

Pastor's Column

Congregations thrive because of their many unsung heroes. Messiah has nurtured many such heroes thru the decades. This month I'm mindful of Rick Ranta, who administers Lend A Hand Food Bank. We believe this year to be the 10th year anniversary of Rick managing the food bank.

Messiah's Food Bank's history goes back to Pastor Sherman's tenure. Russ Jepson, Homer & Beckey Young, and Kevin Meier ran the food bank before Rick stepped in. Currently, Rick coordinates 12 volunteers who work the food bank every Monday from 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Mannette Nelson also has an administrative role, especially in food bank finances. This year the food bank serves on average 100 families per month. The average family served is a family of 3. That means in the past ten years, as long as Rick Ranta has been administrator, the food bank has served over 36,000 clients.

Rick tells the story of how he was first moved to want to be involved in the food bank. It was when he and Barb were beginning to transfer into Messiah and be active here. I do not want to put words in his mouth, but he remembered feeling a sense of calling to the various avenues of ministry at Messiah, especially the food bank. Lutheran theology refers to that as vocation – when our gifts find expression as we tend to a project, a person, or a place.

Lend-A-Hand clients are overwhelmingly polite and respectful. Rick remembered one who actually wrote thank you notes every time he was helped. Clients que up on that nice ramp (thank you, ATM I) that leads downstairs. Before receiving their boxes of food, clients register their names and place of address. Technically, Lend A Hand serves people who live between Route 20 and Plymouth Ridge road and between Benefit Ave and Highway 193, the largest jurisdiction of Ashtabula's 7 food banks.

Everything we do as people of God requires some tweaking now and then. There was a time when financial support for the food bank was not adequate. Rick Ranta spoke forcefully to the council and to the congregation. Since then the financial support has been consistently strong enough to maintain this important outreach. Because the program is so well run, Monday mornings are a lot of fun at Messiah. Clients and volunteers are friendly and positive. There is a lot of banter. Occasionally a peel of laughter echoes up the stairs. Friendships are formed and relationships are deepened. Thank you, Rick Ranta, for lending your compassion and leadership to Lend-A-Hand these past ten years. You make it easy for so many others to serve and thereby become what the Holy Spirit has called us to be.

Welcome Home to Messiah,
Pastor Michael Meranda



Coffee Hour



Grayson and Marissa Quay are shown with Grayson's Grandmother, Wilma Gray, at a recent coffee hour. They seem to be having a good time over coffee and refreshments.

Coffee hours are held on the first Sunday of every month after worship. It is a popular time for socializing and for the congregation to get to know one another better.

Ruth Hlinovsky coordinates these events and is always looking for volunteer hosts. Contact her at 812-2806 to volunteer.

Outdoor Service & Picnic

By: Ruth Hlinovsky, For Hospitality

Messiah's Annual outdoor service and picnic are coming up on August 18, 2019 at the Saybrook Township Park at 5941 Lake Road West.

We will gather in the East side of the Stone Pavilion at 11:00 am for the Worship Service and Holy Communion. The picnic will follow.

Hot dogs, coffee, water, napkins, cups, plates and cutlery will be provided.

Please bring your families and friends, and a covered dish if possible for an enjoyable time.

The Lindberg family will be in charge of preparations. Hospitality members are asked, where possible, to lend a hand with set up and cleanup.

Letters & Emails

Hello Friends,

I am glad that I was able to help you with Leonardson details.

This request is "late" as in January I had two cataract surgeries and then in the spring our daughter who was with us in Ohio was having what I call "MS attacks". She has had MS for several years. Now she is doing much better.

In the past I have "targeted" the picture of Messiah's altar with the Christmas décor, and was able to copy a pic which I have framed.

I have not been able to "target" and copy the picture at Christmas taken from the sacristy door. That is really a unique picture. I would like a copy of it, and I will send a donation for it.

Thanks for the ministry of all of you -- and I enjoy reading the monthly newsletter.

Peace, John Lekander, Ret. Pastor

John,

I think this is the photo you had requested.

Sue Riley was deacon that night and snapped this on her I phone during the offertory. Sue is very "artsy" and so has an eye and a knack for this sort of moment.

For years Nancy Johnson had taken a strong leadership role in decorating for Christmas. Recently a newer member, Kathleen Shaffer, has led the decorating. You'll notice a preponderance of white, a shift from the usual red. In the side transept where the M and M Choir used to sit and sing Kathleen displays a "forest" of evergreen trees dressed in white lights that is very effective.

Thanks you John for your continued interest in Messiah. This unique community of faith has nurtured so many significant personalities thru the decades.

Blessings, Michael

This is the picture that John requested and Pastor emailed to him.

Perhaps an enlarged version of this picture is now framed and residing in John's home in Tennessee.

Our thanks to Sue for snapping it and to Pastor for sharing the emails with us.



Senita Roofing At Work

Workers from Senita Roofing were hard at work recently repairing the flat roof over the restrooms. They installed insulation and a new rubber roof.

This \$5,400 project was paid for by the Messiah Lutheran Church Foundation. We again thank them for their support.

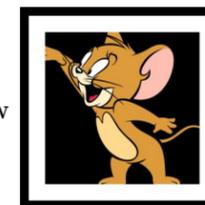
The Property Committee coordinated the work with Senita and it appeared that all went well.



In the top picture, Senita employees working on the roof and in the bottom picture, Senita trucks sitting in our parking lot.

Church Mouse Heard

The minister's wife was a wonder at conserving food and rarely had to throw away a bit of it. At one meal she served her pastor husband nothing but leftovers that the parson viewed with great disdain. He began to pick at the food, causing his wife to say, "Dear, you forgot the blessing."



"Listen sweetheart, if you can show me one item that hasn't been blessed at least two times, I can't see what another prayer can do for it."

**Church Picnic - 11:00 am
Aug. 18**

Treasurer's Update

Church Treasurer Candace Rodgers updated the Finance Committee on Easter giving. The special Easter offering was \$2,195 and the Lenten Challenge offering was \$1,300. These two offerings were \$695 more than was reported in the last messenger.

Bus Trippin With Barb

Barb Lewis has a trip planned to see the Erie Seawolves play on Saturday, August 17. Cost is only \$25.00. Fireworks is scheduled. Let Barb know ASAP if you are interested in going. Call her at 228-0872.

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Vacation Bible School A Success!

By: Shyanna & Emelia Lindberg

We would like to thank the congregation for their support of another great summer for VBS. This year's theme was "Christmas in July" and the children learned all about the true meaning of Christmas.

Each child participated in dinner, music, exercise, crafts, and daily lessons.

We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you.

In the pictures here, clockwise from the top right, Tina Ensmen is seen with a group of VBS students who are enjoying their dinner of goulash made by Rick Ranta.

In the next picture a group of students is having a lesson with teachers Shari Hurst and Saundra Castrilla.

Pastor is in the next picture with the students at the Communion Rail in the Sanctuary.

In the final picture the students are having fun wrapping one of their own in Christmas wrapping.

Men of Messiah helped with dinner each night.

We thank Shyanna Lindberg for providing some of these pictures.



**Welcome
Home To
Messiah**



Messiah Messenger

August 2019

Worship:
9:30 am Sunday
Sunday School:
Resumes in the Fall
Adult Forum:
Resumes in the Fall

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