

Pastor's Page

I exclaimed, "Hey, it's still there!" The "thunder machine" was still there. I recently visited the campus where I had attended college. The whole campus was designed by Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen. It's an architectural gem and invites exploration. I was doing just that. I searched old nooks and crannies of favorite old buildings. I wandered back stage in the auditorium, where the thunder machine was still there. It's a long piece of metal two foot wide and twenty feet long. The top is fastened to the ceiling. The bottom is roped to the floor. There is some flex to it. When you give it a violent shake it sounds just like thunder. It's used in plays and such that call for the sound of thunder to emanate from off stage. We used it in our senior year follies skit to introduce the voice of God. It's perfect for Shakespeare's "Macbeth" or any production that calls for a lightning bolt.



You all have exclaimed the same from time to time, "Hey, it's still there!" You take a drive thru an old neighborhood of yours; "It's still there!" that tree you used to climb. You have not seen your neighbor friends for quite some time. They are long gone now but their old porch swing is still there. You remember the old grade school that anchored the neighborhood. Chances are the building it has been repurposed, but it's still there. You see another neighbor's house where you remember cars with the hood up and loose car parts in the driveway. You see another car being worked on. "Hey, old Charlie is still there, still working on Fords." You remember a yard that was especially well kept. "Yup, it's still there, that nice circle of Roses in the Jones' yard." You see an old swing set in the Jones' back yard. It's still there; it's just that grandkids are now playing on it.

We wander off into dark places from time to time. When our wandering off gets uncomfortable we slow the wandering and listen for God's voice. It's still there. God is calling us back, away from the precipice. We wonder how we'll ever manage. It's still there. The Holy Spirit will create a new heart, we'll manage. We've been away from church far too long. We wonder about returning. When we do we find it's still there. The beautiful, peaceful building is still there. But more importantly, words of forgiveness and words of new life are still there. That's because the Word is there, Christ present in water, bread, wine, and community.

We move. We change. We grow. We make good and bad choices. We say just the right thing and we say regretful things we should not have said. We're just the right friend at the right time; other times we short change an important relationship. We manage what we earn and care for what we've built. We decline and suffer loss. In the living of life's ups and downs, ins and outs, God is still there. Sometimes God is immediate and obvious. Sometimes God is silent and seems so distant. But especially in the empty silence, God is still there—for all of us.

Welcome home to Messiah
Pastor Michael Meranda

Thanks for Giving Dinner

The 2018 Thanks-for-Giving Stewardship Dinner will be held November 18th following the 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.



Church Mouse Says...
"There isn't enough room in your mind for both worry and faith.

YOU must decide which one will live there."

MUSICAL APPRECIATION

How do we show our appreciation to our musical staff?

Messiah is very fortunate to have the musical staff we have. Most churches in the area do not have choirs. Not only do we have a choir and choir director, but we also have members of the congregation that can fill in when needed. Thank you Jerry Kujala.

In addition to vocal music we are also very fortunate to have an organist. Not only do we have one organist, but we have two very accomplished organists.

How do we show our appreciation? One way is by showing respect for their talents. All the music of the church requires practice, which is done at times other than Sunday morning. The practice is designed to give the congregation an enjoyable and reverential part of the service. Our appreciation comes by quietly listening to the service from the start of the prelude through the finish of the postlude.

So show our staff your appreciation.

Thank you,
Rick Ranta Member of Worship & Music Comm.

MESSIAH NOTES:

Thank you to Ed Spencer for the work he did on the heater/air conditioner in Pastor's office. It is appreciated very much.

It's a girl!

*Congratulations, Julie and Kevin Hunt
Daughter Hope Lyn Hunt was born
2:54 a.m. on 10.12.2018*

Be on the lookout for the Giving Tree in the Luther Room. It'll be up by the Thanks for Giving dinner. We'll be adopting one family plus 4-6 small children from families in need.

Thanks to Beckey Ollikainen for making the new sign for the Lend a Hand Food Pantry.

Messiah Friends,

Thank you for the gift of sharing this space with you. I carry your hospitality and friendship with me as I visit L'Arche communities around the country and the world this year.

Warmly,

Laura Goble



This photo is from the L'Arche Central Region Gathering, Mobile, AL. Jan. 2018. Laura Goble is pictured on the right.



Messiah Clothing Bank Workers



Messiah Clothing Bank



Workmen preparing to install the stained glass windows



Tapestry Bible Study Group

THEOLOGY ON TAP MEETS

Pastor Meranda led a discussion on the Devil and Demons at a recent Theology on Tap. The group met in the fellowship hall in the basement of Messiah. We will meet again after the busy holiday season is over.

We are considering what our next topic will be and where the group will gather. If you've never attended one of these events, give it a try. You just might enjoy it.



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An ELCA Congregation
in mission to Ashtabula

Messiah Messenger November 2018

"We're Open Sundays"
9:45 A.M.—Adult Forum
11:00 A.M.—Worship

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