

The

MESSENGER



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

October 2026



Nancy and Jim Berg will be again singing "special music" about two times a month with one change. We would like to invite anyone who is interested to sing along with us. We will start working on some new music on Sunday, October 4th after worship. We are looking forward to having some of you join us!



A look inside:

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MCEF News

The OSS (One Stop Shop) for MCEF saw 156 visits for food which helped 509 individuals obtain what they needed with 225 well filled bags of groceries. 104 persons received clothing and 26 received linens. 13 households qualified for financial assistance. Senior Rides provided 138 rides for seniors for doctor appointments and essential services.

See information about the 50th year celebration fundraiser and help the thermometer rise to meet the goal.

Thanksgiving bags will soon be starting, watch for announcements.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CELEBRATES MCEF'S 50TH

In honor of MCEF's 50th anniversary and Messiah's part in helping to found it, the Church Council had the idea to hold a 500/500 fundraiser. Here's the challenge: we'd like to collect \$500 and 500 cans of food by October 20th. Please make your checks out to Messiah Lutheran, and write "MCEF 50th" in the memo line. And look for the special collection bin for the cans. You can bring the canned goods of your choice, and you can always check out www.4mcef.com for the current needs. Thank you, MCEF, for all you do!

Gladly Hubert

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Office hours:
Tue/Thur Noon-5:00 pm
Wed/Fri 10:00 am-3:00 pm

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
Cory Gooch

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

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

At the August Council meeting, we discussed:

- Playground equipment/replacement
- Rally Day, September 13
- Worship Committee Meeting



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 **November 2026** edition of ***The Messenger*** is **October 27**.

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

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



Pastor's Letter

I'm on a lot of mailing lists. I get emails from the Synod office; from the Synod youth and young adult ministry; from various departments and ministries of the ELCA, like stewardship, worship, and ecumenical relations; I get hard copy newsletters from Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran World Hunger; from Lutheran Disaster Response and Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services); I get stuff from MCEF, Habitat for Humanity, Caritas, enCircle, and For Richmond; I get stuff from the county, from the Sherriff's Office, more, and more, et cetera, et cetera.

There is so much good being done in our communities, to serve so many people in need, for so many different needs and reasons. We have so many partners that we work with and have worked with. There are so many of these organizations and so many others besides that Messiah members volunteer with, donate to, pray for, and support in other ways. It's remarkable. I give thanks for all of this.

It's almost too much to share; I know that if we turned around and forwarded each thing that came to the office, or to my inbox, back out to the whole congregation, it would be overwhelming. We have our "regulars"; and we promote other events and needs when they seem to fit our ability to meet them. Which things are "Messiah's" ministries? Which things in the world, in the Greater Richmond area, in our inboxes, rise to the level of "a crying out of the people" like you might read about in the Bible? A "red alert" like on *Star Trek*? It takes a lot of mutual discernment.

But the reason for all the newsletters and hard-copy letters and emails and headlines and more is that we can't respond to needs if we don't know about them. In order to help others, to engage

with situations and crises and ongoing needs and problems, we have to know that they are there in the first place. Helping others the way that Jesus helps, the way the disciples helped, the way the prophets helped: requires information. Awareness. Connections. Compassionate and careful listening. Prayer. Nudges from the Holy Spirit. In our closest relationships and in our wider world alike, we can't help if we don't know what help is needed, where it's needed, when it's needed.

For the world: keep your eyes, your ears, your hearts, and even your inboxes open. Know that you can't respond to everything. But cultivate awareness and seek out information and pay attention to the needs around you. Pray and talk together about how and when we can help. People regularly bring things they hear to the Church Council, to me, about needs that come up...can Messiah help with this? When Jesus says not to hide our lights under a bushel, that applies to the light we shine in proclamation and witness to the world; but it also applies to the Christian service we give and the proclamation of words and deeds we share. Sometimes your light is a lantern with a handle, a candle in a holder, a flashlight; it goes with you.

For the congregation: keep your eyes, your ears, your hearts, and even your inboxes open. Stay tuned to emails and announcements, to our Facebook and Instagram pages. Listen to your pew neighbors, your fellow Messiah members. Listen to one another, and pray for each other's needs and joys alike. Offer help when it's asked for, when it's needed. Share any concerns or questions you have with me, with the Church Council, with the Mutual Ministry Team, with various committee leaders. Sometimes we just don't realize that something is happening unless someone lets us know.

At the end of October we celebrate Reformation Day. Tradition has it that it all started with Luther posting some, let's say, "talking points" on the local bulletin board that was the church doors. And part of Luther's legacy are letters and essays that were published and shared, "table talks" that he had around his own dinner table, working with colleagues and

Pastor's Letter, Continued

sparring with rivals. But all of it involved communication. Listening and responding. Prayer and an openness to God's responses. May the Holy Spirit widen our perceptions so that the needs of God's people come to us, and the work of God's love may flow through us.

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan



October is...



PAL



We are halfway through our quilt year (March to March) and PAL has donated 24 quilts to LWR.

This year could be our biggest production year since 2021 when we began.

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 (Lutheran World Relief).

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:

October 7

October 21

*****For more information, contact
Gladys (814) 449-1392.*****



October 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

October

- 3 12:00 PM Memorial Reception for Harry Heckel
- 4 9:15 am All Souls Worship Service
Messiah Christian Education
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
Messiah Christian Education
10:45 am Messiah Lutheran Worship*
- 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
Messiah Christian Education
10:45 am Messiah Lutheran Worship*
Manna Sunday
- 20 1:00 pm Banner Team
5:30 pm AA
6:30 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
- 25 9:15 am All Souls Worship Service
Messiah Christian Education
10:45 am Messiah Lutheran Worship*
- 27 9:15 am Old Ivy Garden Club
5:30 pm AA
10:45 am Messiah Lutheran Worship*
- 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



- 1 **Dean Anderson**
5 **Steve Shaw**
6 **Daren Williams**
9 **Becky Collie**
13 **Cathryn O'Brien**
14 **Christine Starret**
15 **Tracey Anderson**
16 **Debbie Walker**
23 **Donna Combs**
23 **Teresa Gigante**
28 **Allen Anderson**
28 **Lee Griffis**



- 12 **Dean Gustafson & Beth Carpenter**
28 **James & Tracey Anderson**

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; Debbie Anton; Ray Ash; Annette Buckholtz; Bruce Carr; Adam Dworak, Sr.; Bonnie Dworak; Angel Fernandez; Ted Ford; Jackie Garbett; Max Gigante; Karen Jones; Roberta McMillen; Patrick Reagan; Roger Schroeder

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; **Robin Baber**, friend of Linda Mahovtas; **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; **Family and Friends of Tripp Dillard**, son-in-law of Karen Umberger; **Judy Gage**, sister of Jean Martin; **Jameson Gilnett**, grandson of Sue; **Rosemary Greene**, friend of Sue Gilnett; **The Griffis Family; Tyler Hileman**, friend of Messiah; **Charlotte Hulvey**, aunt of Sheila Whirley; **Becky Kuhn**, aunt of Liz Radtke; **Lydia & Christian**, family of Mark & Anita Philp; **Rick Meyer**, father of Tracey Anderson; **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; **Tim Schroeder**, nephew of Roger Schroeder; **Addison Senters**, friend of the Andersons; **Brad Shinault**, friend of the Whirleys; **Christopher Smith**, son of Lois Schroeder's friend; **Stacie & Todd**, friends of Mark & Anita Philp; **Ronda Walker**, friend of the Addairs; **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!