

The

MESSENGER



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

AUGUST 2019

Summer Sprout: Part 2



Summer Sprout is this summer's VBS alternative. Instead of a week-long camp, children (pre-school to 5th grade) are invited to gather on the second of two Sunday afternoons. They will learn songs, play games, and more. Snacks will be provided.

The second gathering is scheduled for August 11 from 3-5:00 at All Souls Atlee House (9077 Atlee Rd) where the activities will center around a harvest theme.

The Summer Sprout team includes **Donna Combs, Valerie Williams** and **Tracey Anderson** from Messiah and **Donna Haynes, Karen Bower** and **Nikki D'Adamo-Damery** of All Souls.

Please see **Donna, Valerie, or Tracey** if you have questions. Hope to see you there!



Call Committee update

After completing an initial draft of the Ministry Site Profile on July 14, it was presented to Council at their meeting on July 17. When minor editing and additions are done, the Profile will be sent back to Council for their final vote before it is then sent on to Synod for their approval. It is the hope of the Call Committee that there will be an approved document by September. Our next update will be when we have Synod approval.

Thanks to all who have participated in this endeavor whether by attending cottage meetings, filling out surveys, or assisting in other ways. The Call Committee could not have done this without you!

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VISIT OUR MLC WEBSITE:
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Your 2019 Church Council And Associate Members

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Sally Bennett Secretary

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Karen Morris **Roger Schroeder**
Daren Williams

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Sue Gilnett, RN... Parish Nurse

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

Virginia Synod News

“**Pastor John Schweitzer** [retired] on July 1 from First English, Richmond, after 47 years of ministry---almost 18 at First English and 29 years at Immanuel, Somerton, PA. His wife, **Rev. Dr. Carol Schweitzer**, who has taught pastoral care at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, since 2001, [and who has also served as supply pastor at Messiah] also is retiring and they are moving to Doylestown, PA, to be near family.”

“Retired **Pastor Chris Price**, who served at Epiphany, Richmond, will be interim pastor at First English, Richmond, following the retirement of Pastor John Schweitzer.”

- From July, 2019, edition of *The Virginia Lutheran*, a monthly publication of the Virginia Synod, ELCA. VASynod.org



Office hours

Davina 's office hours at Messiah are 7:30 am to 3:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. On Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, she will be in the office from 7:30 am to 12:00 pm.



Messiah on Pinterest

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

Pastoral letter

“God days” of summer

What a warm and gracious welcome you have given to **Cindy** and I as we have come into your midst. It is truly a joy to be among you and with you. I look forward to getting to know all of you in the months ahead. As we grow our relationship, I hope you will feel free to call on me if there is a need. For general matters or church questions, please contact me through the church office or by email. If you have an emergency, please know that, even though I am part time, I will try to make myself available whenever you need me. For those times of emergency, please call my phone: 540-760-4089. I am here to be your interim pastor until you are able to call your next regular pastor. However, this is more than my holding someone else's place. We will continue to do the ministry you all know and support with your time, talents and treasures. We may also do some new things, or some old things in new ways. I don't know what that will look like yet, but together we will find out. Whatever it is and wherever it takes us, God will be with us every step of the way. In the meantime, if you ever have a concern, a hope, an idea, a joy to share - please do.

As I write this, it is oppressively hot outside. It is what some have called the “dog days of summer”. But what if we reversed that word and called them the God days of summer? That may not change the temperature on the thermometer, but it may change how we look at these days. To see our days as “God days” can make all the difference. What if we began our day with the psalmist who said: “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!”? What if we saw each day

as a day of God's new creation: “And there was evening and there was morning, the first day!”? Or what if we hear the words from Corinthians: “See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!”? When we consider all of that, our days truly become “God days”: days where God is making something new; days where God is accomplishing God's purpose in our lives; days that we can indeed rejoice and be glad in! I pray that God will be able to turn your dog days in God days!

Blessings to you - this day, and every day!

Pastor Richard Carbaugh



Confirmation, anyone?

We are currently trying to determine if there is an interest by any of our members to work toward being confirmed. Often this happens for our 8th or 9th graders, but sometimes youth of other grade levels or ages are confirmed as well.

Students will meet with Pastor Carbaugh throughout the year and explore some things about the Church, the Bible, Luther's Catechism, and other important teachings and practices of what it means to be a Lutheran Christian. Study will begin in the fall.

If you've been wondering about this or have questions, please speak with **Pastor Carbaugh**.





We commend to the Lord of the Resurrection our brother in Christ, **Charles Dean Absher** who died on July 3rd. Please keep Diane and her family in your prayers. A special thanks to all who helped support the worship and fellowship held at the church as we celebrated Charlie's life and his new life in Christ.

"We do not live to ourselves and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's".

In addition, we recently received word that **Joe Dunker** went to be with the Lord on June 30th. For those who didn't know him, Joe made the wooden cross that is attached to the outside front of the Fellowship Hall, in memory of **Cleve Newell, Bee and Grover Newell's** son. Joe and his wife **Anna** and their daughter **Laura** some of us remember as faithful members of Messiah for many years.

"You can do what I cannot do.
I can do what you cannot do.
Together, we can do great things."

— Mother Teresa



Join Messiah on Facebook!



August 2 Katryn Combs
4 Doris Ewing
4 Bill Weaver
16 Kyle Starret
22 Kevin Hendrickson
30 Patrick Collie



August 11 Johnnie & Becky Collie
26 John & Rosalee Cline

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

"Letter" to the editor

"I wonder if anyone else read the article in *Living Lutheran*, written by the pastor of St. Mark's in Charlottesville, 'Do I Really Need to go to Church on Sunday?' I found it to be interesting and good to think about why we need to go to church regularly." - **Donna Combs**

If you have not read it, this article can be found in the July edition of *Living Lutheran* magazine, in the "Virginia Synod News" section. Copies may still be found on the table in the narthex. - **Ed.**



We pray for each other:

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

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Family and Friends of Charlie Absher; Debra Anton, sister of Ruth Schroeder; **Cyndi Bauer**, sister of Lois Schroeder; **Lewis and Nell Brothers**, friends of Schwerdtfegers; **Chuck Dupuy**, son-in-law of Joan Barnes; **David and Sandi Elliott**, friends of the Whirleys; **Dylan and Family**, friends of the Whirleys; **Family and Friends of Deborah Ford**, friend of Bill and Susie Weaver; **Connie Gambini**, friend and coworker of Becky Collie; **Family & Friends of Mel Gray**, former member; **Family & Friends of Bill Leaver**, friend of Charlie & Sally Bennett; **Family and friends of Joe Mehlbrech**, friend of Schwerdtfegers; **Mary Ann Modlin**, friend of Schwerdtfegers; **Family & Friends of Alvin Morlan**, father of Donna Shaw; **Mary Moyer**, sister-in-law of Schwerdtfegers; **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; **Pastor Carbaugh** as he leads us while we seek a Permanent Pastor; **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 Mauritania, Turkey, China, and Ethiopia.¹

¹ Open Doors World WatchList 2019

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.



Many thanks to those congregational members who volunteered to cover the church office for 44 hours while Hanover County held their summer camp for two weeks at Messiah in June. **Donna Combs** covered five shifts, **Johnnie Collie** three, and **Anita Philp, Jake Addair, Sharon Griffin**, and **Sally Bennett** one each. The county held their camp at MLC for one week last year and decided to add another week this year with two separate topics! We really appreciate your help in this endeavor.

Thanks again,
Your Messiah Church Council

August 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
 2 Secretary on Vacation
 3
 4 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
 5 Secretary on Vacation
 6 Secretary on Vacation
 7:30 PM Taizé Prayer (Richmond Hill)
 7 Secretary on Vacation
 8 Secretary on Vacation
 9 Secretary on Vacation
 10 Virginia Lutheran Items Due
 11 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
 3:00 PM Summer Sprout VBS
 (All Souls Atlee House)
- 
- 12
 13 Commemoration of
 Florence Nightengale & Clara Maass,
 Renewers of Society
 14 Commemoration of Maximilian Kolbe &
 Kaj Munk, Martyrs
 Local Remembrance: Jonathan Daniels
 15 Commemoration of Mary,
 Mother of Our Lord
 16 Local Remembrance: Br. Roger of Taizé'
 17
 18 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
 19 5:00 PM Stevie B night for MCEF

- 20 Commemoration of Bernard,
 Abbot of Clairvaux
 6:15 PM Council Meeting
 21
 22
 23
 24 Commemoration of Bartholomew,
 Apostle
 25 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
 10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
 26
 27
 28 Commemoration of Augustine,
 Bishop of Hippo
 Commemoration of Moses the Black,
 Monk & Martyr
 29 7:00 PM Choir Practice
 30
 31

* Off Site

Bulletin announcements

Those who would like to place announcements in the Sunday bulletin or have a midweek announcement, 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 bulletin information by Wednesday morning so that **Davina** can be ready to print the bulletin Thursday morning.



MCEF News



- Mark your September calendar for the 911 Patriotic concert by the John Marshall Alumni Band to benefit the MCEF food pantry. It will be Sunday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Walnut Grove Baptist Church on Cold Harbor Road. Admission is suggested \$2 and an item for the pantry shelves. Bring a friend and enjoy this beautiful evening.

- Keep filling your “Advent in July” bags with nonperishable food items and place them in the MCEF grocery cart in the narthex. Thank you for your continued support of our friends and neighbors in Mechanicsville.

-**Glady Hubert**



Heartfelt Thanks

From my heart, I wish to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to everyone at Messiah for all the prayers, love, and support I received during my extended illness. I thank God for each of you.

Peace, love, and blessings.

Linda Krupa

MCEF “Back to School” needs

All year long MCEF tries to help families in the Mechanicsville area supply the clothing their children need for school. In August, as children prepare to go back to school, our ability to help is very important. We even have a special day for families to bring their children to select clothing for school. We would like your help to make sure we can meet those needs.

- Some special needs at this time include: New socks and underwear for boys and girls in all sizes but especially boys (all sizes) and **girls size 14.**
- We also can use smaller women's and men's underwear for older children.
- If you or someone you know has good, gently worn clothing for school age children (pre-k thru 12th) we can always use those items.
- Boys jeans are on our “need” list at the present time. Thank you for your continuing help!

- **Donna Combs**



One more graduate!

Please take a moment to congratulate **Zachary DeGraff**, who graduated from Atlee High School this year. He will be attending Full Sail University in Winter Park, Florida in the fall for Game Design. Good luck and best wishes, Zachary!

CFFY Corner

(Christian Formation for You)



August Movies for You!

Touched by Grace (2014) - Cara Jarvis longs to be a part of the in-crowd at her new high school. In an effort to impress town hottie Brandon, she befriends Grace, a girl with Down Syndrome, a friendship she tries to hide when she meets popular girls Skylar and Quinn. When Skylar loses her bid to be on the Homecoming Court, she sets it up for Grace to win Homecoming Queen ... as the Senior Prank. Grace wins, is publicly humiliated, and Skylar rigs it so that Cara takes the blame. Cara must win back Brandon, restore her friendship with Grace, and save her reputation at her school. This is a touching movie and was awarded a Dove Seal for ages twelve plus. It runs 95 minutes and has an IMDb rating of 6.4.

Woodlawn (2015) - Tony Nathan lands in a powder keg of anger and violence when he joins fellow African-American students at Woodlawn High School after its government-mandated desegregation in 1973. The Woodlawn Colonels football team is a microcosm of the problems at the school and in the city, which erupts in cross burnings and riots, and Coach Tandy Gerelds is at a loss to solve these unprecedented challenges with his disciplinarian ways. It's only when Hank, an outsider who has been radically affected by the message of hope and love he experienced at a Christian revival meeting, convinces Coach Gerelds to let him speak to the team that something truly remarkable begins to happen. More than 40 players, nearly the entire team, black and white, give their lives over to the "better way" Hank tells them is possible through following Jesus, and the change is so profound in them it affects their coach, their school and their community in ways no one could

have imagined. It received 5 Dove Awards, a 6.5 rating from IMDb, runs 123 minutes, and is deemed appropriate for ages 12+.

Amazing Love: The Story of Hosea

(2012) - Teenagers Steve, Carrie, Cooper, and Gameboy embark on a weekend camping trip led by their church youth group leader Stuart and his wife Beth. Joining them is teen outsider Ashley, who is materialistic and self-involved, and whose bad attitude separates her from the rest of the group. When a confrontation occurs between Ashley and Carrie, this division widens. Hoping for a resolution, Stuart takes the opportunity to share with the group the touching story of the Old Testament prophet Hosea and his example of true commitment and unconditional love. Is this powerful story enough to inspire the teens to open their hearts to such an amazing love? It received a Dove rating for ages 12+, runs 80 minutes, and was rated 6.5 from IMDb.

Genesis: Paradise Lost (2017) - If there is one part of the Bible that has undergone more scrutiny and abuse than any other, it is the very beginning—Genesis. Both from within and outside the church, assaults on Genesis continue to question the Creation and ultimately the Creator. So, what exactly happened at the "Creation," at the "Beginning?" Creation Today and Seven-Fold Films is proud to announce that for the first time ever, using stunning visual effects and the latest in scientific research, Genesis will come to life right before your very eyes. We have heard the phrase "In the beginning" many times; now we get to see it on the big screen. This visually rewarding film is a milestone that can be watched and re-watched, earning the Dove Seal for All Ages. An added, articulate invitation by these brilliant minds to know Christ is given at the end of the film.

- **Donna Shaw**

“Leisure Group” opportunities

First English Lutheran has invited us to share 3 opportunities for travel and fellowship in the coming months:

- On Monday, August 19th, we are invited to hear John Riley give an interesting and informative presentation on the freedom flag that was designed in Richmond, Virginia following 9/11. There will be a box lunch and a chance to tour First English Lutheran Church, the first English language Lutheran church in Richmond.
- On Friday, September 27th, the “Leisure Group” invites us to tour Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson and Highland the home of James Monroe. The trip also includes lunch at the famous Michie Tavern.
- Thursday, December 12th, the group will travel to Baltimore to the German Christmas Markets. On the way home the group will ride through the Illuminate Lights Show in Meadow Event Park near Doswell.

For more details of these trips see the bulletin board in the Narthex or contact **Donna Combs**.

Community garden



Help feed our hungry neighbors! Regular Garden Work Days at All Souls’ Atlee House (9077 Atlee Rd.) are Sundays and Wednesdays, 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Your friends at All Souls look forward to having your laughter in the garden! We have a good time.



ELCA Good Gifts

Dear Messiah Lutheran Church,

What a gift you’ve given! Thank you for your generous gift of \$940.00 to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) ministries through ELCA Good Gifts.

Your Good Gift is a very good gift, indeed. With resources like seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you’re equipping God’s people – around the world and around the corner – with what they need to live abundant lives.

Thank you for your leadership in the vital ministries that we do together – and for your very good gift.

In God’s abundant grace,
Christina Jackson-Skelton
Executive Director, Mission Advancement

Traveling? Sick? Working?



If you can’t join us on a Sunday, please remember that online giving (one-time gifts or as repeated donations scheduled by you) is available. Visit our website at Messiahmech.com for details.

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The Master's works

As a skilled inventor, John Muir was a prized factory employee in Indianapolis. If not for an industrial accident in his 20s, he may have spent his life making things indoors. But after recovering from being temporarily blinded, Muir headed on a 1,000-mile walk to "consider the lilies." He then began doing that literally, as a botanist.

To his résumé, the 19th-century Renaissance man added naturalist, glaciologist, conservationist, founder of the Sierra Club, and Father of National Parks. Yet when Muir was asked what he did, he replied simply, "I study the inventions of God."¹

The DEADLINE for the
September 2019
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, August 18th

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

Creator of meteor showers and rain showers, forests and lakes, dandelions and gladiolas; of frogs, fish, flamingos, foxes and fireflies: thank you for summer. We rejoice in your marvelous works!¹

¹ From the NewsletterNewsletter, August, 2019