

## Pastor's Column

I recently experienced two events, very different from each other. The two events were tied together by a common thread of beauty.

The first event was the dying of Norleen Paulchel at Saybrook Landing. She lived serenely and peacefully. She died serenely and peacefully. Something we all hope for in this life is a blessed dying at the end of this life. Norleen "lingered" long enough to hear the full Rite for the Commendation of the Dying. After she very naturally ceased breathing we prayed the phrase, "Lord Jesus Christ, thru water and the spirit Norleen has been brought into your family. Receive her and present her to God most high.



The second event was the wedding of Mary's niece, Taylor. This was a destination wedding in Cabo, Mexico. The setting was gorgeous with bright sun, elegant palm trees, soft sand, bright colors, and spouting whales migrating in the Sea of Cortez. At the wedding two brilliant young people spoke their own words of promise to each other. Any action begins with intention. Their vows of intention began the action of their marriage. As they live out the words they spoke to each other that day they will create the household God intends for them. They will become a source of blessing for each other. The two of them, together, will source blessings for many others thru the years.

So, those two events are very different from the other. The first event was an older person punctuating the end of a long life. The second event was two younger persons taking first steps to begin a long life together. The common thread that ran thru both events was the thread of beauty. There is great beauty in a good wedding: the color, the pageantry, the "costumes", the dinner, the dancing. At a wedding the words are especially beautiful. The couple's words of promise create a marriage. The church's words of prayer and blessing surround the wedding event with such dignity and grace. There is much beauty in a good wedding. You see God's love for creation extending further into creation thru the creation of a good marriage. There is much beauty in dying. You see God's eternal hand reaching in to grasp our temporal hands. Peace is beautiful. When the dying are so peaceful, as Norleen was, you glimpse into their personality that had been so peaceful in life. The peaceful nature of a life well lived carries the person thru death and brings tranquil beauty to their dying. The beauty of a blessed death inspires the witnesses to infuse beauty into our remaining days.

Life happens on a broad spectrum. There is our birthing day and our dying day. There are weddings and break ups. There are high school graduation days and days when an armed intruder breaks in and kills. There are days when institutions celebrate balanced budgets and days when institutions scramble to borrow to fund an unexpected crisis. There are days of good health with athletic achievement and days of diagnosis with pain. Beauty is possible all across the spectrum of those events. Beauty is possible because God is present in all those events. Even in the crisis and the terror, God is achingly, mournfully present. In the marrying and in the dying, God is joyfully and intimately present. Events are different. God is the same. God is creative and healing and reconciling. Because of who God is we may live thru all life's events with peace and dignity. That makes life beautiful.

Faithfully your pastor  
Michael Meranda

## Easter Garden Plants Received March 31, 2018 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon

## Teddy Bear Program

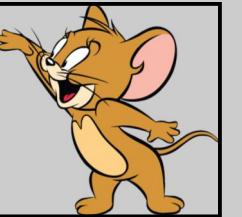
By: Mark Anderson, Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is starting a new Teddy Bear program. At the end of each church pew we will place a Teddy Bear with a laminated message attached to the decorative ribbon. We encourage church attendees in need of comfort or if they know of someone that is in need of comfort, going through a tough time, to take a Teddy Bear. Hopefully this will raise the spirits of the person receiving the Teddy Bear. We are asking for a \$10 donation for each Teddy Bear to help absorb the cost of the program and to ensure we can replace Teddy Bears taken. Please take time to check out our Teddy Bear and read the laminated message. The added benefit of getting Messiah Teddy Bears out to the community, beyond helping the person receiving, is spreading the message of continued giving by Messiah Lutheran Church and its members. Any questions or suggestions are welcome.



## Mouse Heard Ambrose Bierce Say:

Sweater, n.: garment worn by child when its mother is feeling chilly.



This is a picture of the Tuesday Tapestry Group. First row, L to R, Sandra Brown, Barb Ranta, June Venditti and Pam Lindberg. Second row, L to R, Bernice Boggs, Sue Riley, Joanne Duva, and Sue Burkholder.

Tapestry is a non denominational Women's Bible Study. A brief explanation follows:

*There are different kinds of gifts, but they are all from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve but the same Lord to serve. And there are different ways that God works through people but the same God. God works in all of us in everything we do. 1 Corinthians 12: 4-6.*

## Letters & Emails:

I am blessed to have this Church family. Rick put all of the cards on the mantle. It is beautiful. Thank you for remembering me and thank you for your kindness.

Ruth Reinker

## Easter Garden

By: Cathy Carle

You are encouraged to bring in a potted plant for the Easter Garden. Fill out the form enclosed in this newsletter and also available in the weekly bulletin. Turn it into the Church Office no later than Monday, March 26. Bring your plants to the Church on Saturday, March 31 between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm. Put your name on a small piece of paper in your plant. Plants may be picked up after the Easter service.

## Messiah's Curling Team

By: Cathy Carle



Messiah's Curling Team was in action at the Pyeong Chang Olympics. Just like in 2014, they borrowed uniforms from the Norwegians. Messiah's team composed of front Randy Lewis and back L to R Rick Ranta, Keith Reinker and Ed Schroeder was undefeated in 40 matches but disqualified for unknown reasons.

## Super Bowl Hot Dogs



The Hospitality Committee sponsored a Hot Dog Dinner on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4. It took the place of the normal first Sunday of the month

"Coffee Hour". Top picture shows members in the buffet line and in the bottom picture we see L to R, Ed Schroeder, Mary Schroeder and their Grandson, Nathan.

## Easter Schedule

Date	Event	Time
March 14	Mid Week Lenten Service	7:00 pm, Soup Supper 6:00 pm
March 21	Mid Week Lenten Service	7:00 pm, Soup Supper 6:00 pm
March 25	Palm Sunday Holy Communion	11:00 am
March 29	Maundy Thursday	Passover Meal 6:00 pm
March 30	Good Friday Service	7:00 pm
April 1	Easter Sunday Breakfast	9:30 am to 10:30 am
April 1	Easter Sunday Holy Communion	11:00 am

### DST Begins March 11

We must adjust our clocks one hour forward at 2:00 am on March 11. This will put us in synch with the rest of the United States. "Spring Forward" starts DST.



### Church Mouse Saw A Church Bulletin Board



Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robbins



The first Mid Week Lenten service was well attended. Above picture on the right shows about 20 people participating in the soup supper in the Fellowship Hall. The picture on the left shows The Rev. David Anderson conducting the service in the Luther room. About 30 people participated in the service. Soup Supper starts at 6:00 pm each Wednesday of Lent with the service following at 7:00 pm.



### WinterFest Is Fun!

The first ever Messiah "WinterFest" was fun and nearly 40 people attended. Even though this crowd was not as large as the traditional NationFest crowd, all who came did seem to have a good time.

In the picture left, attendees are shown going through the buffet line. In the picture right, Ruth Kujala, left, is seen with Ruth Hlinovsky, Hospitality Committee chairperson. Ruth Kujala was our program for the evening and told us about the history of Ohio wine. Ruth is an employee of the Ohio Wine Producers Association.



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

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# Messiah Messenger

**March 2018**

**Worship:**  
11:00 am - Sunday

**Adult Sunday Forum**  
9:45 am—Sunday

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**Welcome  
Home To  
Messiah**

