

The

MESSENGER

AUGUST 2022

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

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Pastor's message

I write this newsletter article from Lutherock Bible Camp, near Newland, NC. It's one of dozens of Lutheran camps and outdoor ministry sites around the country. Here's a picture of the view from the deck at the Crow's Nest Lodge where I'm staying:



Camp is amazing, and contradictory. Being silly helps the Spirit do some serious work. Camp is sometimes called "a place apart," where you leave your ordinary routines and comfort zones to absorb God's Word and God's love in a new way; and by the end of the week it feels like home. Going home then feels kind of weird, and you want to bring camp back to your regular life; but it's tricky.

I'm not sure that I really have a point to

this month's newsletter article. This is more just a letter home from camp. So here are a few thoughts:

- I give thanks to God for ministries like camp, and for the folks who do such amazing work here for so little material pay. I give thanks to God for Synods and the Churchwide facet of our denomination, for creating, sustaining, and promoting ministries like camps, campus ministries, prison ministries, global missions, interreligious dialogues and ecumenical relationships, curriculum creation, social statements, disaster response ministries, ELCA world hunger, and so many, many more. We can do things like this together, as a bigger body of Christ, than any one congregation can do.

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The Messenger

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VISIT OUR MLC WEBSITE:
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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

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Christian Formation **Anita Philp**
 Evangelism **Heather Williams**
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 Social Ministry **Dianne Absher**
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Shawn Warmbrod Treasurer
Bill Weaver Financial Secretary
Sue Gilnett, RN... Parish Nurse

CCFY



The multi-generational VBS night on July 6th was a resounding success! I want to thank everyone who volunteered to help with all aspects of the event as it would not have worked without your participation!

The evening began with a delicious meal and was followed by a great deal of merriment! The Body of Christ assembled, sang songs, played games, made crafts and enjoyed warm fellowship.

If you were unable to attend, don't fret. We enjoyed this so much that we will do it again in the not too distant future!

Respectfully submitted by **Anita D. Philp**

Patches and Love

Messiah's quilting group will continue to meet during the summer. If you are unable to attend contact either **Gladys Hubert** or **Cheryl Griffis**. Decision to cancel will be made if there are only a couple attending for any of the summer dates. We will continue to put together quilt squares for tops and assemble quilts.

Upcoming dates: August 3 and 17.

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

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- During this camp week I've been doing some intentional continuing education, specifically around the subject of Evangelism. I've been reading some books I've had on my shelf for a while, that were written closer to the beginning of the 21st century, at the early edge of some of the cultural and technological changes we're now fully immersed in. I've been learning a lot; you'll be hearing and seeing some new stuff from me about how Messiah can be an evangelizing congregation – part of our identity, and not just one program among other programs. It's not about getting more members; it's about sharing the good news that saves us and frees us and makes us who we are!
- Some more gratitude – no matter where I've lived, I've also tried to consciously appreciate the beauty of creation around me, in the landscapes (lakes, mountains, trees, frost, sunsets); in the people (family, friends, neighbors, strangers, those I like, those I dislike, those on the margins; and in the wildlife (animals, plants, local or on loan in zoos). I am thankful for the beauty of this place, of Mechanicsville, of my own neighborhood. Take a moment to look up and see what you can see, and offer up a prayer of thanks.

As summer winds down and the programs of the fall start up again soon, I pray that you get some opportunities like I have had this week for reflection, learning, renewal, and thankfulness. And I pray that God will continue to bless our congregation and the work we do, and the love we share and embody.

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan

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; **John Davis and Family**, friends of the Whirleys; **Griffen Deere**, brother of Leroy Deere; **Di-Grazia 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; **Friends and Family of 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 Tunisia, Oman, Cuba, and Ethiopia.¹

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



- 2 **Katryn Combs**
- 4 **Doris Ewing**
- 4 **Bill Weaver**
- 16 **Kyle Starrett**
- 30 **Patrick Collie**



- 11 **Johnnie & Becky Collie**

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

COVID protocols update

The newest community levels posted by the CDC have Hanover County still in the "high" category for COVID cases. 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. 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.

August 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
- 3 9:00am Quilting Group
- 7 9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service
- 14 9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service
- 17 9:00am Quilting Group
6:15pm Council Meeting
- 21 9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service
- 28 9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service

[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. (May be subject to change)



Join Messiah on Facebook!

MCEF notes

The month of June served the largest number of households since the beginning of Covid.

- One hundred and twenty-eight (128) households received 184 well-filled bags of food. Seventeen of these households were new clients. Seventy six bags of clothing were provided plus 8 bags of linens. Financial assistance was provided to families for utility bills and rent. Hanover Senior rides provided 129 rides for seniors for medical purposes, grocery shopping and necessary services.
- Monetary donations have been used to purchase items in low supply, current needs include pancake syrup, canned peas and bar soap. All donations of non-perishable food items are accepted. Fresh produce has been provided by All Souls garden as it is available.
- The clothing closet will have a Back-To-School shopping day for children of current clients on

August 16 and 17. They will receive clothing as available, socks and underwear and school supplies.

New basic school supplies such as pencils, spiral notebooks, notebook paper, glue sticks, pencil pouches, ballpoint pens, colored pencils, crayons, scissors and markers may be donated and placed in the grocery cart in the narthex by August 14. If you need suggestions, see a posted list on the bulletin board in the narthex. Any extra supplies will be donated to Hanover's "TOOLS 4 TEACHERS" program.



- Other clothing needs include boys Large knit boxer briefs, small men's jeans waist 28-29 and toddler through school age clothing in good condition.

As always, we are grateful for all our donors! We could not do any of this without you!!!

- Gladys Hubert

A simple way to evangelize

LIKE, LOVE, SHARE Messiah's Facebook or Instagram posts! It's that simple.

Every day there are posts made to our Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>, that include a post on that day's liturgical reading along with a Christian inspiration post. That is also posted to our Instagram Page, <https://www.instagram.com/messiahmech/>.

LIKE, LOVE, SHARE.

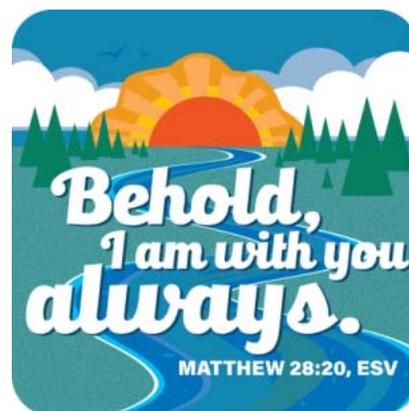
Evangelism can be that simple.



Follow us on



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The power of kindness

No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves.

—Amelia Earhart



The DEADLINE for the
September 2022
edition of
The Messenger is
Sunday, August 21st
(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

