

Pastor’s Column

Good things come about slowly. They happen thru time and process. I’m thinking of the formation of Messiah Lutheran Church. Our website says on 2.28.1921, a group of members at Capernaum Lutheran in the Harbor voted to form a new congregation uptown. The folk who left Capernaum to form Messiah lived in this neighborhood It was natural for them to begin a congregation within walking distance. And so, Messiah began.

More dates and more process would follow. Our new congregation needed to incorporate in the State of Ohio. So, on March 12<sup>th</sup> in 1921 a delegation from Messiah (AL Johnson, John Larson, John Peterson, Arvid Arvidson, Oscar Johnson) signed the Articles of Incorporation for our “Evangelical Lutheran Messiah Church.” John Koski was the notary who set a county seal to the document. On March 14<sup>th</sup> in 1921 two Ashtabula County Court officials, FL Marvin and CA Warmer, added their signatures and seal to our articles of incorporation. On March 21<sup>st</sup> in 1921, the Secretary of State of the State of Ohio, Harvey Smith, certified and filed our Articles of Incorporation. We were recorded in Volume 258 on page 314 pf the Records of Incorporations. Good things come about thru time and process. Probably as early as 1920 folk at Capernaum began to talk about forming a new congregation. Conversations, voting, and approvals continued thru the months. Finally, in March of 1921, Messiah was officially recorded and filed as a non-for-profit corporation. People understood the process of moving a project from point A to point B. County and State governmental structures were in place to keep the process orderly.

Good things come about thru time and process. The crucifixion/resurrection of Jesus was set in motion before his birth. He lived a very human life, interacting with historical circumstances and countless people. Along the way many began to understand the course and significance of his life. Wise Simeon knew his life would save many and cause severe pain for his mother. The journey to Jerusalem was long. The final week in Jerusalem prolonged his suffering and death. Even his resurrection involved time and process. At some point in those “three days” he acclaimed victory to the souls in “prison”. That was the first announcement of resurrection. For forty days he appeared to various disciples, taking more time to make sure those who needed to see him would see him. The gift of his resurrection proceeds thru time and space whenever people are baptized into his name.

We have another precious gift of a span of time at Messiah. The 40 Days of Lent have begun. This is a season that intensifies our devotion and prayer. This Lent: is there someone special you wish to lift up, is there a specific cure you seek, is there a particular gift of the Holy Spirit you need to receive, is there someone you would like to forgive (including yourself)? Good things take time. Time is an aspect of creation. The folk who founded this community of faith called Messiah understood that. We have been given time. Now is the time for good things to happen.

Welcome Home to Messiah  
Pastor Michael Meranda

Daylight Savings Time Starts March 8

Daylight Savings Time starts Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 am.

Most of us will actually set our clocks ahead one hour before retiring on Saturday.

If we don’t, we’ll be late for Church on Sunday, March 9.

DST continues until Sunday, November 1.



Mid Week Soup Supper  
Lenten Service  
6:00 pm March 4



Lent/Easter Schedule

- March 4 -- Soup supper & midweek service -- 6:00 pm
- March 11 -- Soup supper & midweek service -- 6:00 pm
- March 18 -- Soup supper & midweek service -- 6:00 pm
- March 25 --Soup supper & midweek service -- 6:00 pm
- April 1 -- Soup supper & midweek service -- 6:00 pm
- April 5 -- Palm Sunday Holy Communion -- 11:00 am
- April 9 -- Maundy Thursday Service -- 7:00 pm
- April 10 -- Good Friday Service -- 7:00 pm
- April 11 -- Modified Easter Vigil -- 7:00 pm
- April 12 -- Easter Sunday Holy Communion -- 11:00 am

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

By: Russ Jepson, Stewardship Chair

Have you asked yourself lately, why you give of your time, talent, and treasure to causes, groups, organizations and churches? Is it because of their mission? When a mission touches your heart and soul it receives your support of time, talent, and income.



Does the mission of Messiah Lutheran Church touch your heart and soul? Preaching, teaching, communing, opportunities for service, a place to unwind from the stress of daily living, a place to rewind to meet tomorrow, pastor’s homilies, uplifting hymns – these all fill the soul.

Is your support in thanks for God’s presence in your life enough to sustain Messiah’s mission? I pray it is.  
II Corinthians 9:6-8

Cathy Carle To Retire

By: Pastor Meranda

Cathy Carle, who has served Messiah as office secretary since October 2008, has announced her retirement. Her last Day in the office will be April 10, 2020 (Good Friday).

The Congregational Council will devise a way to publicly acknowledge and thank her for her over a decade of faithful service. In the meantime, all are encouraged to affirm and thank her for all the good she has done in this good place.



Church Mouse Heard:

The preacher’s 5 year old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day she asked him why.



Well honey he began proud that his Daughter was so observant of his message. I’m asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon. “How come he doesn’t answer it?” She asked.

Coffee Hours Always Popular

Our once per month “coffee hours” are always popular and well attended. Here are several pictures from recent “hours”.

In the top picture, L to R, Manette Nelson and Ruth Hlinovsky are being served by hosts Carl and Joan Malkie.

In the bottom left picture Keith Pearson of Kent Ohio is pouring himself coffee and in the bottom right picture hosts Mark and Beth Anderson are shown at the serving table in the Luther Room.



Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

Men of Messiah cooked and served Shrove Tuesday pancakes at Church on Tuesday evening, February 25 to about 50 members and guests. Shown here are several of the men involved L to R, Russ Jepson, Kurt Nordquest, David Anderson and Fred Grimm. The men served pancakes, link sausage, juice and coffee. Marie Blood, a friend of the men, provided her blueberry topping which was very popular.





Letters and Emails

Dear Messiah Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your recent most generous donation of \$28.21 to support the work of our agency. Your continued support of our mission is truly appreciated.

As we serve into our seventy-fifth year in Ashtabula County, Catholic Charities has been maintaining its mission of serving the poor and vulnerable. Thank you for making this possible. May God bless you all for your support, kindness and compassion.

Sincerely,  
Jill Valentic, MSSA  
Executive Director

(Pastor’s Discretionary Fund helped pay a man’s light bill)

Julie Quay Is New Deacon

Julie Quay has joined the ranks of Messiah’s Deacon pool. She joins six other Deacons who assist Pastor in conducting Messiah’s Worship services.

Pastor said, “throughout the years, Messiah has trained many excellent deacons. I’ve worked with our current group of Sue Riley, Barb Lewis, Rick Ranta, Kurt Nordquest, Emelia Lindberg and Jill Carle, for 12 years. We are so happy that Julie Quay has brought her gifts to this calling in the life of our congregation.

Julie and her husband George have a cottage in Hallwood and live in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. They have been regular attenders at Messiah for many years.



Winterfest Was Great!



Winterfest held on Sunday, February 23 was as usual a great success and appreciated by all. A pot luck dinner, right after Worship, featured all of Messiah’s great cooks.

In the top picture, L to R, Athena Pantoja, Joan Malkie, Carl Malkie, Marilyn Brown and Jim Brown enjoy their dinner together. In the bottom two pictures, part of the crowd is going thru the buffet line.

Julie Quay, newly appointed Deacon, said as she was going thru the line “This is why there are very few skinny Luther-ans”!

Messiah Lutheran Church  
615 Prospect Road  
Ashtabula, OH 44004

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004  
Permit No. 313



Welcome  
Home To  
Messiah



Messiah Messenger

March 2020

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

Produced For The Members and Friends of Messiah Lutheran Church, 615 Prospect Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004  
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