

Pastor’s Column

Messiah just completed another calendar year of effective stewardship. Resources were managed very carefully. Spending was done very responsibly. Offerings came in consistently. Few things are as stressful to a household or to a congregation as money problems. Messiah is uniquely blessed that way. For years we have finished the year in the black.

One reason why money comes into this congregation is because money flows out from this congregation. The dollars invested in Lend A Hand Food Bank go out to our neighbors every Monday. Dollars set aside for “brotherhood” help people with emergencies. A percentage of Messiah’s offerings are sent along to the Northeast Ohio Synod which, in turn, sends half of that to the national church. Something I especially appreciate about Messiah is spontaneous projects pop up and the response is always generous. I’m still amazed at the 3,500 glue sticks that were bought and given to AACCS students a year ago. Last November the free will offering received at Thanks for Giving Dinner was sent out to the Blessings in a Backpack project. Most recently, we’ve gathered gift cards and such to be given to US Coast Guard personnel hit by the government shut down.

So, monies flow into Messiah because monies flow out from Messiah. It’s one of those unwritten laws of the universe. If you wish to gain something then give something. If you like people to be generous to you then be generous to people. If you want to be treated with patience and kindness then extend patience and kindness. For that reason I’m looking forward to participating with you in another year of making offerings to Messiah Lutheran Church. My household has signed up for the electronic giving program. A designated amount is deducted from our checking account every Monday. We don’t have to wonder where the offering envelopes are or find a check to send in when away on vacation.

When Jesus taught His church how to pray he taught us the line, “Give us this day our daily bread.” That phrase could be translated, “give us today the food we’ll need tomorrow.” The prayer recognizes we all have basic needs and assures us God cares our basic needs are met. There is no over kill in the prayer. There is nothing about hoarding or excess. We humbly ask, “Give us daily bread.” And it works out. We finish in the black. And so we remain generous and responsible going into 2019.

Welcome Home To Messiah
Pastor Michael Meranda



Review Of Activities of Messiah

(This is part four of a handwritten history by an unknown author found in the archives by Hal Cooper)

At the yearly meeting Jan. 14, 1925 a building committee of 8 were appointed to lay plans for building of a new parsonage on the lot on Station Ave, namely C. A. Halleen, Alfred Swedenborg, C. A. Anderson, Gustof Anderson, Werner Mattson, John Carlson, Edwin Jepson and Bernard Delamotte.

Mr. Alfred Swedenborg drew the plans and specifications for a new parsonage and the committee presented their report at a special meeting held Mar. 18 1925. This report stated that the old building at 59 Prospect should be razed and a new brick veneer building erected on the lot on Station Ave. and to use all materials possible from the old building. It was decided to give the committee full authority to go ahead and build as per their recommendation.

In last part of March 1925 Rev. Oleen and family moved from the house at 59 Prospect to temporary quarters at 107 Station St. April 4th 1925 the old house was razed by a group of men and good material sorted out. Then followed excavation of the cellar and building of walls. Now the carpenters went on the job and the following November building was completed at a cost of about \$10,000.00. A good deal of the work was performed by members of the church such as excavating, building of walls, lathing, installation of heating plant and cement work.

On Monday Nov. 30, 1925 we had an open house or dedication of the new parsonage. In the years of 1925, ’26, ’27 and ’28 the subscription committee were busy raising money for building of a new church. The same committee that had charge of the building of the parsonage now were instructed to lay plans for the building of a new church. Architects Raymond A. Freeburg of Jamestown, NY was consulted and he worked out plans and specifications and he estimated it would cost in the neighborhood of \$75,000.00.

The Committee felt that this sum to high and would not be acceptable and Architect Freeburg was instructed to revise the plans and make cuts wherever possible. The revised plans were placed in the hands of the bidders. The lowest bid was \$46,956.05 by the Webster Const. Co. of Ashtabula, Ohio.

(To be continued)

Letters & Emails

I am writing to tell you how very thankful we were for your generous donation to Blessings in a Backpack. It is because of people like you that we are able to continue this very important program. (Our free will offering at the Thanks-For-Giving dinner was donatwed to them.)

Thank you from the B.B.P. Volunteers

Dear Messiah Congregation:

Thank you very much for the staff Christmas presents. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Pastor Meranda, Debbie Fleming, Ed Schroeder, Homer Young, Julie Hunt, Cathy Carle, and Ed Spencer.

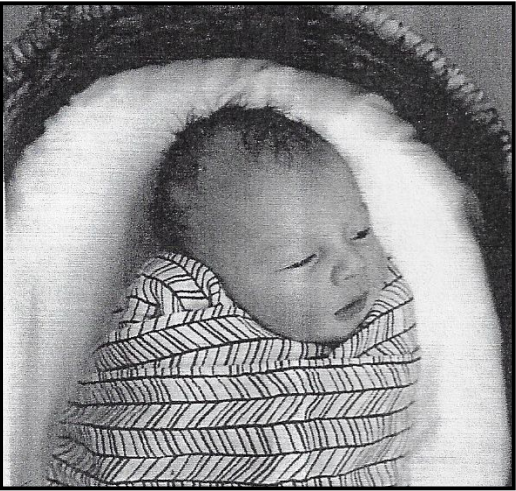
Thank you for thinking of me and sending me the Teddy Bear soaked in God’s love. It was greatly appreciated. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God Bless
Olivia Hall

Michael and I wanted to send greetings to you all this Christmas season. We have moved to Portland, OR where Michael has started a PhD program and we greeted our beautiful baby boy.

We are thrilled to introduce Jonah this Holiday Season! Michael Jonah Selnick Ray, born 11/7/2018, 6 lbs 14oz, 19.25 inches.

Peace and Joy
Beckah Selnick & Michael Ray



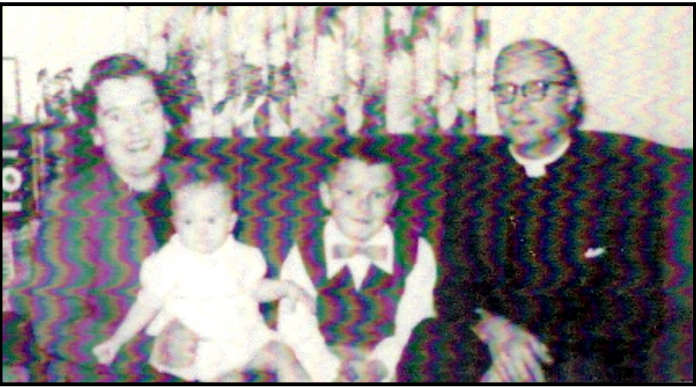
Lenten Schedule

March 5 - Shrove Tuesday pancakes - 4:30 to 6:30 pm
March 6 - Ash Wednesday service - 7:00 pm

Every Wednesday in Lent - 6:00 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm Mid Week Lenten Service

Pastor Pettersen & Family

Shown is a picture that Cathy Carle found of Pastor & Dorothy Pettersen, Susan on Dorothy’s lap and David sitting next to Pastor. We thank Cathy for finding this picture and sharing it with us. We apologize for the poor quality of the photo. It did not scan very well. Pastor Pettersen served our Church for 28 years from 1952 to 1979.



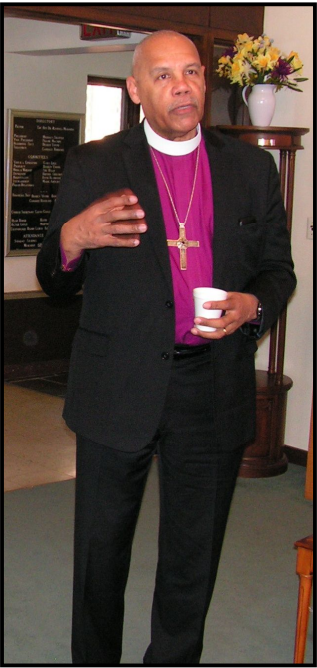
Bishop Abraham Allende Visit

Northeast Ohio Synod Bishop, Abraham Allende, was at Messiah on Sunday, ,January 13. The Congregation welcomed him to the Worship Service where he preached and at a coffee hour after Church.

Bishop Allende is an impressive individual and we are lucky to have him leading our Synod. Bishop Allende is shown in the picture to the right.

The crowd for the coffee hour is shown below going thru the buffet line.

Bishop Allende hails from Clarion, PA and fully understands the rust belt problems plaguing our area.



Nation Fest is February 24
By: Ruth Hlinovsky, Hospitality Chair

The Hospitality Team and I are happy to announce that we will celebrate Nation Fest on Sunday, February 24, immediately following Worship Service.

Dishes you may plan to provide can be put in the downstairs refrigerator on Saturday or brought in on Sunday morning.

We will place sign up sheets in the love, care, and concern folders. Do invite your family and friends to help enjoy great ethnic food and congenial fellowship.

Please talk to Ruth if you are able to help with making this beloved feast a great success.



Benevolence Giving Up Again!
For the fifth consecutive year our giving to Benevolence increased from the previous year. In 2018 we conveyed \$15,968.45 to the NEO Synod. This compared to \$15,489 conveyed in 2018. A 3.1% increase!
Treasurer, Candace Rodgers, reported this to the Finance Committee at their last meeting.
Let's keep this trend going and increase our giving to the Synod again in 2019!

Morrison Foundation Very Generous

Treasurer, Candace Rodgers, reported at the last Finance Committee meeting that we had received another unsolicited donation from the Morrison Foundation. This donation was for \$1,500.

In 2018 we received a donation of \$1,000. Finance Committee and the Church Council has agreed to use that donation to help provide new LED lighting for the stained glass window over the balcony. This window illumination will be a long awaited improvement to those who are looking at the Church from route 20.

Decisions have not been made yet on what the \$1,500 donation this year will be used for. There has been some discussion about repairs to the Pettersen window in the rear foyer.

We are very appreciative of these unsolicited donations from the Morrison Foundation.

Church Mouse Heard:
The sermon topic for tonight is "What is Hell"? Come early and listen to the choir warm up.
Image of Jerry the mouse.

Response to January Messenger
By: Pastor John Lekander, ret.

I just looked at the January issue of Messiah's newsletter and saw the picture of Oscar and Ruth Leonardson and their first two children, Peter and Sonia. I'm sure my mother had ten copies of that picture in her collection of snapshots of friends and family.



Oscar Leonardson and I could be termed second cousins, on my mothers side. She had never seen Oscar before his coming to Messiah. Travel was not as advanced as it is now. Because of large families in the past, there was a dramatic age difference between Oscar and me. If you look in the old records of Messiah, you will probably note that I was baptized by Oscar. Because of the age difference my mother required that I call them Uncle Oscar and Aunt Ruth. The Leonardson's had six children. Peter, Sonia, Joel, Mark, John, and Daniel.

When I was in fourth grade, my half brother Howard, (his mother had died in childbirth when he was very young) was home on furlough, and my dad, mother, my younger brother Paul, and I took Howard back to his army base in Arizona. On the way home, we stopped in Rock Island to see the Leonardson's and while we were there a few days, Oscar and Ruth's youngest son was baptized. It was planned for a Sunday and they prevailed on our family to remain for baptism.

One summer Joel stayed with us on our farm in Denmark Twp. for six weeks. When I was at Augustana College in Rock Island, I from time to time was with the Leonardson's whose home was not overly far from the college. At that time, Oscar was working as the Executive Director of the Augustana Synod's Church men and travelled throughout the country to encourage strong men's groups in Augustana Synod Churches.

Ruth Leonardson was from the C.E. Peterson Construction Company family, and my last congregation before retirement used the company, a very good company, a couple of times for some renovation.

Annual Meeting
We had our Annual Meeting January 27. This was the meeting where we hear the Treasurers reports and adopt an annual budget. The meeting in the fall is to elect people to various positions. Our new President, Mark Anderson, called the meeting to order. Treasurer Candace Rodgers reported we received \$189,601 in contributions to the current fund in 2018. The current fund had a year end balance of \$16,397.
Image of Mark Anderson speaking at a podium.
Candy presented a balanced budget for 2019. The treasurer's report and budget were accepted unanimously.

Messiah Lutheran Church
615 Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

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Welcome Home To Messiah



Messiah Messenger

February 2019

Worship: 11:00 am Sunday
Sunday School: 11:00 am Sunday
Adult Forum: 9:45 am Sunday

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