

## Pastor's Column

I was privileged to worship at two ordination liturgies this year.

In August four new pastors to enter our synod were ordained at Zion Lutheran Church in Youngstown. Zion is a multi-staffed, multi-program church set in a thriving suburban economy. The parking lot filled long before the service time. It was good to see other pastors arriving, our albs and stoles on hangars, flowing in the breeze. Soon Bishop Allende arrived in our gathering room with his associate, Karl Biermann. We heard our instructions, prayed, then gathered in the narthex for procession.

The worship space was large and open. Organ, choir, and instrumentalist led the hymns. We visiting pastors, adorned in red, filled four pews.

I was moved at Zion when we sang the last stanza of "Come, Holy Spirit." In choreographed order the four ordinands left their pew with their sponsor. They walked into the chancel where they were met by the bishop who would ordain them. Watching them gather at the final verse of that hymn became for me one of those moments where "your whole life flashes in front of you." I saw in that instant what those new pastors would soon experience. They will engage a lifetime of preaching and proclamation. There will be countless meetings. They will be constantly available to provide pastoral care and counsel. They will be drawn into conflict, fairly or unfairly. They will teach others and build their own ministries on The Word. They will celebrate deep joy and satisfaction that comes with serving the people of God. I looked upon those four feeling joy and gladness.

The other ordination I saw this summer was at Grace Lutheran Church in downtown Dover, OH. Former Messiah member Ron Philabaum was ordained in a very personal setting. His cousin preached the sermon. A dear friend of his read the appointed Bible texts that charge the newly ordained to live up to the responsibilities of the pastoral office. His wife, Esther, placed over his shoulders the red stole signifying his ordination. Ron himself addressed the congregation and reflected briefly on his sense of calling. His new bishop from the North Carolina Synod came into Ohio in order to ordain Ron.

Lutherans hold dear a teaching we call the Priesthood of all Believers. Everyone, by their baptism, is a priest of God. A priest mediates the presence of God. All baptized mediate God's presence in our stations in life. Be we at our workplace, our home, our family gathering, our favorite baseball field (Go, Tribe!), our hobby place, our vacation place, our volunteer place, our civic place – wherever we are we are God's priests. Grace is spoken thru us. Healing extends thru us. Repair comes by us. Blessing is available because of us.

To be ordained, then, is not to be elevated up to a higher status. To be ordained is to be set aside for specific calling within the priesthood of all believers. To be ordained is to have additional vocational concern for Word and Sacrament. Pastors are responsible priests of God in all our life stations. But pastors have an additional calling to publicly proclaim the Word and administer the Sacraments.

There is a moving gesture in an ordination liturgy. For the most part the ordinand is isolated, facing the bishop. Then, to invoke further blessing, the bishop invites into the chancel any visiting pastors. Other pastors gather behind the ordinand and extend their hands in prayer. The pastors nearest the ordinand lay their hands on his/her shoulders or head. If there are many visiting pastors they lay hands on each others' shoulders. This is a moving symbol of the church at large. It underscores the importance of collegiality for the ordained. It reminds all that authentic ministry begins with prayer. It was a privilege for me to extend my hands alongside my colleagues' hands in prayer at the ordinations I attended. It reminded me of the pastors who gathered for my ordination and extended their hands in prayer over me. When I pause I can still feel that solidarity. From that comes strength for service.

Faithfully your pastor (ordained in Salem, Oregon 5.23.1980)  
Michael Meranda

**Daytimers Meet** - Daytimers had one of their October meetings recently. In the picture at the left, five tables of card



players are shown. In the picture at the right, L to R, Maggie Anderson, Sue Riley, Pam Lindberg and Norma Williams play cards and enjoy each others company. Daytimers meet the first, third and fifth Wednesdays of each month at 10:30am.



## Thanksgiving Dinner

By: Ruth Hlinovsky, Hospitality Committee

Thanks-For-Giving dinner this year is Sunday, November 20, in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service. The Hospitality Team will provide all the food, from turkeys to dinner rolls. However, we ask members of the congregation to furnish desserts, especially pies.

Sign up sheets are in the Love, Care and Concern folders (also indicate the number of people in your party). We hope for a big turn-out, so that we may enjoy this special get-together and thank God for his many blessings.

## Chili Cook Off A Success!

This Hospitality Committee and Men of Messiah sponsored event was a great success! Many members came down to the Fellowship Hall after Worship and enjoyed the chili and side dishes. Members are seen here filling up their bowls with hot chili. In the bottom picture Dick and Marie Blood are seen enjoying the fellowship.

The best chili award was won by Rick Ranta with Norma Eble gaining runner up status.



## New Doors Installed

Nolan Door Company from Austinburg installed the new doors at the rear of the Church. Brad Doyle, a Nolan employee, is seen working on the installation. This Property Committee supervised project was paid for by a combination of line item budgeted Property Committee funds and a gift from the Messiah Foundation.



Property Committee member Ed Spencer reports that the new doors work really well.

The Property Committee is one of Church Council's very busy committees. There are constant projects to work on.

## Letters & Emails

Thank you Hal & Connie Cooper for your donation of office supplies to be used in the Church's Archives office.

We appreciate your generosity.

Cathy Carle, Church Secretary

## Election Day Bake Sale

On election day, Tuesday, November 8, Lend-A-Hand food pantry is holding a bake sale for all who vote at Messiah. Donated baked goods will be greatly appreciated. Also, volunteers are needed to man the sale tables.

A sign up sheet is located in the Narthex for folks who would like to donate baked goods. Potential volunteers should contact Rick Ranta at 964-7987.

Since the Lend-A-Hand treasury is in pretty good shape right now, the Social Ministry Committee would like to donate the proceeds from the sale to "Mya House".



Mya House located at 517 West Prospect Road.

## Church Mouse Heard:

Toni Morrison say "grown don't mean nothing to a mother. A child is a child. They get bigger, older, but grown? What's that supposed to mean? In my heart it don't mean a thing."



## Foundation Sunday A Success

By: Ed Spencer, Foundation President

Foundation /Chili Cook-Off Sunday was a rousing success as congregation members enjoyed food and fellowship while raising money for the Messiah Foundation.

Foundation Sunday contributions totaled just over \$1000.00 with more pledged for the coming weeks. Another separate \$2000.00 donation was received in late September. The Board of Supervisors would like to thank everyone for their support as 2016 is one of our best fundraising years to date.

The Foundation would also like to remind everyone that our "Memorial Garden Paver Project" is still on going. Engraved pavers are available for a \$100.00 donation with all proceeds going to the Foundation Trust Fund. Information and order forms are on a table in the narthex.

*Pictured here are the Foundation Supervisors at a recent*



*meeting. L to R, 1st row, Jeff Burkholder, Secretary; Marilyn Brown, Vice President/Treasurer; Ed Spencer, President; 2nd row, Russell Jepson; Financial Advisor, Richard Alt; Jerry Kujala; Sue Burkholder; Frank Maenpa and Keith Reinker. Missing from the picture is Pastor Meranda.*

## Sunday School Resuming

By: Mary Schroeder

Sunday School is being scheduled for the month of November. We will be learning about the theme of Thankfulness. Children will meet downstairs at 11:00 am and join their families at 11:30 for the remainder of the service. Each week will focus on an area we are thankful for.

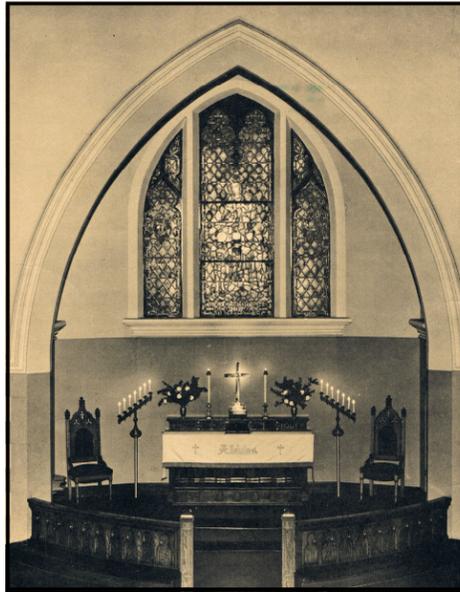
A craft activity will be completed each week to be used as a table decoration for our upcoming Thanks-For-Giving dinner.

## From The Archives

Shown here is the front of the Church in about 1956. Note the rounded communion rail and the dark stained wood. This picture was included in the booklet prepared for the 35th anniversary celebration.

The celebration week started on April 29 and concluded on Sunday, May 6.

The celebration booklet says "The Church looks forward to the future with complete confidence and faith knowing it now has become a strong and effective congregation in the city of Ashtabula. It confesses forthrightly its faith in the savior, Jesus Christ, and with Christ as the leader has no fear of the future."



## We Had A Meeting

The Congregation held one of its two annual meetings Sunday, October 23 after the 11:00 am worship service. Mike Shaffer, Vice President, called the meeting to order and conducted the annual election of Church Council members.

Those elected to three year terms were; Mark Anderson, Ruth Hlinovsky, Frank Maenpa and Mike Shaffer.

In addition the members present elected two delegates for the Synod Assembly in June 2017. Those elected were Barb and Randy Lewis.



## Nordquest Leads Book Review

The next book review night is November 9 at 7:00 pm. Kurt Nordquest will lead discussion on "Accidental Saint" by Nadia Bolz Weber, an ELCA pastor and speaker.

All members are invited. You don't have to read the book before attending.

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

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Permit No. 313

## Messiah Messenger

**November 2016**

### Worship:

11:00 am - Sunday

### Sunday School:

Adult Forum - 9:45 am Sunday  
Children's Sunday School - 11:00 am Sunday

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**An ELCA  
Congregation  
In Mission to  
Ashtabula**

