

The MESSENGER



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

FEBRUARY 2023



Please join us on Sunday, February 5th, immediately after the worship service, for our Annual Chili Cook-off... re-booted. Yes, we have missed this event due to the pandemic, but WE'RE BACK!

Make your favorite chili recipe to share or just come to sample and "judge" the entries. Hot dogs will also be served. It's always a good time of food and fellowship.

Prizes are presented to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners!

Please **Sign up** in the narthex to enter your recipe and to let the Fellowship Team to expect your attendance.

See you there!

Questions? Contact **Becky Collie**.



40 days OF LENT

Ash Wednesday service

6:30 pm Wednesday, February 22



6:30 pm Wednesday, March 1

And each week through March.

For more information, watch the church Bulletin and messiahmech.com

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

*** 2023 Council has not been installed
at the writing of this publication.**

PAL (Patches and Love)

PAL (Patches and Love)

***** 1 year Anniversary of
actually sewing a quilt
was January, 2022*****

Upcoming meeting dates:
Wednesday, February 1st and February 15

Our 2023 goal is to have 15 quilts done by June, when the LWR (Lutheran World Relief) truck comes to pick up quilts in our area. Then they are taken to the national warehouse for global distribution. So far we have 4 quilts completely done.

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



Pastor's message

Do you ever get your subjects and verbs switched around? I don't mean that like Yoda you are talking. I mean that, when it comes to what God does and what we do, you get mixed up. Like, you think that it's all up to us. "All" meaning the success or survival of a ministry, a congregation, the whole church. Since God works through human beings like you and me, we sometimes get confused and think that we are the only subjects to all church- and faith-related verbs.

In that mindset, it's all too easy to get discouraged. To start identifying issues and shortcomings. To start sentences with "We don't have enough..." or "We can't do what we used to do..." The subject to shift towards when it comes to church- and faith-related verbs is God: "God provides abundantly, so that means we..." or "With God all things are possible, so let's try..."

To each other and to the world we share the good news that everything we do is in God's name, following the example of Jesus, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. To each other and to the world we share the good news in response to the God who is able. If we get our subjects and verbs switched around, it's all too easy to begin to operate from a posture and attitude of fear and scarcity. We'll get to thinking that we don't want to get left behind compared to other churches. That we have to hit certain numbers to be successful Christians. That you have to fit a mold, look a certain way, have only the most correct beliefs, be happy all the time. Success = blessed, right?

But our message is sweeter and truer when it taps into the God who is able. That it's not about us, about "butts in the pews." It's about the God who is able to so love the world as to give the only beloved Son. It's about the Savior who is

able to go to and through a cross, for us and for the whole creation. It's about the Holy Spirit who is able to equip us and surprise us and expand the kingdom of God beyond our own humble subjects and verbs.

As Christians we neither seek nor proclaim our "success." We see from below. From the foot of the cross. We see and proclaim the foolishness of God's wisdom. We are vulnerable for the sake of others, and we show our woundedness and failings, so that we can proclaim all the more joyfully how God heals and forgives and works through redeemed sinners like us. We are vulnerable, and we attribute the verbs to God, to remind us, over and over again, that we need one another, and that we need God.

Our focus, our work, our outreach, our proclamation – it can't be about security, or survival – because then it's about us. We live out our faith in response to the God who is able. Towards the end of the month we will again encounter Ash Wednesday, and hear these words: remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. That's as far as we get on our own. But God creates out of the dust, and the mud. God brings new life and resurrects the dead. God persistently turns us and returns us to God, calls for us to repent of putting ourselves in charge, and invites us through the power of the Passion story to remember: God is the subject of the verbs. And God is able.

As you share the gospel in word and deed – and I hope you are sharing the good news, every day – remember to be vulnerable and to trust in the God who is able. Don't get mixed up. And the God who is able will bless you, and the world through you. Thanks be to God.

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan

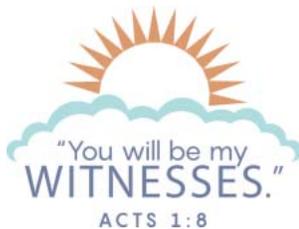


Church Council met on Zoom on Thursday, January 19. Here are the highlights:

- Council discussed the upcoming Lenten Season activities including the decision to donate the Lenten offerings to Worthday. (More information to follow)
- Nominees for the Council and Synod Assembly voting members were discussed in preparation for the annual meeting.
- The Council is also still looking for a Treasurer. Looking for someone with a financial background.

- **Heather Williams**

Church Council Secretary



Evangelism 101: The Message of the Gospel

- G** - God's
- O** - Only
- S** - Son
- P** - Provides
- E** - Eternal
- L** - Life

- Contributed by **Donna Shaw**



- 2 **Taylor Starrett**
- 7 **Jean Martin**
- 21 **Victoria Gustafson**
- 23 **Grace 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.

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.



Women's Bible Study

Next meeting:

Wednesday February 8 - 6:30 pm
Join us for studying God's Word and fellowship.

Wednesday February 22 Ash Wednesday
NO Bible study

- **Rosalee Cline**

February 2023						
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				

- 1 9:00am PAL Group Meeting
- 5 9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15am Christian Formation
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service*
12 noon Annual Chili Cook-off
- 7 7:00pm Choir Practice
- 8 6:30pm Women's Bible Study
- 12 9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15am Christian Formation
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service*
12:00pm Confirmation Youth Group
- 14 7:00pm Choir Practice
- 15 9:00am PAL Group Meeting
6:15pm Council Meeting
- 19 9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15am Christian Formation
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service*
- 20 President's Day (Office Closed)
- 21 7:00pm Choir Practice
- 22 ASH WEDNESDAY
12:30 pm Ash Wednesday service
6: 30 pm Ash Wednesday service

- 26 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
9:15am All Souls Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:15am Christian Formation
10:45am Messiah Lutheran: Worship Service*
28 7:00pm Choir Practice

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



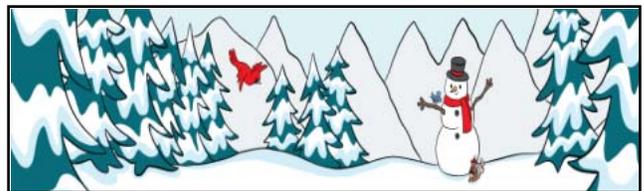
MCEF news

December saw 123 visits to the OSS food pantry, serving 176 bags of food plus 100 bags of holiday food to those in need. Eighty-five bags of clothing and linens were provided.

Watch for the new brochure giving 2022 totals and lots of other information which will be available soon. Current food needs include kidney beans, pork and beans, apple sauce, pancake syrup and graham crackers. A full list of clothing items is posted on the board in the narthex.

Thank you for your continued support.

- **Gladys Hubert**





We pray for each other:

LeRoy Albertson; Debbie Anton; Bruce Carr; Johnnie Collie; Adam Dworak, Sr.; Bonnie Dworak; Ted Ford; Jackie Garbett; Steve & Sue Gilnett; Emily Gunn; Karen Jones; Abby Schroeder; Ruth Schroeder.

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Bubba, friend of the Whirleys; **Sheryl Colgin**, friend of Sheila Whirley; **Dwayne Collie**, Johnnie's brother; **Family and Friends of the Crone family; Griffen Deere**, brother of Leroy Deere; **DiGrazia family; Linda Houseman**, a close family friend of the Weavers; **Lars Honan**, Geoffrey's brother; **Joan Laudig**, Susie Weaver's mom; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Mark Sears**, Bill & Susie's brother-in-law; **Mary Streesman; Keith Tish**, brother-in-law of Donna Combs; **Troell family**, friends of the Andersons; **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 Afghanistan, North Korea, Somalia, Libya, and Yemen.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>



“Dear customer,

In 2013, we launched AmazonSmile to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. However, after almost a decade, the program has not grown to create the impact that we had originally hoped. With so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally—our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.

We are writing to let you know that we plan to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. We will continue to pursue and invest in other areas...

To help charities that have been a part of the AmazonSmile program with this transition, we will be providing them with a one-time donation equivalent to three months of what they earned in 2022 through the program, and they will also be able to accrue additional donations until the program officially closes in February...”

Thank you to our Messiah members who have shopped at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and helped Messiah's ministry by signing up in this program.

CFFY

Christian Formation For You

"February faces two, briefest of the months are you!" begins a poem I learned in the sixth grade. When you think of February what comes to mind? Cold weather? Short days and long nights? Perhaps the more pleasant thought is the celebration of Love that Valentines Day declares to represent. According to Greek mythology there are seven types of love. Eros or romantic love may be what humanity seeks and shines so brightly but other types of love are arguably more enduring. Storge, unconditional familial love and Agape, selfless universal love both come to mind. As Christians we are preparing to celebrate the greatest act of love, Jesus' sacrifice for our sins, his own life in a cruel, brutal crucifixion. What's love got to do with it? Absolutely Everything!



Interested in learning more are the types of love as defined in Greek mythology? This article, by Elizabeth Rider, is a brief primer on the subject. <https://www.elizabethrider.com/7-types-of-love-and-what-they-mean/>
Join us for Sunday School at 9:15. Our youngest learners meet with **Lois Schroeder** in the classroom next to the main office. Grade school students meet with **Wendy DeGraff** in the classroom off the hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall. Middle and High School students meet with **Becky Collie** in the classroom next to the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall. Adults meet with **Pastor Ryan** in the classroom on the left hand side of the main hallway. All are Welcome!!!

- Respectfully Submitted by **Anita Philp**

thank you

"Thank You!" to everyone who bought Christmas gifts for our foster children. It was a great success and we helped with a Merry Christmas for eight children. Thank you also for supporting this mission.

Blessings,
Your Social Ministry Team

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Marked by love



Through the centuries [people] have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians. They have worn crosses in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts. Of course, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with any of this, if one feels it is [one's] calling. But there is a much better sign, a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church until Jesus comes back. ...

Love — and the unity it attests to — is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father.

—Francis Schaeffer

The DEADLINE for the
March 2023
edition of
The Messenger is
Sunday, February 19
(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

