

The MESSENGER



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

APRIL 2020

Cancellations update

March 25, 2020

Members of Messiah,

Messiah's Council, collaborating with our ministries, following the advice of the Virginia Synod as well as executive orders regarding gatherings, has decided to extend our cancellations through the month of April until May 1st as we continue to respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We recognize the impact of these decisions as we feel a strong commitment to Christ and our shared mission. However, it is necessary that we take these actions. Also, please be aware that the situation evolves daily and that we will continue to monitor a variety of information sources and will adjust Messiah's response as new information is received and processed.

Effective immediately, through May 1st, Messiah will operate as follows:

- Cancelling all Worship (including Sunday Services), Fellowship, Christian Formation, and other Messiah-related activities that occur on church property until May 1, 2020.
- Continuing Social Ministry tasks that address health and wellness concerns of our members and community but cancelling all other activities

- Continuing any Property tasks that address an immediate facility issue, at the discretion of the Property Team

- Continuing any Evangelism tasks that address an immediate public relations matter, at the discretion of the Evangelism Team

- Church office hours will still be maintained for the time being, to conduct necessary business for the church, but members are asked to not visit the church or the church office unless absolutely necessary

All notices regarding changes to Messiah's schedule will be communicated via email and Facebook. If you know of members

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The Messenger

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<http://www.messiahmech.com>

**Your 2020 Church Council
 And Associate Members**

James Anderson Council President
Donna ShawVice-President
Karen Morris Secretary

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

Council Liaisons

Christian Formation **Donna Shaw**
 Evangelism **John Cline**
 Finance **James Anderson**
 Property **Roger Schroeder**
 Social Ministry **Anita Philp**
 Stewardship **Diana Sondor**
 Worship **Karen Morris**

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

Cancellations

Continued from page 1

who do not have access to either resource, please let our office know at messiahmech@gmail.com and we will make special arrangements.

Furthermore, many of us look forward to the time we have together on Sundays and were waiting in anticipation of several special services in April. It is unfortunate we will not have this time together at church and now is as important a time as ever to reach out and check on each other as you feel is appropriate.

Two final and important notes:

- Messiah and our ministries rely heavily

on the gifts that are given each Sunday. Please consider the serious impact to our church and our ability to perform our missions since having cancelled services. We have provided in a separate email information on how you can still contribute while we are not attending worship.

- Although we cannot meet at Messiah to worship together, share the peace, and partake in Holy Communion, there are other ways we can engage in worship on Sunday. Please continue to watch your email for our weekly e-bulletins and other resources to help us during these times.

In Christ,
James Anderson
 Council President

Pastor's Message

From where is my help to come?

When I was at the church in the middle of March, the trees were starting to show their beauty. I was struck more than usual by these signs of spring. Much of my thought and energy, as for many of you, has been on the virus - on trying to avoid getting sick, on the people who are sick and who have lost loved ones, on those who are on the front lines of caring for those in need, on all the changes people are having to go through, on the economy, on all kinds of things associated with what this virus has done and continues to do. Of course, much of my thought has also been about Messiah, and how all of you are doing, and how much we miss seeing and being with each other. I kept thinking about when this would all end and when life would get back to some kind of normal again.

In the midst of all of that, I was reflecting on the psalms. One of my favorites is Psalm 121. I love the mountains. There is something about the majesty and grandeur of it all that touches one's soul. For the psalmist, the hills represented the beauty and stability and strength of God. When the psalmist looked at the hills, he saw not only power, but he also saw Divine love which protects individuals through the ordinary routine of life, and which guided Israel through extraordinary experiences. In looking at the hills outside of Jerusalem, he was reassured of a personal God who holds people so they do not stumble, and watches over them when they sleep, who protects travelers from the midday heat and from the 'magic' of the moon. In this way, the psalmist can, without fear, pursue his journey, knowing that the Lord will protect him.

We don't know what will happen to any of

us along the way of our journey. What we do know is that the Lord will keep you wherever you go and wherever you are - your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forever more.

I lift my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

The Lord will not let your foot be moved

Nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;

The Lord watches over you;

The Lord is your shade at your right hand;

The sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,

From this time forth and forevermore.

So, just like those signs of spring, God will bring new life out of the winter days of our lives. Whether it is trees in bloom or a view of the mountains, the message is the same - the Lord is watching over you, the Lord is with you, now and forever.

- Pastor Carbaugh





Chili Cookoff
In-Chief,
Becky Collie



Michael & Karen Morris



A great chili-lovin' crowd and a fun time for all!

On May 1, we not only had the pleasure of a visit from our Virginia Synod **Bishop Robert Humphrey**, but we also enjoyed the annual Chili Cookoff. Thank you to all the chili cooks who submitted their yummy concoctions. Three cooks, however, gained the praise of voters: 1st Place: **Karen Morris**, 2nd Place: **Pat Hubert**, and 3rd Place: **Michael Morris**. Thank you's also go to **Becky Collie** and all of her helpers who set up and cleaned up afterward.



- April 5 **Dak Kondaki**
- 8 **Sharon Kondaki**
- 12 **Annette Buckholtz**
- 14 **Allen Starett**
- 19 **Ken Whirley**
- 25 **Kyle Pfohl**



- April 17 **Bill & Susie Weaver**
- 30 **Brian & Jessica Glusing**

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

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 dmschaw70@gmail.com by Wednesday for inclusion.





We pray for each other:

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

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Carl Absher, brother-in-law of Diane Absher; **Becky Absher**, relative of Diane Absher; **Danny Allen**, brother-in-law of the Whirleys; **Boyd Allison**, friend of Jean Wightman; **Nell Brothers**, friend of Schwedtfegers; **Family & Friends of David Elliott; Kathy Fleming**, cousin of Judy Schw erdtfeger; **Joe Griffin**, friend of Anne Mason; **Family & Friends of Carlton Gunn; Family & Friends of Gladys Jordan; Family & Friends of Dawn Martin; Cecil & Mary Ann Modlin**, friends of Schw erdtfegers; **Ginger Pfister**, friend of Schw erdtfegers; **Dee Schroeder**, sister-in-law of Roger; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger's nephew; **T.J.**, grandson of the Whirleys; **Pastor Carbaugh as he walks with us in this interim time;**
Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families, especially Ian Schw erdtfeger;;
Law enforcement, firefighters and first responders;
The people and pastor, Rev. Katherine of All Souls Episcopal & our shared ministry;
Hospitals, nursing homes, & other health care facilities; The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; The

World Health Organization; Medical researchers and scientists; Schools; Workplaces; Government institutions and municipal agencies; For all who travel;
All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Iran, India, Syria, and Nigeria.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.



On May 3rd, our sister in Christ and a charter member of Messiah, **Gladys Jordan** went to be with the Lord. We send our heartfelt sympathy to her friends and family, including her daughters, **Sheila Whirley, Sharon Griffin, and Sherry Jones.**

The **family of Gladys Jordan** would like to thank our church family for their calls, cards, food, prayers and concern for us during this difficult time. Your kindness and show of love has been much appreciated.

April 2020						
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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		

Worship and Christian Formation Opportunities

Until we are together again, I will be sending out a list of Worship options for Sunday along with Christian Formation activities to use for Sunday school.

You should expect an email either late Friday afternoon or early Saturday with links to various opportunities for worship. Sunday school options will change after Lent.

Although we may be physically apart, I know we are together in spirit!

Take care everyone!
Donna Shaw

April 5



April 9



April 10



April 12



During this health crisis, MCEF One Stop Shop is closed. However MCEF has an emergency food plan in place. Anyone in Mechanicsville zip codes who is in need must call MCEF, 357-4093, for instructions on how to obtain emergency food.

Donations of food and clothing are NOT being accepted at this time. MCEF volunteers will purchase food items that are needed, therefore your monetary donations can be made at 4mcef.com, "Donate" button located on the bottom right hand corner of the website.

For updates, visit the website or Facebook page. Thank you for your prayers and support.

- **Gladys Hubert**



Join Messiah on Facebook!



Messiah on Pinterest

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



CFFY Corner

(Christian Formation for You)

SPECIAL EDITION

For this month, here is a selection of movies and books that you might enjoy during our time of social-distancing. All books are available on Amazon in a variety of formats. All movies were checked through Dove Seal of Approval and most had ratings from there. Please let me know of other books or movies that I can share next month! Blessings to all. **Donna Shaw**

CHRISTIAN MOVIES ON NETFLIX FOR FAMILY AND KIDS

The Stray... This faith-based favorite shows how a modern family discovers what is truly important when a stray dog shows up in their lives. The Faith-Friendly Dove Seal for all ages is awarded to this movie.

Joseph: King of Dreams - Starring Ben Affleck, this inspiring film follows Joseph, whose colorful coat and ability to interpret dreams sparked dangerous jealousy among his brothers.

Hoovey - Patrick Warburton and Lauren Holly star in this emotional, tear-jerking film about a teen whose dream and very life is threatened by a brain tumor. Dove Approved for All Ages

CHRISTIAN MOVIES ON NETFLIX FOR ROMANTICS

Christian Mingle - Lacey Chabert stars in this romantic comedy about a career woman who finds romance when she starts dating a Christian man on a dating site. Dove Approved for All Ages.

Country Crush - In this classic love story, a country boy follows a city girl to NYC. But their romance is in jeopardy when she must choose between a music career and her true love!

BIBLE-BASED MOVIES ON NETFLIX

Peter: The Redemption - The Apostle Paul spreads his hopeful message while awaiting execution in prison. Dove Approved for Ages 12+

The Bible - An epic mini-series that recreates important biblical stories and parables for a modern audience.

David vs Goliath - In this classic biblical tale, young David, armed with just a slingshot, stone and his faith, defeat a terrible giant, Goliath, to save his people. Dove Approved for All Ages

FAITH-BASED FILMS ON AMAZON

Faith's Song - When her parents are killed in a tragic accident, she must move in with relatives who are unbelievers, which tests her faith! Dove Approved for Ages 12+

The Hiding Place - Corrie Ten Boom and her sister Betsie are 'spinster' sisters who work as watchmakers before World War II in Holland. Accused of hiding Jews, they are sent to a concentration camp where their Christian faith would be put to the test. Dove Approved for Ages 12+

In God's Time - Four people who have lost their faith overcome their struggles in this faith journey film that takes place in Los Angeles. Dove Approved for 18+

A Box of Faith - A resourceful 16-year-old on her own learns she can survive living on the streets alone with some help from some answered prayers.

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CFFY**Continued from page 7****CHRISTIAN MOVIES ON HULU**

Silence - This historical drama is all the more tough to watch because it's based on actual events. Two Jesuit priests travel to Japan to try to find and rescue their mentor but encounter only deadly persecution. Dove Approved for 18+.

Catching Faith - John and Alexa Taylor are the envy of their small town with their 'perfect life'. But when troubles arise in the family, they learn the true importance of faith and trusting God's plans. Dove Approved for Ages 12+.

AMAZING CHRISTIAN BOOKS

The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel - Journalist Lee Strobel interviews experts and scholars of various fields in his goal to uncover extra-Biblical evidence to support the case for Christ. As a former atheist, Strobel asks tough questions, investigating the historical evidence that corroborates the truths of the Bible and the existence of God. Filled with compelling facts, "The Case for Christ" will challenge any skeptic and reaffirm the faith of any believer.

Choosing to SEE by Mary Beth Chapman - Wife of Steven Curtis Chapman of contemporary Christian music fame, Mary Beth Chapman writes a memoir that tells of her daily hectic, the joys and struggles of being a mother, and coping with profound tragedy. What makes this book so valuable is that Chapman is very relatable, so it is easy to apply her message that there is hope to be found in the hard times if you choose to see.

The Diary of a Country Priest by Georges Bernanos - A story of learning humility and compassion, this classic novel is a view of a young priest in the countryside of France, told through the pages of a diary. The simple diary recounts the daily internal reflections of the country priest while he wrestles with feelings of inferiority. Though he feels powerless to affect his parishioners, his diligence causes him to press on. This is a great book for anyone in the ministry.

Hinds' Feet on High Places by Hannah Humard - This beloved allegory follows a girl named Much-Afraid, who lives in the village of Much-Trembling. Seeking for guidance from the Chief Shepherd, she sets out with her friends to travel to reach a higher place. The story is simple and enjoyable, and the trials that she faces are much like the realistic challenges that all Christians face in their lives. Hurnard's story has a lot of heart and is sure to by readers of all ages.

Outlive Your Life by Max Lucado - This book, written for a charitable promotion, is yet another of Max Lucado's extraordinarily motivating works. He urges Christians to live a meaningful life and not waste time on fruitless pursuits. Full of good examples on how to life a productive life that honors Christ, this book challenges us to do good works and truly outlive our lives. Stepping outside of your comfort zone shows a true commitment to living a life of faith.

The Prophetic Imagination, 2nd Edition by Walter Brueggemann - As an Old Testament theologian, Walter Brueggemann explains that the prophets of the Bible required a great deal of imagination in order to

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interpret and deliver the messages that God entrusted them with. Prophets were given a unique glimpse into God's world, whether He spoke directly to them or showed them Heavenly images. Brueggemann goes into great depth about the role of the prophet and uses that information to provide practical applications for modern ministry.

They Were Christians: The Inspiring Faith of Men and Women Who Changed by Cristóbal Krusen - Throughout history, there have been men and women who have changed the world. Krusen presents twelve such people who all share one trait. They are all Christians. Examining the faith of such icons as Abraham Lincoln and Florence Nightingale, Krusen covers stories of vulnerable moments where an inspiration of faith led each of these people in different ways to fulfill God's plan in their lives and consequently alter the course of history.

Through Gates of Splendor by Elisabeth Elliot- Elisabeth Elliot narrates the account of five missionaries to the Auca people of Ecuador. While listening to a radio receiver with the other wives of these missionaries, she receives shocking news. Now the widow of a Christian martyr, she continues her late husband's work and remains dedicated to bringing the gospel to Ecuador. This is a fascinating catalog of events that shows the true devotion that a family can have for serving the Lord and spreading His Word despite deadly adversity.

Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community by Dietrich Bonhoeffer - During his years in Nazi Germany, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a part of an underground seminary. Through his book, Bonhoeffer highlights the importance of the Christian commu-

nity and upholding fellowship, even in times of adversity. He gives guidelines on how to form and keep a community running and Christ-centered. He also strongly urges Christians to be as brothers and sisters to one another.

A *Call to Prayer* by J.C. Ryle - "Do you pray?" This question is urgently asked of the reader many times throughout this bold and heartfelt sermon on prayer. While short and straightforward, this book delivers more than its primary message of why you should pray. Ryle also addresses how you should pray and what it means to become a true person of prayer. Timeless in its message, this book is a classic primer that lovingly encourages an honest and private prayer life.

Ministry Team notes



Social Ministry Team

As we are experiencing this time of uncertainty, please keep others in mind and in prayer. If you know of anyone in need and think Social Ministry could help, let me know. We have to stay calm and strong and stick together at a distance of six feet. America Strong!
Blessings,

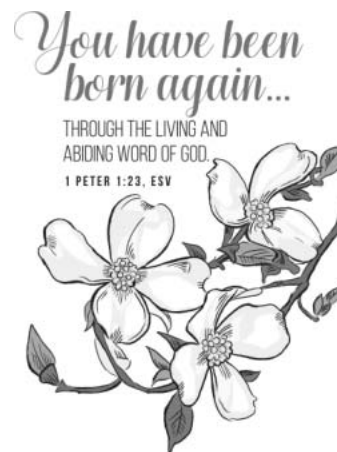
Sharon Addair

Shepherd's Team

Cards for various occasions, including birthdays and anniversaries will continue to be sent, as this team has picked up this responsibility. We also provide help when needed, as determined by **Pastor Carbaugh**. Watch for our next meeting date. Volunteers are always welcomed.

- **Lois Schroeder**

Messiah Lutheran Church
8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111



April 2020

Messenger

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We are connected!



Although our building will be closed following guidelines from the state until May 1, 2020, we remain a church and will strive to stay connected during the coming weeks. Please check email for mid-week devotions and Sunday sermons from **Pastor Carbaugh**; as well as Eblasts that contain information that is important for Messiah members. Hard copies of all communication will be mailed to those without an email address. Look for Messiah Lutheran Church on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/> to find daily bible readings and other information. Liking the page will help you receive posts when they are

made. Our church website at <https://messiahmech.com/> will also be a source of communication and information. Council is initiating a phone tree to touch base with all members to help monitor well-being and just to keep in touch. Although we are not physically together, we remain united through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Stay well, be safe until we celebrate seeing each other again!

The DEADLINE for the
May 2020
edition of ***The Messenger*** is
Sunday, April 19th

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