

The

# MESSENGER



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

DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

## Highlights from the Messiah Church Council meeting

Messiah Church Council met for a regular monthly council meeting on 11/16/21. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- We added a few dates to the church calendar: Movie night on 12/4, Evangelism team meeting on 12/7 and the next quilting meeting on 12/9.
- **Pastor Ryan** reported on the Congregational Life of the Church, stating this Sunday we will dedicate the new altar paraments that were purchased by the Gladys Jordan memorial fund. Pastor Ryan is still doing e-mail confirmation education but trying to get all together for a meeting once a month. He is still checking in with members who are home bound and trying to get in touch with other churches to do combined National Youth Gathering. New acolytes have been trained. We had a request from Redeemer Catholic church to put a sign on our lawn for their annual No Room at the Inn event from 11/21 – 12/5. Council made a motion to approve this. Pastor Ryan is working on our Advent services. Pastor Ryan discussed a Synod Zoom he had and how it impacts all churches.
- The **Treasurer’s Report** was reviewed and we are still running behind with our income and budget needs. We are now down to about \$42,000 cash on

hand. We have looked at our expenses and don’t have much to cut there, so we need to work on our revenue. At the rate of using about \$3000 more every month in expenses than we get with income, we will run through our cash on hand in about a year.

- **Evangelism Team** reported the movie night at Virginia Commons on 12/4 and a Zoom team meeting on 12/7 and the second quilting meeting on 12/9. **Donna Shaw** said that there were 10 attendees at the first quilting meeting. Council approved the purchase of an iPad device that will belong to the church and be used with the Mevo camera to transmit our services online. Donna asked everyone to please “like” Facebook posts to distribute them to a larger population. It is a small way that we can all help in evangelism and spreading the word about Messiah.

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***The Messenger***

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**Messiah Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
**8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111**  
**Church Office: (804) 746-7134**  
**FAX: (804) 746-5579**

**Rev. Ryan Radtke, Pastor**  
**Email: messiahmechpr@gmail.com**  
**Ph: 507-360-7276**  
**Office hours: TBA**

**Davina Winn, Administrative Assistant**  
**Office email: messiahmech@gmail.com**  
**Office hours: Mon. & Wed. 7:30 am—3 pm**  
**Tues., Thurs., Fri. 7:30 am—12 pm**

**Susie Weaver, Newsletter Editor**  
**Ph: 804-559-3503**  
**Email: susiew51@comcast.net**

**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

## Women's Bible study



Join us in December on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month (12/8 & 12/22) in the fellowship hall to continue our viewing and discussion of the Christian TV Series "The Chosen". No need to bring anything with you. We look forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions please contact Valerie Williams (vswilliams2005@gmail.com or 240-638-6162)

And, a special event reminder:  
**The Chosen Christmas: The Messengers**  
**December 4th, 4:00 PM**  
**Regal Cinema Virginia Center**

Contact **Valerie Williams** or **Donna Shaw** for more information.

## Annual meeting results

At the congregational annual meeting, held on November 21st, members voted to accept the budget for 2022, as presented by the church council, as well as to elect council members for 2022.

**Pastor Ryan's office hours** are posted for the upcoming week in each Sunday's bulletin. Schedule an appointment via [messiahmechpr@gmail.com](mailto:messiahmechpr@gmail.com) And 507-360-7276

Pastor Ryan's day off is Monday.

## Pastor's message

Advent is a season of waiting. Celebrating that Jesus was born after the long wait for the promise of a Savior to be fulfilled. Preparing our hearts and our world, through our witness and service, for when Christ will come again, and faithfully waiting for that day of Return. We light candles, we sing songs like "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," we open Advent calendars one day at a time, we dedicate ourselves to devotion. We watch, and we wait.

I don't know about you, but waiting is not my strong suit these days. Maybe it's the fact that so many things are "on demand" now. So, I don't have to wait very long for most the things I want, whether it's produce or an online order delivery or the next episode of my favorite show – instant gratification is the name of the game. Maybe it's the fact that I've been waiting for the all-clear from the CDC, waiting for the case numbers to go down and the vaccination numbers to go up, and here we 20+ months into the pandemic and, I'm still waiting for the worst of this to pass, waiting for things to go back to normal, or to find a new normal, waiting for folks to stop fighting each other and to work together to get through all of this, waiting for decision-making for our council, our church, our state, our country, to be more clear-cut, waiting for this list I'm currently typing to end. Maybe I'm not great with waiting because I'm waiting for so many other things to change, to get better, to improve, in this broken world of ours. I'm all waited out.

Apparently God doesn't feel the same way about waiting. Apparently, waiting is some kind of holy discipline. The prophets and Psalms tell us that waiting is a sign of faith: "those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they

shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31). Hebrews 9:28 says that "Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him." Our waiting is worth it. Jesus tells many parables about waiting, and about being prepared, and being watchful, so that we don't miss the glorious day when God fulfills every promise and makes all things new. He teaches us to be active waiters, doing kingdom work and sharing the good news in the meantime.

We Christians have been waiting for Christ's return for around 2,000 years now – you'd think we'd be good at it by now. Not so much. Maybe it's because we're mortal, and can't wrap our heads around God's timetable. Maybe it's because, inspired by the love of Christ, we want the suffering in this world to end. Or maybe we're just impatient, plain and simple. Maybe that's why the early church, as it created the earliest version of the calendar we still use, saw fit to include seasons like Advent before Christmas, and Lent before Easter, to make our waiting intentional, rather than interminable, in advance of our holiest celebrations of God's salvation.

And so I invite us all to try just that in this Advent season: to wait intentionally. To pray and read scripture and remind ourselves how good the promises are that we are waiting to be fulfilled, and to be filled with the hope of those promises in the here and now. I invite each of us to delay gratification on some things, to not get caught up in the material stuff that Christmas has come to be about, and instead ponder, like Mary, the work that God is doing around us, and in us, and through us. I invite each of us to be active waiters, doing kingdom work in the world

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## Pastor's message

Continued from page 3

as a witness to everyone what it is we are waiting for when Christ returns. I invite each of us to fill our waiting with love, and even patience, as we debate and deliberate things like how to handle a pandemic nearly two years later. Our waiting is not in vain; it is not interminable. We know that God follows through: that's why we set up nativities. Waiting is not most of our strong suits; but God is strong when we are not. And God's promised future is, no matter what, worth the wait.

Peace in your waiting,

**Pastor Ryan**

## Blessing of paraments

We give thanks for the new paraments that were blessed and dedicated on November 21st. They were purchased using memorial gifts given in honor of Gladys Jordan. Many thanks to Sheila Whirley and Sharon Griffin and the altar guild for their time and effort to select and care for these new paraments. We pray that they will add to our life together in worship.



## Highlights from Council meeting

Continued from page 1

- The **Fellowship Team** reported our Thanksgiving congregation dinner after church this Sunday.
- The **Finance Team** discussed the IRA statement for the fund that was donated to the church several years ago. They are not liquid funds and we are watching for a time that we can liquidate them in a responsible manner.
- The **Property Team** is looking at a different waste removal company that will also recycle. Roger also reported that we are having problems with one of our front doors locking. He will call a locksmith to check it out.
- **Social Ministry Team** said that Christmas gifts for foster children project is progressing and will be done by 12/5 according to Sharon Addair.
- **Worship Team** reported that volunteers are needed for the Christmas Eve service and that there have been 5 new acolytes trained.
- **Council** has 5 members who will be presented on the ballot for church council. Two current council members will run for a second term: **Anita Philp** and **Diana Sondor**. Three new members will be on the ballot: **Theresa Gigante, Marilyn Gunn** and **Heather Williams**.
- Council reviewed and discussed the next congregational survey that will go out this week.
- Council discussed moving forward with **All Souls** moving back into the sanctuary on 11/28 which will free up the Fellowship Hall. All Souls will use the side sanctuary doors to leave their services which will allow space and time before our members come in through the Narthex doors. We still need to work through the details for a smooth transition.

- **Karen Morris**,  
Church Council Secretary

### Highlighting the season

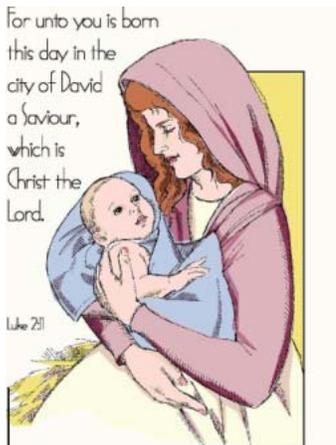


4:00 PM **Sunday, December 12**  
5:00 PM **German Christmas Service**



### Christmas Eve

7:00 PM **Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight service**



For unto you is born  
this day in the  
city of David  
a Saviour,  
which is  
Christ the  
Lord.

Luke 2:11

**The Sunday after Christmas Day**  
10:45 PM **Sunday, December 26**  
**Lessons and Carols**



**January 6**

No event  
planned at  
this time



- 10 **Gordon Gunn**
- 14 **Curtis Pfohl**
- 16 **Marilyn Gunn**
- 16 **John Terry**



- 9 **Curt & Charlene Glatfelter**



- 4 **Karen Umberger**
- 11 **Erna Jung**
- 14 **Max Williams**
- 15 **Grayson Starrett**
- 22 **Bill Hatfield**
- 31 **Mary Grace Delph**

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

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

**More information at <https://smile.amazon.com/>**



December 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 1
- 4 3:45 PM Meet @ "The Chosen"  
Christmas movie (Regal Cinema, VCC)
- 5 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
9:15 AM Christian Formation  
10:00 AM All Souls Worship Service  
(Sanctuary)  
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 7 12:30 PM Evangelism Team
- 8 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 9 9:00 AM Quilting Group
- 12 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
9:15 AM Christian Formation  
10:00 AM All Souls Worship Service  
(Sanctuary)  
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship  
4:00 PM Kaffeeklatsch  
5:00 PM GERMAN CHRISTMAS  
SERVICE
- 14 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 19 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
MANNA SUNDAY  
9:15 AM Christian Formation  
10:00 AM All Souls Worship Service  
(Sanctuary)  
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 22 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 23 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE  
Church Office Closed  
Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)  
7:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE service
- 25 CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!  
Our family of faith at Messiah wishes  
you a blessed Christmas!
- 26 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER  
CHRISTMAS DAY  
9:15 AM Christian Formation  
10:00 AM All Souls Worship Service  
(Sanctuary)  
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 27 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
- 28 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)

- 29 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
- 30 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
- 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE  
Church Office Closed  
Have a safe & happy New Year's Eve!  
Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)

January 2022						
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 NEW YEAR'S DAY  
The members of Messiah Lutheran  
wish you a year full of blessings!
- 2 9:15 AM All Souls Worship Service  
(Sanctuary)  
9:15 AM Christian Formation  
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 6 6:30 PM EPIPHANY PARTY
- 9 9:15 AM All Souls Worship Service  
(Sanctuary)  
9:15 AM Christian Formation  
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 16 MANNA SUNDAY  
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY  
9:15 AM All Souls Worship Service  
(Sanctuary)  
9:15 AM Christian Formation  
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship  
11:30 AM ANNUAL REPORTING  
MEETING  
(Backup/alternate date 1/23)
- 18 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 23 9:15 AM All Souls Worship Service  
(Sanctuary)  
9:15 AM Christian Formation  
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 30 9:15 AM All Souls Worship Service  
(Sanctuary)  
9:15 AM Christian Formation  
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship

**Watch the [messiahmech.com](http://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; **Joan Laudig**, mother of Susie Weaver; **David Locke**, father of Davina Winn; **George Playfair**, relative of Karen & Michael Morris; **Pat Ruffner**, friend of the Whirleys; **Family & Friends of Roger Sabanosh**, cousin of Karen Morris; **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.; **Family & Friends of Vinnie. 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 Mozambique, Malaysia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Kenya, and Comoros.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> 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. 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.**

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## MCEF News

Due to the overflowing generosity the Food Pantry is fully stocked for Thanksgiving. The current items in low supply include pancake mix and syrup, canned carrots, mayonnaise and catsup.

In October, 105 families were served with food and clothing.

The Hanover Teachers Store (began their inventory with donations from Messiah and other churches) in phase 1 includes the 4 middle schools in Hanover County.

The overwhelming response has 51 teachers requesting supplies! More information will be forthcoming to the Hanover community for continued support of the program.

Thank you for all your support.

- **Glady Hubert**

## All Souls has returned to the sanctuary

As of November 28th, that the congregation of All Souls Episcopal Church will be returning to the sanctuary and our former shared schedule has returned. Messiah's adult class will return to the room by the kitchen. Please note that All Souls' folks will exit by the side door of the sanctuary after their worship service concludes. Messiah folks, please wait to enter the sanctuary from the narthex until All Souls folks have completely exited. Thank you!

## Words of Evangelism

"We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining, they just shine."

- D.L. Moody



## Living Lutheran

As we travel in to the holiday season, and your editor has a bit of a "vacation," you have an opportunity to use this time to enhance your spiritual life. This opportunity is "Living Lutheran," the official monthly magazine published by the ELCA. In addition to the traditional printed magazine, the ELCA offers a digital copy for your use. I encourage you to take a look, when you have some time between now and the end of January, when you next see the February edition of "The Messenger."

So until then, "Living Lutheran" is available online at [livinglutheran.org](http://livinglutheran.org).

- **Susie Weaver**



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## Remember to reach out

For many people, the holidays bring sorrow, grief and stress. If you're hurting, turn to Jesus and his power. Learn from the woman who, desperate to be healed, reached out to touch the edge of Jesus' robe and was immediately cured.

Sometimes we think our healing process will be so exhaustive that we hesitate to take the first step. Or we doubt that Jesus still performs miracles. Amid your pain, have you reached out? Have you dared to touch Jesus' robe? He is there, waiting to say: "Your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering" (Mark 5:34, NIV).

—Julie Lee

The DEADLINE for the  
**February 2022**  
edition of  
***The Messenger*** is  
**Sunday, February 14**  
(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**

