A fond farewell to you, Pastor Carbaugh!

It is with grateful hearts that we bid farewell to you Pastor Carbaugh, interim pastor for the past year. Even though we are excitedly beginning a new journey with Pastor Ryan, we can truly say that we have been blessed by your kind, gentle spirit and encouraged by your messages, sermons, and subtle spiritual leadership. You have been with us through many glad times and have ‘caught’ that Messiah spirit! You've also been with us through sadder times which have touched our hearts forever.

We pray that you and your family remain safe and healthy during the coming months. We also pray that you now enjoy that full retirement that you left in order to serve us. We ask for God’s blessings upon you as we bid farewell...not goodbye...just farewell. Godspeed good and faithful servant. Godspeed.

Messiah Council highlights

Since our church facilities have been temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and our Council minutes are not able to be viewed as hanging in the Narthex bulletin board, council decided to put a “highlights” from the monthly council meetings in our monthly Messiah Newsletter. If anyone wants a full copy of the minutes you can e-mail MessiahMech.com and request it.

Highlights from the May 19, 2020 Messiah Church Council meeting

Council discussed the following items:

- Recognizing the service of our interim, Pastor Carbaugh

- Transitioning of our new permanent pastor, Pastor Ryan and his family, to Virginia and beginning his work at Messiah

- Life of the church: Pastor Carbaugh reported there will be several things he will transition to Pastor Ryan to complete such as confirmation of 4 young people and first communion for 3 children.

Continued on page 6

A look inside....

- Pastor's message ..................... P. 3
- Calendar, Celebrations ..............P. 4
- Welcome, Pastor Ryan Radtke! ... P. 4
- Prayers ................................. ... P. 5
- Joan Barnes Scholarship ..........P. 7
Are we designated?

Over the years Messiah members have enrolled in donation programs through Kroger’s Community Award Program and Amazon Smile that allow for you to choose a charitable organization to receive a small donation based upon what you spend in these places. If you would like for Messiah to be your designated organization at one or both of these businesses, please enroll directly with them and specify us. If you’ve already enrolled and would like us to receive donations, please check to see if Messiah is your charitable organization.

With God’s will and your generosity, Messiah will continue to survive!

Thank you!

Church Council would like to thank all members who have been able to continue donating regularly to Messiah. Your generosity has helped us to continue to fully pay staff members as well as meet all current monthly obligations without seeking financial assistance to do so. Even though apart, God is among the good people of Messiah! Stay safe until we are together again!
Pastor’s Message

The power of Pentecost

The Day of Pentecost falls at the end of May - May 31 to be exact. Along with Christmas and Easter, it is one of the three most significant days in the church calendar. Jesus has ascended into heaven and, as He has promised, He is sending the power of God’s Spirit to move among the people, and to move the people to action. It is a powerful experience, and one that clearly stirs up God’s people to be the church in the world. Some call it the birthday of the church because it is then that Jesus’ followers truly come alive and live for God.

It is that power that each of us has received in our Baptism. We have been empowered for faith and for serving. We have been empowered for being the church together. And even though the church seems different these days - we are still the church; we are still God’s people together; we are still the community God has called into being to love one another and to love the world. No matter how much things seem different or how much things change around us, the church is alive and well - and that is evident here at Messiah now, and into the future.

One of my favorite Pentecost hymns includes these words - which seem to be appropriate and meaningful in every age:

“Spirit, Spirit off gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free; Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidity, wind, wind on the sea.

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill, Then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still; And down in the city, you called once again, When you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes. From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams; Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise.”

This same Spirit is blowing through you and through this congregation. This same Spirit is calling out to you from tomorrow to bring you to a new place. There are decisions that have been made that are leading you into your future, and you will continue to make bold new decisions so you will arise, ‘rise up’, to a bold new day in the life of Messiah. Such is the power of God’s Spirit, first given at Pentecost, and given each day in our lives and in the life of God’s church.

-Pastor Carbaugh

Worship with us from HOME

Join us for worship on Sunday and for a midweek message on Wednesday by going to messiahmech.com and choosing the Digital tab;

or go to Messiah Mech Digital on the YouTube channel;

or visit us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/

However you choose to be with us, we will be happy that you did!
A Hearty Welcome to You, Pastor Ryan!

It is with much pleasure that we welcome you, Pastor Ryan Radtke, new permanent pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church! Just writing those words brings such excitement! Although we are in strange times, Messiah can look expectantly at the future and wonder what God has in store for us when you’re physically here. We pray that the sale of your home, the moving of your family, and the settling here in Virginia occurs without angst and complication.

Until then, keep safe and stay well. We will be ready to give you that big Messiah welcome when the time comes! God’s peace to you and your family until then!

June
9 John Drazenovich
13 Adam Dworak Sr
14 Wesley Williams
15 Lois Schroeder
16 Victoria A Knab
18 Rosalee Cline
20 Karoline Combs
27 Jessica Glusing

June
5 Teresa (& Mike) Gigante
16 Ken & Sheila Whirley
21 Gordon & Marilyn Gunn

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

Unfortunately, during this pandemic time, the Virginia Synod has canceled the following events for this year: Synod Assembly, Power in the Spirit, Kairos, and Launch.

The Junior- High event in July is still on the calendar at the present time. For more information, go to the Synod website: https://www.vasynod.org/.

NOTE: All calendar events are subject to change.
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
Schwertfeger.

We pray for our extended family
and neighbors:

Danny Allen, friend of the Whirleys;
Boyd Allison, friend of Jean Wightman;
Family & Friends of Dennis Anderson,
father of James Anderson; Joe Griffin,
friend of Anne Mason; Pete Gunn, friend
of the Schwertfeger’s; Family and
friends of Maebry Anne Haslip; Chris-
tina Nibali, sister of Anita Philip; Dee
Schroeder, sister-in-law of Roger; Tim
Schroeder, Roger’s nephew; Family and
friends of Wanda Umlauf, Vicar Ginny
Banister’s mother; 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
Schwertfeger;
Law enforcement, firefighters and first
responders;
The people and pastor, Rev. Katherine
of All Souls Episcopal & our shared min-
istry;
Hospitals, nursing homes, & other
health care facilities; The Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention; The
World Health Organization; Medical re-
searchers 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 Alge-
ria, Uzbekistan, Myanmar, and Laos.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 re-
moved quarterly. Memorial prayers will run
a minimum of two weeks and then be in-
cluded in our All Saints Sunday activities.

A surprising solution

The only solution for being broken is ... brokenness. By brokenness, I mean the
acknowledgment of it, the full and un-
flinching acceptance that we are bankrupt,
poor in spirit and have nothing to offer. In
our culture, that’s a hard sell. ... Broken-
ness is not trending on Twitter. It’s not
written on anyone’s résumé, and it’s no
business strategy at all. It is, however, the
one hope Jesus holds out for us, the in-
side-out, upside-down way that is some-
how the only path that ultimately is right
side up. Embrace the paradox: brokenness
is the way to wholeness.

- Kyle Idleman, The End of Me:
Where Real Life in the Upside-Down Ways
of Jesus Begins
Church council
Continued from page 1

[Pastor Carbaugh] also reported discussing with Rev. Katherine from All Souls about re-opening with the two congregations. Finally, he told council that it had been a joy to be part of Messiah and serve in our midst.

- Treasurer’s Report and Financial Secretary’s Report were reviewed. We fell more behind in May of our income vs. expenses. We will look at some ways to try and save a little more money on utilities. Our loan from Thrivent was approved and deposited. That enabled us to pay A+ $15,000 towards the balance due on our roof replacement. Our new mortgage will start in June and our monthly payments will decrease by about $400 due to extending the time to repay and our lower mortgage rate. We continue to be grateful for and appreciate our members’ faithful support of our church during these times.

- Most of our Ministry Teams and Old Business are in a holding pattern due to the pandemic and our church temporary closing while we try to extend our digital and long-distance communication and connections through e-mails, telephone calls, website, Facebook and other resources.

- We will have another special council conference call at the end of May to discuss our church re-opening as this is an on-going concern with constant updates from Synod, the government and health care professionals. Council is committed to re-opening as soon as we get the guidelines to do so safely for our Messiah family.

- Karen Morris
  Church Council Secretary

VA Synod News

- The May edition of The Virginia Lutheran (the VA Synod’s monthly newsletter) featured Messiah’s “Sign Man” message, previously included in our own May newsletter. We’re glad we could share that message outside of Mechanicsville. [Personally, I miss the “Sign Man” posts on Messiah’s Facebook page... hint.]

- This same publication also includes some very interesting stories, including:
  - An article about Jennifer Boykin, president of Newport News Shipbuilding and member of First Lutheran, Norfolk, and her company’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Reflections on 50 years of ordination of women in the ELCA, by The Rev. Jean Bozeman
  - An introduction to “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment: A Policy Statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” which was adopted at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

These and more can be found at https://www.vasynod.org/news/publications/the-virginia-lutheran/
While the One Stop Shop location is physically closed to clients, food is still being distributed to those in need. A call to the MCEF phone, 357-4093, will initiate a return call. That will enable the client to choose foods that they need. An appointment for pick up will be made. The OSS is now accepting donations by appointment.

The MCEF website has been revamped, check it out at 4mcef.com. The donation button is located near the bottom of the opening page.

Plans are being made to open soon following CDC protocol.

- Gladys Hubert

COVID-19 is threatening vulnerable communities, and Lutheran World Relief urgently needs cloth face masks to send to them. The cloth mask you sew in your living room will provide love and protection to a neighbor in need halfway around the world. How many will you make to help stop the spread?

To sign up and get more information go to: www.lwr.org/masks.
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

Four Movies:

- **The Case for Christ** (2007): This is a very powerful documentary. Lee Strobel, the former atheist, goes on a search to prove the existence of Christ. He is amazed in what he discovers in his journey. He interviews several professors, studies the history of Christ himself, and discovered some things which enlightened him, such as the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) fit in accurately with history. Although this subject might not keep young children’s attention, it was awarded Dove “Family-Approved” Seal for all ages. It can be found on Prime Video, Vudu, YouTube, and Netflix.

- **God’s Not Dead** (2014): This is a powerful film. Kevin Sorbo turns in a brilliant performance as a Philosophy professor who starts his new class by insisting that his students sign a paper stating “God is dead”. One student, named Josh, refuses to do so and Professor Jeffery (Sorbo) tells him he must debate the topic that God is dead and give convincing evidence that he is not. Josh accepts the challenge and the viewer later learns why Professor Jeffery has been bitter at God for a long time. It should be noted that the professor’s girlfriend is a Christian but he just can’t seem to outrun God. This movie is Dove approved for ages 12+ and can be found on Prime Video and Netflix.

- **The Two Popes** (2019) - Two giants of the acting world, Anthony Hopkins and Jonathan Pryce, battle with wits and religious debate as Pope Benedict XVI and Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio (the future Pope Francis), respectively. Sometimes deep and poignant, sometimes incredibly funny, the script by Anthony McCarten, based on his book The Pope, provides an excellent opportunity to see these actors, and the Popes they play in the film, in incredible new ways. This movie is Dove approved for ages 12+ and can be found on Netflix.

- **The Ultimate Gift** (2007) - Howard “Red” Stevens leaves his grandson, Jason, an unusual inheritance. Jason has to pass certain tests before he learns what that final inheritance will be. It includes working hard for the first time in his life, and helping others out. Twelve tasks, which Red calls “gifts,” each challenging Jason in an improbable way, the accumulation of which would change him forever. This movie is Dove approved for ages 12+ and can be found on Prime Video, YouTube, Vudu, and Tubi.

Three Books:

*Reading the Bible with Martin Luther: An Introductory Guide* - Prominent Reformation historian Timothy Wengert introduces the basic components of Martin Luther’s theology of the Bible and examines Luther’s contributions to present-day biblical interpretation. Wengert addresses key points of debate regarding Luther's approach to the Bible that have often been misunderstood, including biblical authority, the distinction between law and

Continued on next page
CFFY Corner
Continued from page 6

gospel, the theology of the cross, and biblical ethics. He argues that Luther, when rightly understood, offers much wisdom to Christians searching for fresh approaches to the interpretation of Scripture. This brief but comprehensive overview is filled with insights on Luther’s theology and its significance for contemporary debates on the Bible, particularly the New Perspective on Paul. Goodreads rating of 4.4.

Rising with Jesus: God Pleasing Prayers to Start Your Day – by Donald Patterson (2020). Prayer is a heart to heart talk with God. So often, our prayers share what’s on our hearts, but that doesn’t mean they are what God wants to hear. In a mutual relationship, we all want to be heard as much as we want to hear. Patterson firmly believes that God wants to hear us pray about the things that are important to him as much as we pray about what’s important to us.

God’s Guest List - Welcoming Those Who Influence Our Lives (2011). Who is on God’s “guest list” for your life . . . and why? The answers may surprise you. Through touching true stories and inspiring insight Debbie Macomber takes readers on a journey to discover the shaping influence others have on us and the power we have to shape and influence those whose paths cross ours. Each of us have “influencers” that have affected our lives—some from a distance, some through word or deed, some through example, be it good or bad. Often, we don’t even recognize the deep impact others have had and how God has used them to shape us into who we are. By pausing to recognize these influences, we begin to grasp how God’s guest list has a purpose far beyond what we imagined.

Try this alternative to walking in your neighborhood.
For more information, see https://www.facebook.com/HanoverParksRec/
The DEADLINE for the July 2020 edition of *The Messenger* is **Sunday, June 21st**

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

**Messiah on Pinterest**