

## Pastor's Column

In 1935 Bill Wilson was on a business trip in Akron Ohio. He had been sober for a while. But away from home, he felt the urge to drink overcoming him. He went into a bar. He asked the bartender for a phone book. Bill Wilson called churches until he dialed a pastor able to help him. Bill Wilson did not want to talk to the pastor. He wanted to talk to another drunk (his words). He understood the key to his sobriety was to stay in conversation with others suffering from the disease of alcoholism. The pastor understood what Bill Wilson wanted and said, "Oh, I know of a doctor in town who suffers from that same disease." The pastor connected Bill Wilson with Bob Smith, MD. The two formed the tenets of what would become known as Alcoholics Anonymous, a 12-step relationship program that has saved thousands of lives. The pastor in Akron who connected Bill W with Bob S was a Lutheran pastor.



Messiah Lutheran Church has connected with Fuller Housing group twice in three years. These people get on touring bikes on the west coast and ride cross country to the east coast. It takes them 72 days. They stop along the way and fix up old houses. They appreciate the connection to Messiah for two reasons. First, Rick Ranta's Men of Messiah prepare great meals. Second, the weary bicyclists have the run of our spacious building. With sleeping bags on foam pads under our high ceilings they enjoy the best sleep on the trip. They are one of the many groups Messiah has connected with thru the years.

I had posted a photo on the Face Book Page "Messiah Lutheran Bula" a photo of Fuller's cross country map. A reader of our page soon posted her story about connectivity in a Lutheran setting. She wrote: "When I was a Girl Scout leader I liked having a Lutheran girl in my troop because I knew the local Lutheran church would help us when we stayed in their town. Once they found us a lifeguard so we could swim at the public campground where we were camping! It's great to be known for caring acts. Congratulations Messiah for hosting the bike riders."

Lutherans make connections and good things happen. Obviously, Lutherans are not the only denomination where this happens. Nor is Christianity the only religion where this happens. For Lutherans making helpful connections is in our DNA because we have a sacramental view of life. God works thru means. God uses baptismal water to claim us. God uses bread and wine of communion to strengthen our faith. If God is present in baptismal water and Eucharistic bread, then God is able to be present anywhere. So we connect with our world, its institutions, its places, and its people. God is in those connecting points. Thru those connections God uses us to serve neighbor. Thru those connections God brings blessing and healing to us. We are never too old or too isolated to make some kind of helpful connection.

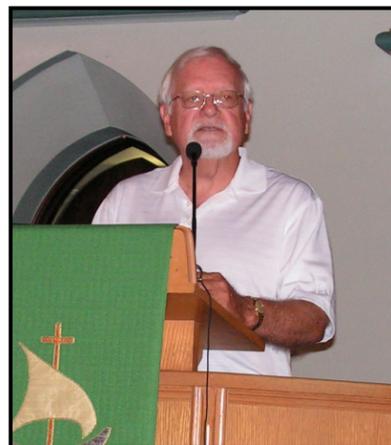
The Lutheran pastor connected Bill W to Bob S. The Fuller group was grateful to have a connection with Messiah. The Girl Scout was glad the Lutheran church connected with a lifeguard. Who knows what surprise awaits us in the connection we will make this very day, this very moment.

Welcome home to Messiah  
Pastor Michael Meranda

## Congregational Meeting For Stoves

By: Beckey Young, Property Chair

Action was taken at the June 11 Church Council meeting to call a Congregational meeting to approve an expenditure over \$6,000 as per our Church Constitution. We have been given a donation of \$10,000 to replace the stoves and ovens in the Messiah kitchen.



I am making a motion for the Property Committee to spend up to \$10,000 from the anonymous donation to purchase new stoves, make any adjustments to accommodate the stoves, and remove and dispose of the old stoves.

President Mike Shaffer is seen here conducting the meeting.

## Thanks-For-Giving Dinner

By: Mark Anderson, Stewardship Chair

The 2018 Thanks-For-Giving Stewardship Dinner is November 18 following service. Members, families, and friends are welcome.

We are still in need of a few volunteers to cook turkeys and help in the kitchen.

Please contact Beth or Mark Anderson at 796-3799 if you are able to help, there is also a sign up sheet in the Narthex.



**Church Picnic Aug. 19**

## Letters & Emails

Messiah Lutheran Church

Thanks you so much for allowing us to use your Church as our home for the night! The food and fellowship you provided to us was amazing and again we thank you for that and everything you did for us. God bless.

The Fuller Center Bike Adventure

(The note was signed by all of the riders and support personnel)

Thanks you for the wonderful meal and hospitality after our mom's memorial service. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are deeply appreciated. Your work and service were so kind. Thank you.

The family of Patricia A. Rennick  
Jackie, Jim, Paul, Dave, Joy & Erik

Dear Pastor Meranda,

Thank you so much for allowing us to meet at Messiah Lutheran. We appreciate your support and thoughtfulness.

Nar Anon, Gateway to Serenity

## Winter Schedule

Our winter schedule starts September 9. Worship will again be at 11:00 am. Sunday Adult Forum starts September 16. It will be at 9:45 am in the Luther Room. Topics will be related to the Gospel of Mark.

Welcome home to Messiah!!

## Church Mouse Heard:

At the Sunday School picnic, Miss Smith stacked a pile of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please, God is watching." On the other end of the table was a pile of cookies on which a second grader had placed a sign saying "Take all of the cookies you want, God is watching the apples."



## Scholarship Winner

By: Beckey Young

Congratulations to Isabelle Fleming, the 2018 winner of the Messiah Scholarship. Bella is a 2018 graduate of Conneaut High School and will be attending Kent State University in the fall.

She is the daughter of Debbie and Marcel Fleming.

## A Great VBS!

Emelia and Shyanna Lindberg did a great job of organizing VBS this summer. In the picture below, Sandra Castrilla, L,



is shown leading music for the younger VBS kids. Sherri Hurst is helping her. In the picture below, Jungle Terry is seen



showing the kids a chinchilla. In the next picture below, Jungle Terry is showing the kids a python snake. Jungle Terry was one of the real highlights of VBS this year. The kids seemed to all enjoy him and he provides a good show for the audience.



About 30 kids participated in Vacation Bible School this year.

Men of Messiah provided dinner each night for the students. Thanks to them and leader Rick Ranta for their great help and assistance.

**Sunday Forum Starts  
September 16**

## Church Picnic August 19

By: Ruth Hlinovsky, Hospitality Chair

Messiah's Annual Outdoor Picnic is Sunday, August 19 at 11:00 am. As usual, we will gather at Saybrook Township Park in the Stone Pavilion at 5941 Lake Road West, where we will have a beautiful view of the lake.

We celebrate worship service and holy communion and the picnic will follow. This year it will be a pot luck picnic. Plates, cutlery and napkins will be provided, as well as coffee and water.

Please come with family and friends to enjoy this beloved Messiah tradition.

The Hospitality Team is invited to lend a hand to the Lindberg Family who are in charge of the picnic. Help is needed beforehand and with clean up afterward.

## From The Archives

By: Cathy Carle

The picture below is from the Messiah Youth Group Trip to Victoria, TX in 1999. Pictured first row L to R; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Gary Meier, and Sally Wright. Second row; Beckey Young, Jarrod Haught, Tim Spencer, Karina Krajec, Chelsea Spencer, Beckah Selnick and Judy Meier. Third row; Homer Young, Jullian Forsty, Raquel Bradley, Tatiana Krajec, Lance Vargo and Kevin Meier.



What a wonderful project these Youth Work Trips were for our youth. We owe a great deal of thanks to Judy and Kevin Meier for organizing these trips each year.

## Fuller Center Cyclists

About 30 cyclists stayed at Messiah one night last week. They enjoyed dinner and breakfast compliments of the Men of Messiah. They are riding their bikes from Portland, OR to Portland, MA. It is a 72 day trip. They had 12 days to go when they visited Messiah.



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## Teddy Bear Program A Success!

By: Mark Anderson, Stewardship Chair

The Teddy Bear program has been a huge success. Approximately 28 bears have been sent out to spread the Messiah message.

We continue to encourage Church attendees in need of comfort, or know of someone that is need of comfort, or going through a challenging time to take a Teddy Bear. Hopefully this will raise the spirits of the person receiving the Teddy Bear.

We are asking for a \$10.00 donation for each Teddy Bear to help absorb the cost of the program.

## June Coffee Hour

Members gathered for fellowship immediately after worship on June 3. They enjoyed treats and coffee provided by Julie Quay. They also enjoyed visiting with one another.

In the picture below, members are seen going through the buffet line.



# Messiah Messenger

August 2018

**Worship:**

9:30 am - Sunday

**Adult Sunday Forum**

Resumes In The Fall

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**Welcome  
Home To  
Messiah**

