

The MESSENGER



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

MAY 2022

PAL (Patches and Love) formerly know as Messiah Quilters

The quilting group formed in November 2021 has finished its first quilt! The quilts produced by the group will be sent to Lutheran World Relief; and some will go to a local facility, such as Autumn Care.

Our first quilt was completed! We put together the quilt top, batting (we used a flannel sheet) and a pieced together back. To finish the quilt we tied it by hand with embroidery floss. We finished a second quilt top during the April 20th gathering.

We will continue to accept donations of clean cotton fabrics and large pieces for backing and items that can be used for batting (ex. Clean flannel sheets). Also, we would gladly accept monetary donations for those who would like to contribute to purchase needed materials.

We meet at the church from 9 am to noon, the first and third Wednesday of the month. If you would like to join us, please do. There is no quilting experience needed. Come. Gather. Share your time to put together the quilts with PATCHES AND LOVE.

- Cheryl Griffis



First completed quilt, held up by **Lois Schroeder** and **Karen Umberger**, so that you can see both the pieced front and the pieced back

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**Your 2022 Church Council
 And Associate Members**

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Anita Philp Vice-President
Heather Williams Secretary

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

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

**Highlights from the Messiah
 Church Council meeting**

The Messiah Church Council will conduct their regular monthly meeting AFTER the publication of this newsletter.

Watch for next month's newsletter for highlights from the next church council meeting.



Women's Bible study

Please join us every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in May 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
 (Phone # in directory)
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



I like baseball hats. I have a modestly big collection. Some of them are standard team hats – NFL, MLB, NHL, MLS. I have some novelty hats (like the three-eyed fish, Blinky, from *The Simpsons*). I have some generic hats or well-used hats that I wear when I'm working in the yard. I have some very fun hats with minor-league baseball logos. And I have a couple of hats from now-defunct Hockey teams whose logos I just really like (my favorite being the Hartford Whalers, who I think had the best logo ever designed).

I don't have a lot of "fitted" hats – these have different sizes, like shoes. They never seem to fit me just right, or it just depends on how overdue for a haircut I am. Most of my hats are adjustable. They either have the little bumps-and-holes snap-in-place system, or Velcro, or something that looks like a miniature belt buckle. In terms of the style of the hat and the logo on the hat, I wear different ones depending on the occasion and what I'm in the mood for. But in terms of how you make the hat fit your head, I prefer the "one size fits all" style that adjusts to almost any head, no matter the size, shape, or hairdo.

The gospel is not "one size fits all." The message we share, the good news we proclaim, needs to be adjustable to the situation, the person, the mood, the day, the hour. Human interaction wins over pamphlets almost every time. But that human interaction needs to be tailored. Despair needs hope. Apathy needs inspiration or purpose. Guilt needs absolution. Sorrow needs joy. Outcasts need invitation. The lonely need presence. The downtrodden need justice. The lost need promise. And so on, and so on. Grace is not uniform. It

is unconditional, and available to all; but it is not uniform. God's grace splits into a spectrum of different responses to different needs and situations – a veritable rainbow of shades/flavors/styles of God's love, like the sign of that first covenant after the flood.

Our gospel-ing requires human interaction, and our interactions require us to be attentive to the people we meet, not just what we think they need, or need to hear. We listen; we respect; we love; and we respond with the corresponding word of grace, all with the Spirit's guidance.

If you like biology, think of enzymes and substrates. Enzymes have these specific sites on them in a very particular shape. An enzyme performs its particular function when a substrate with the particular protein-structure that fits that site to a tee comes along and binds with the enzyme. The reaction happens, the products are produced, and the enzyme is ready to do it all again. If I meet someone who is despairing, joy is probably not the first thing to respond with; it doesn't fit their situation.

If none of that makes sense, let's just go with Paul in 1 Corinthians 9: "For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings."

Continued on page 4

Pastor's message

Continued from page 3

To recap: be attentive, and let the gospel you share fit the situation, the person, the needs you encounter. The gospel is not "one size fits all," although it is indeed a gift for everyone, no matter what. Oh, and just in case it needs to be said: share the gospel!

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan



Join Messiah on Facebook!



10 Leroy Deere
 12 Jessica McKenna
 23 Dale Umberger



18 Adam Sr. & Bonnie Dworak

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

CFFY: Christian Formation For You

The smile has not left my face since our Easter Sunday activities and service! Many random thoughts and snatches of song have accompanied my musings in the intervening days. "Reunited, and feels so good", tops the list of songs. In terms of the "return to normal" we have committed to, and enjoyed, the fragment of song is: "Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." This is broadly applicable to our collective experience over the past two years. The simple pleasure of enjoying an Easter breakfast and hosting an Easter egg hunt for the children filled me with such joy. I hope it did for you as well! Praise God in all His glory!

Sunday School

So now we return to "Ordinary Time", according to the church calendar. Fingers crossed, this year it looks as if we may come closer to the ordinary we took for

granted prior to March 2020. Sunday School will continue until school ends in June. Grade school children are invited to join **Ms. Wendy (DeGraff)** for lessons that mirror the liturgy as well as fun craft activities to make the lesson memorable! **Ms. Lois (Schroeder)** joins this group to adapt the material for children of preschool age. **Ms. Becky (Collie)** has middle & high school students engaged in lessons that are relevant to current challenges our youth face in our ever changing world. **Pastor Ryan** leads the adult class. All are welcome.

Vacation Bible School

Wouldn't it be nice to have VBS again? As a child, this was a constant and a highlight of my summer activities. The CF team is weighing this question as we continue to monitor community health metrics. If you are interested in helping or enrolling your children, please contact **Anita Philp** at (804) 347-9528 or e-mail at anitaphilp1961@gmail.com.

Submitted by **Anita Philp**

May 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 9:15 AM All Souls Worship Service
(Sanctuary)
9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran:
Worship Service
- 4 9:00 AM PAL Quilting Group
- 8 9:15 AM All Souls Worship Service
(Sanctuary)
9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran:
Worship Service
- 11 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 15 9:15 AM All Souls Worship Service
(Sanctuary)
9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran:
Worship Service
- 18 9:00 AM PAL Quilting Group
1:00 PM Evangelism Team Meeting
6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 22 9:15 AM All Souls Worship Service
(Sanctuary)
9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran:
Worship Service
- 25 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 29 9:15 AM All Souls Worship Service
(Sanctuary)
9:15 AM Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran:
Worship Service
- 30 Memorial Day - Office Closed
- 31

**[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.

New Adult Christian Formation study

Starting May 1, we will be discussing the book *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* by Father Gregory Boyle. It tells the story of Father Boyle's work with gang populations in East Los Angeles, and it is full of powerful stories of grace, redemption, and compassion – perfect for the Easter season of resurrection.

Please find a copy now (library, e-reader, book store, online) so you have it ready for the 1st. (A small number of copies is available from church.) Please read the introduction and chapter 1 for the first discussion.



God's Global Barnyard drive

Donations have been counted and the total amount collected for is \$224.27.

Thank you to all who contributed to this project. We'll share the final shopping cart of goodness on May 1st!

Special dates

- National Day of Prayer, *May 5, 2022*
- Mother's Day, *May 8, 2022*
- ASCENSION DAY, *May 26, 2022*
- Memorial Day, *May 30, 2022*

We pray for each other:

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

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Anton Family; Danny Allen, friend of the Whirleys; **Dwayne Collie**, Johnnie's brother; **Griffin Deere**, brother of Leroy Deere; **Don Gresco**, former member of Messiah; **Ethan Hamilton and family; 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; **Mary Streesman; Susen Weaver**, daughter-in-law of the Weavers; **Gayla**, friend of Rosalee Cline; **Harry**, child of friend of the Andersons; **Jenna**, niece of Steve Gilnett; **John**, friend of Karen and Michael Morris.

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 Mauritania, Mali, Turkmenistan, and Laos.¹

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

Words of Evangelism

“Any method of evangelism will work if God is in it.”

- Leonard Ravenhill



MCEF News

- The month of March provided 123 households with 184 bags of food. Of those households, 13 were new clients.
- 83 bags of clothing and linens were provided.
- The Senior Rides program provided 116 rides for seniors to necessary appointments and grocery shopping.
- Your donations are very important to those in need. Your assistance is greatly appreciated, There are many ways you can help, there are even "behind the scenes" opportunities (telephone answering and message taking).
- Consult 4mcef.com or call **Pat Hubert**, 814-449-2612 for more information.

Thank you for your continued support of your neighbors in need.

- **Gladys Hubert**

KAIROS registration is open

Kairos will be held from June 26 (Sunday evening) to July 1 (Friday noon) at Roanoke College.

Kairos is the Synod's week-long faith formation event, offered each summer for youth who will be 9th-12th graders in the fall.

Kairos has many special features: event theme t-shirts, Open Talent Mic Show, faith testimonies, comic relief, reflection time, prayer stations, speed friending, t-shirt fashion show, small group time, and more!

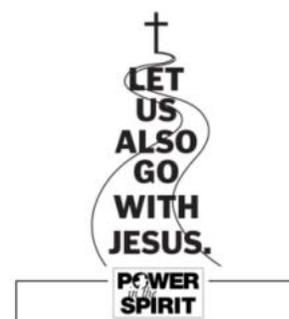
This event is a chance for youth who are already committed to a life of faith to be part of a unique Christian community for an entire week, to have a fresh experience of the grace and presence of God in that community, and to develop habits for discipleship that can be taken home as they live out their baptismal call to be followers of Jesus.

Check out the following link for more information:

<https://vasynod.org/event/kairos/>



Follow us on



Power in the Spirit registration now open For July 14-16, 2022

What does it mean to be a leader in the Church and a follower of Jesus? The words of Saint Thomas reveal a disciple whose faith in Jesus makes him willing to go where Jesus goes, even when danger and death are real possibilities. For Thomas, it's better to be unsafe with Jesus than to stay behind as Jesus heads into dangerous places. For the Church today, we just may be called to a similar faith that goes with Jesus — even into danger. At Power in the Spirit 2022, we'll explore these themes, and more!

Come and learn! Come for fellowship! Come to serve your neighbor! Come to Power in the Spirit 2022! Check out this link for more information:

<https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/>

In-person Synod Gathering Registration is open

We look forward to gathering in-person as the Virginia Synod on July 15-16, in conjunction with Power in the Spirit to celebrate ministries of service from around the Virginia Synod, gather together for worship, and learn from one another. Everyone can attend. More information at <https://vasynod.org/event/virginia-synod-gathering-and-celebration-of-service/>

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Ascension Sunday

On this special Sunday when we recall the amazing Ascension of our Lord, we welcome everyone to join in the celebration of this great event. The Ascension symbolizes that the risen Christ — no longer confined to a human body — is now available to all people in the world no matter where they might be. Therefore, let us joyfully accept the presence of our Savior here and now. (The account of the Ascension is found in Acts 1:6-12.)



For additional thoughts on the Ascension of Christ, read:
<https://lutheranreformation.org/theology/the-reformers-on-the-ascension/>

The DEADLINE for the
June 2022
edition of
The Messenger is
Sunday, May 22nd
(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

