

The

MESSENGER



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

MAY 2019

Announcement for the Joan M. Barnes Memorial Scholarship

Your church council is pleased to announce a scholarship fund which has been established “for the furtherance of education of college-bound youth who attend Messiah Lutheran Church.” These \$3000 non-renewable scholarships have been funded through the Estate of **Joan M. Barnes**, a member of our congregation, and they will be awarded to Messiah Youth who are entering or enrolled in post-secondary education, either in an undergraduate college program or at a technical school.

The application process will be available in the Sunday bulletins, monthly newsletter, and on the church website (in the Updates section) as well as on the bulletin board in the narthex. **Applications for this year must be received in the church office by 3PM on Monday, May 20th and will not be considered after that date and time.** The recipient(s) will be announced at the Church Picnic on June 2, 2019.

As a former educator and life-long Conservative Christian, Joan spent many hours planning how these scholarships could help youth of our church fulfill her only requirement: “to make the most of the

educational opportunities that are presented to you.” All together there will be five scholarships of \$3000 each available for Messiah Youth in the coming years. The scholarship money will be sent directly to the post-secondary institution and will only be awarded once to any student.

If you have any questions after you have reviewed the application requirements, please e-mail **Sally Bennett** at sallybennett3317@gmail.com.

Sally Bennett, Bob Griffin, and Debbie Walker

Messiah Lutheran Church Scholarship Committee

Application details included in this newsletter on page 7.

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**Your 2019 Church Council
 And Associate Members**

James Anderson Council President
Donna ShawVice-President
Sally Bennett Secretary

John Cline **Becky Collie**
Karen Morris **Roger Schroeder**
Daren Williams

Council Liaisons

Christian Education **Donna Shaw**
 Evangelism **John Cline**
 Finance **James Anderson**
 Property **Roger Schroeder**
 Social Ministry **Karen Morris**
 Stewardship **Daren Williams**
 Worship **Sally Bennett**

Shawn WarmbrodTreasurer
Bill Weaver..... Financial Secretary
Sue Gilnett, RN...Parish Nurse

Trustees: **Leroy Albertson, Gordon Gunn, Pat Hubert.**

Synod Assembly

James Anderson and **Donna Shaw** will represent Messiah Lutheran Church at Synod Assembly on June 7-8 at Roanoke College in Salem, VA.

This year’s Synod Assembly Theme builds on the new Virginia Synod Vision of Faithful +Bold + Serving. “Grounded in God’s bold faithfulness to humanity and empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit, we respond to God’s gift of grace with bold and servant faith, with faithful and servant boldness, and with faithful and bold serving.”



Help keep us secure!

The doors going out of the narthex and into the parking lot do not always close completely when someone leaves the building. Please help us make sure the doors are secure by testing them upon leaving the church. There have been instances over the last several months where the church has been left “open” because the doors have not latched tightly. Thank you for your help in keeping our building secure.



Messiah on Pinterest

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

An Update from the Call Committee

The Call Committee (CC) has met with **Rebecca Walls**, Synod Administrator for the Call Process, to review the call process and explain the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Some comments she shared at our meeting included making sure that our Website is current and that Facebook shows an engaged congregation. She also suggested preparing a packet for candidates we will interview that would include not only information about Messiah but also local information that would be helpful in their getting to know Mechanicsville and the surrounding areas. Currently the CC is gathering information and reading over the Call Process Handbook to be ready to move forward. Our next scheduled meeting is May 19.

Hopefully all of you have received a letter outlining the Call Process that we are in the beginning stage of, in the search for our next pastor. Of greatest importance right now is gathering the necessary information to complete the MSP for Messiah. One survey and a series of Cottage Meetings have taken place to begin this arduous task. A second survey will be distributed either through Survey Monkey if the church office has your email or by hard-copy if not. Additional Cottage meetings may take place in May as well. It is our hope that by the end of May all confirmed members will have had an opportunity to fill out the surveys and attend one of the cottage meetings to help in the information gathering process. When all information has been collected, the CC will then fill out the MSP and present it to council for their approval.

Going forward, please know that while this is not a secretive process, it is confidential. We will provide updates as they are appropriate, but realize this is a slow, methodi-

cal process to help us find candidates that match our expectations. This is an exciting time for Messiah, knowing that God is not done with us yet! Please keep the CC in your thoughts and prayers as we look forward to the possibilities!

Serving Him,

Your Call Committee (**Sharon Addair, LeRoy Albertson, Tracey Anderson, Johnnie Collie, Rosalie Cline, and Donna Shaw**)

Bulletin announcements

Those who would like to place announcements in the Sunday bulletin please send them to **Donna Shaw** at dmslaw70@gmail.com for inclusion.

Please understand that if they are too long you may be asked to edit them. Please send your information by Wednesday morning, so that Davina can be ready to print the bulletin on Thursday morning.

Say it with flowers



Our altar flower chart has lots of empty dates that could be filled by you! The weekly amount is \$46.00 Just pick a date, write your name, and note a special occasion if appropriate. Checks should be made out to Messiah Lutheran Church with "altar flowers" on the memo line. Specific dates need to be paid for 2 weeks in advance. General donations can be made to the flower fund at any time following the same guidelines.



Dear Messiah family,

I am writing because my heart is so full of gratitude. The cards from individuals and the Shepard's Team at Messiah to my dear mother have been so appreciated.

While she can no longer read very well (unless it's a 25 pt. font!) I read them to her as they come in and it fills both her heart and mine that you take the time to remember us.

What a gift you all have been for me. There was no mistake that God put me in your midst. I will forever be grateful for our time together and continue to be grateful for your presence in my life.

Mom is doing just "OK".....She is a trooper and continues to live each day with the trust in the Lord's promise. She fell 2 weeks ago and broke her collar bone so that has set her back quite drastically. I ask for your continued prayers. Both for she and myself.

While we remain in the Lenten season of hope and reflection, we will soon be gathering for Holy Week and the light of the resurrection yet to come.

God's peace and blessings to you all. My heart is full because of your care and love.

Peace+
Vicar Ginny

Editor's note: This was written, obviously, before Easter and intended for that time period. Since this newsletter is being published later, there is a bit of a time lag. Apologies to Vicar Ginny.



May 4 Elliot Hendrickson
10 Leroy Deere
12 Jessica McKenna
23 Dale Umberger
26 Mac McAllister



May 18 Adam Sr. & Bonnie Dworak

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



It is with great sadness that we have to inform you of **Marc Thomas'** recent death.

Cards can be sent to the family at the following: Sarah Thomas, 1012 Forest Ave, Richmond, VA 23229.

To make donations to help offset medical and funeral costs for the family go to: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/r9hfq-helping-my-dad>.

Please keep Marc's family in your thoughts and prayers through the following days and weeks.



We pray for each other:

Charlie Absher; Kenneth Deere; Adam Dworak, Sr.; JoAn Firebaugh; Elisabeth Gardner; Werner Gardner; Steve Gilnett; "Doc" Kondaki; Linda Krupa; Mac McAllister; Pat Motley; Jack Ordazzo; Ruth Schroeder; Judy Schwerdtfeger.

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Debra Anton, sister of Ruth Schroeder; **Cyndi Bauer**, sister of Lois Schroeder; **Connie**, friend of the Whirleys; **Family & Friends of Jenn Drazenovich's dad**; **Chuck Dupuy**, son-in-law of Joan Barnes; **David and Sandi Elliott**, friends of the Whirleys; **Connie Gambini**, friend and co-worker of Becky Collie; **Family & Friends of Mel Gray**, former member; **Robin Hood**, brother of Marilyn Gunn; **Bill Leaver**, friend of Charlie & Sally Bennett; **Mullen Family**, friends of the Whirleys; **Dieter Niklas**, brother of Erna Jung; **Evelyn Poulsen**, mother of Roger Schroeder; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Sandy Street**, sister of Donna Shaw; **Susan**, friend of the Whirleys; **Family & Friends of Marc Thomas**; **Family & Friends of Mary Alice Wightman**, mother-in-law of Jean Wightman; **Gary Williams**, father of Daren Williams; **Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families, especially Ian Schwerdtfeger**; **Law enforcement, firefighters and first responders**; **The people of All Souls Episcopal and our shared ministry**; **All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Iraq, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.**¹

To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the church office, 746-7134. If leaving a message, include your contact information for follow-up. Unless we hear otherwise, individuals will be removed quarterly. Memorial prayers will run a minimum of two weeks and then be included in our All Saints Sunday activities.

"Beloved, pray for us." (1 Thes. 5:25) – Continuing a practice from our 50th anniversary year, your worship team is challenging everyone to actively, intentionally pray for our community's prayer list throughout the week. In addition, we will be having special intentions for several of our membership households each Sunday.

Pastoral care issues?

In the event of a pastoral care issue going forward, call the church phone number during the days: Mon-Fri, and call your council's current executive committee (**James Anderson, Donna Shaw or Sally Bennett**), if after business hours or on the weekends for an emergency. Their contact information is in your congregational address book.

Assisting in this effort is **Pastor Katie Pocalyko**, Dean of the Richmond Conference, who will find appropriate help when needed.



Join Messiah on Facebook!

¹ Open Doors World WatchList 2019

May 2019						
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	

Calendar of events

- 1 Feast of Philip & James, Apostles
- 2 National Day of Prayer
Commemoration of Athanasius
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 3 Church Office Closed on Fridays
- 4 International Firefighters Day
Martin Luther become Knight George (1521)
- 5 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Lutheran:
Faith Formation for All Ages
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
11:00 AM All Souls Episcopal:
Faith Formation for All Ages
- 6
- 7 10:00 AM Richmond Conference Mtg. *
7:30 PM Taizé Prayer (Richmond Hill)
- 8 Commemoration of Julian of Norwich,
Renewer of the Church
Warrant for Luther Issued (1521)
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Meeting
- 9 Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf,
Renewer of the Church, Hymnwriter
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 10 Church Office Closed on Fridays
Virginia Lutheran Items Due
- 11
- 12 Mother's Day
9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Lutheran:
Faith Formation for All Ages
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
11:00 AM All Souls Episcopal:
Faith Formation for All Ages
- 13
- 14 Feast of Matthias, Apostle
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 15 Peace Officers Memorial Day
- 16 7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 17 Church Office Closed on Fridays
- 18 Armed Forces Day
9:00 AM *Church Council Annual
Retreat (CoolWell Community
Clubhouse, Mechanicsville)
- 19 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Lutheran:
Faith Formation for All Ages
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
11:00 AM All Souls Episcopal:
Faith Formation for All Ages
- 20 First Council of Nicea Meets (325 AD)
5:00 PM Stevie B night for MCEF
- 21 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 22 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Meeting
- 23 7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 24 Church Office Closed on Fridays
- 25
- 26 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Lutheran:
Faith Formation for All Ages
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
11:00 AM All Souls Episcopal:
Faith Formation for All Ages
- 27 Memorial Day
Commemoration of John Calvin,
Renewer of the Church
- 28 10:00 AM Terrific Tuesday Club
(Hanover Parks & Rec.)
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 29 Commemoration of Jiri Tranovský
- 30 Ascension Day
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 31 Church Office Closed on Fridays
Feast of the Ascension
Feast of the Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

* Off Site



The Joan M. Barnes Memorial Scholarship

This \$3000 non-renewable scholarship, funded through the Estate of Joan M. Barnes, is for the furtherance of education of college-bound youth who attend Messiah Evangelical Church. Joan Barnes was a former educator and life-long Conservative Christian, and her only requirement upon making plans for this scholarship before she passed away, was for recipients "to make the most of the educational opportunities that are presented to you."

Our application process consists of an essay, not to exceed one-typed page, as well as an official copy of your high-school transcript, which you or your parent can request from your HS guidance department. **Please begin this application by writing your name, address, and post-secondary institution to which you have applied, have been accepted, and, at this point, plan to attend in the fall.**

Your essay should give us considerable information about the following:

- Your goals and aspirations, and how they may have been formed by growing up in Messiah's Christian tradition;
- What you have chosen as your post-secondary course of study at this point? And why;
- Your involvement in service to others, for example: extracurricular activities as well as community and/or church service, including what you have done and how many years you've been involved for each area above;
- If you have been unable to participate in the above activities due to having to have employment to earn money for college, where has your employment been located, how many years did you work, and on average, how many hours per week have you worked there?
- Please feel free to add additional comments to support your application.

The deadline for 2019 is RECEIPT of your application by 3PM on Monday, May 20th, or your application will not be considered. Please mail your Essay and a Copy of your Official High School Transcript to: Church Office, Messiah Lutheran Church, 8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111. You may also drop it off at the church office between 7:30AM-3 PM on Mon. and Wed. or 7:30-12 noon Tues., Thurs., or Friday. (Please write "Scholarship Application" on the envelope if you are mailing it.) The scholarship recipient(s) will be announced at the church picnic on June 2, 2019.

If the guidance office won't give the transcript directly to you or your parent, please have them mail it directly to our church office at the above address to be received by the deadline.

Please note: The award money will be sent directly to your post-secondary institution for the second-semester of your first year, or in the case of someone already enrolled in an undergraduate program, for the upcoming first semester.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sally Bennett, Bob Griffin, and Debbie Walker
Messiah Lutheran Scholarship Committee



CFFY Corner

(Christian Formation for You)

MOVIE:

Unbridled (2017) tells a tremendous story of redemption and triumph, with a message of unconditional love: teenage girls overcome formidable obstacles and live a fulfilling life in spite of adverse circumstances. *Unbridled* is a story that dives deep into the human heart, and shines a light on the goodness and altruism of authentic people who view life as greater than themselves. This stirring film puts the spotlight on a real and painful potential problem for young girls, but at the same time it offers inspirational hope! It clearly demonstrates the difference that the support of family and friends, and a submission to God, can make. This is an educational film as well as a dramatic one. The film is rated PG-13 with an IMDb rating of 8.2/10. The mature theme means the movie is definitely geared toward ages 12 and above, and so received the Dove Seal for Ages 12+.

ADULT BOOK:

The Screwtape Letters, a masterpiece of satire, is a classic that has entertained and enlightened readers the world over with its sly and ironic portrayal of human life from the vantage point of Screwtape, a senior tempter in the service of "Our Father Below." At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, C. S. Lewis gives us the correspondence of the worldly-wise old devil to his nephew Wormwood, a novice demon in charge of securing the damnation of an ordinary young man. The Screwtape Letters is the most engaging and humorous account of temptation—and triumph over it—ever written. Goodreads has given it a rating of 4.2 with almost 300,000 ratings.

YOUTH BOOK:

When Lightning Struck: The Story of Martin Luther is a book written for teens by Danika Cooley. Martin Luther's life was too exciting not to be written for teens and younger readers! In this fast-paced, action-packed novel of Martin Luther's life, teen readers (and more than a few adults!) will be introduced to the life and adventures of Martin Luther. The book introduces readers to a kindred spirit who struggled with what knowing God through Scripture means for daily life. Study resources are available at: <https://www.thinkingkidsblog.org/martin-luther-reformation-unit-study/> at Thinking Kids Press.

DEVOTIONAL:

Pray Your Way Through the Scriptures! is a devotional set of books written by Adam Hogue, who is a preacher, teacher and Christian author. There is nothing more powerful or life-changing than God's Word. By His word everything was created and it is by His word that He created life. When His words enter your heart, He has promised that they will not return to Him void, but bring forth life and create a newness in your soul daily. There are 9 different books in his series. Goodreads has given it a rating of 4.4 and the book(s) are in a variety of formats.

- Donna Shaw



Women's Bible study

Women's Bible Study is exploring Max Lucado's, ***Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World***.

The ladies meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. Please contact **Valerie Williams**, if interested.



Through ChurchNext, learn from expert teachers in Scripture, liturgy, and important Christian topics. Students can interact in a safe, online environment that's convenient, engaging, and affordable. Here is a current listing of the newest FREE courses through ChurchNext:

- **Reading the Bible Through the Lens of Conflict** with Padric O Tuama

Discover new ways to handle conflict by reading scripture through a different lens. The gift of conflict? Sure, it sounds counter-intuitive, but Padraig O Tuama says conflict is the inevitable outcome of the gift of individuality. What's more, he's convinced that reading the Bible through the lens of conflict can bring us to deeper places of peace, not because we agree, but because we can learn to live in the tension.

In this class, O Tuama unpacks the topic, revealing how peace can come not through agreement, but through a shared regard for scripture and its teaching. Here are the titles of his video presentations:

What Is Spirituality of Conflict?

- Practice
- Table of Interpretation
- Peacemaking and Spirituality

Also being offered at this time:

- **Revelation: The End of the World or Heaven on Earth?** with Michael Battle For Individuals

And more...

Sound interesting? Go to <https://churchnextblog.wordpress.com/free-courses/> and start today!

Power in the Spirit is coming!

Power in the Spirit will take place on July 11-13 at Roanoke College in Salem, Va. This year's theme is "Children of the Heavenly Father". What does it mean when a congregation makes promises to the one who is baptized? How does everyone in a church--regardless of age--receive the newly baptized? How do we all follow the way of discipleship and help each other grow in faith? How do we recognize each other as children of the same heavenly Father--no matter our differences? Come to Power in the Spirit to explore these questions, and more!

Guiding the way will be **Dr. Dawn Rundman**, keynote presenter and expert in child developmental psychology. She also develops faith formation resources for Sparkhouse and Augsburg Fortress. The Bible study leader will be **The Rev. Dr. Rolf Jacobson**, Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary. Last but not least is **George Donovan**, who will lead the music! He is music director for Bethel Lutheran church in Winchester and has been a longtime member of the Power in the Spirit Team.

Power in the Spirit will be hosting children at this event, while their accompanying adults attend optional workshops, such as academic lectures, hearing about social ministries going on all across VA, or getting their hands covered in dirt with Habitat for Humanity.

All are welcome! Come and learn! Come for fellowship! Come to Power in the Spirit 2019! Please check the main bulletin board for a flyer along with a pamphlet that has session descriptions along with The Rundown for the weekend. Applications will be posted as well.

You can also get information and register online: <https://www.vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/>

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8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111

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Floating on faith

As a man and his young daughter were boating one day, their vessel sprang a leak. The father knew he'd have to swim to shore but couldn't with the child in tow. She hadn't gotten far in swimming lessons but could float on her back, so he told her to do so and promised to return.

Coast Guard personnel were skeptical that a child could survive so long in the water. But hours later, as the sun set and they considered halting the search, someone spied a red dress amid the waves. The girl, still floating, was singing a hymn. Astounded, rescuers asked how she held on so long. "My daddy said he'd come back for me," she said, "and he never breaks his promises."

The DEADLINE for the
June 2019
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, May 19th

Please call me with your
submission, hand me a written
submission OR email
susiew51@comcast.net

