Pastor's Column

Summer has flown by and we find ourselves back in the season of Fall. At many houses, Halloween decorations have been set up for weeks and we are starting to get that cool Fall weather. Our congregational meeting to vote on new council members is on October 18th, which seemed so far away until recently. Football season is upon us, which means Thanksgiving is on the horizon and a few stray Christmas trees are popping up in the stores. When time seems to move so quickly, I can get caught up in the myth of finding the "right time" to start things.

However, as the cliché goes: the best time to start is yesterday, the second best is right now. Adult Christian Education has been on my mind for quite a while and even though the logistics still need to be fine-tuned, the only way to sort out what works is by giving it a go. Since "right now" is not a helpful time suggestion when planning a group activity, let's aim for October 25th at 9am instead. Please join us on reformation Sunday in the Luther Room for some time studying the Lessons for the day. We will continue looking at the Lessons for each Sunday as we adjust the time and form, but to start out, we will meet at 9am in the Luther Room. I hope to see you there!

Peace
Pastor Sarah Moore

October Altar Flowers

<u>October 4th</u>
First vase: The Grimms in memory of Dawn's parents
Second vase: The Grimms in memory of Marietta and Donald Bussard

Are you a Thrivent Member? *submitted by: Candace Rodgers*

Thrivent Choice is a charitable program that gives Thrivent Financial members the power to recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable funds each year. Eligible members are invited to direct Choice Dollars among thousands of enrolled non-profit organizations, including churches, camps, schools, seminaries, campus ministries and more. Through the choice dollars designation we received $753 in 2025. And so far this year we have received $652. If you are a Thrivent Member and haven't made a non-profit designation yet consider make Messiah Lutheran Church your designation.A big thank you to the members who have already made us their designation as every little bit helps.

Foundation Sunday
submitted by: Ed Spencer

The Messiah Lutheran Church Foundation will host its Foundation Sunday event on October 4 during the regular service. The event will highlight the history of the Foundation and its continuous support of the ministry and mission of Messiah Lutheran Church. A coffee hour will also be hosted by the Board of Supervisors in the Luther Room directly after the service.

The Foundation was founded in 1974 by members Leroy Anderson, Marie Knuebel and Albin Anderson with the goal of creating a mechanism that would allow donations to be kept in a trust that would grow in perpetuity and provide support for physical projects that would support the ministry of Messiah. The original donation was $75.

Since its inception, members and Friends of Messiah have contributed $543,200 to the fund. Only the earnings are allocated from the fund. It is 100% invested and is managed by Richard Alt of Carnegie Capital in Pepper Pike, Ohio. The current value of the trust as of June 30 is $837,174. It is currently providing approximately $41,200 annually to major projects being completed at Messiah.

Many major projects have been supported by the Foundation over the years. A few of those projects are the ATM 1 and 2 projects, boilers, total tuck pointing of the building, complete replacement and insulation of building roofs and stained glass window repair. Future projects include replacement of the windows in the education building scheduled for this fall and parking lot repair targeted for 2027 & 2028.

Current members of the Board of Supervisors include Pastor Moore, Robin Wells, church council president Kathleen Shaffer, Fred Grimm, Rick Ranta, John Higgins, Frank Maenpa, Keith Reinker and Ed Spencer. Any one of them will be happy to answer questions and help any member who would like to contribute. Envelopes are included in this newsletter for your convenience.

Please join us for information and fellowship on October 4!

October Vigil Candle:

Linda Crawford to the glory of God and in memory of Fred Crawford.

Prayer Roll

The Prayer Roll will consist of a handful of members randomly selected from Messiah's roster of community members. We may also include folks who would like to request additional prayers, but are not ready to share more broadly. Just because someone appears on this list, it does **NOT** necessarily mean anything is wrong. There is never a bad time to pray for someone.

This month, please pray for: Lanny Anderson, Dee Dee Maenpa, Sherrie Hurst, Herb Watts, Dana Cleversy, Kathryn Huggins, David Kaba, Sherrie Laveck, Julie Quay, Sue Riley.

Church Mouse Heard:

Altar Guild *submitted by: Rhana Wehn*

As we are quickly approaching the end of 2026, I thought I would share some thoughts.
Thanks to all our volunteers, from choir members to ushers. Volunteers are the backbone of a church (Sorry Pastor).
We definitely need more volunteers on the altar guild. Joan/myself will work with you (I promise not to pick on you too much). Our church is becoming more elderly and between accidents and hospital visits, we find ourselves short handed.
I have included the list of our altar people and the duties. Please check to see if your name is listed and for the right month.
Altar guild will meet October 18th after the congregational meeting.

Saturday Duties:

•Check the candelabras. They need to be filled after every service.
•Check the tall Altar candles at the beginning of your month.
•Check the calendar on the cabinet for liturgical color and change the paraments if needed. Please check the white Altar coverings for stains/spots and change if necessary.
•Change the vigil candle every week.
•Place the fresh altar flowers in the vases. If there are no fresh flowers, use artificial ones.

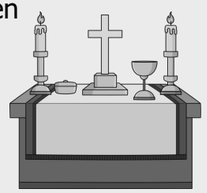
Communion Set-up:

•Follow the diagram on the cabinet door to set up the chalice for communion.
•Use the covers that match the paraments of the day.
•Check the Ciborium to make sure there are enough hosts for the service. Place it back in the Tabernacle

Sunday Duties:

•Remove the Altar Flowers.
•Return the vases to the cabinet. Place the liners in the wooden holders opposite the Pastor's office.
•Make sure the Chalice cloths are put away in the drawer.
•Check the Altar linens for stains. Please let Joan Malkie know if they need to be cleaned.

Altar Guild Schedule:



January-Barb Ranta
February-Becky Ollikainen
March-Joan Malkie
April-
May-Kathy Nordquest
June-
July-Sherrie Laveck
August-Rhana Wehn
September-Rhana Wehn
October-Mary Schroeder
November-Renee Spencer
December-Joan Malkie

TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 31st
3:00-5:00pm
Messiah Lutheran Church

November Messenger Copy Deadline October 27th at Noon

Messiah Lutheran Church
615WestProspect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

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Welcome Home To Messiah

October 2026

Worship:
Sunday10:00 am

Sunday School:
Sunday 10:00am

For The Members and Friends of Messiah Lutheran Church,
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