

Pastor's Column

Did you see that Tom Hanks documentary about typewriters? "California Typewriter" brought to light the surging manual typewriter subculture in North America. People are finding these classic old brands (Royal, Smith Carona, Remington, Underwood) in flea markets or grandma's closet. They refurbish them and type away. They have conventions called Type Ins. One artist dismantles them, then makes sculptures out of the parts.

The movie stirred up a wave of nostalgia. I remembered the typewriters that got me thru school and graduate school. For college, my dad brought home from his office a 40-pound Adler electric. That lasted thru seminary years. It was heavy enough to anchor a US Navy frigate. I wrote entrance essays for my doctoral program using Mary's 1973 Olympia SM9 (made in West Germany). "Schubert Ogden's Christology" flew off that machine in the early hours of many mornings. I bought an electric Swintek, with patented daisy wheel, in time for my work on the Cappadocian Fathers. I'm not sure what it was I enjoyed the most, Gregory of Nyssa's allegory on Moses or the ease of that typewriter. For the dissertation I put a Sears IBM desktop computer on the credit card. I thought spell check was the cat's meow. I wrote it using DOS commands. I printed it on a dot matrix.

Inspired by the Tom Hanks movie, I spent some of my Covid19 stimulus money on a 1959 Olympia sm3. I was four years old when this typewriter was manufactured. It's been reconditioned, so it will outlive me by decades. There is something comforting, almost prayer-full, about the clickity clack of typing. It's as if an inner voice comes alive and finds expression thru your fingertips. The ink ribbon rhythmically rises up to enable the next letter to imprint itself on the paper. On the SM3 the whole carriage lifts up, like a mighty Atlas Rocket lifting up from old Cape Canaveral, to print a capitol letter.

Typing is all about certainty and predictability. Whenever you depress the "a" key, you get a letter "a". Whenever you hear the bell, you robotically swipe the spacing lever and return the carriage to start another line. Predictability and certainty are things we desperately want to resume. The only predictability and certainty we have nowadays is if we do not wear masks and socially distance, we are going to spread this virus. The predictability and certainty for which we long are: institutions re-opening, students returning to school, cultural activities resuming, large gatherings happening, being able to sing again.

Human ingenuity is amazing. We develop so many machines that make life easier, safer, more effective. So many instruments have brought healing and restored balance to life. Of course, there are a lot of instruments of death and destruction out there. That's fallen human nature. But there are so many more mechanisms of life and stability. Look around your garage, kitchen, hobby space, shed, etc. Find your favorite machine. Care for it. Tend to it. Enable it to help you express all the good God has for you to express.

Faithfully your pastor
Michael Meranda

Messiah Stewardship and Offerings For 2021 - Ways to Contribute

By: Treasurer Candace Rodgers

#1: You can send your contributions to the Church in the mail and that is one of the ways that doesn't cost the Church any fees.

#2: You can use your bill pay in your online banking to send a check to the Church. We do have several members that use this option and it doesn't cost you or the Church any fees.

#3: On our website is an option for Vanco Services. With this option you can contribute with your credit card or an electronic check right from your checking account. If you have a card that you like to accumulate points on this is a nice option. This option also allows you to pay some of the fees for the processing fees. It doesn't pay them all but it does reduce the amount the Church has to pay.

#4: Vanco Services also has an option for those who want to have recurring contributions on a regular basis come out of their checking. This can be set up to come out weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. There are some fees for the Church with this option. We currently have seven members who use this option. There is a form in the office for this option that you have to fill out and return to the office. You can also set up your own account with them if you prefer.

#5: Our website also has a Paypal option for those of you who have a Paypal account.. If you don't have one you can always set one up. There are fees for the Church with this option but for those who already have a Paypal account it could be an easy way to contribute.



Giving Tree Update

By: Kathy Nordquest

I have some information about the family that we are adopting this year for the annual Giving Tree. It is a married couple with three children. Although the father works, they are still in need of a little boost for the holiday. The youngest (a boy) is in first grade, the middle (a boy) is in second grade, and the eldest (a girl) is in sixth grade. With the children doing remote learning at home, the mother is very involved with making sure the children are paying attention and keeping focused on their school work.



When I spoke with the mother and asked if they had any special requests for gift cards she said that they mostly shop local and that the kids really liked McDonalds. So once again I would suggest gift cards for local fast food restaurants (McDonalds, Wendys, Taco Bell, Steak N Shake, etc) pizza places, grocery stores, Walmart, and gas stations. Other possibilities would include drug stores and dollar stores. Bath and Body Works might be a nice treat for the mother and Daughter, and hardware stores might be a good idea for the Dad. Since I haven't been there lately, I know there was a shoe store in the Mall (they may need new shoes or winter boots).

Please be reminded that we would like to have the cards turned into the Church by Sunday, December 13th so the family has time to do some shopping and put some things under the tree for Christmas day. With everything going on with Covid, if we are half as generous as past years, we can really help this family have a wonderful Christmas! I want to thank you in advance for all your generosity.

Marcel Fleming Being Funny!

Shown here is our own Marcel Fleming "hamming it up" while on a youth group "work trip" in the early 2000's.

This particular year the group went to Florida to work and took a side trip to Key West where Marcel found this street and someone took his picture.

There are many good Messiah memories about "Work Trips". These trips were led by Judy and Kevin Meier and partially funded by hoggie sales after Church on Sunday mornings.



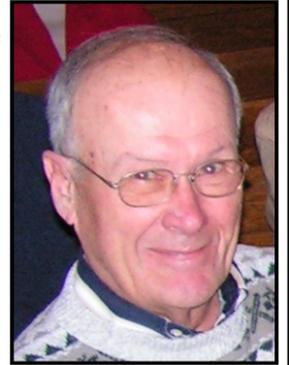
Stewardship Corner

By: Russ Jepson, Stewardship Chairperson

In these trying times dealing with closing out the election results so we can move forward and the Covid19 virus, I give you a couple of quotes from Martin Luther as this month's Stewardship Corner thought.

"Yes, to have a God means to trust and to believe in him with your whole heart," adding to that "pray, and let God worry."

Works for me!



Church Mouse Heard:

The Ten Commandments were the subject of Miss Dixie's Sunday School lesson for five and six year olds. After explaining "Honor thy father and thy mother" Miss Dixie asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"



Without missing a beat, little Cindy answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

Lets Meet Our President!

Becky Young was elected President of our Church Council early in the year. She has been a Messiah member since 1978. Her new member class was the last class that Pastor Pettersen taught before he retired.

Becky graduated from Ashtabula High School in 1965.

Homer and Becky got married in 1968 at the First Methodist Church on Elm Avenue.

She worked for 26 years as a secretary at Buckeye Local Schools. When asked what she did, she said, like most Secretaries "a little bit of everything." Becky retired eight years ago. She is now working at Church as an interim secretary until this Covid thing has passed.

Becky and Homer have a daughter, Laurie, who lives in Painesville and has two boys. A son Pat lives in Las Vegas, Nevada and has one boy and one girl.

**January Messenger Copy
Deadline, 12 Noon
December 29**

Offerings Are Different

Our offerings are collected in a different way now due to the Coronavirus. Traditionally the offering plates were passed among the members with each member placing their offerings in the plate. The ushers coordinated this method and made sure the plates got from one pew to the next.



All this has changed with the Coronavirus. The plates are now kept in the back of the Sanctuary and members place their offerings in the plate when they are arriving or leaving Church. Candace Rogers, or a member of the Finance Committee, gathers up the offerings and takes them to the Church Office where they are kept until they are counted.

Here Carl Malkie is seen placing their offering in the plate.



Church Picnic

The picture above was taken in the early 2000's when we were still having our Church Picnics at Lake Shore Park under our tent. The picnics have been moved to Saybrook Township Park under one of their pavilions.

Due to the Coronavirus we cancelled the picnic for 2020. We'll hopefully be able to have it in 2021.

These were always fun, festive and great events for members. The pot luck dinners were outstanding and if anybody left the picnic hungry, it was their own fault. The hospitality Committee provided hot dogs, buns and beverages. All of the rest of the food was donated by members.

Welcome Home to Messiah November 22 thru November 29 in Pandemic 2020

There are a lot of moving parts this week in the church year. Christ the King Sunday closes the preceding church year. It's a festival day. White paraments dress the chancel. Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. I recall congregations that had an extra service on Thanksgiving. That mean an extra sermon, extra liturgy, and extra decorations. Typically, the Sunday of Thanksgiving Weekend is the 1st Sunday of Advent. That means dressing the chancel in blue, hauling out the Advent wreath, checking the 4 advent candles, and warming up the vocal cords to sing, "Oh, Come, Emmanuel." All those moving parts are exacerbated in Ohio. In recent years here the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day has also been the day for **The Game**.

There are a lot of moving parts around Messiah's building. Bids have been coming in to replace windows in the education/office wing. Separate bids are also coming in to shore up the frame that holds the Pettersen Window in the entry area. Plans to replace the roof on the east side of the education/office wing are on hold due to a significant increase in prices for materials due to Covid19. In addition to all that, when you drove by this weekend did you see the copper sheathing that tore off from the roof near the balcony stained glass? It happened in last week's wind storm. It's currently stable. Senita & Company are bringing in a lift today to gain safe access to it for safe removal.

There are a lot of moving parts culturally. The presidential election has been called but not yet conceded. Health experts tell us to stay home to help contain Covid19. Yet, people are still flying for the holidays. Several companies have announced successful vaccines. Yet, there is no timeline for their distribution. Students who had returned to classrooms have been told to go home and resume online learning. Events that used to characterize this season are either cancelled or experienced on-line.

There are a lot of moving parts going on. It's almost dizzying. But unstable circumstances do not have to destabilize our personalities. We stand on solid rock. God is foundation. God who speaks to us from eternity helps us contend with the instability of temporality. There is a way to follow. There is light to enlighten. There are a lot of moving parts going on out there. But we are stable, centered, balanced.

Pastor M

Church Mouse Heard That:

In Scotland there have been times when collection plates were rarely full. During one of those dry periods, an old Presbyterian cleric looked down at the returned receptacle plate and prayed, "well, Lord, we thank you for the safe return of the plate."



Messiah Lutheran Church
615 Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 313



Messiah Messenger

December 2020

Worship:

Saturday 9:30 am
Sunday 10:00 am

Sunday School:

Will Resume Later

Adult Forum:

Will Resume Later

Produced For The Members and Friends of Messiah
Lutheran Church, 615 Prospect Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Phone 440-992-9392

Fax 440-992-1348

Email: messiahlutheranbula06@windstream.net

The Rev. Dr. Michael Meranda, Pastor

Phone: 440-998-7321

Cell: 440-645-2586

Welcome Home To Messiah

