

The MESSENGER



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

FEBRUARY 2020

Annual Meeting report

On December 15, 2019, the annual budget and council election meeting was held.

The Annual Budget for 2020 was presented and was accepted by voice vote.

We thank and congratulate new church council members elected, **Anita Philp** and **Diana Sondor**, and re-elected returning council member **Karen Morris**, who will also serve as Council Secretary.

Many thanks for faithful service to retiring council members:

- **Sally Bennett**, who has served as Council Secretary, as well her continuing service as Worship Team leader.
- **Daren Williams**, who has served as Stewardship liaison and has also been involved in many issues concerning the church property.

Returning church council members are **James Anderson**, Council President; **Donna Shaw**, Vice-President; **John Cline**; **Becky Collie**; and **Roger Schroeder**.

Please thank all these folks for their service, especially since they are also dealing with the pastoral transition as well as their regular obligations to the congregation.



Congregation Meeting

Our annual reporting meeting will be held on Feb. 9, 2020, immediately following worship.

There will also be a congregational vote on a contract for roof replacement.

Please plan to attend this meeting, not only to learn about the active life of Messiah, but also to vote on a very important repair to our building.

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The Messenger

Published monthly by
Messiah Lutheran Church, ELCA
 8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111
 Church Office: (804) 746-7134
 FAX: (804) 746-5579

Rev. Richard Carbaugh, Interim Pastor
messiahmechpr@gmail.com
 Office hours: Vary
 Call office to confirm

Davina Winn, Administrative Assistant
 Office email: messiahmech@gmail.com
 Office hours: Mon. & Wed. 7:30 am—3 pm
 Tues., Thurs., Fri. 7:30 am—12 pm

Susie Weaver, Newsletter Editor
 Ph: 804-559-3503
 Email: susiew51@comcast.net

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

Your 2020 Church Council And Associate Members

James Anderson Council President
Donna Shaw Vice-President
Karen Morris Secretary

John Cline **Becky Collie**
Karen Morris **Anita Philp**
Roger Schroeder **Diana Sondor**

Council Liaisons

At the time of this newsletter's publication, council liaisons had not yet been selected.

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

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 by Wednesday for inclusion.

Thank you!

- To **Jake Addair** and **Roger Schroeder** for fixing the street sign so that it now shines brightly for all to see!
- And to **John Cline** for continuing his street sign ministry.
- To **Becky Collie** and the **Fellowship Team** for Sunday fellowships and special dinner events during 2019.

2020 Offering envelopes

Envelopes for 2020 are ready and in the Narthex. Please note that numbers have changed; so, in order to get proper credit for the correct year, use the new envelopes only for Sundays in 2020. Let **Bill Weaver** know if you do not see your envelopes.



Messiah on Pinterest

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

Pastoral Letter

Walking together... and waiting



What an exciting time for Messiah Lutheran! You have extended a call for your next pastor - and at the writing of this article, you are waiting to hear about the official acceptance of that call and to learn more details about how and when all of this will fall into place. There is every confidence that all of that will work out, and you will begin a new chapter in God's story that is Messiah. I am excited for you and look forward to seeing how all of this unfolds.

In the meantime, we will continue to walk together and serve our Lord in many and various ways. At the end of February, we will begin our Lenten journey. Lent prepares us for the celebration of the mystery of our Lord's redemptive act on the cross and His victory on Easter Day. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, Lent goes for 40 days (not counting Sundays) - 40, of course, is a very biblical number associated with the Israelites and Jesus time in the wilderness. It was a time of coming to an awareness of oneself - as individuals and as a community. We begin with ashes and the words: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." We recognize how empty life is without God.

The word Lent means 'springtime'. Spring is a time of new growth. It is a time when we move out of the cold and barrenness of winter to the signs of new life and warmer days and more hopeful times. Lent is our opportunity to discover that God does not leave us where we are, does not leave us in the winter of our lives, but walks with us until we get to the joy and victory of a new spring day. Lent is a time to reflect and even repent on where we have been

and where we are, so God can take us to where we will yet be. I pray you will be able to see this Lenten journey as an opportunity for God to lift you out of the ashes, and having been lifted up, discover new things growing in your spiritual life.

- **Pastor Carbaugh**



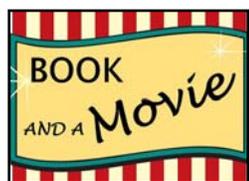
Global Barnyard Sunday

Beginning on January 26, the last Sunday of each month has been designated by the Christian Formation team as Global Barnyard Sunday. On these Sundays, please bring your Piggy Bank and empty it into the big Mason jar that you will find labeled on a table in the narthex. Then take it back home and fill it up again!

All monies will go toward purchasing animals for needy families through the ELCA Global Barnyard Program.

Pastor's weekly Bible study

Our weekly Bible Study, led by **Pastor Carbaugh**, will resume on February 3rd at 11:00 a.m. Please note the day and time change - it will be on Mondays and earlier in the day. The study will be finished by noon. We will continue exploring the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. These are printed in the bulletin. All are invited!



B.A.M.

Be on the look out for the details of the next B.A.M., coming in early March. The date and movie will be finalized in the coming weeks. We will be watching a movie (no book this time) and have a pot-luck style dinner. So start thinking of your favorite heavy horderves/appetizer to share! Please contact **Daren or Valerie Williams** (dmaxw@hotmail.com; 703-856-4262 or vswilliams2005@gmail.com; 240-6386162) with any questions.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7pm in the fellowship hall.

All are welcome! For any questions, contact **Valerie Williams** (240-638-6162 or vswilliams2005@gmail.com).



We remember our friend and sister in Christ **Liane DiGrazia** who passed on to her heavenly home on December 18, 2019. Liane left a legacy of a loving family, including her daughter **Anita Philp** and her family, as well as three other children and their families, including grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Continue to lift the family in prayer, as they recently lost another family member, Liane's son **Michael**.



February 2 Taylor Starret
7 Jean Martin
21 Victoria Gustafson
23 Grace Anderson
28 Sophia Knab

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

ACTS: Spring Adult Faith Formation Retreat

This spring, March 20-21, ACTS is coming to the Roselyn Retreat Center @ 8727 River Road in Richmond. The study will explore "sound" biblical leadership practices for such a time as this. Topics and subtopics for the study include: "For Such a Time as This": Esther as Courageous Leader; "Home by Another Way": The Magi as Wise Leaders; "At Water's Edge": Miriam as Dancing Leader; "Held and Holding On": Jacob as Transformed Leader; "Cliffhangers and Bridge Builders": Jesus as Fearless Leader. Participants will have opportunities to consider practical strategies for personal spiritual and leadership formation and brainstorm in dialogue with each other about healthy leadership practices for their contexts and communities. The program begins at 5:00 PM on Friday, the 20th and concludes at 3:00 PM on Saturday, the 21st. The cost is \$67.00 for commuters driving back and forth, \$125 for a double room for those spending the night, and \$150 for a single spending the night. Please go to the Virginia Synod website to register @ <https://www.vasynod.org/event/spring-adult-faith-formation-retreat/>



We pray for each other:

Kenneth Deere; Adam Dworak, Sr.; JoAn Firebaugh; Bill Fulop; Elisabeth Gardner; Werner Gardner; Steve Gilnett; Geoffrey Honan; Gladys Jordan; "Doc" Kondaki; Linda Krupa; Mac McAllister; Roberta McMillen; Pat Motley; Nathan and Ruth Schroeder and family; Judy Schwerdtfeger.

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Danny Allen, brother-in-law of the Whirleys; **Bob Banta**, friend of Schwerdtfegers; **Family and Friends of Celly Brevard**, friend of Schwerdtfegers; **Family and Friends of Liane DiGrazia**; **Family and Friends of Chuck Dupuy**; **David and Sandi Elliott**, friends of the Whirleys; **Kathy Fleming**, cousin of Judy Schwerdtfeger; **Family and Friends of Neil Hanchey**; **Thomas Hancock**, friend of Linda Mahovtas; **Mary Moyer**, sister-in-law of Schwerdtfegers; **Dee Schroeder**, sister-in-law of Roger; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **Greg Schaale**, brother-in-law of Schwerdtfegers; **Sid Townsend**, friend of Schwerdtfegers; **Betty Gay Vaughan**, Charlie Schwerdtfeger's aunt; **Susan**, friend of the Whirleys; **T.J.**, grandson 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 and pastor, Rev. Katherine of All Souls Episcopal & our shared ministry**; **All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, espe-**

cially in North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Libya.¹

¹ Open Doors World WatchList 2020
<http://www.opendoorsusa.org>

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.



We celebrate a gift of \$ 31,722.01 (as of October 31, 2019) from **Chuck Depuy** in loving memory of his mother-in-law, **Joan Barnes**. This gift has been designated by Mr. Depuy and the Church Council for the Joan Barnes Memorial Scholarship Fund (\$15,000) and the remainder for the current Roof Replacement Fund.

We give thanks to God for this generosity and rejoice in the ways this gift will help further God's mission here at Messiah Lutheran.



February 2020						
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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

- 25 10:00 AM Terrific Tuesday Club
(Hanover Parks & Rec.)
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 26 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship
(Messiah Lutheran)
- 27 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Meeting
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 28
- 29 Leap Day

Calendar of events

- 1
- 2 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 3 11:00 AM Bible Study
with Pastor Carbaugh
- 4
- 5
- 6 7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 7
- 8
- 9 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
12:00 PM Annual Reporting Meeting
(Snow date, February 16, 12:00 pm)
- 10 11:00 AM Bible Study
with Pastor Carbaugh
- 11 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
- 12 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #557 Meeting
- 13 7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 14
- 15
- 16 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 17 11:00 AM Bible Study
with Pastor Carbaugh
- 18 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 19
- 20 7:00 PM Choir Practice
- 21
- 22
- 23 9:15 AM All Souls Episcopal: Worship
9:15 AM Messiah Christian Formation
10:45 AM Messiah Lutheran: Worship
- 24 11:00 AM Bible Study
with Pastor Carbaugh



Come and begin our Lenten journey together on February 26 at 7:00 p.m. Our traditional Ash Wednesday Worship will include Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. You will find this to be a very meaningful time together as we gather as God's repentant and redeemed people.



First Communion class

Pastor Carbaugh is going to offer a class for any of our baptized young people who are interested in receiving their First Communion. The class will be offered during Lent, with First Communion taking place during Holy Week. Anyone interested should speak to **Pastor Carbaugh** as soon as possible.

CFFY Corner

(Christian Formation for You)

Book for Adults - After his martyrdom at the hands of the Gestapo in 1945, Dietrich Bonhoeffer continued his witness in the hearts of Christians around the world. In his book *Life Together* we learn of Pastor Bonhoeffer's experience within the Christian community. This story of a unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years reads like one of Paul's letters. It gives practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups. The role of personal prayer, worship in common, everyday work, and Christian service is treated in simple, almost biblical, words. *Life Together* serves as bread to all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship. It is listed as #11 on Best Lutheran Related Books with a 4.28 rating from over 14,500 people and is available from many sources.

Book for Youth - Want to change the world? Did you know You Were Made to Make a Difference? *You Were Made to Make a Difference* by Max Lucado & Jenna Lucado Bishop is an adaptation of *Outlive Your Life* for teens. It offers practical tips youth can take out into their community to make a difference, plus real-life stories about those who have done just that. Teens learn that God can use them to make a difference right now. He wants to use them today, without waiting for them to be older, stronger, richer, or even more "together." God can use their minds, their spirits, and their hands and feet to make permanent change for His kingdom. Also included are valuable resources, interesting facts about the needy in the world and how little it takes to make a big difference, and other interactive elements such as journaling opportunities for writing personal ideas and service goals. Teens will learn that their role in life is bigger than themselves, and that they're not too young

to make a difference for God.

Movie - A man named Christian journeys from the City of Destruction – his home – to the Celestial City. *The Pilgrim's Progress* (2019) is an animated movie based on the best-selling allegorical book by 17th-century pastor John Bunyan. And even though it doesn't feature Pixar-worthy animation – not many [movies](#) do – its script and voice talent more than makes up for it. It's a convicting and inspiring movie that every Christian youth should watch. It received Dove Award approval for all ages.

Devotional/Study – Strengthen the core of your life and faith on a year-long journey with beloved Super Bowl-winning former head coach Tony Dungy! *The One Year Uncommon Life Daily Challenge* contains 365 reflections from the #1 New York Times bestselling author on living an "uncommon life" of integrity, honoring your family and friends, creating a life of real significance and impact, and walking with the Lord. This year, step up to the challenge—and dare to be uncommon every day.

- Donna Shaw



MCEF: A year in review

Heartfelt thanks goes to the many of you who have contributed food, clothing, money and their time to assist our neighbors in need. In 2019, 426 households were served with 3,003 bags of food, 992 bags of clothing and 131 bags of linens (sheets and towels).

The Hanover Senior Rides program of MCEF provided 2,439 rides for medical appointments, grocery shopping and personal business.

There are many opportunities available to assist in these programs besides donating:

- Become a driver for Hanover Senior Rides
- Be a telephone screener for the financial assistance phone
- Be a phone coordinator for the rides program

(The telephone positions can be done without leaving your home.)

Training is available for every position.

Current needs for the OSS (one stop shop) include baked beans, pasta sauce and jelly. Nonfood items include ladies tops in size 2x and larger; new boys socks and underwear, all sizes. The shelves are empty of these items.

- **Gladys Hubert**



Music lovers, consider offering your gifts to music ministry at Messiah.

Love to sing? The choir welcomes you to join the joyful noise!

Play a musical instrument? Why not give the gift of music in praise to God?

Only have an occasional Sunday to offer? Just let us know.

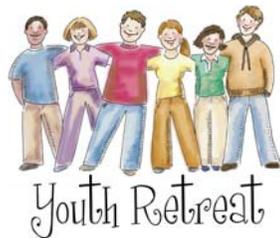
We would love to see how YOU can fit in to our worship on Sunday.

Contact **Sally Bennett**, **Donna Shaw**, or **Susie Weaver**, if you want to “Make music with us.”

Power in the Spirit July 9-11, 2020

Hosted at beautiful Roanoke College in Salem Virginia, **Power in the Spirit** is an inspirational conference for everyone who wishes to explore God’s call to service through joyous worship, Bible study, keynote addresses, workshops, and fellowship. In addition, congregational leaders—teachers, organists and choir directors, choir members, committee or council members, family life consultant, pastors, and others—will find Power in the Spirit nurturing and challenging as they consider their mission and ministry. Our 2020 Keynote presenter is **Beth Lewis** and our Bible Study Leader is **The Rev. Dr. Rick Rouse!** All are welcome, children included!





7th Day Retreat for 5th-6th Grade

7th Day is the annual overnight Synod event for youth in 5th and 6th grades and their adult advisors. During the weekend participants are part of a “Shepherd Group” with other youth and adult leaders and explore a story of the Bible through drama, games, crafts, and music. In the evening, youth and adults will have time to relax in their Cottages with their congregation and other congregations from Virginia and discuss how 7th Day is going.

7th Day will be held March 7-8, 2020, from noon Saturday to 1:30 PM on Sunday at Eagle Eyrie.

The cost is \$115, if registration is post-marked before February 3. After that, it is \$125. February 24 is the last day of registration. For the registration form, go to <https://www.vasynod.org/event/7th-day/> and click on registration form.



Our confirmation class for this month will take place on February 23rd, during Sunday school.

This month, we will be exploring The 10 Commandments.

Christian formation

Just a gentle reminder that Christian Formation begins at 9:15 AM and ends at 10:15 AM. This is to allow teachers that are involved in other church activities to be able to take care of other tasks when needed before worship begins. They appreciate your cooperation and understanding!



We all enjoy the peaceful atmosphere that our church building affords us. Additionally, our visitors’ first impressions can be very important to them and their choice to join us for worship and fellowship.

With that in mind, the Messiah’s Cleaning Team is working to keep the church building clean and organized. But we could use more team members.

Primary duties include emptying waste cans, cleaning bathrooms, and sweeping floors. All materials are provided to get the job done. Two or more people can work together and makes the tasks easier.

If you would be willing to give some time to this “labor of love” or would like more information, please contact **Susie Weaver**.



Messiah Lutheran Church
8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111



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Bear one another's burdens,

the Bible says. It is a lesson about pain that we all can agree on. Some of us will not see pain as a gift; some will always accuse God of being unfair for allowing it.

But, the fact is, pain and suffering are here among us, and we need to respond in some way. The response Jesus showed was to bear the burdens of those he touched. To live in the world as [Jesus'] body, his emotional incarnation, we must follow his example.

The image of the body accurately portrays how God is working in the world. ... We announce his message, work for justice, pray for mercy ... and suffer with the sufferers.

—**Philip Yancey**,
Where Is God When It Hurts?

The DEADLINE for the
March 2020
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, February 16th

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



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