

Pastor’s Column

When Rep. John Patterson and Superintendent Melissa Watson announced the Week of Hope project, it was easy to join in.

Hope is a weekly part of our worship life. At Holy Communion we sing, “Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.” We have a certain hope that the One who comes to us in bread in wine is the One we shall someday see face to face. We are blessed now by the certain hope of His return. (We may be assured his return will look nothing like the “Left Behind” series.) Our hope is that the restoration we have received in baptism is a promise of restoration for the whole cosmos. Because God is in the future, the future is good. Hope for God’s future brightens our present.

Hope is part of our religious life. St. Paul was the first to list the three great virtues: faith, hope, and love (I Cor. 13:3). The three work hand in hand. Faith trusts God. Faith is the receiving hand God gives us to apprehend relationship with God. Because there is relationship with God there is hope. Knowing the God who constantly creates, preserves, and rescues, we are hope filled. Because there is blessed hope in God, we are free to love neighbor and love creation.

Ashtabula’s Week of Hope began September 17th. Other pastors and I preached on hope that Sunday. It was easy to reference signs of hope around Messiah. The Book Club is up and running. There are bible study opportunities Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Every Monday at noon prayers are offered on behalf of those dealing with addictions. We worship in a structure bathed by light refracted thru stained glass windows. A nice pipe organ leads our song of praise. The clothing and food banks are expertly administered. Messiah does spontaneous things such as hosting a health fair or buying 3,000 glue sticks. In October we’ll celebrate a *Quincenaera* for the first time and welcome back the Ashtabula Brass Orchestra. November will start with a stewardship dinner on the 5th and finish with a Thanksgiving dinner on the 19th.

It was also easy to reference signs of hope around Ashtabula. Bridge Street economy and culture continues to expand. Main Ave. features a great hamburger at Dublin Down. They serve dollar hot dogs when the Indians play and rig up an outdoor TV screen for night games. Park Ave. Winery serves a great glass of wine. You may sit on the front porch and watch the sun set over the new library or behind the manse at First Presbyterian. Ashtabula schools have a definite focus and commitment. Ashtabula churches are different but we work together (on October 1st Lutherans and Catholics join together for evening prayer at Mother of Sorrows).

When we number our projects, we do not do so as a theology of glory. Triumphalism wants to self-adulate, “Wow! Look how awesome we are; if you think this list is awesome, just wait for the next list!” That’s a page out of Joel Osteen. When we reference the signs of hope among us we do so to raise awareness of God in whom we have placed our hope. Hope is not wispy or ethereal. Hope is not a timid sigh or wishful thinking. Hope is substantial. It grasps now the reality ahead of us. Hope is foundational. The future is built upon it. Hope does not disappoint us because Hope centers in God. God’s creativity is beyond imagination. God’s possibilities are endless. The ways for God to transform us thru love are infinite.

Faithfully your pastor,
Michael Meranda



Daytimers Meet



Daytimers from L to R, Kurt Nordquest, Brenda Greenawalt, Jan Anderson and Will Greenawalt enjoy playing cards together at a recent meeting. Daytimers meet the first, third and fifth Wednesdays of the month at 10:30 am. They play cards, socialize, have lunch and go home!

Letters and Emails:

Dear Pastor Meranda,

Thank you so much for allowing us to meet at your Church. You are really appreciated!

Signed by 17 members of Nar-Anon

Thanksgiving Dinner

By: Ruth Hlinovsky, Hospitality Chair

Our 2017 Thanksgiving Dinner is Sunday, November 19, in the Fellowship Hall, immediately after Worship Service. As usual, the Hospitality Team will furnish the turkeys, all the fixings right down to the dinner rolls. However, we again ask the congregation to provide desserts like pies, etc.

Sign up sheets will be in the love, care and concern folders as we draw nearer to this joyful event. Bring family and friends to help us celebrate and give thanks to God for his blessings throughout the year.

Ashtabula Brass Band

By: Ruth Hlinovsky, Hospitality Team

On Tuesday, October 24, 2017, the Ashjtabula Brass Orchestra will perform at Messiah at 7:00 pm. They will entertain us with an exciting Halloween concert.

Following the performance we will thank them with a free will offering and a cookie and coffee reception in the Luther Room. Bring cookies if you can, and bring your family and friends. A public announcement will advertise this event in the Star Beacon.

Coffee Hour



September’s Coffee Hour was a lot of fun and, as usual, many people participated. In the top picture members are seen making their way down the buffet line and in the bottom picture part of the crowd is seen visiting and having a good time.

Church Mouse Heard

That a magazine had an article entitled “you might be a preacher if”———— You’ve been tempted to name your fishing boat visitation!



Stewardship Dinner Nov. 5

By: Mark Anderson, Stewardship Chair

Our Annual Stewardship Dinner/Program is November 5 immediately following the Worship Service. The program will consist of guest speakers, music, and prizes, along with dinner. We look forward to a great turnout to this event. We are looking for a couple of volunteers to help with set up, serving, and clean up. Please contact me if you Can help

2018 pledge forms are enclosed in this news letter. We are asking that all forms be completed and returned in the addressed and stamped envelopes provided.

DST Ends Nov. 5

Daylight Savings Time officially ends at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 5. Remember to set your clocks back one hour at that time or you’ll be one hour early for Church. Fall back, and spring ahead!



Bishop Eaton on Podcast

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton gives an incredibly candid interview on topics such as faith and doubt, being a woman in leadership, transgender rights and Cleveland Sports.

She says it all with theological depth and good humor on the “face to faith podcast of the Chicago Sun Times.

Stewardship Dinner Nov5

Thanksgiving Dinner Nov 19

A Trip To The Feed Store

By: Tina Carpenter

Todays children go to theme parks, sports camps, futuristic Armageddon battle movies and any number of costly pursuits. Post-war kids in the mid 1900s knew nothing of these wonders. Their world consisted mainly of the neighborhoods within our towns. Saving 75 cents to spend at the county fair was a big deal. If your family luckily had a car, you may have been taken for “rides” to local points of interest-the beach, uptown, someone’s farm, a holiday parade-things like that. Vacation meant that your dad didn’t have to go to work for a week. There was no television in the homes until about 1955, so you were on your own to discover what was in the local woods or ponds, ride your bike around until dark, play cowboys wearing your hat, holster low on the hips and cap gun while on your stick horse, or watch cloud formations from your backyard camp.

One of the great things was “helping my dad”. While he built some chicken coops, I learned to properly hold a hammer, pound a nail in straight and mix mortar. Kids also learned about gardening by carrying millions of buckets of water to be doled out canful by canful to the individual plants. (Using a hose was considered wasteful.)

There always seemed to be multiple trips to Dudley’s or Topky’s Hardware, the post office (where you could look at wanted posters), even Isaly’s Dairy Store (remember White House ice cream and also McMorris Dairy’s French vanilla). One favorite place to go was Elmer Lehtinen’s feed store (Harbor Feed & Coal). What a place! My father grew up with the owners, so I was allowed to investigate on my own while they visited, If harbor local Leo Lindquist happened to be there, these visits could take a while. There was a low “porch” all around the front, where they sold flats of plants and stacks of gardening merchandise that always overflowed the sales room. At one end was a barn door with HAY over the opening where you could get one bale for your garden, or several for your animals. Chickens, an occasional horse or cow were allowed in the city then, and several farms were close by on Carpenter Road in Saybrook. The last stop might be next door at Laird Lumber with their cavernous lumber storage barn and the “sawdust” building adjacent to the mill-another favorite stop. The Feed Store and Lumber Yard stood on Lake Avenue in Ashtabula which is now a plaza, across from the new Circle K Gas station where Washington Elementary once stood.

(We thank Tina for allowing us to reproduce this article that she wrote for the Ancestor Hunt August 2017 edition.)

Roofing Job Is Done!



The roof over the 1967 building west elevation has been replaced. Wayne Senita Roofing of Ashtabula was hired by the Property Committee to do the job after the congregation authorized it at a meeting held on August 27.

Hurricane Relief

Messiah’s Council encourages members to participate in hurricane relief funding. You may access elca.org on the internet. That page provides several avenues for making contributions. If online giving is not convenient, simply write a check to Messiah Lutheran Church. Designate your check for Hurricane Relief. Messiah will send that money on to Lutheran Disaster Relief.

Semi Annual Meeting

Messiah’s semi-annual meeting is October 22 immediately following the Worship Service. Voters will be asked to approve the revised constitution. There will also be the usual voting for Council members and various committee members. Plan to attend!

Women’s Bible Study

Starting October 9th, Women’s Tapestry Bible Study will meet at Messiah on Monday and Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Contact Barb Ranta for more information. Her phone number is 964-7987.

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Messiah Messenger

October 2017

Worship:
11:00 am - Sunday
Adult Sunday Forum
9:45 am—Sunday



Welcome
Home To
Messiah



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