

The MESSENGER



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

SEPTEMBER 2020



From the Messiah Church Council meeting

Messiah Church Council met by conference call for a regular monthly council meeting on 8/18/20. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- The Treasurer's Report shows that for the first time this year, our monthly expenses paid were \$2000 more than our income for the month and our year-to-date paid expenses were \$381+ more than year-to-date income. We are over \$17,000 short on our budget for the year.
- **Pastor Ryan** and his family have relocated to Virginia and are currently staying with family until their house in California sells and they find a house here.
- Thanks to the hard work of **John Cline**, Messiah received the PPP grant for \$17,300 through Parkview Bank. That can be used to pay for payroll, utilities and mortgage interest. If we use it all for those purposes by 12/31/20 the loan can be forgiven.
- Social Ministry team is collecting

school supplies for Lutheran Children's Services.

- The survey is completed with good participation. Council will meet next week at a special meeting to discuss and make recommendations.
- Old Business: Council authorized the purchase of a FM transmitter and a security camera system for inside the church as well as a modem for the church Internet connections.
- New Business: the audit team will meet in September to complete the annual church audit; small groups are beginning to meet at the church, following COVID-19 protocols.

- **Karen Morris**
Church Council Secretary

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The Messenger

Published monthly by
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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**
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

Pastor Ryan’s office hours

While Pastor Ryan is available by email at messiahmechpr@gmail.com; and by phone at (507)-360-7276 .

His "office hours" will be 8 am – 5 pm, and he looks forward to being in the office soon. Regular office hours and dedicated drop-in hours will be shared as soon as he can figure those out.

**Bulletin announcements
 changes**

Now that Pastor Ryan is here, please send announcements you would like to place in the Sunday e-bulletin to Davina at messiahmech@gmail.com instead of to Donna Shaw. Davina will still need them by Wednesday for inclusion in the coming Sunday’s bulletin.



Church directory update

Davina will be updating the church directory in the near future. Please let her know if you’ve had changes to your home address, phone number, or email address.

Pastor's message

A holy adventure

So I just walked around the whole church building. Just me. No tours. No one here. I wanted to get the lay of the land. Take my time. Poke my nose into some cupboards. Admire the stained glass windows. See what got left on the bookshelves in my office. I was here back in December, but that was a whirlwind. I've technically been "here" since June, but we know I've been, let's say, telecommuting. And we've been in-state for a couple of weeks now, but this is the first chance I've had to really take it all in. And it's good to be here.

Let's be honest - it's been a weird start to our ministry together. I've been gone, but, then again, no one is really here anyway. Just Davina holding down the fort and the property folks and the counters and maybe a few others keeping things in the building. Everyone else is working from home. Ministering from home. I'm glad that small groups are getting back together again, carefully. We're getting closer to in-person worship, too. But it's still a little anti-climactic.

I mean, y'all have been waiting for a year and a half. Through supply pastors, through the wonderful interim of Pastor Carbaugh. Through our own family's housing soap opera and sort-of move. And then the quarantine and stay-at-home orders and real threats that the pandemic brings on top of it all. And when we do come back together, it can't be the same yet. We're not sure how long this will all last. Let's just name the elephant in the room one more time - this is all weird.

The September newsletter article is usually about Rally Day. It's about getting people fired up after the summer vacation months, the usual giving slump, the re-

volving door of people on vacation, getting ready to all get back together again for the normally-scheduled programming of the year. We kick off Sunday school and other activities. I'm sure there's usually some kind of food involved. It's exciting! What's that going to look like this year? We don't really know yet, but we're working on it.

So, instead, this year I challenge you to rally in place. Rally up your commitment and your love for Messiah Lutheran Church. Give some folks in the church directory a call - even if you sit in different pews on the opposite sides of church - call up and say hi! Offer up some prayers. Pray up some offerings. We're getting close to being together again, but why wait to rally? Figure out a way to get some donations to MCEF. Hop online and see how Lutheran Family Services - now with the new name of enCircle - is doing. Check out the happenings across the Synod, the church. Start plugging back in, or plug in for the first time.

And then think about coming back to Messiah's building, to each other. What things are you most excited for? What things will we have to find new versions of to stay safe? What things have you always wanted to try, which closets have you wanted to clean out, which updates have you wanted to explore? Now's a good time. Come back with new eyes and hearts and let your love for this community overflow in renewed enthusiasm for this place we've missed, and that I'm just getting to know.

I'm excited to be here. I'm excited to be together, hopefully soon. I'm excited to serve God and this community. I'm excited to be the current steward of pastoral leadership here, and to serve alongside you and learn from you, hopefully have you learn from me, too. We'll have a holy adventure together, I'm sure - just look at how we're starting!

Continued on page 4

September 2020						
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			

September

- 6 Digital Worship
- 7 Labor Day (Office Closed)
- 8 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 9 Midweek message*
- 13 Digital Worship
- 15 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 16 Midweek message*
- 20 Digital Worship
Newsletter deadline
- 22 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
First day of autumn
- 23 Midweek message*
- 27 Digital Worship
- 30 Midweek message*

* All digital events can be seen on the MessiahMech digital channel on YouTube



- 2 **Amy Delph**
- 4 **Charlie Schwerdtfeger**
- 8 **Dean Gustafson**
- 8 **Beth Carpenter**
- 10 **Sheila Whirley**
- 15 **Paul Knab**
- 23 **Kirsten Combs**
- 24 **Roberta McMillen**
- 26 **Jeff Weaver**



- 3 **Anita (and Mark) Philp**
- 9 **Dak and Sharon Kondaki**
- 17 **Daren and Valerie Williams**
- 28 **Bill and Chrisann Hatfield**
- 30 **Jean (and John) Martin**

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

A holy adventure

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I suppose that's it for now. Time to pack up. But I'll be back in this room, this building, before long. And so will all of you. May the peace of God, that surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Ryan

When God crosses our paths

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions." Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God "sending us people with claims and petitions."

....

When our calendars empty, God "crosses our paths" in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).

- *The Newsletter* Newsletter, Sept., 2020



We pray for each other:

Debbie Anton; Johnnie Collie; Kenneth Deere; Adam Dworak, Sr.; Bonnie Dworak; JoAn Firebaugh; Bill Fulop; Steve Gilnett; “Doc” Kondaki; Mac McAllister; Ruth Schroeder; Judy & Charlie Schwerdtfeger.

We pray for our extended family and neighbors:

Danny Allen, friend of the Whirleys; **Talisha Chandler**, friend of the Schwerdtfegers; **Kenneth Mason**, father of Anne Mason and Jean Wightman; **Christina Nibali**, sister of Anita Philp; **Dee Schroeder**, sister-in-law of Roger; **Tim Schroeder**, Roger’s nephew; **T.J.**, grandson of the Whirleys; **Elizabeth Zimmerman**, Karen Morris’ daughter-in-law’s aunt.

Pastor Ryan, as he begins his journey with us;

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;

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 Mali, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, and Nepal.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.



MCEF news

MCEF is continuing to serve Mechanicsville clients. Operations continue at the One Stop Shop as a drive through.

Current needs are for volunteers under the age of 60 who will interact with clients (everyone masked per state requirements) in the check-in process. For further information, call **Pat Hubert**. (church directory)

Other needs include canned beets, catsup, mustard and mayonnaise. Linen closet needs king and queen sheet sets, clothing closets need new underwear of all sizes, toddler to adult, especially boys and adult women sizes, and appropriate school clothing for all ages of children.

Many thanks for all who have continued to provide for those in need.

- **Gladys Hubert**



CFFY (Christian Formation for You)

The Hand Prayer

The Bible says, *“Every day I call upon you, O Lord; I spread out my hands to you.”* (Psalm 88:9 ESV). Here’s a way to pray using your hands.

The five fingers on your **left hand** represent *who* to pray for, and the five fingers on your **right hand** represent *what* to pray for.

THE LEFT HAND TEACHES US WHO TO PRAY FOR:

Left Thumb: If you hold your hands together in prayer position, you’ll notice that your thumbs are closest to your heart. This is a reminder to pray for those who are closest to your heart, such as family and friends.

Left Index Finger: We use the index finger to point the way, so this is a reminder to pray for those in our lives who point the way for us – such as teachers, pastors, and leaders.

Left Middle (Tallest) Finger: The Bible says we’re to pray for the people who influence the world, such as those in authority. Our tallest finger can remind us to pray for them.

Left Ring (Fourth) Finger: Some people believe this is our weakest finger, suggesting that it’s difficult to hold anything with it. This can be a reminder to pray for those who need our extra support. This would include the sick,

the poor, children, and the elderly – or people challenged by a handicap or mental health issue.

Left Small (Fifth) Finger: Finally, pray for yourself and your own needs. It’s ok to pray for yourself, and you should, but by using this model, you are putting other people first.

THE RIGHT HAND TEACHES US WHAT TO PRAY FOR:

Right Thumb: Once again, the thumb is closest to your heart, so pray about your heart. “God, is my heart right with you? Is there anything between you and me that is creating a barrier? I confess...” You can also pray for the hearts of people around you: your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Right Index Finger: Again, we use the index finger to point the way, so use this as a reminder to ask God about your priorities and schedule. What is most important? What should you let go of?

Right Middle (Tallest) Finger: Use this finger to remind you to pray about your influence. It’s ok to ask God to give you more influence or to help you be an example to other, not a stumbling block. You can pray, “Lord, I’m getting ready to start a new day. People are going to see things in my life, and I want to be a good influence today.”

Right Ring (Fourth) Finger: We refer to the fourth finger on each hand as the ring finger, so the fourth thing to pray for is relationships. Ask God to bless the people in your congregation, those you work with or go to school with, and the people serving alongside you in ministry.

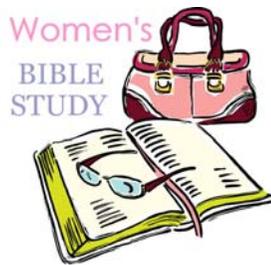
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Hand Prayer

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Right Small (Fifth) Finger: Use this finger as a reminder to give thanks for your blessings, and remember not to worry. *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, ¹¹ or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”*

Matthew 6:25



Women's Bible study has begun meeting again at the church on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6:30pm.

We are currently studying Lysa Terkeurst's "It's Not Suppose to be This Way". We are asking that all who wish to attend bring their own folding chair, a mask, and their own individual snacks. Weather permitted, we spend the majority of our gatherings outdoors and go indoors for the video portion of our study.

If you have any questions or wish to RSVP to join us, please contact **Valerie Williams:** (church directory) or vswilliams2005@gmail.com.



8th Annual Week of Service

“God’s work. Our hands.”

September 13-19, 2020

The Virginia Synod Week of Service coincides with “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday, the ELCA Day of Service on September 13, 2020.

This year our church—and our world—are living through the COVID-19 pandemic. Physical distancing has changed the way we worship and serve, but the need is great, and God’s church is at work. This year, we encourage you to participate in acts of service in compliance with local health guidelines. Acts of service can happen online, or you can contribute to a project from your home or from a safe physical distance while wearing a mask. As church, we are guided by our life in Christ to share the love of Jesus and serve our neighbors—even if these acts of service look different this year.

Get ready at ELCA.org/DayOfService

Financial support reminder

To continue in your faithful giving, mail in your offering to the church office, 8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111, or use on-line giving through Vanco, which is available on the church website. See messiahmech.com for more details.



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8154 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville VA 23111



September 2020

Messenger

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The DEADLINE for the
August 2020
edition of *The Messenger* is
Sunday, September 20, 2020

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



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midweek message on Wednesday by going
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or visit us on Facebook at [https://
www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/](https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/)
However you choose to be with us, we will
be happy that you did!