hurson**, friend of Anne Mason; **David Locke**, father of Davina Winn; **Pat Ruffner**, friend of the Whirleys; **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; and **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; 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 impacted 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 Kazakhstan, Cameroon, Bhutan, and Oman.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.*



Please contact **Bill Weaver** (wweaver701@comcast.net), if you can help out with this essential task. We can use more than one person, as a substitute can help fill in at times.

Follow us on



Join Messiah on Facebook!



MCEF News

Donations are being accepted for client's Thanksgiving dinner. They will choose items from our "holiday area" for their Thanksgiving meal.

Watch for information for the fund raiser "No Room at the Inn" sponsored by our neighbors, Church of the Redeemer. One third of donations are ear-marked for MCEF

See the website: 4mcefcom for current needs. Thank you for your support of MCEF.

- **Gladys Hubert**

A gratitude game

Years ago, ads for a toy-store chain featured an animated kangaroo jumping on a frown to turn it upside down. That reminds me of family life, which can feel like a nonstop attempt to keep everyone happy. Busy schedules, grumpy kids and tired parents can be a bad combination.

When our family needs to turn frowns upside down, we play the thankful game. The rules are simple: We take turns sharing one thing we're thankful for. Everyone plays. No one can pass. No repeats are allowed. Our kids, now teens, still chime in.

As we share gratitude for football, Grandma, hugs, warm brownies, coffee and more, kids tend to stop bickering, and adults get a mental reset. Try playing — and bring on lots of smiles!

— Janna Firestone



COME ONE, COME ALL: Men, women, children!

Would you like to learn to quilt? Are you wondering what you can do to make a difference? Even non-sewers can help make a quilt!

Here are the 5 Ws and 1 P:

Who: anyone interested

What: quilting

When: November 10, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

Where: Messiah Lutheran Church narthex

Why: With a November start, a Thanksgiving theme of gratitude and thankfulness can illustrate our thankfulness for all the blessings God has given us by quilting for others.

Purpose: This fellowship activity is sponsored by the Evangelism Team, with the hope of assisting others beyond our walls.

If you are interested but cannot attend, please contact:

Gladys Hubert - gladyh43@gmail.com

or

Cheryl Griffis - candlgriffis@gmail.com



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Thankfulness in action

Thanksgiving is a spiritual exercise, necessary to the building of a healthy soul. It takes us out of the stuffiness of ourselves into the fresh breeze and sunlight of the will of God.

—Elisabeth Elliot, *Keep a Quiet Heart*

To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch heaven.

—Johannes Gaertner

Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good.

—Maya Angelou

The DEADLINE for the
December 2021/January 2022
edition of
The Messenger is
Sunday, November 14th
(Please contact me,
if you need a “grace period”)

Please call **Susie Weaver** with your
submission, hand me a written
submission OR email

Check out Messiah’s videos on

