

# The MESSENGER



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

JULY 2022



## CFFY: Christian Formation For You

### July 6th Food, Fun & Fellowship

Come one, come all, to join the other members of the Body of Christ on

Wednesday, July 6 at 5:30 pm

We will start out with a simple picnic meal, followed by some music, crafts and food for thought!

Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the narthex OR call the church office to let **Davina** know that you and your family will attend.

"Children" from 1 to 99 years of age are invited and encouraged to attend. We are planning to hold the event outdoors, so bring a camp chair if you'd like. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Respectfully Submitted by **Anita D. Philp**

## Volunteers **STILL** needed

The Parks and Recreation department for Hanover County will continue using some space at Messiah for their summer program (fellowship hall, restrooms, and a couple of classrooms). They will be with us two more weeks: July 18- 22 and July 25 - 29, from 7:30am- 5:30 pm. It is our policy to have someone from Messiah to be present during these hours. 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

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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

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significantly. A volunteer could also read a book, watch a movie, or bring a project from home.

Please see the signup 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

From an online National Geographic article on June 22, 2022, by Jason Bittel, titled, "Why some animals evolved to sacrifice themselves":

"A male musk ox can weigh up to 800 pounds and charge at speeds over 30 miles per hour. During the breeding season, these shaggy, Arctic Circle behemoths crash into each other face-first and then stab their opponents with their huge, sharp horns.

"What's more, over the course of their 10- to 12-year life-spans, a single male musk ox might rack up something like 2,100 hits to the head.

"All of which begs the question, how do musk oxen survive these onslaughts without turning their brains into mush?"

Nicole Ackermans, a neuroscientist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, studied the brains of musk oxen and big-horn sheep to see what actually did happen to their brains after all that butting. The bighorn sheep study wasn't very conclusive, but in the musk oxen she discovered brain damage similar to what in humans could be associated with conditions like Alzheimer's and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). Male musk oxen don't tend to live as long as the females, so outward evidence of the long-term damage is not usually visible.

So, what evolutionary advantage could there be to submitting themselves to brain damage and earlier deaths? "At first blush, it might not make sense that a natural behavior, such as headbutting, could be so harmful. But it's the long game that matters." According to Ackermans: "Each year, a musk ox will headbutt many times, but if they reproduce even once successfully, that's kind of all

you need...The thing that's encouraged, evolutionarily, is just don't die."

There are other species who sacrifice themselves in order to reproduce, like certain marsupials, as well as many insects, fish, plants, and arachnids. One example: "when...the redback spider mates, the male will place himself into the female's mouth...that dissuades the female from further mating, because she's busy eating."

And there are also many social species that sacrifice themselves for the good of the colony, or the queen, like bees and ants. In addition, many animal mothers will sacrifice themselves in order to protect their offspring and give them a fighting chance.

The tagline from the top of the article sums up all of this: "from headbutting muskoxen to self-sacrificing bees, evolution favors populations, not individuals."

Now, you might be wondering: "Why in the heck is Pastor Ryan talking about evolutionary strategies like this?" It's to highlight a contrast: sometimes humans can sacrifice themselves for the good of their children, or for the good of the wider community. But more often than not, when humans practice behaviors that harm themselves or others, it's just that: harmful.

I actually think God is trying to teach us something about the kingdom of God by opening our eyes to learn about species that prioritize the population over the individual. When Jesus healed somebody, it wasn't just about that one individual's disease or demon or malady; it was so that they could be restored to the community. When Jesus taught people about the kingdom of God, it wasn't only so they could repent in their hearts, it was so that the

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## Pastor's message

### Continued from page 3

their post-repentance actions could benefit the entire community, especially its most vulnerable members. When Paul talked about the body of Christ, there were indeed many members, but they were all a part of the one body, with Christ at its head.

Does Jesus save us as individuals, claimed in the waters of baptism, loved as we are, knowing every hair on our heads, and fed one stomach and one spirit at a time at the Communion table? Very truly I tell you, yes indeed. But when we approach that table with hands open and hear the words "for you," it is always with the directive to go back out into the world, the community, fed and forgiven and filled, and to serve the needs of all. Everyone. Especially those most vulnerable, those with the most obstacles that life has presented between them and the table, between them and the good news, between them and the full experience of God's grace.

As Christians we will butt heads with each other and with the world. And that hurts. If we end up doing so just for petty infighting, then we are killing ourselves. But, if we do so rather with the purpose of serving others, both individuals but also the populations, the whole...then the self-sacrifice is the cost we pay to share God's love with them. It's the cost of discipleship. Jesus already paid the ultimate price for us. How can we not pay it forward for others? It's beyond just trying not to die; Christ has already given us new life. May we do all we can to make sure others may also have such life.

In Christ,  
**Pastor Ryan**



- 4 **James Anderson**
- 20 **Kate Radtke**
- 22 **Bob Griffin**
- 22 **Liz Radtke**
- 23 **Johnnie Collie**
- 25 **Valerie Williams**
- 27 **Curt Glatfelter**



- 2 **Steve & Donna Shaw**
- 14 **John & Linda Mahovtas**

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).

## COVID protocols update

As of June 27, 2022, community levels posted by the CDC have Hanover County in the "medium" category for COVID cases. A number of members or their family members are recovering from positive cases. According to the protocols the Church Council set, once we drop down to and stay in "Medium" for two weeks, we'll go back to masks encouraged; two weeks in the low range and we'll lift restrictions and recommendations. 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.

July 2022						
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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
- 3 9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
9:15am Christian Formation (Adults)  
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service
- 4 July 4th - Office Closed
- 5
- 6 9:00am Quilting Group  
5:30pm VBS Night
- 10 9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
9:15am Christian Formation (Adults)  
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service
- 17 Pastor on Vacation  
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10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service
- 18 Pastor on Vacation  
7:30am Hanover Parks & Recs (Youth Summer Camp)
- 19 Pastor on Vacation  
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- 20 Pastor on Vacation  
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6:15pm Council Meeting
- 21 Pastor on Vacation  
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- 22 Pastor on Vacation  
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- 23 Pastor on Vacation

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10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service
- 25 7:30am Hanover Parks & Recs (Youth Summer Camp)
- 26 7:30am Hanover Parks & Recs (Youth Summer Camp)
- 27 7:30am Hanover Parks & Recs (Youth Summer Camp)
- 28 7:30am Hanover Parks & Recs (Youth Summer Camp)
- 29 7:30am Hanover Parks & Recs (Youth Summer Camp)
- 31 DEADLINE- Church's annual report to the SCC  
9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
9:15am Christian Formation (Adults)  
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service

**[ Watch the [messiahmech.com](http://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. (May be subject to change)




Join Messiah on Facebook!

## 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; Abby Schroeder; Ruth Schroeder.**

## We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

**Anton Family; Friends and Family of Danny Allen**, friend of the Whirleys; **Dwayne Collie**, Johnnie's brother; **Griffen Deere**, brother of Leroy Deere; **DiGrazia family; Don Gresco**, former member of Messiah; **Ethan Hamilton and family; Brenda Holcomb**, Sally & Charlie Bennett's cousin; **Guenter Irmen**, friend of Erna Jung; **Joan Laudig**, Susie Weaver's mom; **Woody Mallory**, neighbor of Anita Philp; **Eileen McKinley**, aunt of Davina Winn; **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; All who travel; All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Bhutan.**<sup>1</sup>

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

## Words of Evangelism

“Evangelism, in its purest form, is an overflow of worship.”

- Bill Johnson



## MCEF Notes

Summer is here, and the number of families being served through food, clothing and financial assistance is on the increase. There were 115 visits to the food pantry which provided 170 bags of food, 88 bags of clothing and linens and 14 families received financial assistance for essentials such as rent and utilities.

A Back To School event will be held August 16 and 17

for children of current clients which will offer clothing and school supplies (a list is posted in the narthex showing supplies being accepted). These may be placed in the grocery cart in the narthex. Any overflow of school items will be given to Tools 4 Teachers in Hanover.

Food Pantry Needs: hearty soups, boxed cereal, personal care items, school supplies. canned meats (chicken and tuna).

Contact **Pat Hubert** with any questions you may have.

- **Gladys Hubert**

## Church Council highlights

Messiah Church Council conducted their regular monthly meeting on June 14, 2022. Here are the highlights:

- The Pentecost service and church picnic was enjoyed by everyone.
- Council gained greater understanding of the church finances and the current deficit between donations and expenses.
- Confirmation classes have ended for the summer and will start up in the fall as in person meetings. Adult formation will continue the "Tattoos on the Heart" discussion over the summer.
- Council was provided an overview of up-coming activities including Vacation Bible School and Community Fest.

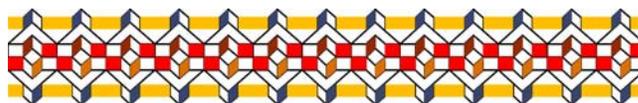
- **Heather Williams**, Council Secretary

## Our Daily Bread devotional



*Our Daily Bread*, the devotional series, gives its readers choices of media, depending on their preference. A visit to <http://odb.org> will present the reader with the several options, including a print option of the booklet and a daily email. I personally recommend the email option. It's convenient for readers who use email and, additionally, offers an audio version. The publisher also has a social media presence on Facebook and a mobile app. The website includes links to reading plans, podcasts, videos, and articles. Check it out.

- **Susie Weaver**



## PAL (Patches and Love)

Upcoming meeting dates: July 6, August 3 and 17.

We will continue to assemble quilt squares for quilt tops to make Lutheran World Relief quilts. Also, we will start making lap quilts (45" x 45") for local distribution.

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**.

We will continue to meet during the summer. We meet at the church from 9 to noon. If you are unable to attend, contact either **Glady Hubert** or **Cheryl Griffis**. Decision to cancel will be made if there are only a couple attending for any of the summer dates.

Follow us on



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## Seeking and finding

St. Ambrose (A.D. 340-397) was an influential figure in the early church. As bishop of Milan, he fought pagan influences. As a writer, he's credited with sermons, poems and innovative Christian hymns. And, according to tradition, he also converted and baptized St. Augustine.

One beloved prayer from St. Ambrose reads: "Lord, teach me to seek you, and reveal yourself to me when I seek you. For I cannot seek you unless you first teach me, nor find you unless you first reveal yourself to me. Let me seek you in longing and long for you in seeking. Let me find you in love, and love you in finding."

Fun fact: St. Ambrose is known as the patron saint of beekeepers.



The DEADLINE for the  
**August 2022**  
edition of  
***The Messenger*** is  
**Sunday, July 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](mailto:susiew51@comcast.net)

**Check out Messiah's videos on**

