

The

# MESSENGER



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

JUNE 2022

## Highlights from the Messiah Church Council meeting

Messiah Church Council conducted their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday May 18, 2022.. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- The council took some time during the council meeting to include a mini-retreat and team building activities.
- The Worship Team will continue conversations regarding future liturgy forms in the summer and beyond.
- The Church Council also continues to monitor Covid numbers, and at this time is satisfied with safety levels. We will continue to follow the protocols we set forth in February, and the gradual lifting of protocols will continue once we move back from "medium" to "low" levels once more.
- Confirmation classes continue with independent learning and monthly in-person meetings focusing on learning and team building opportunities. The final youth group of the school year is scheduled for June 5th
- Ministry teams remain active, and teams are always interested in new members! Interested? Reach out to a

member of Council or to team members for more information!

- **Heather Williams**, Council Secretary

## Volunteers needed

It is with great pleasure to announce that Parks and Recreation for Hanover County will be using some space at Messiah again for their summer program (fellowship hall, restrooms, and a couple of classrooms). They will be with us for three weeks: June 20 - 24, July 18 - 22, and July 25 - 29 from 7:30am - 5:30pm. It is our policy to have someone from Messiah to be present during these hours.

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***The Messenger***

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**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 Warmbrod** .....Treasurer  
**Bill Weaver**..... Financial Secretary  
**Sue Gilnett, RN**...Parish Nurse

**Volunteers needed**

**Continued from page 1**

On the days that Davina is working, she fills that roll. Volunteers are needed for the times that she is not working. There are no expectations other than opening and/or closing the building if needed, and simply being in the building should something arise that would require our attention. A person who teleworks from home could even volunteer since our internet has improved significantly. A volunteer could also read a book, watch a movie, or bring a project from home.

PLEASE SEE THE SIGN -UP SHEET on the bulletin board in the narthex for time slots. If you have any questions, please contact **Donna Shaw** or **Pastor Ryan**. Your help is truly appreciated!



**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

Dear church family,

To be honest, I write this newsletter article with a conflicted heart. On the one hand, it's summertime! I'm hearing from folks in the church and the community about how excited they are to be on break from school, how much they are looking forward to summer vacations, to pools being open, to the weather, and to all the other joys we associate with this sunny season. I'm hearing people share the joys in their lives and their families as life continues to inch back to normal. I'm very excited by the prospect of a ministry project that is percolating among three of our ministry teams and others – the Holy Spirit is up to something in our congregation indeed! Stay tuned for more details as we get our last couple of ducks in a row. I'm really, really happy about what's been going on in our church, and what's starting to peek at us over the horizon.

At the same time, my heart is heavy. Yet more rounds of shootings, violence, hateful rhetoric, and, at my most pessimistic, no real hope that anything will actually change. I know so many others are angry; heartbroken; hopeless; numb; grieving. For some it's all of these things at once. Not to mention all the other headlines of war and hunger and hatred, and the deeply embedded and longstanding issues at the roots of these problems that seem inextricably tied up with our human family's experience. And, Covid numbers crept back up again, low-level protocols have activated in worship, and I've heard of more Messiah folks or their family members testing positive this round than ever before.

Like I said: my heart is conflicted.

June 5th is the date of the festival of Pentecost this year. It's a story full of motion and emotion. The disciples are still conflicted in their own hearts about what would happen now that the resurrected Jesus had ascended, while they left holding the reins. And the Holy Spirit rouses them up, drives them out of the house, and propels them into the streets. But that's not all: the Holy Spirit also equips them and blesses them and lights them up so that they can share the good news with everyone, in ways they will understand it: that Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, died and was raised to save them from sin, to defeat the power and sway of death, and to give them new life to love and serve the least and the lost.

The good news is still just as needed and just as powerful today. The Holy Spirit is still equipping us, still taking our conflicted hearts and healing them, still sending us out with a proclamation to share and lives to affect. I'm hoping that the Holy Spirit can take the good things and help me to hold them in my heart, so they don't get eclipsed by the bad stuff that is around us and fighting for heart-space, too. And I pray that the Holy Spirit will propel all of us, conflicted hearts and all, out into the world to hurt with those who hurt and to share good news for the sake of the world that God sent His Son to save.

In this season that usually brings to mind thoughts of celebration, vacation, and relaxation, may the Lord bless us and keep us; may the Lord's face shine on us with grace and mercy; may the Lord look upon us with favor and give us – all of us – peace.

In Christ,  
**Pastor Ryan**



## CFFY: Christian Formation For You

### Sunday School Summer Break

The end of the school year is upon us and as we have in past years, we will also take a break from Sunday school in June, July and August. June 5th will be the last meeting until Rally Day in September.

### Congregational Picnic

Coinciding with the end of the Sunday school year, we will have our congregational picnic on Sunday June 5th, immediately following the service. Come one, come all and please sign up to bring a side dish, salad or dessert. Fried chicken will be provided!

### VBS Night for ALL- The Body of Christ

Mark your calendar for July 6th when Messiah will host a night of VBS activities. This event is designed to bring our entire church family together to eat a meal, sing songs, play games and make crafts while we immerse ourselves in the truth that we ARE the body of Christ.

We will need a head count to ensure that we have enough food and supplies so please call **Davina** at (804) 746-7134 to RSVP. If you would like to help by leading a game or a craft, please email **Anita Philp** at [anitaphilp1961@gmail.com](mailto:anitaphilp1961@gmail.com).

Respectfully Submitted by **Anita D. Philp**



Join Messiah on Facebook!



- 13 **Adam Dworak Sr.**
- 14 **Wesley Williams**
- 15 **Lois Schroeder**
- 17 **Anna Radtke**
- 17 **Will Radtke**
- 18 **Rosalee Cline**
- 20 **Karoline Combs**



- 5 **Teresa (& Mike) Gigante**
- 16 **Ken & Sheila Whirley**
- 21 **Gordon & Marilyn Gunn**

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).



## Women's Bible study

Our last WBS gathering will be on Wednesday, June 8 at 6:30 pm where we will have our pot luck dinner. All are invited. This would be a good time to meet all our members.

We will not be meeting again until September. Plans are in the works to hold WBS during the day. More on this to come.

- Rosalee Cline

June 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		

- 1 9:00 am Quilting Group
- 5 PENTECOST  
9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
9:15am Christian Formation  
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service  
11:30am Confirmation Youth Group  
Church Picnic 12 noon
- 9 6:30pm Women's Bible Study
- 12 TRINITY SUNDAY  
9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
9:15am Christian Formation  
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service
- 15 Pastor on Vacation  
9:00am Quilting Group  
6:15pm Council Meeting
- 16 Pastor on Vacation  
17 Pastor on Vacation  
18 Pastor on Vacation
- 19 FATHERS DAY  
Pastor on Vacation  
9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
9:15am Christian Formation  
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service
- 20 Pastor on Vacation  
Secretary on Vacation  
7:30am Hanover Parks & Recs (Youth Summer Camp)
- 21 FIRST DAY OF SUMMER  
Pastor on Vacation  
Secretary on Vacation  
7:30am Hanover Parks & Recs (Youth Summer Camp)

- 22 Pastor on Vacation  
Secretary on Vacation  
7:30am Hanover Parks & Recs (Youth Summer Camp)
- 23 Secretary on Vacation  
7:30am Hanover Parks & Recs (Youth Summer Camp)  
6:30pm Women's Bible Study
- 24 Secretary on Vacation  
7:30am Hanover Parks & Recs (Youth Summer Camp)
- 26 9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
9:15am Christian Formation  
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service
- 28 1:00pm Evangelism Team Meeting  
30



Recently, the community levels posted by the CDC put Hanover County back in the "high" category for COVID cases once again. We have also had an upswing in the number of church members reporting that either they themselves or close family members have been testing positive. According to the protocols the Church Council set, if numbers were to reach this level again, we will be requiring masks for all activities in the building.

The church picnic scheduled for June 5th, being an outdoor event, is still set to proceed. In the case of inclement weather we will set June 12th as a rain date.

We will continue to monitor the reports and keep you all posted. Please continue to pray for those who are sick and their families, for our community, and for this latest wave to be the last.

Stay tuned for further updates.

## 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; **Griffen 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; **Woody Mallory**, neighbor of Anita Philp; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Mary Streesman; Susen Weaver**, daughter-in-law of the Weavers; **Gayla**, friend of Rosalee Cline; **Gayle**, friend of the Whirleys; **Harry**, child of friend of the Andersons; **Jenna**, niece of Steve Gilnett; **John**, friend of Karen and Michael Morris; **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; 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 Morocco, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Colombia.**<sup>1</sup>

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

Email **Davina** at [MessiahMech@gmail.com](mailto:MessiahMech@gmail.com) or phone 746-7134 with your requests.

## Words of Evangelism

“Evangelism is not so much about reminding people about how lost they are. But how loved they are.”

— Randy Worley



## MCEF Notes

The MCEF OSS (One Stop Shop) continues to provide the necessities of food, clothing, rides and financial assistance to our neighbors in need.

Summer is fast approaching and the needs continue. Please consider a Christmas is the Summer donation of nonperishable food items. Current needs include pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, hearty soups, graham crackers and boxed cereal.

The clothing closet needs include men and women's new underwear (especially larger sizes). A back-to-school shopping day will be held in August for current clients. Kids school clothing and school supplies will be distributed. See narthex bulletin board for list of school items, any extra will be given to T4T (Tools for Teachers)

Thank you for your continued support of these missions.

- **Gladys Hubert**

## PAL (Patches and Love)

We finished two quilts! (see photo below) These quilts were blessed on May 22 and were packaged and taken to a local church for Lutheran World Relief pick up. The quilt package included a special bar code assigned to Messiah Lutheran Church to facilitate the tracking of the quilts and hopefully the notification of where the quilts were received.

We feel very blessed to be part of a global program that can “effect an act of love on a person’s life.”

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.

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.



PALS members pictured (l-r): **Susie Weaver, Gladys Hubert, Linda Mahovtas, Judy Glick, Karen Umberger, and Cheryl Griffis.**

## 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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**Messenger**

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**On Pentecost**, we remember when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' disciples. As they gathered in Jerusalem 10 days after Jesus' ascension, they saw tongues of fire, heard rushing wind and began speaking in many languages. Because the disciples could then share the good news with all the pilgrims assembled for the Pentecost festival, the occasion marks the birthday of the Christian church. That day alone, about 3,000 people devoted their lives to Christ.

Like the Holy Spirit, Pentecost is important and relevant today. As theologian Henri Nouwen writes, "Without Pentecost the Christ-event — the life, death and resurrection of Jesus — remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now."

The DEADLINE for the  
**July 2022**  
edition of  
***The Messenger*** is  
**Sunday, June 19th**  
(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**

