

## Pastor's Column

We've barely begun to sample spring weather and I am thinking ahead to October. That's the month for Messiah's semi-annual meeting. We elect persons to serve on council in October. We always appreciate those who put themselves forward to serve the congregation in this way. It means they schedule time for meetings and phone calls. The Church's ministry of word and sacrament happens in part because many congregations structure ordered polity. The nuts and bolts of ministry are managed by congregational councils. This year's elections are HUGE because three persons are scheduled to go off council. Combined, they have rendered Messiah 18-years of rock solid leadership.

**1. Frank Maenpa** has served as council chair, council vice president and parish relations committee. He's also lent a lot of helpful influence and expertise with the Property Committee. Frank is a product of nearby Lutheran higher education, having graduated from Thiel College in the 1960's. He's a life-long member of Messiah and we deeply appreciate his time on council. **2.**

**Ruth Hlinovsky** recently joined Messiah after she moved here from the mountains of Pennsylvania. It was Ruth Reinker who brought Ruth Hlinovsky to our pews. Very quickly she became active in Bible studies and church activities. For the past six years she has chaired our Hospitality Committee. That committee occupies one of our highest budget categories. Their work is constant yet varied. Consistently they manage events such as Winter Fest, Coffee Hours, or Red Brook Vespers. Spontaneously they manage events such as funerals or when the synod bishop visits. We deeply appreciate Ruth's time on council. **3. Mike Shaffer** has served a variety of roles on council. He has been our vice president and our president. He has chaired the stewardship committee and over saw the parish relations committee. His strong business background gave him helpful perspective for financial and physical plant decision making at Messiah. We especially appreciate how he brought his great grandchildren here for baptism. Weekly he and spouse Kathleen Shaffer bring granddaughter Athena to serve in choir loft and chancel. We deeply appreciate Mike's time on council.

We thank other council members – Sue Riley, Candace Rodgers, Emelia Lindberg, Beckey Young, & Mark Anderson – who have not yet finished their terms. If you have served on council in the past, we thank you. If you are open to serving again or serving for the first time we welcome you. Please consider this your invitation to mull over with the Holy Spirit if this may be an avenue for you to express your many gifts.

Welcome Home to Messiah,  
Pr. Michael Meranda



## Faythe & Rhana Visit

By: Faythe Jerome

On the sunny Sunday afternoon of March 31st Rhana Wehn and Faythe Jerome visited Wanda Moses and Ruth Jepson at the Ashtabula County Nursing Home and Rehab Center.

A wonderful time was had by all! Old memories, lots of smiles and laughs, made a great new memory for everyone.

In the picture below, Rhana is seen kneeling beside Ruth. We thank Faythe for the picture and article. Wanda has since returned home from rehabilitation .



## Hope Hunt Sings Along

Hope Hunt, infant daughter of Kevin and Julie Hunt, is pictured here, sitting with her Dad, Kevin, near the choir loft one Sunday morning.

Astute Church members will hear Hope singing along with her mom's choir on Sunday morning. Choir members predict that she'll be a soprano.

Welcome home to Messiah, Hope!



## Palm Sunday Was Celebrated

Sue Burkholder's usher team was on duty Palm Sunday. Here Sue is seen on the left handing a palm to Darcy Mosier.

During Lent the choir walks to the choir loft single file up the side aisle of the Church. On Palm Sunday, they resume their processional filing in down the middle aisle of the Church while singing the opening hymn.

It is a joyous return to "normalcy".

## John the Baptist Vespers

By: Tina Tallbacka

John the Baptist Vespers are Wednesday, June 19, at Redbrook Boat Club, Lake Road West. The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a half-hour vesper service, led by Pastor Meranda. We will then enjoy appetizers and drinks, followed by watching the sunset together.

Our Hospitality Committee members will be bringing appetizers, and anyone else who attends is welcome to help out by contributing a goody, although you do not have to bring anything. Just come and enjoy.

The Redbrook gate will be open from 6:30 to 7:15, but will be closed after that. If you will be arriving later than 7:15, please let me know, ph: 440-812-1947, so we can arrange to let you in. Please join us for fellowship at the lake.



## 2019 Graduates

By: Cathy Carle, Church Secretary

Our list of 2019 graduates may not be very accurate. Please make any corrections and let us know of High School and college graduates from Messiah or with Messiah connections. Phone the Church Office at 992-9392.

We have: Alexis Dibell, LHS; Paden Cochran, LHS; Garrett Webster; and Samantha Osowski.

## Letters & Emails

Dear Pastor Meranda,

Thank you so much for letting us meet at your Church. Thank you for your support and opening your Church to us. We appreciate your generosity.

Signed by 15 members of NarAnon

## Lenten Cooks

It has become customary for different individuals to "cook" for Lenten Soup Suppers. Pictured here are four cooks who provided the food on a recent Wednesday evening.

L to R, Kathy Nordquest, soup; Marie Blood, bread; Beckey Young, soup and Sandy Matheny, dessert.

About 20 to 30 people attended each of the five Lenten services this year. They enjoyed good food and great fellowship. Also, thanks to Pastor, a great lesson on Healing Prayer via a DVD collection.



## Foundation Approves Roof Repairs

It was reported at the February Church Council meeting that the Messiah Foundation had approved a \$6,000 grant to replace the flat roof over the restrooms in the 1967 building.

We appreciate their generosity and thank them from the bottom of our hearts for all of their support over the years.

## Carpet Gets Stretched

In the picture below, Rich, from Carpetman and Sons, stretches carpet in the Narthex. Our Property Committee hired them to work to stretch all of the carpet in the Church that needed it.

They began work at about 9:30 am and Rich said they would be there most of the day.

This work will be a big improvement in the Church and eliminate some potential tripping issues for members.



## Debbie, Our Outstanding Organist

Every Sunday morning a familiar face shows up and takes her place at the organ console. Debbie Fleming has been our organist for over two decades and what a great job she does! We are very blessed to have her!

She works cooperatively with Pastor to lead the Worship Service. Debbie rarely misses a beat while making our organ sing for the Worshippers.

Next time you see Debbie tell her what a great job she does and how fortunate we are to have her!

One of our newest members, Sandy Matheny, was one of Debbie's keyboard teachers in Conneaut years ago.



## Easter Sunday Was Glorious



Easter Sunday we had a large crowd at Worship. The choir sang it's "Alleluias", the breakfast in the Fellowship Hall was fantastic and the Easter Garden was again very pretty. We had a great celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



In the top picture, Crucifer, Athena Pantoja, lights the candles surrounded by Easter flowers.

In the bottom picture Fred Leitert hands his basket of flowers to Altar Guild member, Martha Pallutch.

Thanks to all who helped to make this a wonderful and glorious Easter!

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

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## Scholarship

By: Cathy Carle

### Origin:

Messiah Lutheran Church established this scholarship from funds given to Messiah in memory of Robert Bjerstedt and Rosella Lewis. The money was combined with permission of Church Council and the families of Robert Bjerstedt and Rosella Lewis to form the Messiah Scholarship. The money is invested and the interest from which would be awarded.

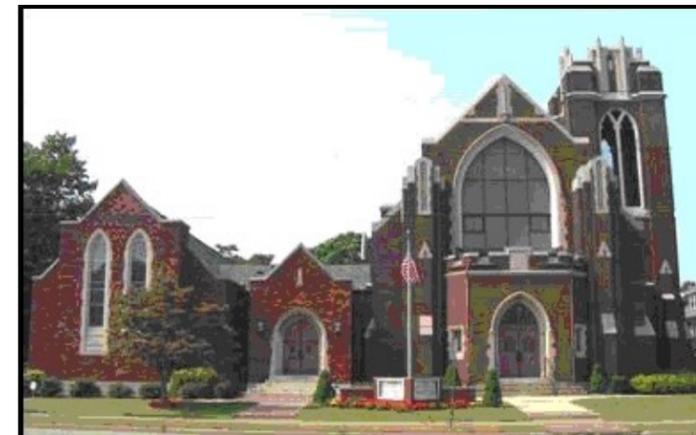
### General Facts:

Each June up to \$500 may be awarded to a high school graduate who attends Messiah Lutheran Church and plans to attend a college, university, or trade/tech. school. Applicants and recipients may reapply each year.

Application forms can be picked up and returned at the church office. Applications must be returned by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The scholarship will be awarded on Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Scholarship money is for one year only. The check will be made out to the student and the school the student will be attending.

## Church Mouse Heard:

Pastor say "Don't put a question mark where God put a period".



**Welcome  
 Home To  
 Messiah**



# Messiah Messenger

**May 2019**

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

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