

The

MESSENGER



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

NOVEMBER 2022

A day of celebration!

On Reformation Sunday, October 30th, we not only celebrated the action that reformed the church and changed the world. We also celebrated “new creations” and additions in our own congregation.

First, **Anita Philp** presented a Pastor Appreciation “thank you” to **Pastor Ryan**.

Then, **Pastor Ryan** baptized **Mitchell, Josephine, Vyone, and Winifred Reagan**.

Next, the congregation welcomed new members. They are **Judy Glick; Doug Duke; Dona Polesky; Stephanie Bergreen and John Shea; Tammy and Brad Trimble, Elodie, and Ian; and Patrick and Emily Reagan, Mitchell, Josephine, Vyone, and Winifred**.

We then prayed over and blessed ten lap quilts, constructed with love by the PAL Quilting Group. (see article on page X)

First Communion was received by **Mitchell and Josie Reagan**.

A gathering in the Fellowship Hall, with refreshments followed worship, thanks to the Fellowship Team. Thank God for this memorable day and a chance for the congregation to celebrate in a way we haven’t been able to do in quite a while.



As we prepare to celebrate the godness of our God for all He has done and continues to do for us this Thanksgiving, why not join your Messiah Lutheran Church family on Sunday, November 20th, for a special THANKSGIVING DINNER?

The fellowship hall will be set for a feast which will begin after the church service and meeting.

Please sign up on the chart in the narthex and include your family name, number of persons in your group, and a covered dish you would like to bring and share.

If you have any questions, please talk to **Becky Collie** or **Marilyn Gunn**. We hope to see you all there on the 20th!

A look inside....

- Patches And Love—PALP. 2
- Pastor’s letter P. 3
- Celebrations, WBS P. 4
- Calendar, Church Council P. 5
- Prayers, MCEF P. 6
- Christian Formation/CFFY P. 7

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<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

PAL (Patches and Love)

Upcoming meeting dates:

Wednesdays, November 2 and 16.
 We meet at the church from 9 to noon.

We have finished 10 lap quilts 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. [see picture from Oct. 30] ⇒

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**



Pictured above (l-r): Linda Mahovtas, Lois Schroeder, Karen Morris, Judy Glick, Gladys Hubert, Cheryl Griffis, and Lori Albertson.

Pastor's message



I am thankful.

I am thankful for welcoming new siblings in Christ through the waters of baptism, and for the chance, daily, to affirm and remember my own baptism: dying to sin and being raised to new life. Every day.

I am thankful to welcome more friends to the table and feast together for First Communion and 3001st Communion. There is always room at the table. There is always enough. We become what we receive: the body of Christ, broken and given away to feed the world.

I am thankful for the way the Holy Spirit animates our congregation, our denomination, our Church, with a spirit of Reformation. Dear God, continue to shape and form and re-form us to be your holy people, and may your kingdom come in and through us.

I am thankful for all saints. For those past, present, and future. For those of notoriety and those known only to us. Those we would happily make an *ofrenda** for, those who have days on the church calendar, those who died in faith without their stories living on. I am thankful for the communion of saints that spans all time and space, centered on Christ the Lamb on the throne. I am thankful that we are simultaneously saints and sinners, and that God works in, with, and under us, for us and through us.

I am thankful for the approaching Advent season, for promises kept and promise still to be fulfilled. For Christ coming into this world, this good creation, before, and again. Prepare our hearts, O God, and keep us alert and ready to greet and serve you, in all we do.

I am thankful for fuller liturgy, not because it's "how we've always done it," but because of the connection it gives us to the church through the ages. I look forward to introducing a new setting of the liturgy, not because I'm tired of the familiar, but because God's song has no end of variation, and I'd like to join in that song.

I am thankful that we have been able to be together in person more. I am thankful that we still hold as a value and a virtue to protect the vulnerable and love all of our neighbors. That we can still exercise caution and care when needed.

I am thankful for the teaching we rostered leaders received at the Virginia Synod Gathering of the Ministerium, to have a wider compassion for those who, whether because of cancer or covid, personal strain or recent trauma, do not feel able to be in person at this time. To learn that the body of Christ has always been virtual, whether through letters (like Paul), or calls, or Caring Bridge websites, or individual Communion visits, or texts, or anything: we are always connected with Christ as our head, all members of the body essential. For learning about a "gospel of irresolution." (Ask me about that one.)

I am thankful for upcoming budget meetings. For the work of council and committees. For volunteers doing their jobs, folks signing up to try to things, folks continuing in long-established roles, and for all the unseen behind-the-scenes things that happen at Messiah and in all congregations. For the work of partners and organizations that serve the community. For generosity and stewardship, for the gifts we've been given and the chance to use them to love our neighbors and give glory to God.

Continued on page 4

Pastor's letter

Continued from page 3

I am thankful for Thanksgiving, for a holiday that has many traditions and a mixture of origins, but mostly for the opportunity it gives us to gather together, near and far, and reflect on all the things, the people, the experiences, that we are thankful for.

Thanks be to God,
Pastor Ryan

* An **ofrenda** is a display used as a part of the Dia de los Muertos celebration. All Souls Episcopal has set up a beautiful ofrenda table in the sanctuary that they and Messiah can add to: photos and mementos of loved ones who have died. This ofrenda is helping us think about those we have lost, especially in the last two years, and is helping us ponder and pray about God's promises as we approach All Saints Sunday.

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.



- 2 **Anita Philp**
- 3 **Lynn Deere**
- 6 **Sharon Griffin**
- 6 **Emily Gunn**
- 17 **Roger Schroeder**
- 24 **Ella Anderson**



- 24 **Leroy & Lynn Deere**
- 27 **Ryan & Liz Radtke**

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



Women's Bible Study

It's not too late to join in Women's Bible Study. We are studying "Determined Living Like Jesus" and the Book of Luke.

- Nov. 9. - 6:30 pm
- No Study Nov. 23.
- Looking ahead: Dec. 14 - 6:30 pm
- No Study Dec. 28.

- **Rosalee Cline**

November 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 ALL SAINTS DAY
1:00 pm Evangelism Team Meeting
- 2 9:00 am PAL Group
- 3 5:00 pm Cool Well Townhouse Annual Homeowner's Meeting

- 6 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS
9:15 am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15 am Christian Formation
10:45 am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service
- 9 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
- 10 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARTIN LUTHER!
- 11 Veterans Day
Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)
2:00 pm Hanover County Veteran's Day Observance

- 13 9:15 am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15 am Christian Formation
10:45 am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service
- 16 9:00 am PAL Group
6:15 pm Council Meeting

- 20 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
9:15 am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15 am Christian Formation
10:45 am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service
12:00 pm CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

- 20 Following meeting:
THANKSGIVING DINNER
23 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
24 Thanksgiving (Office Closed)
25 Secretary on Vacation (Office Closed)

- 27 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:15 am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15 am Christian Formation
10:45 am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service



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



Messiah's Church Council met on October 26th. Here are the highlights:

Council started discussing the budget for next year. Itemized budgets from the committees are due November 13th.

Some members of Council will be stepping down this year, so therefore we are beginning the search for new members. If you are interested in participating on Council, please talk to a current Council member.

Council also discussed updating the church directory, inter-generational Christmas activity, reassembly of the choir, and updating guiding documents.

- **Heather Williams**
Church Council Secretary



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; **Dwayne Collie**, Johnnie's brother; **Ashley Dameron**, granddaughter of Doris Ewing; **Griffen Deere**, brother of Leroy Deere; **DiGrazia family; Anne Gresco**, friend of Linda Mahovtas; **Brenda Holcomb**, Sally & Charlie Bennett's cousin; **Lars Honan**, Geoffrey's brother; **Joan Laudig**, Susie Weaver's mom; **Lee Nester**, friend of Karen Morris; **Buster Ruffner**, friend of Sheila Whirley; **Debbie Schroeder**, relative of Roger Schroeder; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Mary Streesman; Ron Szabo**, father of Bethany Bergreen; **Melissa Villegas**, niece of the Shaws; **Susen Weaver**, daughter-in-law of the Weavers.

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 Nepal, Kuwait, and Malaysia.¹

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

¹ Open Doors World WatchList 2022

<http://www.opendoorsusa.org>



MCEF news

The month of September saw an increase in numbers of services offered to those in need: 134 visits to the OSS for food and 169 rides to seniors for doctor visits and other necessary trips.

- Winter clothing in good condition and clean is being accepted.
- Food items needed include jelly, mustard, mayonnaise, ketchup, personal products and items for holiday meals which includes stuffing mix, gravy, brownie mix, cake mix and frosting and cranberry sauce. Currently the supply of corn and green beans is very adequate. Donations may be made in our grocery cart in the narthex or the 1st and 3rd Sunday afternoon at the One Stop Shop from 2:00 to 3:30.
- Please save EGG cartons, 12 count, preferably styrofoam for the OSS.

Mark your calendar to visit "No Room at the Inn" at our neighbor, Church of the Redeemer, Dec 2-4, see note on the bulletin board in the narthex for details.

Many thanks for all your donations, they are greatly appreciated.

- Gladys Hubert

CFFY

Christian Formation For You

Greetings Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

The celebrations of All Saints, All Souls Day will be celebrated on November 6th in the church this year. This celebration of the departed faithful, those who broke the bonds of Earth in the past twelve months, is a long recognized celebration in the Christian church. The official date for All Saints Day, in today's world, is November 1st, directly following Halloween or "All Hallow's Eve". For those who have lost loved ones in the last year, this celebration may be particularly poignant. If you'd like to learn about ways to celebrate at home, the following link will take you to an article from *Living Lutheran*, "Five Ways to Celebrate All Saints Day At Home."

Sunday School

Sunday school is back in full swing following our summer holiday. **Lois Schroeder** is leading the Preschool class, **Wendy DeGraff** is leading the grade school students and **Becky Collie** is leading the middle and high school students. **Pastor Ryan** is leading the adults in a study called, "Reading the Teacher's Guide: Martin Luther's Large Catechism. Lessons are peppered with lively discussions. For all of our Sunday school classes, all are welcome! Bring a friend if you'd like!



"Good Gifts "is Back

Every year the ELCA coordinates an effort to connect its congregations with the needs of the most vulnerable people in the world today. Messiah has long participated in this effort through our Sunday school classes, collecting offerings and buying livestock for communities in dire need. This year, we would like to involve the entire congregation. Beginning this month, collect change to put toward this worthy cause. When Lent begins, a suggestion that is often used as a guideline is to donate the savings from the sacrifice you are making such as foregoing sweets or ice cream. After Easter, we will collect and count the amount donated. This year we are setting a goal of buying a cow! Donation boxes will be available for those who would like to participate. Please direct any questions to **Anita Philp**.

- Respectfully Submitted by **Anita Philp**

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November 2022

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page 8

Evangelism quote

DL Moody was told by a woman, “I don’t like the way you do evangelism.”

He responded with, “I don’t rather care for it myself. Tell me, how do you do evangelism?”

She said, “Well, I don’t.”

He replied, “Well, madam, I rather prefer the way I do evangelism, versus the way you do not do it.”



The DEADLINE for the
December 2022/January 2023
edition of

The Messenger is
Sunday, November 20th

(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

