

## Pastor's Column

I ride a nice bicycle. I bought it years ago in Wisconsin. It's not an elite, hyper expensive bike. But it does have disc brakes, 18 speeds, and it shifts like butter.

My best bicycle riding memories were with that Schwinn Varsity I rode back in Junior High days. At the approach of a downhill slope I'd bear down heavily in 10th gear to work up velocity. Speeding down hills as fast as a desert wind, it felt like flying. Now that I'm a senior citizen, I shy away from too much downhill velocity.

We lived up on Barge Street in Yakima, WA. The Schwinn Varsity glided downhill to get to friends' houses or school or the downtown YMCA. Going downhill I knew I would have to return home going uphill. There was no way to avoid it. I could go uphill on Tieton Drive, uphill on Knob Hill Blvd., or uphill on Summit Ave. But to get home meant pedaling uphill.

The most epic journey on that Schwinn Varsity ten speed was after my family had moved to an Oregon suburb, Lake Oswego. I had friends from church in a neighboring suburb, Tigard, OR. Interstate 5 runs thru Oregon north to south. Interstate 5 there is what Interstate 90 or Interstate 80 is here. The day I rode from Lake Oswego to Tigard I actually bicycled on Interstate 5. This was 1968. Oregon had not yet "filled up". There was zero traffic that foggy summer morning on Interstate 5. I felt emboldened. I maneuvered from the shoulder where I had been pedaling. I rode out onto the middle of the right lane on Interstate 5. I marveled to myself, "Amazing! I'm on a bicycle on an Interstate highway and there are no cars!"

When I first moved to Ashtabula, Dick Reinker told me one of the many manufacturing sites here made gear sprockets for Schwinn bicycles. That was so cool to learn that. So the Schwinn ten-speed I pedaled safely down Interstate 5 had sprockets manufactured here Ashtabula. That Schwinn Varsity I loved so much got stolen one night off our front porch. I never rode it again. If per chance an impossible miracle would occur and I'd recover that bike, I think I'd name it Rose Bud. But that's a whole other movie.

What's it like riding a bicycle around Ashtabula? Nowadays I worry about dogs a lot more. Aggressive dogs have permeated our households in America. The side streets here are really crummy. Yes, the city has done a great job of re-surfacing the main arterials. But if you get on a back street the roads are as craggy and rough as the aging teeth on my lower jaw. People are nice in Ashtabula. You approach them and nod and say, "Hi" and they to say "hi" in return. It's always nice to meet other bicyclists and compare equipment.

Bicycling is interesting. To pedal forward you push our foot downward. Because you push down on a pedal, you go round and around. The pedal in rounding motion is attached to round sprocket. Front round sprocket connects via chain to rear round sprocket. Chain goes round and around from front to rear. Without the dynamic of going round, bicycling would not happen. Bicycling is an interconnection of circles. The circles interconnect in such a way that motion happens.

One depiction of God is God is circle. God is that circle whose center point is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere. Circle is symbol of the eternal nature of God. It just goes round and round and just is. But God as circle is in motion. God is constant motion of grace and preservation. God is constantly moving into our bodies and souls. The God who journeys to us invites us to journey along in God's good and healing ways.

Faithfully your pastor,  
Michael Meranda

## Glue Sticks Appreciated

*By: Melissa Watson, Ed.D, AACS Superintendent*

I just wanted to say a great big "Thank You" for all of the school supplies. The teachers are sending down lists and we are able to provide book bags and supplies to those kids who have come to school without the items. If anyone still has supplies that need to be picked up please let me know and I will come and pick them up.



I would like to thank everyone for loving on our kids in this way at our BOE meeting on Tuesday, September 19 at 6:00 pm in the large group instruction room in LHS. It would be my privilege to thank your congregation publicly.

I look forward to continued involvement with the Alliance.

L to R, Melissa Watson, Pastor Meranda and Jessica Wisner securing our 2500 glue sticks.



## Coffee Hours Continue

First Sunday of the month "coffee hours" are continuing. This is a great opportunity for members to socialize and get better acquainted. In the picture below, Julie Quay and her son, Grayson, were hosts for the August hour. In the picture at the right members are seen working their way down the buffet line.



These events are hosted by the Hospitality Committee. The Committee is seeking host(s) for the coffee hour. Contact Ruth Hlinovsky if you are interested.

This is not a difficult job. "Treats" can be either bought or home made. One recent host brought several boxes of Madsen Donuts. This was very popular and well appreciated by the members.

Ruth can be reached at 440-812-2806.

## Church Mouse Said:

Marriage is like a violin, after the music stops, the strings are still attached.



## VBS Was Successful!



Gary Eble is seen here helping a VBS student with the balloon toss.

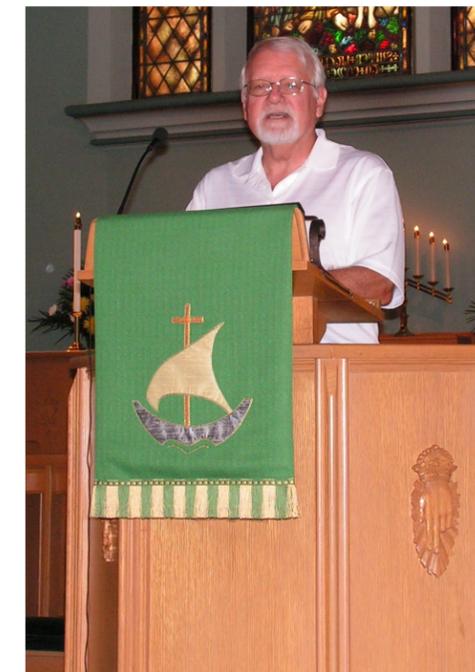
About 15 children attended VBS each day and the leaders thought it was a very good School.

Many thanks to Emelia and Shyanna Lindberg and all the teachers for their hard work.

## Door Greeters Needed

Choose 9:15 to 10:15 am for the Sunday Forum or 10:15 to the end of the 11:00 am Holy Communion service. Commitments are flexible and average once every 4 to 6 weeks.

## We Had A Special Meeting



Michael Shaffer, left, called the special meeting of the congregation to order immediately following the Worship Service on August 27. The purpose of the meeting was to approve expenditures for two major projects: (1) a new west side roof over the education building and (2) stained glass window repair to the two west side Sanctuary Windows.

Both projects will be overseen by the Property Committee.

Funding for both projects is in hand and has been secured through an anonymous donor and the Messiah Foundation..

**Choir Practice  
Every Thurs. at 7:00 pm**

## Daytimers Begin

By: Manette Nelson

After summer vacation, Daytimers begin their fall schedule of meetings on Wednesday, September 6 at 10:30am. Daytimers meet the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays from September through May. See you there for cards and fellowship. You are welcome to bring a friend.

## Quinceañera Celebration

Athena Victoria Pantoja  
Saturday, October 14, 2017—4:00 pm  
Business Attire  
Norman D Banquet Center  
2720 West 19 th street  
Ashtabula

RSVP to Kathleen Shaffer at 440-969-3255  
Or kws1950@hotmail.com  
By October 1, 2017

## Brass Band Plays At Messiah

A selection of musicians from the Ashtabula Brass Band played a concert on the lawn at Messiah. Called "Brass in the Grass", the ensemble is pictured below. Our thanks to Kurt Nordquest for taking and emailing this picture to us.



## Congratulations George & Julie Quay

By: Cathy Carle

Congratulations to George and Julie Quay and family. During announcements at the July 30 Worship Service, Julie announced very eloquently and from the heart that her prayer had been answered. A wonderful girl entered into Grayson's life and is now wearing his ring. Best wishes to the Quay Family for continued happiness, answered prayers and God's blessings.

## Special Visitors October 1

By: Cathy Carle

Special visitors will be worshipping with us October 1. Pastor and Mrs. John Lekander and their daughter from Henderson, TN plan on being at Messiah's service October 1. John is writing a history of Messiah and St. Paul's, Jefferson, from his perspective. John's father, Carl, was confirmed in 1913 at Capernaum, Ashtabula. John was confirmed at St Paul's in Jefferson. John was ordained June 27, 1962 at Ford Auditorium, Detroit, MI in conjunction with the last convention of the Augustana Lutheran Church. In the Augustana Synod the ordinations were at the annual national convention.



## Church Picnic



Our Church picnic and Worship service was August 20 at Saybrook Township Park. As usual, a good crowd was present.

In the top picture, members make their way down the buffet line. Bottom picture, the crowd during the Worship service. And in the picture at the right, Tara and Maggie Moore enjoy their dinner.

Hospitality Committee provided hot dogs and beverages and members brought dishes to share. There are no better cooks than Lutherans.

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

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# Messiah Messenger

September 2017

### Worship:

11:00 am - Sunday

### Adult Sunday Forum

9:45 am—Sunday



**Welcome  
Home To  
Messiah**



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