

Pastor's Column

I'm really looking forward to the 7:00 PM hymn festival at St. Peter Episcopal Church on October 12th. It's so good that Ashtabula will welcome Susan Palo home that night. Her poetry and prose have touched the hearts of hundreds of thousands across this nation. She's led an impactful life before and after her 1973 graduation from Harbor High School.

I'm especially enthused to hear Susan's husband, David Cherwein, lead us on the pipe organ on October 12th. Mr. Cherwein is a renowned church organist. I first met him in 1982 at a Lutheran-Catholic Vespers in Seattle. He currently holds a prestigious post as organist at Mt Olive Lutheran Church Minneapolis.

A pipe organ is a complicated combination of pipes and airways. It is the most expressive and profound single instrument on planet earth. An organ may sound as sweet as birds in a summer breeze or as ferocious as a winter storm on the Great Lakes. It can stun us with sound that rattles our fillings. It can gather up a whole room of separate voices into a single voice offering praise to God. There is nothing quite like a good organ played by a good organist (as we hear every Sunday at Messiah).

Part of David Cherwein's calling as organist at Mt. Olive is to go around the nation and lead groups in hymn festivals. Then he has to fly back to Minneapolis in time for church on Sunday morning! When he comes to Ashtabula he'll lead us thru nine hymns. He will select stops that render fuller expression to the text and tune. The organ will solo a stanza or two of the hymns. We'll hear explanations of the hymn and learn about its distinctive gifts. It will be an uplifting hour of insight and inspiration.

I remember the first such organ festival I attended. I was in college. The Saarinen designed chapel housed a gorgeous 53 rank Schlicker pipe organ. Organ Professor Charles Ore came from Nebraska. He played for us a wide range of organ literature and led us thru various hymns. The part I most remember is when our music professor went into the balcony and explained improvisation is part of the hymn festival tradition. Professor Kuznik played a short, simple melody line. Professor Ore repeated it. Then he improvised an entire fugue around that simple melody line. He called up all the ranks in harmonious repetition of that single motif.

People learn to do things well when there is prolonged repetition. Charles Ore could improvise that fugue because he had invested decades in learning and practicing. This is why football fascinates me. A quarterback can hurl the pig skin ten to sixty yards, hitting a moving target as he himself is moving. Repetition is the core of the QB's skill. Repeat something in practice and hand-foot-eye-muscles learn it well. The same is with gardening, knitting, painting, cleaning, golfing, fly casting, etc. If you want to do something really well, repeat it over and over.

Vince Lombardi coached, "find what it is you do well then do it again, and again, and again." God has saturated us with grace; we do grace really well. God has drenched us in mercy; we do mercy really well. God has showered us with forgiveness; we do forgiveness really well. God has comforted us in our sorrows; we comfort others in their sorrows really, really well.

Welcome Home to Messiah,
Pastor Michael Meranda



Church Mouse Saw

A Church bulletin board that said, "the best vitamin for a Christian is B1.



From The Archives

Church Secretary, Cathy Carle, unearthed this old photo of the grand opening of the route 20 viaduct on December 9, 1928.



Review of Activities of Messiah

By: Hal Cooper (First of several pieces)

About 40 or 50 years ago very few of our Swedish people resided in the up town section of this city. Most of them were located in East Harbor or Swedetown as it was called then and a few on the west side or Harbor proper. Therefore when the Capernaum Church was built in 1889 naturally our people joined and became members of this church.

Later on many of our people moved up to the city and settled down there. Every year more and more immigrants arrived from across the Atlantic and quite a number settled down up in the city. In 1903 Rev. Frank Swenson, then Pastor of Capernaum Cong., brought up the question of organizing a Ladies Aid amongst the members up town. For this purpose a meeting was called for Thursday, Aug. 27, 1903 at the house of Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Halleen at 22 Ruth St. (now West 33rd St) and a Ladies Aid Society was organized with the following charter members: Mrs. Anna Anderson, Mrs. Alida Blomgren, Mrs Charlotte Gillquist, Mrs. Johanna Jepson, Mrs. Jenny Johnson, Mrs. Anna Johnson, Mrs. Mathilda Linderman, Mrs. Emma Nelson, Mrs. C. A. Halleen and Mrs. Emma Nyberg. The new Society was named "Tabitha".

Of those 10 Charter members, 6 are living, 4 have passed to the great beyond, 2 have moved away from the city, 2 on account of old age and sickness are unable to take part but 2 of the charter members are still active members in Tabitha, namely Mrs. Charlotta Gillquist and Mrs. C. A. Halleen

**Thanks-For-Giving Dinner
November 18**

Lend-A-Hand Food Bank

Every Monday morning a group of volunteers gathers to run Messiah's food bank. Rick Ranta is "in charge". He's a Spartan and takes a good deal of ribbing from the other volunteers who, like Bill Lovas shown here, is a "buckeye".



Theology on Tap

By: Pastor Meranda

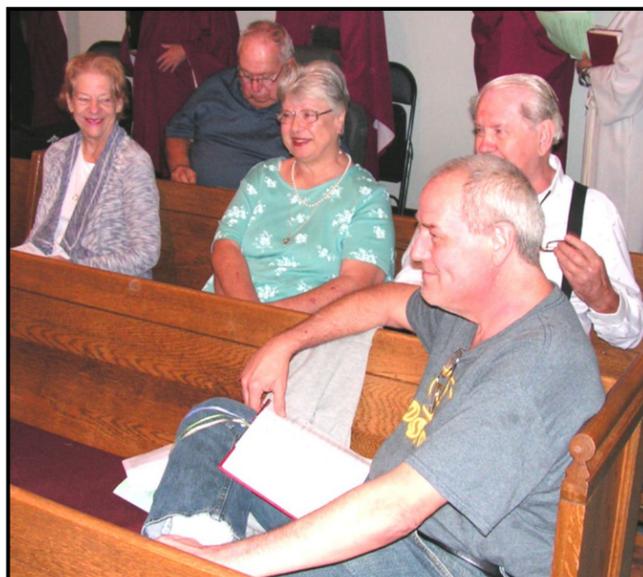
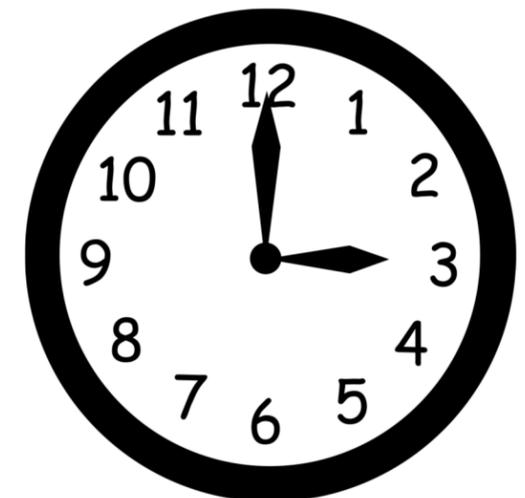
October 17 is the next date for Theology on Tap. We'll start at 6:00 pm. We usually meet at a restaurant. You may arrive early and order a meal.

The place is not yet determined for this T on T!

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, November 4 brings to an end Daylight Savings time for this year. We moved our clocks forward an hour on March 11 signaling the start of DST.

Now we'll move our clocks Back an hour on November 4 at 2:00 am. Forget to do this and you'll miss Church. We'll all be leaving as you are entering!



Waiting For Worship To Begin

One recent Sunday morning the photographer caught several people patiently awaiting the start of worship. They were, picture on the left, L to R, Pam Lindberg, Jim Lindberg, Marie Blood, Steve Zukoski and Dick Blood. In the picture below, Jerry and Mariel Kujala await the start from a front row pew.



Letters & Emails

Dear Messiah Family,

Thank you for giving me the scholarship. It was truly an honor and I will be forever grateful for it. Thank you for always making me feel welcomed and being a part of my life for the last 18 years. I will visit soon. God bless you all!

Love, Bella Fleming

Dear Members of Messiah Lutheran,

We wanted to let you know our congregation included you in our prayers this Sunday through our synod cycle of prayer.

We rejoice that we are able to work together, as Christ's body, in the world.

Blessings on your ministry.

The outreach members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Master, Bedford, Ohio. Susan Martin, Barb Dkzhazy, Diana McAloney, Kim, Serdinak and Barbara Youngblood

Dear Messiah,

Thank you to the members of Messiah for the many birthday cards I received from you last week. It was my 91st birthday and I have been a member of Messiah since I was a young lad. I am unable to attend now but still keep you in my heart and thank you again for remembering me.

Sincerely,
Clayton Carlson

We would like to thank Pastor Meranda and the congregation for all the prayers, cards, and continued support during this difficult time. We are so blessed to have such a great Church family!

The family of Stanley Osowski

Thanks-For-Giving Volunteers

By: Mark Anderson, Stewardship Chair

For all volunteers that have pledged their time to help with the Thanks-For-Giving Stewardship dinner, we are having our planning meeting October 21st immediately after Church.

We will hold the meeting down stairs in the Fellowship Hall.

Please plan to attend!



Thanks-For-Giving Dinner

By: Mark Anderson, Stewardship Chair

The 2018 Thanks-For-Giving Stewardship Dinner is November 18 following service. Members, families, and friends are welcome. We are still in need of a few volunteers to cook turkeys and help in the kitchen.

Please contact Beth or Mark Anderson (440-796-3799) if you are able to help, there is also a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Congregational Meeting

Semi-Annual meeting of the congregation is October 28. Remain in you pews immediately following the Church service.

We shall elect, or re-elect, three persons to serve on Church Council.

Susan Palo Cherwein Event

Susan Palo Cherwein, Harbor High School graduate, brings her poetry and music to a special event at St. Peter Episcopal Church at 7:00 pm.

See Pastor's Column in this newsletter for more details.

Senior Choir Has Started

By: Julie Hunt, Director

Thursday night at 7:00 pm choir rehearsals have resumed. New singers are always welcome. Do you like to make a joyful noise? Are you looking for a Thursday night activity?

Consider joining the Messiah Senior Choir. Any questions, contact me at 440-223-3186. Seen below are members of the Choir just prior to the processional.



**Cherwein Event - 7 pm. Oct. 12
St. Peters Episcopal Church**

**Messiah Lutheran Church
615 Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004
Permit No. 313

Messiah Messenger

October 2018

Worship:

11:00 am Sunday

Adult Forum

9:45 am Sunday



**Welcome
Home To
Messiah**



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