

The MESSENGER



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

January 2026

Y.O.U.T.H. in Action

(Youth Outreach to Uplift and Thrive in Holiness)

The Youth Group would like to thank all the shoppers who visited the Christmas Shop last month. Over \$500 was raised for the youth program! Thank you all for your generosity and support!

MLC Youth Team



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study groups meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. In January we will meet on Wednesdays January 14th and 28th. We are continuing to study the women in *A Lineage of Grace* book. This month we are starting on Rahab reading pages 103 – 130. If you have any questions talk to Nancy Berg, Marilyn Gunn or Donna Combs.

New Year Blessings! -- **Nancy Berg**

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MCEF News

November was a busy month at the OSS of MCEF serving 189 visits with 269 well filled bags of food, plus 152 extra bags of Thanksgiving items. Clothing and linens assisted 174 people. Holiday bags were continued through the month of December. Bar soap and apple sauce have been added to the list of current needs. Now that winter is upon us, winter coats in good condition for children and adults are needed.

Thank you for your donations of food, money and prayers to assist those in need in our community.

Gladys Hubert



The Messenger

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 23111

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

Your 2025 Church Council And Associate Members

Rosalee Duke
Sharon Addair
Cory Gooch

Council President
 Vice-President
 Secretary

Teresa Gigante
Cheryl Griffis
John Shea

Daren Williams
Heather Williams

Council Liaisons

Heather Williams
Cheryl Griffis

Christian Formation
 Evangelism/Digital Team

Teresa Gigante
John Shea

Fellowship
 Property

Sharon Addair

Social Ministry

Daren Williams

Stewardship

Cory Gooch

Worship

Emily Reagan

Treasurer

Dona Polesky

Financial Secretary

Sue Gilnett, RN

Parish Nurse

Team Leaders

Vacant

Evangelism

Becky Collie

Fellowship

Stephanie Bergreen

Social Ministry

Debbie Walker

Worship

Church Council Highlights

- On February 1st we will be having the chili cook off.
- On February 1st we will also do the formal installation of the new council members Cathryn O'Brien, Anita Philip and Brad Trimble.



Join Messiah on Facebook!



Follow us on
 Instagram

Check out Messiah's videos on



YouTube



Please contact **Donna Shaw**, if you have any questions.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

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.

The DEADLINE for the **Feb. 2026** edition of
The Messenger is **January 26**.

Please contact me if you need a "grace period."

Please send your submission by email to

Heather Heckel (messiahmech@gmail.com)



Pastor's Letter

The first few verses of the Gospel of John are a Christmas reading, assigned to the second Sunday of Christmas, when the calendar allows for a second Sunday of Christmas. Take a moment to read John 1:1-14. Unlike Matthew, who talks about Joseph and magi; unlike Luke, who talks about Mary, and shepherds, and angels; unlike Mark, who skips over Jesus' birth and jumps right into to John the Baptist...John gets cosmic.

The opening lines of John are meant to echo the opening lines of Genesis: "In the beginning." God is doing something new in the Word made flesh, in the birth of the Messiah, the Son of God. And, at the same time, God is constant: creating life, redeeming all of creation.

Another echo of creation and newness happens in the 21st chapter of Revelation: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'"

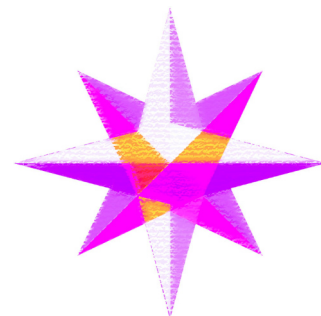
Once again, one year is about to draw to a close and another year is ready to begin. We give thanks for all that has come before; all that God has done; all of our blessings. We give thanks for the birth of Christ, and for God's love, grace, and salvation that entered the world through Jesus. We give thanks for God's

presence and guidance in our lives and in our world, and we pray for the promise of Revelation, for an end to pain and tears, to come about now, in and through us, even if only in part.

We ask God to come down now, in this Church, in this people, in this congregation, in our hearts, for this creation. For the darkness to never overcome the light, and for the light to shine in and through us. We ask for God to hold until the pain and tears will be no more; we ask God to strengthen us when challenges crop up in the new year; when the challenges of this year linger. We God to give us power to truly be children of God. In the end, as Revelation says, God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end; no matter what has come, or what may come, we are held in God's love and power.

Let us pray: Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan



Banner Team

The Banner Team meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month. This month we will meet on January 6th and 20th in the church fellowship hall at 1:00. We are making good progress on our current banner project and want to keep going. Anyone who is interested in joining us is welcome! Please bring your own scissors because I am left handed and so are my scissors (lol).

New Year Blessings,

Nancy Berg

(805)550-5763

heartgaze495@gmail.com



Dear Messiah Friends

How can I thank you all for your prayers, beautiful cards, and phone calls this past year? Dealing with cancer is never easy, but each card with your greetings brightened my day. With faith and trust in our Lord, I am feeling much better and hope to see you and get some Messiah hugs again in 2026!

With love,

Lynn Deere



We have 4 months left of our LWR Quilt Year. We have completed 20 LWR quilts. One quilts top is being pieced and sewn. One quilt top has triangle blocks that are being created and sewn.

We continue to accept monetary donations to help buy supplies and offset the packaging/shipping costs. We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 9am-noon at church.

We try to plan a field trip on the 5th Wednesday of the month when it occurs.

Next Meetings:

January 7

January 21



January 2026						
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

January

- 1 All Day Church Office Closed - New Year's
 2 All Day Church Office Closed - New Year's
 7 9:15 am All Souls Worship Service
 9:15 am Messiah Christian Formation
 10:45 am Messiah Lutheran Worship*
 First Sunday Fellowship
 6 1:00 pm Banner Team
 5:30 pm AA
 7 9:00 am PAL Quilt Group
 8 12:00 pm Hanover Adult Center
 11 9:15 am All Souls Worship Service
 9:15 am Messiah Christian Formation
 10:45 am Messiah Lutheran Worship*
 13 5:30 pm AA
 14 10:00 am Women's Bible Study
 12:00 pm Hanover Adult Center
 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
 15 12:00 pm Hanover Adult Center
 18 9:15 am All Souls Worship Service
 9:15 am Messiah Christian Formation
 10:45 am Messiah Lutheran Worship*
 Manna Sunday
 Annual Reporting Meeting
 4:00 pm Pr. Liz Installation at CLC
 20 1:00 pm Banner Team
 5:30 pm AA
 6:15 pm Messiah Church Council Meeting
 7:00 pm AA Business Meeting
 21 9:00 am PAL Quilt Group
 22 12:00 pm Hanover Adult Center
 23-25 All Day Winter Celebration
 25 9:15 am All Souls Worship Service
 9:15 am Messiah Christian Formation
 10:45 am Messiah Lutheran Worship*



- 1 **Pastor Ryan Radtke**
 4 **Karen Umberger**
 11 **Erna Jung**
 14 **Max Williams**
 15 **Grayson Starret**
 22 **Bill Hatfield**



If you would like YOUR birthdays & anniversaries included in the newsletter, please send an email to messiahmech@gmail.com or call **the church office** (804-746-7134).

Watch messiahmech.com and our Facebook page for any updates and changes to the calendar.

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

- 27 9:15 am Old Ivy Garden Club
 5:30 pm AA
 28 10:00 am Women's Bible Study
 12:00 pm Hanover Adult Center
 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
 29 12:00 pm Hanover Adult Center



We pray for each other:

Jake Addair; Debbie Anton; Annette Buckholtz; Lynn Deere; Adam Dworak, Sr.; Bonnie Dworak; Angel Fernandez; Ted Ford; Jackie Garbett; Steve & Sue Gilnett; Geoffrey Honan; Karen Jones; Jean Martin; Roberta McMillen; Mark Philp; Patrick Reagan; Roger Schroeder; Family and Friends of Ruth Schroeder

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Emily and Justin Aheimer, granddaughter and grandson-in-law of Marilyn Gunn; **Jessica Cassidy**, friend of the Andersons; **Pastor Paul Christian**, colleague of Pastor Ryan; **Dwayne Collie**, brother of Johnnie; **Griffin Deere**, brother of Leroy Deere; **Tripp Dillard**, son-in-law of Karen Umberger; **The Fraser Family**, family of Mark & Anita Philp; **Jameson Gilnett**, grandson of Steve and Sue; **Friends and Family of Ann Glenn**; **Family of James Griffis**, grandson of Lee & Cheryl; **Michelle & Tevin Harris**; **Lars Honan**, brother of Geoffrey Honan; **Jim Jump**, friend of the Collies; **Becky Kuhn**, aunt of Liz Radtke; **Eric Lawrence**, friend of Linda Mahovtas; **Iris Locke**, mother of Davina Winn; **Lydia & Christian**, family of Mark & Anita Philp; **Sandy Nelson**, sister of Cheryl Griffis; **Ruth & Rod**, family of Mark & Anita Philp; **Tim Schroeder**, nephew of Roger Schroeder; **Addison Senters**, friend of the Andersons; **Brad Shinault**, friend of the Whirleys; **Stacie & Todd**, friends of Mark & Anita Philp; **Danny Street**, brother-in-law of Donna Shaw; **Sandy Street**, sister of Donna Shaw; **Barbara Townsend**, friend of the Whirleys.

Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families; All law enforcement, firefighters & first responders; The people and pastor, Rev. Katherine, of All Souls Episcopal & our shared ministry; All those impacted by acts of violence, at home and abroad; All who travel

****Prayer List Has Been Reset****

Please contact the **church office** with names that need to be ADDED or REMOVED from the list. Send emails to MessiahMech@gmail.com or phone 804-746-7134 with your requests.

Meet Messiah's Mutual Ministry Team

The Mutual Ministry Team's primary function, according to the constitution and by-laws, "is to aid the pastor in effective congregational ministry." This takes a couple of shapes:

First, the mutual ministry team is there to receive all types of feedback from congregation members. They can also answer questions about the ministries of the pastor to the congregation. Second, they are a group that is available for the pastor to go to for counsel, or to consult as a sounding board. In short, they "assist the pastor in developing and maintaining a healthy working relationship" with the congregation.

Of course, you can always check in with **Pastor Ryan** directly. However, if you'd rather check in with someone first, your mutual ministry team is there for you: **Sharon Addair, Doug Duke, Anita Philp, John Shea, and Susie Weaver.**

Please let any of us know if you have any questions, or if you'd ever like to have a conversation. Thanks!