

The

MESSENGER

April

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

APRIL 2023



M.O.M.'S NEEDED

It's that time of year again, when the "Men Of Messiah," known affectionately as "M.O.M.," get together to cook for all the rest of us.

The traditional Easter breakfast is something that we all look forward to. It does, however, take preparation and willing hands to bring it about. Both cooks and servers are needed, with on-the-job training available. We need new help as we have lost some of our previous volunteers.

If you, Man of Messiah, are willing to lend a hand, call **Bill Weaver** or email: wweaver701@comcast.net.

April 2

PALM SUNDAY

- 9:00 am All Souls Worship Service
(Parking Lot & Sanctuary)
- 9:15 am Christian Formation
- 10:45 am Messiah Lutheran:
Worship Service*
- 12 noon Confirmation Youth Group

April 6

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 PM Worship

April 7

GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 PM Worship

April 9

EASTER SUNDAY

- 8:45 am Easter Breakfast
- 9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt
- 10:45 am Messiah Lutheran:
Worship Service*



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VISIT OUR MLC WEBSITE:
<http://www.messiahmech.com>

**Your 2023 Church Council
And Associate Members**

Teresa Gigante Council President
Anita Philp Vice-President
Heather Williams Secretary

Dianne Absher **Cheryl Griffis**
Marilyn Gunn **Pat Reagan**
Diana Sondor

Council Liaisons

Christian Formation **Anita Philp**
Evangelism **Heather Williams**
Fellowship **Marilyn Gunn**
Finance **Teresa Gigante**
Property **Pat Reagan**
Social Ministry **Dianne Absher**
Stewardship **Diana Sondor**
Worship **Cheryl Griffis**

TBDTreasurer
Bill Weaver..... Financial Secretary
Sue Gilnett, RN....Parish Nurse

Team Leaders

Evangelism.....**Donna Shaw**
Fellowship.....**Becky Collie**
Social Ministry.....**Sharon Addair**
Worship.....**Karen Morris**

Evangelism

"Love is the greatest form of evangelism because it makes an invisible God visible."

-Jason Evert



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



Join Messiah on Facebook!

Pastor's message

Part of the eucharistic prayer – which literally means a prayer of thanksgiving – that we say during the Communion liturgy – goes like this:

“We proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.”

The first two parts are what we will be living through, remembering and giving thanks for, in these first weeks of April – Christ dying, Christ being raised. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday. Christ has died. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Death has been conquered – where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death is your sting? The power of death has been delivered a fatal blow, and we await Christ's return, someday, to complete what was begun, to usher in heaven on earth. For if we are united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

This all sounds good on paper. This all feels good when we experience the rituals of Holy Week, together, again. It's familiar and powerful. But what does it mean – practically speaking? What does this mean for our lives, our daily ins and outs? What is it that we are giving thanks for, eucharist-ing?

That's a big question. In some ways, that's the question each of us is called to live into, learn deeply, and explore throughout our whole lives, our journeys of faith. But if it's only ever personal, individual, than why are we commanded, by the risen Christ, to go share it? To tell others, to teach others, about Jesus' birth, life, message and ministry, and his death and resurrection? Why are we commissioned to spread this good news and

baptize others in the name of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit? To invite others into these waters that inseparably connect us to Good Friday and Easter, death and resurrection, new life in Christ? What are we giving thanks for?

It's because when we live for others, like Christ does, and when others live for us, like Christ does, then the kingdom of heaven is coming near. It's beyond just personal salvation; it's for the life and redemption of the whole wide world, all of creation. When our life is made new, when Christ lives in and through us, when death has no hold over us, cannot rule us, inspires no fear in us...then we are free. Freed from death, and sin. Freed for love, and service.

This mystery of faith, that Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again...it's not just some words on a page that we recite. It's not some old doctrine or tradition. It's life. It's freedom. It's everything. We hear and see and experience the story, the grace, every year in Holy Week and Easter. And have the opportunity to hear and see and experience the story, the grace, and to share it, and to live it, every day. Every day.

What are we giving thanks for? That's one answer. That's my answer. What's yours? I'd love to hear it. The world needs to hear it. To hear your answer. In your words.

May God bless us as we embark once again into this holy mystery, this very good news.

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan



CCFY

Christian Formation For You

Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 8th during Sunday School

The Easter Egg hunt is on! Please bring your children, grandchildren, friends of your children, your neighbors' children to Messiah during the Sunday school hour for fun and fellowship!

Candy Donations Needed for Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt was such fun last year that we decided to do it again and we need your help! If you are able, please consider donating individually wrapped candies in the donation box in the Narthex. Thank you!!

Respectfully submitted by **Anita Philp**



- 5 **Dak Kondaki**
- 12 **Annette Buckholtz**
- 14 **Allen Starrett**



- 17 **Bill & Susie Weaver**

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

We will resume our regular schedule of meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in April.

- April 12 - 6:30 PM
- April 26 - 6:30 PM

We are continuing our study of "Finding Jesus In The Psalms".

All are welcome.

Remember to bring a personal item for MCEF.

- **Rosalee Cline**



Administrative Professionals Day

April 26, 2023

April 2023						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- 1
 2 PALM SUNDAY
 9:00 am All Souls Worship Service
 (Parking Lot & Sanctuary)
 9:15 am Christian Formation
 10:45 am Messiah Lutheran:
 Worship Service*
 12 noon Confirmation Youth Group
 4 7:00 pm Choir Practice
 5 9:00 am PAL Group Meeting
 6 MAUNDY THURSDAY
 Worship 7:00 pm
 7 GOOD FRIDAY
 Worship 7:00 pm
 8 HOLY SATURDAY
 9 EASTER SUNDAY
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 (Sanctuary)
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 10 Secretary on Vacation
 11 7:00 pm Choir Practice
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 18 7:00 pm Choir Practice
 19 9:00 am PAL Group Meeting
 6:15 pm Council Meeting

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 10:45am Messiah Lutheran:
 Worship Service*

[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. That video will be available later on the church website and YouTube. Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>

Finding Value in Your Prime

Offered each spring, this free event engages local seniors through presentations and resources around wellness and active aging. The Finding Value in Your Prime Active Aging event is scheduled for April 13, 2023 from 8:30am -1:00pm at Fairmount Christian Church located at 6502 Creighton Rd, Mechanicsville, VA 23111. The Event is FREE yet pre-registration is required by April 5th. Please contact the Department of Community Resources at 804-365-4300 to register and for more information. This event is a partnership between Hanover Council on Aging, Dept. of Community Resources, Hanover and Mechanicsville AARP Chapters and Hanover Parks and Recreation.



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:

Justin Aheimer, fiance of Emily Gunn; **Bubba**, friend of the Whirleys; **Sheryl Colgin**, friend of Sheila Whirley; **Dwayne Collie**, Johnnie's brother; **Family and Friends of the Crone family; Ashley Damron**, step-granddaughter of Doris Ewing; **Griffen Deere**, brother of Leroy Deere; **Amy Griffis**, daughter-in-law of Cheryl Griffis; **Linda Houseman**, a close family friend of the Weavers; **Lars Honan**, Geofrey's brother; **Bernard K**, friend of the Whirleys; **Trisha Kelly**, friend of Betty & Bill Fulop; **Joan Laudig**, Susie Weaver's mom; **Jenna Mears**, niece of Steve Gilnett; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Mary Streesman**, wife of Lynn's mother; **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, Sudan, India, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.¹

¹ Open Doors World WatchList 2023

<http://www.opendoorsus.org>



MCEF news

February at MCEF has been another busy month assisting 123 households with food and 120 rides for seniors to their appointments.

- The pantry shelves are in need of pasta sauce, pork and beans, instant potatoes, pasta and rice sides and rice.
- Clothing needs include men's t-shirts, long and short sleeves, casual work clothes, ladies socks and underwear (new in package), and socks for little boys.
- The linen closet is low on towels and gently used sheets, full, queen and king sizes.

Thank you for your continued support of our neighbors in need.

- **Gladys Hubert**



PAL (Patches and Love)

Upcoming meeting dates:

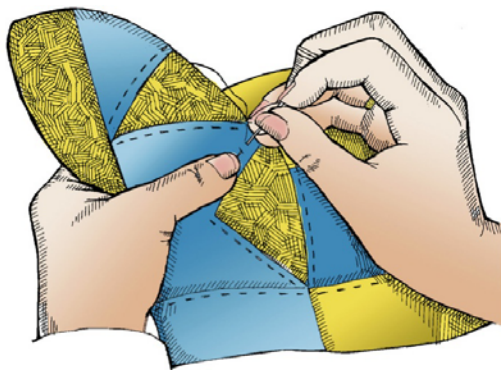
Wednesday, March 29 - Field Trip
to Harrisonburg, VA
9 am Wednesday, April 5
9 am Wednesday, April 19

We continue to work on our 2023 goal, which is to have 15 large (60x80) quilts done by June. Mid June is when the LWR (Lutheran World Relief) truck comes to a local Lutheran church to pick up quilts in our area. The quilts are driven to a national warehouse for global distribution. We currently have 8 quilts done.

We will continue to accept donations of clean cotton fabrics. 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**



Council Highlights

Messiah's Church Council met on March 21st. Here are the highlights:

- Council reviewed the active member list to ensure accurate membership list for church reports, quorum requirements, and to update the Church directory. Discussed with care which members should receive a letter regarding active/inactive membership.
- Thank you to everyone that has responded to the request for volunteers. **Jake Addair** has volunteered to be the Church Treasurer, **Lori Albertson** has volunteered to be the Altar Guild coordinator and others have volunteered for other positions. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to the council as they would be happy to provide information on available opportunities.
- Council also voted to permit Parks and Recreation to use the building for Summer Camp for 2 weeks with a possible 3rd week if necessary. The building use would be during the day on weekdays. Exact dates will be determined in coordination with Parks and Recreation.

- **Heather Williams**

Church Council Secretary



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A eucharistic hymn

Bread of the world, in mercy broken,
 Wine of the soul, in mercy shed,
 By Whom the words of life were spoken,
 And in Whose death our sins are dead.
 Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
 Look on the tears by sinners shed;
 And be Thy feast to us the token,
 That by Thy grace our souls are fed.

—Reginald Heber

The DEADLINE for the
May 2023
 edition of
The Messenger is
Sunday, April 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

