

Pastor’s Column

I write this “Messenger” article on the heels of our recent weather system. Sunday morning temperature was in the high fifties. Sunday evening temperature was in the low twenties. The wind was horrendous. People posted videos of surging ice on Lake Erie and falling trees on residential boulevards.

When I arrived home after Nation Fest that day, access to my house was cordoned off. Official looking “Danger: Do Not Cross” wound around trees and telephone poles. Utility trucks with emergency flashers flashing parked at the end of my and my neighbors’ property lines. I had to drive across my lawn to get into my garage.

The cause of all the commotion was a live but down power line. It coiled up on the street and spat like an angry snake. Soon the big utility truck with the cherry picker pulled up. A brave worker hoisted high in the bucket, braving winds and cold to address that broken live wire. I was impressed (and appreciative to the workers) as my address was without power for only an hour.

We are so fortunate in our living of these days that normal is so normal. Our lights work. Our showers are hot. Our heaters heat and our air conditioners cool. Our refrigerators are well stocked. Our cars get us to where we want to go. Doctors cure us. Dentists fix our smiles. Tech people help us with computer problems.

We don’t squander “normal”. We know we are so well off so we intervene when someone else is not. We show up. We chip in. We are present. We take a turn. We share. We lend a hand. We loan a piece of equipment. We help with the clean up. We make a difference. It is responsive community that infuses dignity into any crisis situation. When those tragic and interruptive events occur, that is not the only thing we remember. We also remember the community that responded. That memory of community, as well as the intervention of the community, is healing.

Welcome Home to Messiah
Pastor Michael Meranda

Review of Activities of Messiah
(This is part five of a six part series by an unknown author found in the archives by Hal Cooper)

The committee called extra meeting of the congregation April 23rd 1928 and presented their plans. The bid of Webster Const. Co. was accepted and the committee authorized to go ahead with the building. On May 1st 1928 excavation began. Cornerstone was laid July 6, same year. In Sept 1929 the church was completed and on Sunday September 29th was held the first service in the church. The church was dedicated Oct. 27, 1929.

The organ was installed by W. A. Samuels of Erie, Pa. Cost \$3200.00. The cost of the new church was \$62,910.62 including organ, furnishings & grading. Church proper without organ & furnishings was \$59,120.75. A new 3 stall garage was also built. A good deal of materials and labor was donated so the cost was only \$342.00

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In April and May 1931 we had the pleasure to entertain the NY Conference in Messiah.

Much to our regret, Rev. Otto O. Oleen who so faithfully had worked and built up our church had decided to resign and at the annual meeting Jan. 13, 1932 he handed in his resignation to the congregation. With sad hearts it was accepted. At special meeting Feb. 3, 1932 a unanimous call was extended to Theological Student C. Oscar Leonardson at Theological Seminary Rock Island, Ill. to be our pastor after his ordination and we were more than overjoyed when he accepted this call. On Monday morning July 11th Rev. Oleen with family left for their new field in Cleburn, Kansas. Under this vacancy Rev. E. W. Peterson of Capernaum conducted services at Messiah.

On the first Sunday in August we had the pleasure to have with us our own pastor & wife. Rev. & Mrs. C. Oscar Leonardson and our wish now is that their stay in Messiah at Ashtabula will be for a long time and our work together always will be pleasant and whatever we do will be done for the Glory of God and upbuilding of his Kingdom on this Earth.

(To be continued)

Church Mouse Heard:

One of the Community Church pastor’s favorite premarital counseling jokes is this one: Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn’t have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn’t have to hear about the way his mother cooked.



Old Ashtabula
(An old 1930’s era picture discovered by Cathy Carle)

The picture below is taken at the intersection of West Avenue and Prospect Road (Rte 20). It shows the Swallows Restaurant with the West End theater in the background.

This entire complex was razed to make room for the Rite Aid drugstore that now occupies the site. Thanks Cathy for sharing this.



Nation Fest is History

Nation Fest held on Sunday, February 24 is now history. Sponsored by the Hospitality Committee, this event was usually held in the late afternoon on a Sunday. It was changed this year by the Committee and was an event held right after Worship Service. That seemed to suit the approximately 40 people who attended quite well.

In the pictures below, L to R, Carol Lovas is seen covering tables on Saturday morning before. Jan Koschik is seen enjoying her coffee before securing her “real” food, and participants are seen going through the buffet line for dinner.

This seems to be an event that the congregation really enjoys and rallies around. About 20 different countries were represented and participants placed their food at the appropriate country’s table. The variety of food provided was outstanding and very delicious.

Our thanks to the Hospitality Committee and volunteers for a job well done!



Officers Elected

Church Officers were elected by Council and are shown below. Clockwise from the lower left Candace Rodgers, Treasurer; Michael Shaffer, Vice President; Pastor Meranda; Mark Anderson, President; and Beckey Young, Secretary.

Officers are elected annually by the Council and serve for one year.

We thank these officers for their willingness to serve and we wish them the best.



Letters & Emails

Dear Mr. Wells,

On behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard, I deeply appreciate your continued efforts to support us and the donations you provided from Messiah Lutheran Church, which was a true testament of their generosity and caring commitment to helping our men and women in their time of need. While all Coast Guard military members continued to report to duty in service to our country during the partial shutdown, they did so without pay. Your thoughtful contributions to the U.S. Coast Guard made a positive difference in the lives of our members and their families. We truly appreciate your kindness, generosity, and support during the unforeseen situation.

Sincerely, Joseph S. Dufresne, Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

The above letter was received from Captain Dufresne, Commander of Sector Buffalo in appreciation of the generosity of Messiah’s congregation during the government shut down. In total, we delivered \$730 in gift cards, as well as groceries, toilet paper, and baby wipes to Station Fairport Harbor, that staffs Station Ashtabula. Once again, Messiah came through in a big way, for those that were in need of our help. Thank you again, for supporting our efforts!

Renee Spencer and Robin Wells

Dear Messiah Members:

Thank you so much for the delicious Christmas cookies and also for the carolers for their beautiful Christmas carols. Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year.

Ruth Jepson

Thank you for all the help from Messiah members for the lovely luncheon.

The Jerry Peterson family

Messiah Lutheran Church and Pastor,

Thank you so much for your donation to Mya. We so appreciate your prayers and support!

God Bless, The Mya Team

Kujala to direct Hallelujah Chorus

Ashtabula County Choral Music Society performs Handel’s “Messiah” at the Lakeside High School auditorium on March 9th at 7:00 pm. Jerry Kujala will direct the Hallelujah Chorus segment of the “Messiah”.

Admission is free.

Property Notes

The Property Committee has three projects that are under-way this winter. We have begun to update lighting in the kitchen area in the Fellowship Hall. One new four foot LED light has been installed and tested with very positive results. Two to three additional lights will be installed throughout the summer.

Emelia Lindberg is spearheading a painting project to update and brighten the main hallways of the Education Building. We hope to complete this project in the Spring. In conjunction with this, new directional signage is being installed throughout the Church to help visitors find their way around our beautiful building.

The third project addresses the need to bring cleanliness in our building into the 21st century. Automated hand sanitizers are being installed throughout the Church, hoping to provide some protection for the membership during our usually bad cold and flu seasons. Six have been installed in the lower Education Wing, Fellowship Hall and kitchen area. Five have been installed in the Luther Room, Sacristy, Office and Sanctuary areas. Four more will be added to the main hallway after the Painting Project has been completed. Stay warm. Spring will be here soon!!

Daylight Savings Time

March 10 at 2:00 am DST begins for 2019. Move your clocks ahead one hour!

Sunday School Progress Report

Shyanna Lindberg reports that Sunday School is going well even though they only have two students at this time. Those two students are there every Sunday.

They have a lesson based on Pastor’s sermon for the day. It is a Children’s version of the sermon. Then after their lesson students go upstairs to participate in communion and the rest of the service.

Shyanna reports that they have plenty of room for additional students!

Bible Study
Here L to R, Ruth Hlinovsky, Nancy Krajec, Sue Riley, Pastor Meranda and Kurt Nordquest participate in Bible Study.



Messiah Lutheran Church
615 Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

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Welcome
Home To
Messiah



Messiah Messenger

March 2019

Worship:
11:00 am Sunday

Sunday School:
11:00 am Sunday

Adult Forum:
9:45 am Sunday

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