

The MESSENGER



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

MAY 2020



Important announcement: You now have 3 choices

It is our hope to provide as many options for remotely participating in midweek and Sunday services as possible. With that in mind, you now have 3 choices for viewing midweek and Sunday services.

1. Using the link in the E-bulletin or email you receive will automatically take you to Messiah's YouTube channel where you will find the Current Week Service. Clicking Play All' will take you through the opening music, sermon, and closing music for that day. There is also the Current Mid-Week Message on the next line of choices. All videos and music will be archived on our channel for you to refer back if you desire to do so.
2. Go to Messiah's website, <https://messiahmech.com/>, click on Messiah Digital and go to the video that you're seeking which will in most cases be the first video listed. Sunday services will contain music as

well as Pastor's video sermon. For the bulletin, click on the E-bulletin link.

3. Go to Messiah's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>, and find the post that for the midweek message or Sunday service that you're looking for. The Sunday post will contain music as well as the video sermon. For the e-bulletin, you would need to access the e-mail containing it or go to the church website where it is posted.

We hope you find these options helpful in staying connected with our church family. If you have questions or comments, please let **Donna Shaw** know at dmslaw70@gmail.com.

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VISIT OUR MLC WEBSITE:
<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

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Evangelism **John Cline**
Finance **James Anderson**
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Social Ministry **Anita Philp**
Stewardship **Diana Sondor**
Worship **Karen Morris**

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



Financial support counts

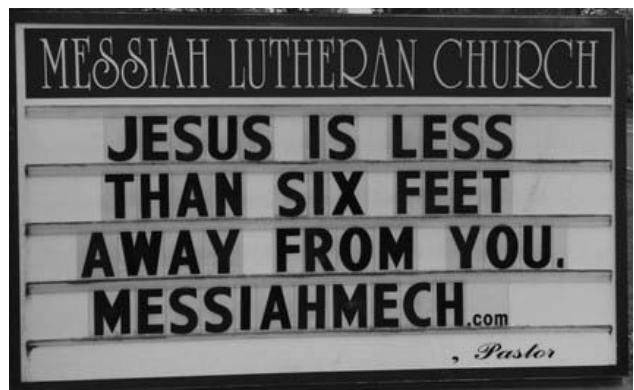
Don't forget that the congregation's expenses continue every week.

Please try to mail in your offering to the church office,
8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111,

OR use online giving through Vanco which is available on the church website.
See messiahmech.com for more details.

Thank you!

"Sign Man" post
April 7, 2020



Thank you to **Karen Morris** for suggesting that some of you who have missed this might enjoy seeing the "Sign Man" posts.

*Pastor's Message***We know who holds the future**

There is an old saying that says 'when people plan, God laughs'. It suggests that we may think we are in control and can plot out our future in a way that suits us, but that only God knows what the future holds. In such a time as we are living in now, we have come to realize that there are a lot of ways in which we are not in control. To be sure, we are trying to control what we can - social distancing, canceling worship and other large gatherings, etc. And all of that helps. But the fact that we are doing all of these things suggests that all the plans we may have had, all the living we had counted on and looked forward to, is not happening the way we expected. We planned, but our plans have fallen apart - or at least been delayed. But the problem with that quote is that God is not laughing. In truth, I believe God is crying over the pains and struggles of God's people. God, as God has always done, feels for us and with us in this struggle. For many of us, this time is mostly inconvenience - even as it is filled with uncertainty. For others, this time is as difficult as it gets - with illness and loss in very real ways. So, our plans have been changed; and, God is not laughing. But I want to share with you another saying that I have shared before: "We do not know what the future holds, but we do know Who holds the future." So, let us go on planning our future, even when those plans don't always go as we would like. But let us trust that God will be with us into that future, that God holds the future, hold us, in loving hands that will never let us go.

We, of course, don't know when all of this will end; or in what ways it will change our lives down the road; or, more specifically, when we will be able to be together again. I have heard many of you saying how much you miss being with your sisters

and brothers here at Messiah. I know I miss seeing you and worshipping with you and celebrating the Sacrament with you. We are together even though we are apart, but it'll sure be nice when we can actually be together again. In the meantime, let us continue to pray for one another and for those struggling with this disease - and with those struggling in other ways during this time.

This whole experience is beyond our ability to control very much with our plans, but it is not beyond our ability to experience the God who walks with us in the midst of it all. And surely there will come a day when we can laugh with God at the joy of a new day!

God bless you all! Live in God's Grace!
Pastor Carbaugh

Until we meet again...

COVID-19
UPDATE

In agreement with Governor Northam's order, Church Council voted for our building to remain closed to the public until June 10, 2020.

Davina will continue to hold office hours during the week and we will continue to publish our Mid-Week and Sunday Services on YouTube, the church website, and Facebook. We will keep you updated on future developments when they occur.

Stay well and safe until we are physically together again. We remain God's Church even though we are apart. Peace be with you all.

- Your Church Council

May 2020						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May

- 3 Messiah Digital Sunday
- 6 Messiah Digital Midweek
- 7 National Day of Prayer
- 10 Messiah Digital Sunday
Mother's Day
- 13 Messiah Digital Midweek
- 17 Messiah Digital Sunday
- 19 Church Council meeting 6:15 pm*
- 20 Messiah Digital Midweek
- 21 Ascension Day
- 24 Messiah Digital Sunday
- 25 Memorial Day
- 26 Church Council meeting 6:15 pm*
- 27 Messiah Digital Midweek
- 31 Messiah Digital Sunday
Pentecost

* conference call



- 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).

VIRGINIA SYNOD, ELCA
We Are Church Together

Even though we aren't gathering in-person for worship and Synod events, congregations around Virginia are finding remarkable ways to be the church.

We are the church in digital spaces proclaiming the hope of the risen Lord and the empty tomb.

We are the church in phone calls and cards supporting our fellow members of the body of Christ.

We are the church through financial gifts that allow local congregations to make a difference to a hurting community.

We are the church through congregational mission support that makes it possible for Synod staff and Churchwide staff to be a resource in these extraordinary times.

We are Church Together. Thank You!



**Update on
Pastor Ryan Radtke**

We are excited to announce that **Pastor Ryan Radtke** has announced to the congregation of Hope Lutheran his acceptance of call with Messiah. At this point, we can now openly celebrate and share updates regarding our "what's next" with Pastor Ryan and his family. We appreciated your patience and understanding as they navigate this complex process.

Please keep in mind that there is still much work to be done for the Radtke family and the congregation of Hope Lutheran. Please continue to keep them in your prayers and, for now, we can look forward with hope and anticipation for when we ALL will be together again.

- James Anderson



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:

Boyd Allison, friend of Jean Wightman;
Family & Friends of David Anderson, father of **James Anderson; Joe Griffin**, friend of Anne Mason; **Christina Nibali**, sister of **Anita Philip; 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 Saudi Arabia, Maldives, Iraq, and Egypt.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.



During this continuing health situation, MCEF is providing emergency food to those requesting it. The procedure has changed for the protection of the volunteers and the clients. Requests for food are made to the MCEF phone, 357-4093. A volunteer verifies what is needed and sets up an appointment for the client to pick up the food. The bag is filled by a volunteer and made ready for pick up at the One Stop Shop, at the appointed time.

Currently, donations of food and clothing are not being accepted, due to issues of sanitizing the items. Monetary donations, however, may be made at 4mcef.com using the "donate" button. This is a safe way to donate to MCEF and staff will purchase items as needed.

Thank you for your prayers and donations during this difficult time. We pray for the resolution of this situation so that MCEF can continue to serve those in need.

- Gladys Hubert



CFFY Corner

(Christian Formation for You)

Here is another selection of movies and books that you might enjoy during our time of social-distancing.

Blessings to all - **Donna Shaw**

5 Movies:

Amazing Grace – 5 Hymns That Changed the World: Experience the miracles behind the world's most beloved hymns! Millions around the world sing these spirit-lifting songs of hope and renewal that continue to touch every generation. Take an extraordinary spiritual journey through the lives of those ordinary people who composed the extraordinary "Amazing Grace", "It Is Well with My Soul," "Silent Night," "How Great Thou Art" and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Dove Seal for all ages is awarded to this movie and is available on YouTube.

A Time for Heaven (2017): Based on the incredible true story about a tenacious nurse who helped people that had reached the end of their lives come to terms with God and heaven, and was assigned an unexpected patient in the process. From the creators of *A Box of Faith* and *Before All Others* comes the inspirational story of unconditional love. Dove approved for all ages and can be found on Prime Video for free.

Twelve (2019) - A 12-year-old boy, with help from his dad, stops at nothing to make it to the Little

League World Series. In the beginning of this project—or should we say “big inning”, God blessed a baseball movie-maker with a script that gives even those who find the game boring something to enjoy in *Twelve*. Dove Approved for All Ages and can be found on Prime Video for free.

A Man Called Jon (2015) - Jon Terrell Carson loves to worship God, but his way of showing it is a bit “unconventional.” *A Man Called Jon* is an endearing, light-hearted dramedy, with a fun, yet powerful message of unconditional love and acceptance that will have you reexamining how you look at others and what is truly “normal.” Dove approved for all ages and can be found on Prime Video and YouTube for free.

The Woodcarver (2012) - Matthew is a troubled boy from a broken home. When he vandalizes the local church to get back at his parents, Matthew has to repair the damage to the church to avoid criminal charges. While working at the church, he meets Ernest, an accomplished wood carver who created the intricate woodwork decoration that Matthew destroyed. Now Ernest and Matthew must work together to preserve the church's beautiful antiquity, and along the way, they also manage to restore their faith in God and in life. Dove approved for all ages and can be found on Prime Video, Tubi, and Vudu for free.

Continued on page 8

CFFY**Continued from page 7****5 Books:**

The Genius of Luther's Theology: A Wittenberg Way of Thinking for the Contemporary Church offers a unique approach to the study of the great German reformer, Martin Luther. Robert Kolb and Charles Arand offer an introduction to two significant themes that form the heart of Luther's theology, what it means to be truly human and God's relationship to his creation. GoodReads rating of 4.5 with 82 ratings.

Just Words, by Jacob A.O. Preus, explores the language used by the Bible's writers to describe and convey what it is that God has done for us in Christ. It helps the reader see the wonderful variety, rich texture, and clear doctrine with which God communicates His Good News. Through six metaphors, Preus interprets and applies the Gospel to virtually all of life's contexts: creation, commerce, legal, personal, sacrifice, and deliverance. GoodReads rating of 4.0 with 35 ratings.

Katharina and Martin Luther: The Radical Marriage of a Runaway Nun and a Renegade Monk is a book by Michelle DeRusha. This revolutionary marriage was arguably one of the most scandalous and intriguing in history. Yet five centuries later, we still know little about Martin and Katharina Luther's life as husband and wife. Until now. GoodReads rating of 4.1 with 500 ratings.

The Mockingbird Devotional: Good News for Today (And Every Day)

is a devotional by Ethan Richardson and Sean Norris. As long as it has been available, people have turned to the Bible to address the problems and anxieties of everyday life. With humor and heart (and a surprising number of disco and B-movie references) the 365 short devotions in *The Mockingbird Devotional* carry the good news of God's mercy and forgiveness to the inner-rooms of human reality. GoodReads rating of 4.6 with 44 ratings.

King's Cross: The Story of the World in the Life of Jesus

by Timothy J. Keller is a revelatory look at the life of Christ as told in the Gospel of Mark. There have been many biographies of Jesus, but few will be as anticipated as one by Keller, the man *Newsweek* calls "a C.S. Lewis for the twenty-first century." In it, Keller shows how the story of Jesus is at once cosmic, historical, and personal, calling each of us to look anew at our relationship with God. Like Keller's other books it has tremendous crossover appeal, but it is also ideal for the faithful, those who are looking for a closer connection to Jesus and Christianity. GoodReads rating of 4.4 with over 5,500 ratings.



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Join Messiah on Facebook!



@MessiahMech

The DEADLINE for the
June 2020
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, May 17th

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



Messiah on Pinterest

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boards/](http://pinterest.com/messiahmech/boards/)