

Pastor’s Column

I’ve heard the refrain echoed again and again. There is so much to do around Ashtabula. A recent Saturday in September brought the Great Rib Burn Off in Lakeshore Park, a Run Against Violence event on State Road, a Peace Day event in South Park, an Ohio Forestry event in Pierpont, stage plays in Conneaut and Ashtabula. There are school events, club events, non-profit committee events, and church events galore. This may be one reason why we are aging so well in America. The stimulation and activity keep us young.

The church year celebrated an event on September 29th, the Festival of St. Michael and All Angels. His name, in Hebrew, asks a question, “Who is like God?” In the Book of Revelation, he’s a leader of the heavenly army, opposing Satan. In the Book of Jude, he challenges Satan for possession of the body of Moses. In the Book of Daniel, he appears as a great protector and prince. Those images inspired a prayer in the medieval church, “St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection against malice; by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and other evil spirits who roam the world seeking the ruin of souls.”

There is no doubt there are cultural tendencies and inner impulses and wounded personalities that “seek the ruin of souls.” To help us, God created the ministry of angels. They aid and encourage us in this dangerous walk thru life. The point when considering angels is to look beyond them and look to their source, who is God. They are God’s servants, not independent beings whom we worship with cult like fascination. God generates victory over evil thru the paradox of the cross. Victory over evil continues as our lives proclaim the self-giving of Christ crucified.

What’s the best way for us to thwart the evil trends and impulses that “seek the ruin of souls”? Continue to do stuff like the first paragraph described. Be present. Be active. Be involved. Share skills. Learn things. Meet people. God is in us and acts thru us. God’s angels are beside us.

See you at Homecoming Dinner October 20th,
Pastor Michael Meranda

Reunion Dinner October 20

All active, former, and inactive members of Messiah will gather right after Church on Sunday, October 20 to remember and celebrate life at Messiah. The main course for dinner will be catered. Members are asked to bring side dishes and dessert.

Traci Teudhope, newscaster and a Messiah confirmand , will speak briefly after dinner.

We encourage all active, former, and inactive members of Messiah to gather, remember, and celebrate life at Messiah.

Daylight Savings Time Ends Nov. 3

Members are reminded that DST ends at 2:00 am on November 3. That’s the time when we will all set our clocks back one hour.

Ushers On Duty

Ushers are on duty every Sunday morning without fail.

Here Carl Malkie’s team is on duty and he is shown with team member Candace Rodgers.

Usher teams help our service to go smoothly by handing out bulletins, taking the offering, and helping seat people.



Adult Forum Has Started

Pastor’s Sunday morning Adult Forum has started. About 10 to 20 people have attended each week.

This year they are studying the new testament book of Titus. Pastor makes the Forum very interesting and enjoyable. If you haven’t attended, try it, you’ll like it!



**Welcome Home To Messiah
Reunion Dinner
October 20
Plan To Attend**



ATM II Reflections

By: Lanny Anderson

As we near the end of our payments to the Foundation for the ATM II project, it behooves us to reflect a little on what this project did and what it means to us at this time.

In these pictures, the drainage contractor employees are shown installing all new footer drains around the entire perimeter of the Church. The basement foundation was waterproofed and new drains were installed.

In the middle picture our beloved Pastor Eaton is shown standing in a catch basin before it was installed. Pastor Eaton is now Presiding Bishop of the ELCA.

In the bottom picture , one of the drainage contractor employees is shown standing on the catch basin after it was installed and during the backfilling.

The drainage portion of ATM II solved leaking problems in the basement foundation. The old perimeter drains were destroyed and new drains were installed. Water in the new drains was directed north west to Station Avenue where it entered the city storm sewer system.

Other parts of the ATM II project included the bell tower restoration, many roof repairs and reroofing of sections of the roof including the flat roofs between the two buildings, window repairs in both buildings but not including stained glass renewal, and pointing up of the concrete mortar in both buildings. There were many other projects completed before ATM II was laid to rest.

This was a project that cost us well over \$300,000. The congregation pledged money to the project and we borrowed from the Andover Bank to finance it. At about the half way point in our loan from Andover Bank, we appealed to our own Foundation to take over the loan and thus pay the interest to ourselves instead of to the bank. They said “yes” and we are now paying the Foundation a little under \$2,000 each month.

Church Treasurer Candace Rodgers says at this time our balance due the Foundation is a little over \$100,000. We will complete payments to the Foundation in January 2025.

The late Dick Reinker was a member of the ATM II committee. He monitored the project and recorded the progress with dozens of pictures. He took the pictures that appear on this page. Thank you, Dick.

Scholarship Correction

Beckey Young, a member of the Scholarship Committee, called to say that an error was made in our last month’s article about Isabelle Fleming receiving a \$500 award for this year. The error was that we said the scholarship money was invested. It is not! The committee is researching mutual funds that they can invest in and draw interest from. We apologize for this error.

Theology on Tap



Theology on Tap met this month in the Harbor at Halcyon’s restaurant. Pastor led discussion on “People of African De-scent and our broken immigration system”. He used as a guide to his discussion the ELCA Declaration from the 2019 Church Wide assembly.

This very thought provoking discussion was enlightening and included our Church being a Sanctuary Church.

We thank Kurt Nordquest for taking the picture you see here.

Feed The Hope

“Feed the Hope” met September 13 at the Town Square Mall in Ashtabula. About 600 volunteers packed over 200,000 meals for the people in our community.

Ten volunteers from Messiah were among the “packers”. They were: Rick and Barb Ranta, Joyce and Lanny Anderson, Beth and Mark Anderson, Ruth Hlinovsky, Mary Schroeder, David Anderson, and Faythe Jerome.

Rick reported that we packed nearly 4,000 meals in the three hours we were there.

Church Mouse Heard:

Little John was bothered with a question that he had to ask his Sunday School teacher. “Miss Davis, are there any ani-mals in heaven?” “I’m not sure, Johnny,” his teacher responded. “Well, I just want-ed to know, cause last Sunday we sang about Gladly the cross-eyed bear.”



Thanksgiving Dinner

By: Ruth Hlinovsky

Hospitality is preparing for our 2019 Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 24. As always, we provide the turkeys, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, yams, green beans, and dinner rolls.



Sign up sheets for volunteers are on a table in the narthex for all who are able to give of their time.

Sign up sheets for the number of people in your group of family and guests, and any dessert you are able to provide , are going to be in the love , care and concern folders. With many thanks for your generous contribution to the success of this beloved tradition.

Bus Trippin With Barb

By: Barb Lewis

I have two trips planned. They are:

Trip # 1
Christmas in the Woods in Columbiana, Ohio. Cost is \$40 which includes the entrance fee. We’ll leave at 8:00 am and return at 4:00 pm. Reservations are due by October 12.

Trip # 2
“Donna Summer” at Playhouse Square in Cleveland. We’re going October 26 and the cost is \$92. This is the story of the life and music of Donna Summer. RSVP by October 19

For more details about any of these trips contact Barb at 440-228-0872. All trips are in partnership with Richmond Transportation.

Coffee Hour

Ed Schroeder and his daughter Carrie were coffee hour hosts in September. They are pictured here behind the serv-ing table in the Luther Room.

They had a wonderful selection of “goodies” for us to enjoy while visiting with each oth-er.

Ruth Hlinovsky, Hos-pitality Chair, is al-ways looking for hosts for this once a month fellowship. Contact her at 440-812-2806 if you are interested.



Messiah Lutheran Church
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Ashtabula, OH 44004

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Welcome
Home To
Messiah



Messiah Messenger

October 2019

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

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