

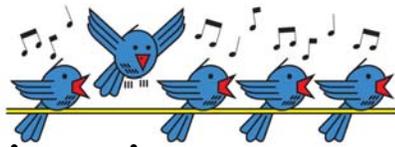
The

MESSENGER



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

OCTOBER 2022



Calling all singers!

Now that most Covid restrictions are lifting, we've been able to restore a lot of the worship practices we've been missing at church, like receiving Holy Communion at the altar rail and singing all the liturgical music. Now it's time to see about building the choir back up again!

If you would like to be a part of the choir, or have any questions about it, please contact **Debbie Walker**. This is an open invitation – whether you've sung in Messiah's choir, some other choir, or no choir – all are welcome! Thanks for sharing your gifts!



P.A.L. (Patches And Love) more on p. 7



Teaching Christ to Christians: The book of Colossians

All adults are invited and encouraged to join in the conversation as we make our way through the letter to the Colossians. We'll spend a few weeks discussing how it helped to ground new Christians in the core of the faith in the midst of a confusing climate of competing claims – not too different from today!

Join us in the fellowship hall on Sunday morning at 9:15 AM!

A look inside....

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The Messenger

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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

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

Women's Bible Study



Study Book:
"Determined. Living Like Jesus
In Every Moment."
 By Heather Dixon

Live intentionally and embrace abundant life!

The answers are found in following the footsteps of the One who lived fully, because He was determined that we might do the same.

Join us for Women's Bible Study,
6:30 PM, Wednesday, , October 12th and
26th.

- **Rosalee Cline**



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.

Follow us on



Pastor's message



I'm assuming this picture looks familiar to folks – it's the wall behind the altar in the sanctuary at Messiah. You can see the top of our green season-after-Pentecost banner. And you can also see the beautiful stained-glass window in its stylized version of the "Luther Rose."

Coming up on Reformation Sunday at the end of the Month, the Luther Rose is one of the most recognizable symbols of Lutherans and the Reformation movement, and it is full of symbolism. Here's the quick version: the black cross reminds us that we are saved from sin because Jesus died on the cross. The red heart reminds us that we live because Jesus shed his blood for us, and that we are saved through our faith in him. The white rose reminds us that our faith gives us joy, comfort, and peace, peace like the angels enjoy. The blue background reminds us of



the sky, and the hope that we will one day meet Jesus in heaven. The gold circle is precious, and it reminds us of heaven's endless joy – a circle is an endless shape.

It never really hit me before, but I realized that Messiah's stained-glass window has the gold ring, the blue sky, the white flower, and the cross – but not the heart!

So it's a good thing our new logo has it covered! If you haven't heard this in church already, our new logo features a heart with the cross in its center. Jesus is at the center of our faith, our worship, and our mission. You'll also notice that the heart is open – Jesus' love spills out from us, and there is always room for more folks to come in. And the "m" is indeed lowercase. Jesus is the Messiah, but when the Word of God put on flesh and became fully human, he "he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:8). So: lower-case m. Finally, our new T-shirts also have this tagline along with the logo: "small church. BIG HEART."



It's as if the folks who put the stained-glass window up knew that Christ teaches us to give our hearts away. That when our hearts are filled with Christ's love, we are little Christs, as Luther would say. We are the body of Christ, sent out into the world to proclaim the good news of God's love in Jesus in our own words and deeds. Maybe they knew that the heart that could have been on the stained glass is actually the living organism that is Messiah Lutheran Church, gathering together and being sent back out, circulating the gospel.

Reformation Day reminds us to always be open to being reformed – reshaped – transformed. That can apply to something as simple as a logo to refresh and reflect who we are right now. It can also apply to repenting from our sins and mistakes and inactions and recommitting to the way of cruciform love. Either way, let's give thanks to God for the love that saves us, and ask God to help us be big-hearted – and cross-hearted – in all we do.

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan

Evangelism quote

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

- Randall Worley



No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



- 1 **Dean Anderson**
- 5 **Steve Shaw**
- 6 **Daren Williams**
- 9 **Becky Collie**
- 14 **Christine Starrett**
- 15 **Tracey Anderson**
- 16 **Debbie Walker**
- 18 **Mike Knepper**
- 23 **Donna Combs**
- 23 **Theresa Gigante**
- 28 **Allen Anderson**



- 12 **Dean Gustafson & Beth Carpenter**
- 28 **James & Tracey Anderson**

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



Thank you!

To all our members for their support and the success of our school supply drive.

- **Sharon Addair**

October 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					



Messiah’s Church Council met on September 20th. Here are the highlights:

- Rally Day was very successful with the activities and additions to worship. All of the additions to worship were welcomed and the return of singing parts of the liturgy were another step in returning to regular worship. Sunday School classes were kicked off and we are looking forward to an exciting year.
- In continuing our increased awareness of community service, it was reported that the recent Temple Talks/ Interviews with recent guests seem to be well received. Council looks forward to learning more about our next guests to share their service programs with us in upcoming months.
- Council voted to share our parking lot as overflow parking for an event on October 23 at Church of the Redeemer. This should not impact the end of worship for that day.
- Council is beginning the process to appoint a Nominating Committee to identify new prospective Council members for the coming year.

- 1
- 2 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15am Christian Formation
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service *
- 5 9:00am PAL Group
- 8 10:30am All Souls Memorial Service
- 9 9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15am Christian Formation
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service *
11:45am Shepherd's Team Meeting
- 10 Columbus Day - Office Closed
- 16 9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15am Christian Formation
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service *
- 19 9:00am PAL Group
6:15pm Council Meeting
- 23 9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15am Christian Formation
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service *
- 30 9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15am Christian Formation
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service
- 31 REFORMATION DAY

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

* The service will be live-streamed at 10:45 AM on Messiah's FB page, and that video will be available later on the church website and YouTube. Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>



We pray for each other:



LeRoy Albertson; Debbie Anton; Jim Berg; 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:

Allen Family, friends of the Whirleys; **Anton Family; Janice Cayouette (wife of Marcel)**, friend of the Bennetts; **Marcel Cayouette**, friend of Sally & Charlie Bennett; **Dwayne Collie**, Johnnie's brother; **Family and Friends of Family and Friends of John D'Amico**, friend of Karen and Michael Morris; **John Davis and Family**, friends of the Whirleys; **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; **Family and Friends of Guenter Irmén**, friend of Erna Jung; **Joan Laudig**, Susie Weaver's mom; **Lee Nester**, friend of Karen Morris; **Buster Ruffner**, friend of Sheila Whirley; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Mary Streelman; Melissa Villegas**, niece of the Shaw's; **Susen Weaver**, daughter-in-law of the Weavers; **Cathy**, friend of Sue Gilnett; **Gary**, friend of Steve Gilnett; **Gayla**, friend of Rosalee Cline; **Gayle**, friend of the Whirleys; **Harry**, child of friend of the Andersons; **Jenna**, niece of Steve Gilnett.

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 Mexico, Cameroon, Tajikistan, and Brunei.¹

¹ Open Doors World WatchList 2022

<http://www.opendoorsusa.org>

Please contact Davina with names that need to remain on the list. Email her at MessiahMecho@gmail.com or phone 746-7134 with your requests.

Lutheran Disaster Response: Multiple areas in need

There have been a slew of situations in recent days that are in need of relief and help:

- Puerto Rico & the Caribbean, in the wake of Hurricane Fiona
- Alaska, for flooding following Typhoon Merbok
- Japan, for flooding following Typhoon Nanmadol on the southern island of Kyushu
- Papua New Guinea (our Virginia Synod Companion Synod) after the 7.7 earthquake
- Pakistan in the wake of historic flooding

Please visit the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response website to see how you can help.

<https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>



MCEF news

- School is back in session and 70 Mechanicsville children were assisted with clothing and school supplies, this number is over double from last year. Many thanks for the generous donations. The overflow of school supplies was donated to local elementary schools and Tools 4 Teachers-Hanover.
- The OSS food pantry is seeing an increase in numbers with 129 visits for food in August. This included 14 new clients. All non-perishable food items are accepted.
- The Senior Rides program provided 145 rides in August and is in need of additional drivers. If you think that you could provide a ride to someone in need, talk to **Glady Hubert** for more information.
- The clothing closets are accepting fall and winter clothing at this time (no room for storage of summer items). It must be clean and in good condition.

Thank you for your continued support.



Upcoming meeting dates: Wednesdays, October 5th and 19th. We meet at the church from 9 to noon.

We have designed a label for our lap quilts that are made for local distribution. We are planning a special blessing of the lap quilts on Reformation Sunday, October 30, 2022. During the service we will give the completed quilts to Valerie Williams for local distribution to those in need.

We finished two lap quilts, tied two more lap quilts. We labeled three lap quilts for community outreach. We cut 8"x8" squares for another lap quilt. We have finished 2 more LWR quilts.

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.

- **Cheryl Griffis**



Join Messiah on Facebook!

Messiah Lutheran Church
8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111



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OCTOBER 2

The DEADLINE for the
November 2022
edition of
The Messenger is
Sunday, October 16th
(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

