

The

MESSENGER



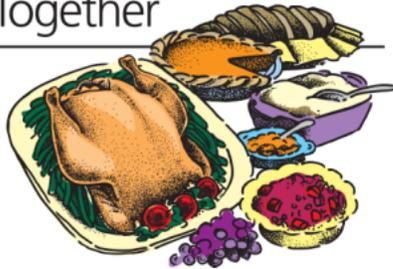
The monthly newsletter of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, Virginia 23111 804-746-7134

NOVEMBER, 2015

Christ the King Sunday & Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

Messiah provides the turkey. You are invited to bring a side, salad or desert as you are able. All welcome! Come give thanks with us on Sunday, November 22nd, starting with worship at 10:45 am. Sunday school will not meet that day.

We Gather Together



Community Thanksgiving Service & Fellowship

Join your brothers and sisters from All Souls Episcopal, Messiah Lutheran, Shady Grove United Methodist, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and (new this year) New Hanover Presbyterian for a Community Thanksgiving Service and Fellowship, Tuesday, November 24, at 7:00 pm. All Souls will host this year's service and refreshments at Messiah. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

Home Depot Grant Awarded

Messiah Lutheran Church and School is pleased to announce that it has received a \$2000.00 grant from The Home Depot Foundation. These funds will support the rebuilding of our preschool playground. The preschool playground has been in dire need of refurbishing and rebuilding. With the help of The Home Depot, Team Depot and The Home Depot Foundation this dream is becoming a reality. Our school's philosophy is based on the belief that children learn best in an early childhood program that provides developmentally appropriate education experiences in an integrated setting. Playing is a huge part of this learning experience. This grant will allow us to provide a fun, safe, outdoor learning place. The Home Depot Foundation understands the impact of hard work and sweat equity. They believe in

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A look inside....

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The Messenger

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**Home Depot**

Continued from page 1

neighbors giving their time, rolling up their shirt sleeves and getting dirty to improve their community. Through Community Impact Grants, The Home Depot Foundation is able to help fund community projects with the help of registered nonprofit organizations. Giving back is a core value at The Home Depot and is a passion for their associates. Through Team Depot, the Company's associate-led volunteer force, thousands of associates dedicate their time and talents to the communities where they live and work. Local Home Depot employees will be the primary workers for the project, but Messiah is asked to also offer assistance. The work day originally scheduled for late October will hopefully be completed in November.

Your 2015 Church Council And Associate Members

Kevin Hendrickson.....Council President
Donna ShawVice-President
Laura Harris Secretary

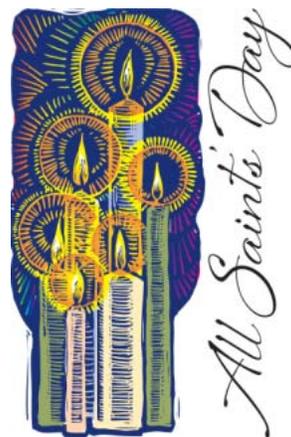
Sally Bennett	Jon Koeppen
Paula Barwick	Dean Gustafson
Steve Gilnett	Gordon Gunn

Council Liaisons

Christian Education**Jon Koeppen**
 Evangelism**Dean Gustafson**
 Fellowship**Steve Gilnett**
 Finance**Paula Barwick**
 Property**Kevin Hendrickson**
 School Board**Donna Shaw**
 Social Ministry**Gordon Gunn**
 Stewardship**Laura Harris**
 Worship**Sally Bennett**

Johnnie Collie... Treasurer
Bill Weaver... Financial Secretary
Sue Gilnett, RN...Parish Nurse

Trustees: **Leroy Albertson,**
Dick Wright and Pat Hubert.



Please join us as we remember the saints who have come before us and mark our 47th anniversary as a congregation. Bring a long stemmed flower of your choice for our memorial wreath to be decorated during the service.

Pastor's message...

Hanging Around with God

*For he will command his angels
concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot
against a stone. (Psalm 91:11-12)*

As our Virginia Synod team, "Fools for Christ," prepared to rappel down 25 stories as part of "Over the Edge for Special Olympics Virginia," there was indeed noticeable anxiety. One heard some nervous gallows humor about last words and breaking ropes. People pointed to those they blamed for getting them into this mess. Some people ascended to the roof top only to think better of it when looking at the edge separating them from the cold, hard ground below.

It isn't unusual or foolish to feel fear at such moments, as fear is ultimately a God-given survival mechanism. Yet, some overcame their fear trusting in a greater purpose. Even for those who turned back, there was no shame. They had made the attempt. We all recognized our fear and vulnerability, and it created a camaraderie on that roof top; a sense of community. People sought to support each other with their prayers and kind words of encouragement in success or defeat – much like any church should do.

Yet for those of us who believe, it struck me that there was even greater comfort to be found. The certainty of God's promises. When Jesus faced temptation on the pinnacle of the Temple, he thought of such comfort too. ⁱ He quoted Psalm 91 in the face of the Devil. It was the words he clung to for encouragement and safety.

Jesus understood his Father in Heaven and the Heavenly Host remained on guard.

He could trust God as his dwelling place, and nothing could truly harm him. No fear need stop him from his mission. It is the same with our lives as we face whatever highs or lows, blessings or curses that might come. God is with us. God intends to protect those who love him and know his name. These are God's promises:

*When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.
With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.
(Psalm 91:15-16)*

We can go over the edge into our future with confidence.

Yes, fortunately for us, God never lies. We need not let fear dictate our choices or behaviors. Failure need not define us. We are the beloved children of God together. Whether barely making it on a wing and a prayer, finding ourselves out on a limb, or hanging by a thread (or perhaps even a rope 400 feet above Cary Street), we are not alone for we have one another to turn to. Perhaps better still, God, and the Heavenly Host, is not only ready to catch us if we fall but has plans to lift us up to new life no matter what happens.

This month, we can rightly give thanks to God even if we feel at the end of our rope. God is with us, and God will never let us go.

Happy Thanksgiving to one and all,
Pastor Lou

ⁱ Matthew 4



Join Messiah on Facebook!



Happy Birthday, Martin Luther

(November 10, 1483)

Martin Luther was born to Hans and Margarethe Luder (an earlier version of the name) in Eisleben, Germany then part of the holy Roman Empire. He was baptized as a Catholic the next morning on the feast day of St. Martin of Tours, hence is given name of Martin. His family moved to Mansfield in 1484, where his father became a leaseholder of copper mines and smelters and served as one of four citizen representatives on the local council. Martin Luther would grow up to become a monastic priest and eventually start the Protestant Reformation in 1517.



Relay for Life Happy Hour & Spirit Night

Join our other supporters of Relay for Life from our area for a festive, fun time fighting cancer! Relay for Life will receive a portion of all sales from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Sports Page Bar & Grille, 8319 Belle Creek, Mechanicsville. Messiah serves as the monthly planning meeting site for the Mechanicsville Relay to be held in May 2015.



Sparkhouse Resource Fair

Our resource fair ends Sunday, November 1. Visit the display at our church or contact our office for more information. MLS and our church are being offered several hundred dollars' worth of free Christian formation materials to host this event. Orders will be taken for later delivery.



New Confirmation Class Forming

Please contact **Pastor Lou** if you and/or your child wish to participate in our confirmation class. Usually, candidates are in about 8th or 9th grade. Through the curriculum and activities, participants hopefully grow in faith and understanding. They publically affirm their faith and become adults in the church at the end of the program.



@MessiahMech

We pray for each other:

Charlie Absher; Adam Dworak, Sr.; Mary Key; Paul Knab; Pat Motley; Rev. Howard Thime; Janice (Thomas) Wainwright; Dick Wright; Evelyn Wright.

We pray for our extended family:

The Allen Family, family of the Whirleys; **JoAnn Augsburger**, friend of Schwerdtfegers; **Diane Beverly**, friend of the Florios; **Kim Binner**, All Souls member; **Friends & Family of Melvin Burrows**, Paula Barwick's grandfather; **Adam Connor**, cousin of Paul Knabb; **Kathy Fleming**, cousin of the Schwerdtfegers; **Todd Gray**, friend of Amy Delph; **Peggy Lamm**, friend of Judy Schwerdtfeger; **Angela Markovich**, Kristine Florio's mother; **Bennie Morlan**, Donna Shaw's uncle; **The Rev. Samuel Mozolak**, father of Karen & Michael Morris; **Wolfgang Niklas**, brother of Erna Jung; **Annette Pfohl**, friend of Messiah; **Evelyn Poulsen**, Roger Schroeder's mother; **Ed Promin**, relative of Marilyn Gunn; **Tarasia Remhoff**, friend of the Florios; **Tim Schroeder**, nephew of Roger; **Kathleen Schwerdtfeger**, mother of Charlie Schwerdtfeger; **Loma Snook**, mother-in-law of Jeffrey Weaver (Susen); **Sandy Street**, Donna Shaw's sister; **Jose Villegas**, Donna Shaw's nephew; **Debbie Walker**, Messiah's pianist; **Doug Walker**, Debbie's husband; **The People & Pastor of All Souls**, and our shared ministry; **All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan.** And for those serving in the armed forces: **Andrew Addair and LJ Spray.**

To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the church office, 746-7134.



November 3 **Lynn Deere**
 6 **Sharon Griffin**
 6 **Emily Gunn**
 8 **Jenn Drazenovich**
 10 **Taylor Collie**
 17 **Roger Schroeder**
 18 **Alec Walton**
 24 **Ella Anderson**
 28 **Philip Walton**
 29 **Kristine Florio**
 29 **Brian Glusing**



November 7 **Charlie & Judy Schwerdtfeger**
 12 **Mitchell & Sarah Craig**
 12 **Dean Gustafson & Beth Carpenter**
 22 **John & Jenn Drazenovich**
 25 **Jeff (& Susen) Weaver**
 28 **James & Tracey Anderson**

If you would like **YOUR** birthdays & anniversary included in the newsletter, please send an email to susiew51@comcast.net OR to office@mlcas.org or call **Davina** (746-7134).



Messiah on Pinterest

<http://pinterest.com/messiahmech/boards/>

November 2015						
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					

Calendar of events

- 1 All Saints Day
Daylight-Saving Time Ends
National Adoption Month Begins
Sparkhouse Family Resource Fair
9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal)
9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
(Messiah Lutheran)
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC)
- 2 11:40 AM School Chapel
6:00 PM Relay for Life Mtg.
- 3 Local Remembrance: Dedication of
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Public Schools Closed - No Preschool
(Childcare Available)
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
- 4 6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
7:00 PM NO Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 5 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
5:00 PM Cool Well Townhouse Annual
Meeting
- 6 Pastor's Day Off
- 7 Commemoration of John Christian
Frederick Heyer, Batholomaeus
Ziegenbalg, & Ludwig Nommensen,
Missionaries
9:30 AM Fall ACTS Class:
Lutheranism 101 *
10:30 AM Pastor @ Synod Transition
Committee Mtg. *
- 8 9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal)
9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
(Messiah Lutheran)
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC)
- 8 12:15 PM Finance Team Mtg.
- 9 10:30 AM Worship at Hanover Adult
Center
11:40 AM School Chapel
5:00 PM Relay for Life Happy Hour &
Spirit Night * (5-8 pm)
7:00 PM MCEF Mtg. *
- 10 Happy Birthday, Martin Luther!
Virginia Lutheran Items Due
7:30 AM Pastor@VCC *
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 11 Commemoration of Martin, Bishop of
Tours & Søren Kierkegaard, Teacher
Martin Luther Baptized
Veterans Day
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
6:30 PM Brownie Troop #557 Meeting
7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 12 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
- 13 Pastor's Day Off
- 14 8:00 AM Sack Hunger Event
- 15 Manna Sunday
9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal)
9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
(Messiah Lutheran)
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC)
- 16 11:40 AM School Chapel
5:00 PM MCEF Pizza Night *
- 17 National Adoption Day
1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 18 6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 19 Children's Grief Awareness Day
Pastor's Day Off
11:00 AM Men's Bible Study *
- 20 Pastor @ HCSO Training
- 21
- 22 9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal)
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC)
11:45 AM Thanksgiving Luncheon
- 23 11:40 AM School Chapel
- 24 Commemoration of Justus Falckner,
Jehu Jones, & William Passavant,
Pastors
9:30 AM Pastor @Richmond Conference
of Pastors *

- 24 1:30 PM Daily Discipleship Bible Study
(CANCELED)
7:00 PM Community Thanksgiving
Service
- 25 Public Schools Closed - No Preschool
(Childcare Available)
6:00 PM Centering Prayer (Atlee House)
7:00 PM Messiah InSync Rehearsal
- 26 MESSIAH CLOSED - THANKSGIVING
HOLIDAY
Thanksgiving Day
- 27 MESSIAH CLOSED - THANKSGIVING
HOLIDAY
Pastor's Day Off
- 28
- 29 9:15 AM Guest Congregation Meets
(All Souls Episcopal)
9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
(Messiah Lutheran)
10:45 AM Worship Service (MLC)
- 30 11:40 AM School Chapel
6:15 PM Mutual Ministry Mtg.

* Off site



National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month. If you or someone you know is interested in adoption or foster care, please have them contact **Maurice Galimore** at Lutheran Family Services of Virginia (800-359-3834) or visit <http://www.lfsva.org>. **Pastor Lou** serves as a trustee for Lutheran Family Services of Virginia.



International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, Sunday, November 8

Today's greatest untold story is that more than 100 million Christians worldwide face persecution for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Daily, Christians in countries such as Eritrea, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Sudan and Sri Lanka face imprisonment, violence and even death. IDOP is a time set apart for us to remember thousands of our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who suffer persecution, simply because they confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

We invite you to explore the variety of resources at idop.org and opendoorsusa.org. Please join Christians worldwide in praying for persecuted Christians this November.

Need another reason to join the choir?

Consider this: Neuroscientists in Sweden discovered that singers' heartbeats tend to synchronize, which leads to a sense of emotional calm and bonding.

"Joint action leads to joint perspectives," write the researchers. "In other words, singers may change their egocentric perspective of the world to a 'we-perspective,' which causes them to perceive the world from the same point of view."

So start singing — and enjoy the many benefits and blessings of being part of a choir!

Synod Transition Team Appointed

A new bishop will be elected during the 2017 Virginia Synod Assembly. A resolution was passed in 2015 requesting a report on the process for election to be made available to all congregations 60 days prior to the 2016 assembly. The Synod Council has established a Virginia Synod Transition Team with the following responsibilities:

- 1) Publish a recommendation for the election process for the bishop sixty days before the Synod Assembly, June 10-12, 2016.
- 2) Plan and lead conference gatherings for this election process in the fall and spring prior to the June 2017 synod assembly.
- 3) Give oversight for a time of recognition for Bishop and his Staff at the 2017 Synod Assembly
- 4) Provide assistance for the newly elected Bishop in the summer of transition
- 5) Provide support to the planning of the newly elected Bishop's Installation, September 2017
- 6) Determine the committee's schedule of meetings and supporting task groups for carrying out its tasks.
- 7) Make timely updates and reports for the Synod Council's scheduled meetings.
- 8) Recommend and Request funds as needed from the Synod Council.

The Rev. Roy Riley, Bishop Emeritus of the New Jersey Synod has been asked to serve as a consultant to their proceedings. Synod Secretary, **Ms. Blythe Scott, Esquire**, will serve as the Chair for this Transition Committee. **Pastor Lou** has been appointed to represent the Richmond Conference of Lutheran Congregations with a term beginning on November 7th and ending in September 2017.

Please pray for the entire Transition Team and our Synod during this important process.



We offer our heartfelt congratulations to **Wesley Williams** and family upon his baptism on Sunday, October 11th.

We also celebrate with **Kirsten and Katryn Combs**, confirmed on Reformation Sunday.

May the Lord continue to bless the lives of these young people and our congregation.



We have invited representatives of Comfort Zone Camp join us on Sunday, November 15, during worship to share about their wonderful programs.

Comfort Zone Camp is a nonprofit 501(c)3 bereavement camp that transforms the lives of children who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, or primary caregiver. The free camps include confidence building programs and age-based support groups that break the emotional isolation grief often brings. Comfort Zone Camps are offered to children 7-17, and are held year-round across the country. Family members attending Messiah have benefitted from their programs. Children's Grief Awareness Day is November 19th.

All Things MCEF



Closet Needs:

Linen: queen and king sheets, towels
 Adult clothing: clothing for men-jackets, shirts, pants, belts, shoes
 Infant: diapers
 Children: new socks and underwear
 Teen Closet: needs a new home

Food Pantry: Now accepting "Thanksgiving Bags". Decorate outside of bag, list of items to fill bags is in narthex. Save your empty egg cartons for the pantry, place in grocery cart in narthex.



Hanover Senior Rides: Provided 22 rides to individuals in September, need more drivers, call 357-9360 if interested.

Mechanicsville Christmas Parade, Dec 6, 2015 starting at 2:00, MCEF Float will collect food along the route.

MCEF has a new, more efficient phone number, (804)774-8212 and new revised brochures located in the narthex.

Go to <http://www.4mcef.com> for more information about everything that MCEF is about.

Question? Contact **Pat or Gladys Hubert**

- The Home Depot Foundation has awarded Messiah Lutheran Church and School with a grant to rebuild the Preschool Playground. [Read more about it on p.1]
- On October 15th we participated in the Great ShakeOut. This is a program to help remind our children and staff of what to do in the event of an earthquake.
- We have begun our Yankee Candle Fundraiser and it runs through November 6th. If you would like to place an order, please see the table in the narthex.
- We will be going to the Ashland Berry Farm to pick pumpkins and enjoy the fall festivities.
- On October 30th we will be having a Halloween Party. This year we are allowing children to dress in costume as long as it follows certain guidelines. We are hoping to have a door decorating contest for the classrooms as well as other fun events and crafts.
- Pack the Pantry has begun. Please see the narthex table for a list of items if you'd like to contribute non-perishable items for school use.
- We are continuing to do tours and accept enrollments. If you have any friends or family looking for childcare please send them our way

“Take the Plunge”

Volunteer Opportunities
from Social Ministry

✦ **Volunteer: Special Event Aide, Animal Control @ Taylor Complex, Ashland, VA**

Volunteer will perform various duties at events sponsored by Animal Control, such as rabies clinics (completion of rabies certificates, selling of county dog licenses) and pet adoption stands (educating interested parties about animal for adoption). If you have questions, please contact the Human Resources department at 804-365-6075 or email: humanresources@hanovercounty.gov

✦ **Become a Therapy Dog Team at VCU- Join Dogs On Call!**

Do you have a dog that loves people? You and your pet could make an impact in the lives of others as a Therapy Dog Team. The “Dogs on Call Program” enhances the wellbeing of patients and staff through in-hospital visitation by trained and certified dog-handler teams from the community! There are also opportunities to participate in studies and educational events! This program is offered through The Center for Human-Animal Interaction. Established in the VCU School of Medicine in June 2001, the purpose of the Center for Human-Animal Interaction is to provide a formal structure for and promote interdisciplinary and interinstitutional research, clinical practice, and educational activities related to the human-animal relationship. Contact **Rebecca Holloway** at 804-628-2532 for more information.

✦ **Meals on Wheels drivers – Feed More, Inc.**

Volunteers deliver meals to homebound individuals during the weekday. Volunteers staff 92 routes every weekday from 11 distribution sites - metro Richmond, South Richmond, Chesterfield, Mechanicsville, Ashland, Powhatan/Goochland,

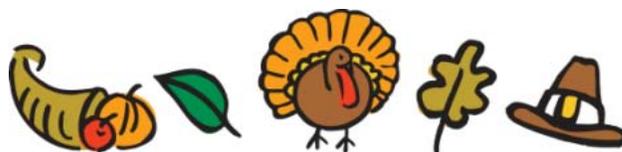
tri-cities, New Kent, Louisa, Charles City and, Colonial Heights delivering over 1000 meals in the 14 localities. In addition Meals on Wheels provides a variety of ancillary services and daily safety checks for clients. Requirements include: Driver's License needed; Background Check; Must be at least 21; Orientation or Training; 2.5 hours on a given day; Weekday opportunity. Contact **Sudeshna Das-Menezes** at (804) 521-3277 for more information.

✦ **Data entry, phone: Volunteer Connection-Intake Team – American Red Cross**

People are needed to process prospective volunteers through the Volunteer Connection computer system. Free training is needed on the Volunteer Connection database and policies regarding processing volunteers. Once trained, this service can be done remotely. For more information call (804) 780-2250.

✦ **Memory Bear Sewer - Medi Home Health and Hospice**

Do you have a passion for sewing and would like a way to give back to a hospice family? Please help us make a difference by being a part of our Memory Bear Sewers program. As a part of our Bereavement Program, families can bring in a garment from their departed loved one for our Memory Bear Sewers to make teddy bears out of. We then give these Memory Bears back to the family as a keepsake and remembrance of their loved one. Please contact **Travis Kennedy** at 804-282-4301 for more information.



SO MANY BLESSINGS

Sack Hunger

All Souls Episcopal, Messiah Lutheran and several other area congregations will pack sack lunches for distribution to area homeless. Join us in our fellowship hall at 8:00 am on Saturday, November 14th. Many hands make light work!

Thank you...

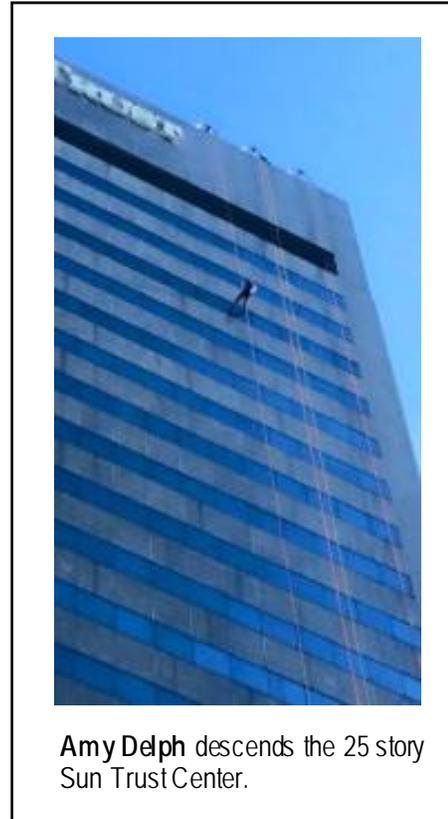
- **Sally Bennett, Donna Combs, and Gladys Hubert** for cleaning out our church office
- **Judy Schwerdtfeger** for organizing the Wandering Lutherans' trip to Tangier Island



"Thank you for your generous donation... to the Families of the Wounded Fund, Inc. received during your Independence Day Celebration.

"Your contribution will make such a difference to the families of our brave service men and women who have already sacrificed so much on our behalf. These dollars will go a long way to relieve the stress and financial burden that, up until now, so many of these families have shouldered alone.

"Although you may never meet the families that you have helped—please know they are very grateful."



Amy Delph descends the 25 story Sun Trust Center.

You sent us Over the Edge!

Amy Delph and the Virginia Synod Team "Fools for Christ" returned to the ground safely on Saturday, October 17th, raising approximately \$4000 for Special Olympics Virginia. In three years, our Synod teams led by Messiah members have raised over \$18,000! Our 2015 team included: Pastor Lou (Messiah, Mechanicsville), Amy Delph (Messiah, Mechanicsville), and Vicar Nathan Huffman (Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Richmond now interning at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Norge). Thanks to all those who helped us support this worthy cause. Special Olympics Virginia helps provide athletic events, as well as medical/dental, educational and social supports for those with intellectual disabilities and their families. To learn more, visit their website:

www.specialolympicsva.org.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111



November, 2015

Messenger

page 12



"What is Lutheran?"

by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

"Small churches have assets"

by Pastor Jim Baseler

"Comics-another way to tell God's story" by Vicar Nathan Huffman

You can find these and other headlines, and the stories following them, in *The Virginia Lutheran*, the monthly newsletter of the Virginia Synod ELCA. Check it out at

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs175/1101896013264/archive/1122391589806.html>

The DEADLINE for the **December, 2015/January, 2016** edition of *The Messenger* is **Sunday, November 15th**

Please call me with your written submission, place your written submission in the "Newsletter" mail slot OR email susiew51@comcast.net



VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2015