

The MESSENGER



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

July 2026

EnCircle Volunteer Day

EnCircle and Epiphany Lutheran Church in Richmond are partnering for a special youth volunteer day to support students and families served by enCircle's Minnick Schools. We invite Lutheran congregations across the Richmond area to join us through a donation of non-perishable food items or a financial contribution that will help youth purchase supplies and assemble food and backpack kits for families in need. Your support will help provide needed food to children and families while giving young people a meaningful opportunity to serve their community.

Non-perishable food donations can be brought to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 1400 Horsepen Rd., Richmond, VA 23226, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Checks may be made payable to Epiphany Lutheran Church and mailed or delivered to the same address. Donations will be collected through July 13. Thank you for your generosity!

Many Thanks

The Collie family would like to express our gratitude, appreciation and love for our Messiah Family during Johnnie's illness and passing. Your prayers, hugs, texts, and calls meant the world to him and to our family. He always said he could feel the prayers. Your support for his Memorial fund(Property and Maintenance) has been amazing. Thank you so much!! We are truly blessed by all of you!!

Becky, Taylor and Patrick Collie



MCEF News

May at the OSS (One Stop Shop) for MCEF saw 148 visits which provided 205 well filled bags of groceries to 426 households consisting of 306 adults and 120 children. 108 persons received clothing. Rides were provided for 112 seniors to doctor appointments and essential services. Needs of the pantry include things for summer picnics such as condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, salad dressings), canned baked beans, snack crackers and canned meats. The linen closet is in need of clean, gently used TOWELS. Thank you for your donations for those in our neighborhoods who are in need.

Gladly Hubert



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

Your 2026 Church Council And Associate Members

Cheryl Griffis
Cathryn O'Brien
Cory Gooch

Council President
Vice-President
Secretary

James Anderson
Rosalee Duke
Anita Philp

John Shea
Daren Williams

Council Liaisons

Anita Philp
Cheryl Griffis
Cathryn O'Brien
Daren Williams
Rosalee Duke
John Shea
James Anderson

Christian Formation
Evangelism/Digital Team
Fellowship
Property
Social Ministry
Stewardship
Worship

Emily Reagan
Dona Polesky
Sue Gilnett, RN

Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Parish Nurse

Team Leaders

Anita Philp
Cheryl Griffis
Becky Collie
Stephanie Shea
Debbie Walker

Christian Formation
Evangelism
Fellowship
Social Ministry
Worship

Church Council Highlights

- The playground equipment has been removed in order to comply with insurance requirements.
- MLC will have a booth at the Hanover Tomato Festival on July 10 & 11 and at Hanover Safe Place's Rooted in Safety: A Community Wellness Gathering on July 18.



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 **July 2026** edition of ***The Messenger*** is **July 28**.

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

Please send your submission by email to **Heather Heckel** (messiahmech@gmail.com)



Pastor's Letter

Friends in Christ,

I'd like to highlight something I talked about in my sermon this past Sunday. Here's an excerpt:

I talk about welcome a lot, I know. Messiah is a very welcoming place. It's part of why I'm here. There's always room to grow in our welcome – that's part of the whole sanctification thing. I also keep seeing a world that is less and less welcoming, more fractured. And I want to encourage you, exhort you, cheer you on, to take the welcome you know in Christ, the welcome you experience here in this community, and share it in the fractured world. Embody the intentional Christian community, whether it's Kairos style or Messiah style, and let others get a glimpse, a taste, a touch, a dollop, of what it feels like. We all need it. It's hard to describe it, maybe; but we know it when we have it, and when we don't. Sometimes it's a week at a special place. Sometimes it's as simple as a cup of cold water.

This month, Messiah will be hosting tables at two different events. First, at the Hanover Tomato Festival, July 10th-11th. Second, at the "Rooted in Safety: A Community Wellness Gathering," sponsored by Hanover Safe Place on July 18th. I'm hopeful that the folks who visit our table will get even a small taste of that welcome – Messiah's welcome and Christ's welcome.

When I talk about welcome so much, it's not because I don't think Messiah is a welcoming place or a loving community. Messiah is both of those things! But I'm asking, and even challenging us all: can we carry that sense of welcome and community *out there*, so that a world that *isn't* universally welcoming can experience what we have in here? At special events like festivals and community gatherings. But also into all our vocations – our families, our workplaces, our clubs, our schools. In all of our interactions, in stores, online, in our hearts. How can we export the welcome we treasure so much?

And at the same time...we can always grow in faith; in sanctification; in grace; in love; in welcome. Any congregation, Messiah included, can always grow and deepen and expand our welcome. There are folks in our zip codes, in our neighborhoods, in our pews, who have told me that they wouldn't feel comfortable stepping into a church. Or that they could never be fully themselves, for any number of reasons. For me, that's an opportunity to grow in community – to keep nurturing our postures of welcome until people can bring their whole selves into the body of Christ.

In good Lutheran fashion, both things are true – it's a both-and. We are both welcoming and can grow in welcome. We can treasure the community we have, and we can work to not keep that treasure to ourselves and ask the Holy Spirit to bring that sense of community to others. We are simultaneously sinners and saints.

I invite you all to stop at our tables at the upcoming events, and to invite your friends and neighbors to stop by too. Or come to a worship service. Or maybe you can bring a little Messiah to them. May God work through each of us, and Messiah as a whole, to share God's welcome and grace, in all our vocations, more and more.

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan



Ways you can SERVE

We need help for ALL Worship Volunteer Roles but especially:

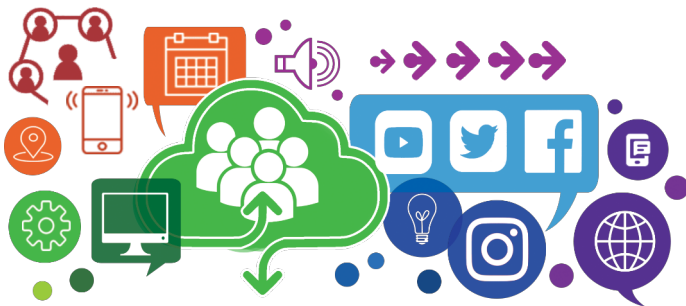
Greeter - Arrives 15-20 minutes prior to service to open door and welcome everyone

Acolyte - Lights altar candles before service, collects wine cups during communion, extinguishes candles at end of service.

Usher - Hands out bulletins, collects offering, takes attendance, assists with the flow of communion

Counter - counts funds collected during offering after service

There is a sign up sheet in the narthex with all duties listed. Training will be provided. Please include your name and email on the sign up sheet or feel free to reach out to **Valerie Williams** (vswilliams2005@gmail.com or 240-638-6162) with any questions.



Do You Facebook/Instagram?

For the past several years, Donna Shaw has been managing social media for Messiah on Facebook and Instagram. Did you know the Daily Lectionary, Weekly Schedule, Christian Songs, Bible verses, Inspirational quotes, and even some humor are among the weekly posts that are made? If not, you should check out our FB page <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>. Or better yet, even like or share something that touches you.



PAL



For the 26-27 quilts year there are 11 completed quilts. Compared to last year, the 25-26 quilt year PAL is further along with finished quilts!

July has a fifth Wednesday. Dona Polesky will be hosting a PAL Picnic at her home on July 29.

We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 9am-noon at church. We continue to exceed our goal each year since 2021 when we began this program. It's always a blessing to us to meet, have fellowship and produce beautiful PAL (Patches and Love) quilts for LWR.

Sharing God's Love through fabric and thread is our mission.

We continue to accept monetary donations to help buy supplies and offset the packaging/shipping costs. We try to plan a field trip on the 5th Wednesday of the month when it occurs.

Next Meetings:

July 1

July 15

July 29 - Picnic





I'm looking for help in taking pictures during church and church activities, particularly when I'm not there. Picture taking is important for our archives to let future Messiah know what present and past Messiah has been doing. I have been asking people individually when I know I'm not going to be at church and if those people are still willing, I'd love their continued help. But...if you like to take pictures and you haven't been asked, please let me know! You can email me at dmslaw70@gmail.com. I appreciate all of you who have helped and those of you who may help in the future!

Many thanks, **Donna Shaw**



As we combine our worship services with All Souls for July, there are several opportunities for our congregations to spend time together in fellowship:

July 5th- MLC hosting
 July 11th- All Souls hosting
 July 26th- Combined fellowship

If able, bring a treat to share and let's enjoy our time together.

Thanks,
Becky Collie



July 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	

July

- 1 9:00 am PAL Quilt Group
- 2 12:00 pm Hanover Adult Center
- 3 All Day Office Closed - Independence Day
- 5 10:30 am Joint Worship with All Souls*
- 11:30 am First Sunday Fellowship
- 7 5:30 pm AA
- 8 12:00 pm Hanover Adult Center
- 9 12:00 pm Hanover Adult Center
- 10 5:00 pm Hanover Tomato Festival Booth
- 11 9:00 am Hanover Tomato Festival Booth
- 12 10:30 am Joint Worship with All Souls*
- 14 5:30 pm AA
- 15 9:00 am PAL Quilt Group
- 16-18 All Day Power in the Spirit
- 17-27 All Day Office Closed
- 18 11:00 am Hanover Safe Place Table
- 19 10:30 am Messiah Lutheran Worship*
- Manna Sunday
- 21 5:30 pm AA
- 7:00 pm AA Business Meeting
- 22 12:00 pm Hanover Adult Center
- 23 12:00 pm Hanover Adult Center
- 26 10:30 am Joint Worship with All Souls*
- 28 5:30 pm AA
- 30 12:00 pm Hanover Adult Center



- 4 **James Anderson**
- 20 **Kate Radtke**
- 22 **Bob Griffin**
- 22 **Liz Radtke**
- 25 **Valerie Williams**
- 26 **Margi Rightnour**
- 27 **Curt Glatfelter**



- 2 **Steve & Donna Shaw**
- 14 **John & Linda Mahovtas**
- 30 **Jim & Nancy Berg**

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/>



We pray for each other:

Jake Addair; Sharon Addair; Debbie Anton; Ray Ash; Annette Buckholtz; Bruce Carr; Family and Friends of Johnnie Collie; Adam Dworak, Sr.; Bonnie Dworak; Angel Fernandez; Ted Ford; Jackie Garbett; Karen Jones; Roberta McMillen; Patrick Reagan

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Roxie Adams, mother of Daren Williams; **Emily and Justin Aheimer**, granddaughter and grandson-in-law of Marilyn Gunn; **Patrick Cassidy and family**, friends of the Andersons; **Pastor Paul Christian**, colleague of Pastor Ryan; **Marilyn Coleman**, sister of Geoffrey Honan; **Dwayne Collie**, brother of Johnnie; **Tripp Dillard**, son-in-law of Karen Umberger; **Judy Gage**, sister of Jean Martin; **Jameson Gilnett**, grandson of Sue; **Henry Gonzales**, friend of John and Stephanie Shea; **Rosemary Greene**, friend of Sue Gilnett; **The Griffis Family**; **Tyler Hileman**, friend of Messiah; **Becky Kuhn**, aunt of Liz Radtke; **Lydia & Christian**, family of Mark & Anita Philp; **Sandy Nelson**, sister of Cheryl Griffis; **Joanne & Jerry Philp**, parents of Mark Philp; **Elizabeth Powell and family**, friends of Daren and Valerie Williams; **Ruth & Rod**, family of Mark & Anita Philp; **Doris Schleich-Tavernese**; friend of Stephanie Shea; **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; **Scott Whirley**, son 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: **Anita Philp, Roger Schroeder, 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!