

The MESSENGER



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

APRIL 2022

Highlights from the Messiah Church Council meeting

Messiah Church Council conducted their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday March 16th. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- The council discussed Covid-19 numbers. Everyone is glad to see positivity rates decreasing. If numbers remain below 10% the return of additional church activities such as Easter breakfast, communion at the rail, and additional singing are planned for Easter. The council established protocols for tracking numbers and what protocols would return if case rates went back up.
- Pastor presented the Congregational Life of the Church. The adult Sunday School class is having some very good discussions and the youth confirmation class had a wonderful get together on Sunday March 6th.
- The council also discussed the needs of the community. How do we show kindness and grace in the Mechanicsville community in ways that directly respond to people's needs?

- **Heather Williams**
Church Council Secretary



April 10 Service with Palms 10:45 AM

April 14
Maundy Thursday service .. 7:00 PM

April 15
Good Friday service 7:00 PM

April 17
Easter Sunday
Easter Breakfast 8:45 AM
Easter activities and
egg hunt for children ... 9:30 AM
Easter worship service 10:45 AM

A look inside....

- M.O.M.'s needed! P. 2
- Pastor's message P. 3
- CFFY P. 4
- Celebrations, Calendar P. 5
- MLC Quilters P. 5
- Prayer list P. 6
- MCEF, Adult Christian formation P. 7

The Messenger

Published monthly by
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 2022 Church Council
 And Associate Members**

Teresa Gigante Council President
Anita Philp Vice-President
Heather Williams Secretary

Dianne Absher **Marilyn Gunn**
Roger Schroeder **Diana Sondor**
Debbie Walker

Council Liaisons

Christian Formation **Anita Philp**
 Evangelism **Heather Williams**
 Fellowship **Marilyn Gunn**
 Finance **Teresa Gigante**
 Property **Roger Schroeder**
 Social Ministry **Dianne Absher**
 Stewardship **Diana Sondor**
 Worship **Debbie Walker**

Shawn WarmbrodTreasurer
Bill Weaver..... Financial Secretary
Sue Gilnett, RN...Parish Nurse



M.O.M.'S NEEDED

It's that time of year again, when the "Men Of Messiah," known affectionately as "M.O.M.," get together to cook for all the rest of us. The traditional Easter breakfast is something that we all look forward to (and have missed for two years). It does, however, take preparation and willing hands to bring it about. Both cooks and servers are needed, with on-the-job training available. We need new help as we have lost some of our previous volunteers.

If you, Man of Messiah, are willing to lend a hand, call **Bill Weaver** or email: wweaver701@comcast.net

Women's Bible study

Please join us every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of April for Women's Bible Study at 6:30 pm. We will be continuing the film series "The Chosen." Please come for some fellowship and Study of God's Word.

Rosalee Cline
 804 347-2524
Rosaleecline@gmail.com

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

Pastor Ryan's day off is Monday.

Pastor's message

As much as Christians can and should claim the title “resurrection people,” it seems like it’s hard for us to believe it sometimes. This goes all the way back to the first resurrection: the women who come to Jesus’ tomb that first Easter morning become the first evangelists, being told to go and tell the others about the good news that Jesus had been raised from the dead. And they do! But the disciples don’t believe it. Some run to see for themselves. Mary mistakes Jesus for the gardener. The two men on the road to Emmaus don’t recognize Jesus after sharing a long walk together. Thomas doesn’t believe the story that he missed Jesus appearing among them in the locked upper room, and vows that he won’t believe unless he touches Jesus’ wounds himself. It’s hard to believe.

Even today, we who re-assert almost weekly in the Creeds that we do indeed believe in the resurrection of the dead, don’t always live like we believe in resurrection. We get caught up in our limitations and in death-defying, even though Jesus already completed that feat on our behalf. Sometimes we expect the worst and have a hard time accepting good news, even miracles.

I confess that I’m holding my breath a bit as we prepare to restore pieces of worship and other church activities that we haven’t seen since pre-Covid times. Stuff I haven’t even had a chance to experience with all of you since I started my time as your pastor. I confess that I worry about another wave coming and having to go backwards again. I confess that it almost seems too good to be true that we are finally emerging from this pandemic tomb, such as it is.

And the pandemic has been a tomb. Not because we had to worship online or in

the parking lot or because we’ve had restrictions – not really. It’s been a tomb because over six million people have died worldwide since this started, nearly a million in our own country, as I write this. And for each one of those people that have died, there is a ripple effect of grief, loss, hardship, and pain. And for many who had the disease and didn’t die, there are long-term health effects and ailments. And the economic impacts of the last two years will be felt for a long time, leading to more difficulties and arguments.

We’ve spent two years in a tomb of death and anxiety, tension and grief, hostility and uncertainty. We’ve also had times of joy, along with a steady stream of prayer, love, outreach, and dedication. Now, we seem to be finally, actually, legitimately emerging from the tomb. But the ramifications of the last two years, like Lazarus’s burial wrappings, will still cling to us for some time.

And this is why we as Christians need to claim the title of “resurrection people,” emblazon it on our hearts and on our buildings and in our daily living. Whether it’s the extreme conditions of the last two years or the normal day-to-day ups and downs of “normal” human life, we must live and love our neighbors, our Lord, and our world as resurrection people. We who have been baptized into the grace and love of Jesus Christ, baptized into his death and resurrection, daily dying to sin and death and daily being raised to new life in Christ – the world needs our proclamation. We who have been freed from the power of sin and the grip of death, freed *for* serving others, whoever they may be – the world needs our witness. We who cling tightly to the future kingdom-of-God promises of eternal life to channel the kingdom of God *right now* – the world needs our service, and our hope.

Continued on page 4

Pastor's message

Continued from page 3

Even as we emerge from the tomb, the wrappings still cling and tangle our world. And in a world that seems to present more challenges than opportunities sometimes, a world that seems to present more judgment than grace, a world that seems to present more death than life, we are called to be something different: resurrection people. Over the course of the month of April, we'll hear the story once more: the story of Jesus' Passion, all that he underwent to save us, to save the world, to enact dominion even over the tomb, and to usher in resurrection and new life.

It might seem hard to believe sometimes, perhaps especially right now. Yet: this is our Story to tell. To live. To share. To proclaim. To enact. Ours is a God of life. We are a resurrection people!

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan



Join Messiah on Facebook!

A eucharistic hymn

Bread of the world, in mercy broken,
Wine of the soul, in mercy shed,
By Whom the words of life were spoken,
And in Whose death our sins are dead.
Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
Look on the tears by sinners shed;
And be Thy feast to us the token,
That by Thy grace our souls are fed.

—Reginald Heber

CFFY: Christian Formation For You

Whenever I think of April, I am reminded of the rhyme, "April showers bring May flowers." The mental imagery that accompanies this thought gives me a feeling of hope. Springtime brings a renewal of nature, a reawakening that culminates in flowers, grass and trees in full leaf.

This April, we celebrate Easter. Talk about renewal and hope! Exciting news flash: we are resuming many pre-pandemic practices beginning on Easter Sunday. I am happy to share the news that there will be an Easter lesson and craft for our young people and an egg hunt on the lawn!! We are requesting donations of individually wrapped candies that are sized to fit inside the plastic eggs we will be hiding. Drop off your donation in the brightly colored box in the Narthex!

I read a story some time ago about a woman who wished everyone "Happy Easter" every day, all year long. Her explanation was that Christ's death and resurrection with its promise of eternal life was the most important thing that had ever happened for mankind and should be celebrated every day. In this spirit, I want to share an acrostic poem to start your day:

- G Get up
- O Open your heart
- O Open your mind
- D Dedicate your day to God

- M Meditate on God's Word
- O Optimize your faith & hope
- R Rebuke all evils
- N Never doubt God's love
- I Inspire someone
- N Nothing should scare you
- G Go out in joy!

Happy Easter!

Peace & Joy,
Anita Philp

April 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



- 5 Dak Kondaki
- 12 Annette Buckholtz
- 14 Allen Starrett

- 1
- 3 9:15 AM All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 6 9:00 AM Quilting Group
- 10 PALM SUNDAY
9:15 AM All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 11 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
- 13 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 14 5:30 PM All Souls
Maundy Thursday Service
7:00 PM MLC Maundy Thursday
- 15 5:30 PM All Souls Good Friday Service
7:00 PM MLC Good Friday Service
- 16 Holy Saturday
- 17 EASTER SUNDAY
8:45 AM Easter Pancake Breakfast
9:15 AM All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15 AM Christian Formation
9:30 AM Activities and Egg Hunt for Children
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 20 9:00 AM Quilting Group
- 24 9:15 AM All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 27 6:15 PM Council Meeting
6:30 PM Women's Bible Study



- 17 Bill & Susie Weaver

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

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

* Worship services will be broadcast LIVE on our Facebook page and recorded for later access via our YouTube channel.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!



Earth Day is Friday, April 22nd.

But before that, Hanover County residents can bring household hazardous waste for free disposal, and personal information or documents to be shredded, to the Mechanicsville trash and recycling center at 7427 Verdi Lane on Saturday, April 9, between 8 a.m. and noon. For liquids, aerosols and solids classified as household hazardous wastes, there will be no charge but a 5-gallon limit. Up to four boxes (10" by 12" by 18") of documents will also be accepted for shredding. No businesses will be permitted. No out-of-county materials will be accepted.

⇒ Additionally, Habitat for Humanity collects offerings of metal cans, lids, etc. that we place in the little wired up box next to the MLC garage.

Honor and care for God's creation!

We pray for each other:

LeRoy Albertson; Debbie Anton; Annette Buckholtz; Bruce Carr; Johnnie Collie; Adam Dworak, Sr.; Bonnie Dworak; Ted Ford; Jackie Garbett; Steve & Sue Gilnett; Karen Jones; Ruth Schroeder.

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Danny Allen, friend of the Whirleys; **Dwayne Collie**, Johnnie's brother; **Griffin Deere**, brother of Leroy Deere; **Brenda Holcomb**, Sally & Charlie Bennett's cousin; **Joan Laudig**, Susie Weaver's mom; **Sandy Lambert**, neighbor of Erna Jung; **Woody Mallory**, neighbor of Anita Philp; **Mason Mielke**, former student of Messiah School; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Susen Weaver**, daughter-in-law of the Weavers, **Harry**, child of friend of the Andersons; **John**, friend of Karen and Michael Morris, 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; 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 Vietnam, Egypt, Uzbekistan, and Algeria.¹

¹ Open Doors World WatchList 2022
<http://www.opendoorsusa.org>

Email **Davina** at MessiahMech@gmail.com or phone 746-7134 with your requests.

Words of Evangelism

"Many Christians love Evangelism as long as someone else is doing it."

- Ed Stetzer



And now, Lord ... grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all

BOLDNESS
Acts 4:29, ESV



Quilters gather together

(April 6, April 20, May 4, & May 18)

Quilters (and non-quilters) who are interested in learning about quilting and using their hands and hearts to make a Mission Quilt for Lutheran World Relief will gather in the narthex the first and third Wednesdays in April and May from 9:00 to 12:00 noon. Bring any of your favorite sewing supplies, extra cotton fabric that you may have (clean and pressed) and your enthusiasm. No special skills needed, we will gather to learn. Call **Gladly Hubert** with any questions, 814-449-1392.

MCEF News

- During the month of February, MCEF served 94 households with food and 88 bags of clothing and linens. Seven households were assisted with utilities and/or utility bills to the amount of \$3500. Senior rides provided rides to 86 seniors for doctors appointments and necessary personal business.
- The new Tools for Teachers-Hanover program has provided approximately 300 requests from teachers in the 4 middle schools in Hanover. Current inventory is low, community support is needed. A list of supplies and how to donate is on the website, 4mcef.com.
- Spring and summer clothing is now being accepted, needs include mens and older boy's underwear.
- All food items are being accepted, special needs are crunchy peanut butter.
- The 3rd Monday of each month continues to be a fundraiser at Chicken Salad Chick, just say that you support MCEF and a portion of the sale is donated to MCEF.

Looking for something to do? MCEF has many opportunities for volunteers. Call Pat Hubert 814-449-2612 for more information.

Thank you for your continued donations and financial support.

- **Gladys Hubert**

Follow us on



Tattoos on the Heart

Beginning on May 1st, the adult Christian formation class will be reading the book *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, by Father Gregory Boyle. It shares dozens of stories and reflections on the power of God's grace and compassion, told through Father Boyle's experiences serving in heart of the densest gang activity of Los Angeles in the 80s and 90s. In its pages you'll find heart and humor, as well as tragedy and pain. But most of all you'll encounter God's unconditional grace.

You can find the book through Amazon Smile (remember to designate Messiah to receive a donation), electronically, or at a local library. The church will order a small number of copies for those who'd like to skip the stores – the cost is around \$12 – or for those who can't purchase a copy for any reason. (Be aware – due to some content and language, this book is for adults and high-schoolers only.)

If you'd like to participate, please make arrangements to have a copy of the book ready to go by May 1st, and read up through the first chapter.

Lutheran Disaster Response-Eastern Europe

Please visit the Lutheran Disaster Response website to see how you can contribute to the ongoing aid and recovery efforts for a variety of crises, both in the U.S. and around the globe. The situation is especially urgent right now in Ukraine, as well as other Eastern European countries where refugees fleeing Ukraine are seeking safety, such as Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. Just mark your donations "Eastern Europe Crisis Response."

Messiah Lutheran Church
8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111

*Worship With Us
This Easter*



April 2022

Messenger

page 8



God's Global Barnyard drive

It's not too late! We still collecting your coins and more to purchase animals and other items from the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog. Look for the large piggy bank in the narthex OR pick up a little cardboard one, while supplies last. The funds we raise will go towards a shopping spree for our Sunday school students to select small gifts with big impacts for people in many corners of our world.

Thanks in advance for your support and generosity!

The DEADLINE for the
May 2022
edition of
The Messenger is
Sunday, April 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

