

# The MESSENGER



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

OCTOBER 2020



## From the Messiah Church Council meeting

Messiah Church Council met for a regular monthly council meeting on 9/15/20. The following are highlights of the meetings:

- While reviewing our Church Calendar, it was noted that the Women's Bible Study group has changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., starting with the month of October.
- The Treasurer's Report shows that we are continuing to have more monthly expenses than monthly income each month. We are also over \$21,000 behind our YTD budget. The PPP loan/grant was received at Park View and was transferred to our Sun Trust account in early September.

During our Ministry Team Reports:

- Christian Formation reported that they have heard back from teachers and parents on a survey. They may start back with generational Sunday School (combining all ages) and use the outdoors as much as possible.
- For Evangelism, **Donna Shaw** and **Karen Morris** attended the first of a

series of 3 webinars put on by the Virginia Synod, with the theme of "Church in the Digital Age."

- For the Worship Team, **Sally Bennett** is working on the serving schedule through the end of the year.
- Under New Business, council will start the budget process for 2021 and is working on the nominating committee for 2021 new council members. We are tentatively scheduling our annual business meeting for December 6<sup>th</sup>.

- **Karen Morris**  
Church Council Secretary

## A look inside....

- Announcements ..... P. 2
- Pastor's message ..... P. 3
- Calendar, Celebrations ..... P. 4
- Prayers. MCEF update ..... P. 5
- CFFY Corner ..... P. 6
- Women's Bible study ..... P. 7
- Congratulations! ..... P. 7
- Being good stewards ..... P. 7

### *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. Ryan Radtke, Pastor**  
**Email: messiahmechpr@gmail.com**  
**Ph: 507-360-7276**  
**Office hours: TBA**

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

## Pastor Ryan's office hours

Pastor Ryan is still figuring out the best balance between in-person office hours and working from home. Wherever he happens to be, he is available by email at [messiahmechpr@gmail.com](mailto:messiahmechpr@gmail.com) and by phone at (507)360-7276. His "office hours" will be 8 am - 5 pm, and he looks forward to setting some regular office hours and dedicated drop-in hours soon.



## 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](mailto: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 soon. If you have not already, please let her know if you've had changes to your home address, phone number, or email address.

Pastor's message

## Blessing of teachers

A couple of weeks ago during our inaugural drive-in worship service, we included a slightly belated blessing of backpacks and school devices for all the students who had started back to school this fall, whether in person at their schools or at home via distance learning. Usually when I've been a part of this kind of blessing before, we invite everyone up to the front of the church to receive their blessing. And by everyone, I mean not just the students – but also any teachers, at any level, and anyone else who works at a school – janitors, librarians, administrators, aides, bus drivers, coaches, you name it.

Things were a little logistically challenging this year, so we just got the kids this time around, but I want to make sure we recognize the teachers and other school folks. Everyone has been affected by all the changes in the last six months due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but few as much or as uniquely as teachers. They have had to prepare for in-person school, online school, or both. Each week they are having to learn new technologies. Each week they are taking on new tasks and roles that aren't in their job description. They are working with students, parents & families, administrators, IT departments, and more. They are putting in crazy hours to make sure our kids are being taught and cared for. Thanks be to God for our teachers!

Jesus carried a lot of titles – Savior, Lord, master, Son of God, just to name a few. But one of the things he was called most often was Teacher. Jesus taught through his interpretation of scripture and the Law. Jesus taught through his parables. Jesus taught as he verbally sparred with the chief priests and scribes and Pharisees and Sadducees. Jesus taught through his miracles. Jesus taught through his heal-

ings. Jesus taught through his silences. Jesus taught through the cross. Even without words, Jesus teaches us as an example of how to be Christ-like, how to be “little Christs” in the world, as Martin Luther called it.

Here's what Jesus said about being a teacher in John's Gospel, right after washing the disgusting muck off the disciples feet on what we call Maundy Thursday: “After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.’”

Teachers often go above and beyond their time clocks and their job descriptions to put their students first, buying extra supplies for their classrooms, working longer hours with the students who need extra attention, decorating and outfitting their rooms to be engaging and welcoming and equipped for their kids, working for less pay than what they probably deserve. So often they put their students' needs ahead of their own – and especially this year. And I'd like to thank them.

The life of faith is a life of learning. We can – and must – always grow in our faith, in our curiosity for God's good creation, in our wonder and awe at God's goodness, in our wrestling with the tough issues, in our prayer and devotion. And, as life-long learners, that means we have teachers. Sometimes it's people like Sunday school teachers and confirmation leaders and pastors. But we also learn life lessons from school teachers. We learn generosity from the poor and hospitality from strangers. God is always teaching and loving

**Continued on page 4**

October 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	31

## October

- 4 Worship TBA\*
- 11 Worship TBA\*
- 14 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 18 Worship TBA\*
- 20 6:15 PM Council Meeting
- 25 Worship TBA\*  
12:00 PM Shepherd's Team Meeting
- 28 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 31 Reformation Day

\* Watch the Messiah website and Facebook page for schedules and updates

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



- 1 **Dean Anderson**
- 5 **Steve Shaw**
- 6 **Daren Williams**
- 9 **Becky Collie**
- 9 **Helen Pfohl**
- 14 **Christine Starret**
- 15 **Tracey Anderson**
- 16 **Debbie Walker**
- 18 **Mike Knepper**
- 23 **Donna Combs**
- 23 **Teresa Gigante**
- 28 **Allen Anderson**



- 7 **Charlie & Judy Schwerdtfeger**
- 12 **Dean Gustafson & Beth Carpenter**
- 22 **John & Jenn Drazenovich**
- 25 **Jeff & (Susen) Weaver**
- 28 **James & Tracey Anderson**

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

## Pastor's message

### Continued from page 3

and stooping down to wash the feet of the undeserving and the lowly, to lift us up and show us the way and point us towards others who could stand to hear what we've learned about God's love.

And so I share this blessing of teachers, especially for those who are teaching this year, but also for all those who have taught us, and for us when we are teachers for God, little Christs in the world going above and beyond to show God's love. Thanks be to God!

In Christ

**Pastor Ryan**



## Blessing of Teachers

God of wisdom, your Son came among us as a teacher.  
Send your blessing on all who are engaged in the work of education:  
Give them clearness of vision and freshness of thought,  
And enable them so to train the hearts and minds of their students, that they may grow in wisdom and be prepared to face the challenges of life;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## We pray for each other:

**Sharon Addair; Debbie Anton; John Cline; 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; **Family & Friends of Kenneth Mason**, father of Anne Mason and Jean Wightman; **Christina Nibali**, sister of Anita Philp; **Greg Schaale**, brother-in-law of Schwerdtfegers; **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,**  
**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; Those affected by fires and hurricanes; For all who travel;**  
**All those persecuted in any way for their faith in Christ, especially in Jordan, Tunisia, Kazakhstan, and Turkey.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> 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.*



It's that time of year, preparations are being made for Thanksgiving and Holiday bags. Addition items needed to help fill the bags include boxed instant mashed potatoes, canned collard greens, 24 oz apple sauce, boxed stuffing, jars of gravy, cornbread mix, brownie mix, cake mix and icing. Please leave these items in the grocery cart in the narthex.

Winter clothes and coats are now being accepted on the first and third Sundays, 2:00 to 3:30 ONLY. They must be clean and in good repair (no broken zippers or missing buttons). Other needs include mens T-shirts, long and short sleeves and always boys school age clothing.

Thank you to all for assistance during these last several months.

- Gladys Hubert



## CFFY (Christian Formation for You)

Reformation Day activities for the entire family:

The first Reformation Day was October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg Church. Here are some activities that might help the entire family find more meaning in this important day in the life of our church. May you find them informative and most of all fun! - **Donna Shaw**

### Movies:

**“Luther”** is a great movie and really helps you understand the time period and circumstances surrounding the Reformation. However, there are a few difficult scenes in this movie that might be challenging for younger or sensitive children.

### Books:

**Martin Luther: A Man who Changed the World** by Paul L. Maier is a picture book that explores the life of the 16th-century monk who was the catalyst for the Protestant Reformation in Europe. Readers learn the historic background to a significant time in the church, and what God can do with a willing vessel.

**The Barber Who Wanted to Pray** by R. C. Sproul is based on a true story. Master Peter is a barber well known to all in his village. One day, when Martin Luther the Reformer walks into his shop, the barber musters up the courage to ask the outlawed monk how to pray. Dr. Luther responds by writing a letter to the barber (a letter that we know today as the book, A Simple Way to Pray!)

**Reformation ABCs: The People, Places, and Things of the Reformation – from A to Z** by Stephen Nichols is a fun way for kids to learn about the places, things, events, people, books, and ideas that shaped this pivotal time in church history. Through whimsical illustrations and engaging storytelling, this book teaches kids that even though the Reformation occurred five hundred years ago, it isn't just about people and places in the past. The Reformers' fight to reclaim the gospel is still relevant today.

### Activities:

Sing “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” by Martin Luther. This hymn is based on Psalm 46.

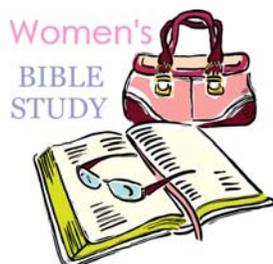
Have a snack of “worms” to celebrate the Diet of Worms (pronounced Verms). The Diet of Worms was a trial (called a Diet) before church leaders in Worms, Germany. Try a snack of gummy worms in a chocolate pudding/Oreo cookie mixture!

Nail (or rather, tape) the 95 Theses to a door or a piece of wood. Go to <https://www.theopedia.com/95-theses> to find the complete list!

Memorize the 5 Solas. Use this link for help <https://www.gotquestions.org/five-solas.html>.

Learn about Martin Luther’s seal, Luther’s Rose. Go to: <https://lutheranreformation.org/history/the-luther-seal-summary-of-the-gospel/> for the history.

For a template to color go to <https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/552dab32e4b039b3a33b25fd/1436052008462-5XVTQ2ZY98HO3WKYUG0X/Luther-Rose-coloring-sheet.jpg?content-type=image%2Fjpeg>.



### WBS Update:

Please note that, starting in October, Women's Bible Study will be meeting on a **NEW DAY! We will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th WEDNESDAYS of the month beginning at 6:30pm.**

We are continuing our study from Lysa Terkeurst, "It's Not Supposed to be This Way." If you have any questions or wish to RSVP and join us please reach out to **Rosalee Cline** (see member directory). Hope to see you there!

## Congratulations!

"Please join us in congratulating MCEF's President, **Pat Hubert**, and his wife and MCEF volunteer **Gladys Hubert** as they were recognized for their outstanding work at MCEF & the One Stop Shop with the Hanover County Spirit of "FAMILY" Award. A \$300 donation was made to MCEF in Honor of the Hubert family's volunteer efforts! We appreciate all that the Hubert's do for MCEF and the Mechanicsville community!"

Hanover's Annual Spirit of Volunteerism event was held "virtually" this year. Click on the link to hear the Spirit of Family nominees and watch the award presentation to the HUBERT FAMILY!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b41NOK7hYw8&feature=youtu.be> \*

- Article from the MCEF Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/4mcef/posts/3421213904639926>

## Being Good Stewards

As Messiah returns to in-person worship activities, we find ourselves reflecting again on the challenges we have faced since March and feeling blessed for God's grace and for each of you that continued to consider Messiah's needs, and the needs of those we support, during this time. Many members were faithful in their giving, both financially and by actively taking part in our ministries, despite the uncertainty of a quickly evolving crisis.

Looking ahead, we must continue to be good stewards of what we have been entrusted with. Please take some time to prayerfully consider where you can begin, continue or increase the gifts that will nurture the Messiah family and support our ministries. If you have the means to do more, it would surely be a blessing to Messiah and those we support and care for.

Understanding that we are still in the midst of difficult times, if you have needs, please ensure that you are reaching out to your Messiah family to see how we can support you.

### Messiah's Stewardship Team

## Thank you!

It has turned out to be a different kind of start to the school year, but the foster children were still in need of supplies to help them have a successful year. We want to THANK our congregation for generously supplying those children with school supplies through our collection in August.

Sincerely,  
**The Social Ministry Team**

Messiah Lutheran Church  
8154 Atlee Rd  
Mechanicsville VA 23111



October 2020

**Messenger**

page 8



**If you cannot join us in person for worship on Sunday at 10:45 am, please join us for worship** on Sunday and for a midweek message on Wednesday by going to [messiahmech.com](https://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/>

How ever you choose to be with us, we will be happy that you did!

The DEADLINE for the **November** edition of *The Messenger* is **Sunday, October 18, 2020**

Please call **Susie Weaver** with your submission, hand me a written submission OR email [susiew51@comcast.net](mailto:susiew51@comcast.net)



**Join Messiah on Facebook!**