

Pastor's Column

It's always nice to open the mail. Especially when it is a card or letter. When they are hand written we show others, then save them for a while. One blessing we have wrestled out of the Covid19 tragedy is we are tending to more relationships by notes or letters. We finally have time!

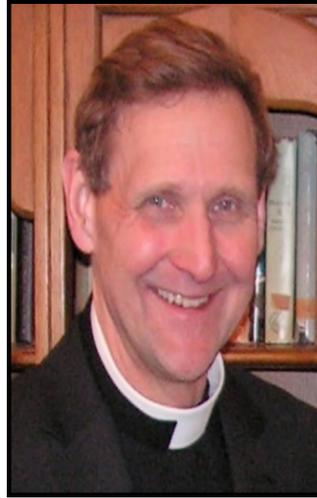
Messiah gets a lot of good mail. I've seen a steady stream of thank you cards during my time here. They usually accompany the funeral of someone. Many people have so many good memories of this place. The death of a loved one will prompt those memories. People send a note. They often send a check. The checks are carefully processed by finance committee protocol. They are documented, entered, deposited. The monies are typically integrated into our Memorial Fund. Usually, a thank you acknowledgement is sent back to the sender.

I know the checks are accounted for, but what about all the thank you cards? You know how hind-sight is 20-20 vision? I wish now I had catalogued and saved ALL those thank you notes Messiah has received. Well, maybe it is a good thing those thank you notes have not been archived. If all the thank you cards to Messiah would have been saved since our inception in 1921, we would have to build a separate library wing to hold them all.

Funeral related thank you cards keep a general pattern. First, the writer acknowledges the impact the person who has died made on the world before their death. The one who has died is remembered as having done this or that or as having been involved with this or that. Because the human experience is so diverse, the remembrances cover a huge range of activity. Second, the writer typically recalls the impact the deceased person made on the writer him/herself. The writer understands they became who they are because of the impact the deceased person had on their lives. It's a two-fold remembrance. Those who rest in peace are remembered for the positive they made on this world's institutions. Those who are remembered are recalled in gratitude for the effect they had on those who remember them.

Someday somebody will remember you and me. What institutions will have benefitted most from the impact of our lives? Will it be a congregation, a business, a social organization, a civic project? What individuals will have benefited most from the impact our lives? Will it be a spouse, a partner, a child, a friend, a work-mate? We are held in God's loving hands, drawn close to the heart of God. God embraces us. Then God sends us. With all our gift and aptitudes, God sends us to communities and to individuals within those communities. You and I are God's gifts, gifts to institutions and gifts to others. God knows us. And so, others will remember us. This very day we are content for a thank you note that someone someday will write remembering us.

Welcome Home to Messiah,
Pr. Michael Meranda



Church Mouse Said:

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."

**Face To Face Worship
Resumes Feb. 6 & 7**

**Saturday at 9:30am
Sunday at 10:00am**

Thank You

By: Russ Jepson, Stewardship Chairperson

As we begin this year 2021, I take this opportunity to thank the members of Messiah for financial support for the year 2020.

A trying year for everyone in many ways.

Your commitment to keeping your financial support strong even when our ministry was greatly curtailed is greatly appreciated by the committees and staff of Messiah.

Many organizations would experience a lose of financial support in these conditions. This is not the case at Messiah.

As of 1/21/2021 the pledges and dollar amounts are ahead of those submitted at this point in 2020. That being the case, 2021 appears to show your continued strong support for our ministry, preaching, teaching, baptizing, worshipping and serving, hopefully under better circumstances.

Thank you! Thank you!



Letters & Emails

Dear Michael,

I read the obituary of Jan Koschik in the Star Beacon and the reference to her being a Tri-Delt made me smile. Connie was a Tri Delt in South Carolina and was very active in the Tri-Delt alum group in Cleveland. When we moved to Ashtabula County, Connie consulted the Tri-Delt alum directory to see if there were any Tri-Delts in the area. There was only one--- Jan Koschik. Obviously Jan didn't know anything about Connie since she attended a different school so when Connie initially contacted her she didn't seem to be interested. Then we came to Messiah and lo and behold there was Jan!

When Connie first approached Jan about being Tri-Delt "sisters" Jan was still somewhat indifferent and told Connie she didn't remember any of the symbols/passwords or whatever. So Connie shared those with Jan and they became friends. Ever afterward as the choir came down the aisle, Jan would grin and wink at Connie - her "sister". And Connie always enjoyed the outings to Chatauqua lake that Jan sponsored.

In memorium to a great lady and friend of my wife, I am enclosing a check to further the work of Jan's favorite Church.

Sincerely,
Hal Cooper

Dear Pastor Meranda,

Please accept this contribution to the Messiah Food Pantry, in memory of my cousin Beth Peterson Freeborn. The Riley/Peterson families have such wonderful memories and continued ties to Messiah. May this contribution serve in Beth's memory and offer assistance to others.

My best to you.
Nancy Mudd
Akron, Oh

Dearest Pastor Michael (Arch Angel) and Messiah Lutheran Tribe,

January is my best friend Carol Dey's 70th birthday-how did that happen? We met as little girls -all of 11 and 12 years old. (I was the older)

God has graced for us to grow old together and even older-I love how our God shows off!!!

It isn't in the cards for us to be together this year to celebrate her 70th rite of passage year. We are both so missing each other. Even though we carry each others hearts. (We have such a missing)

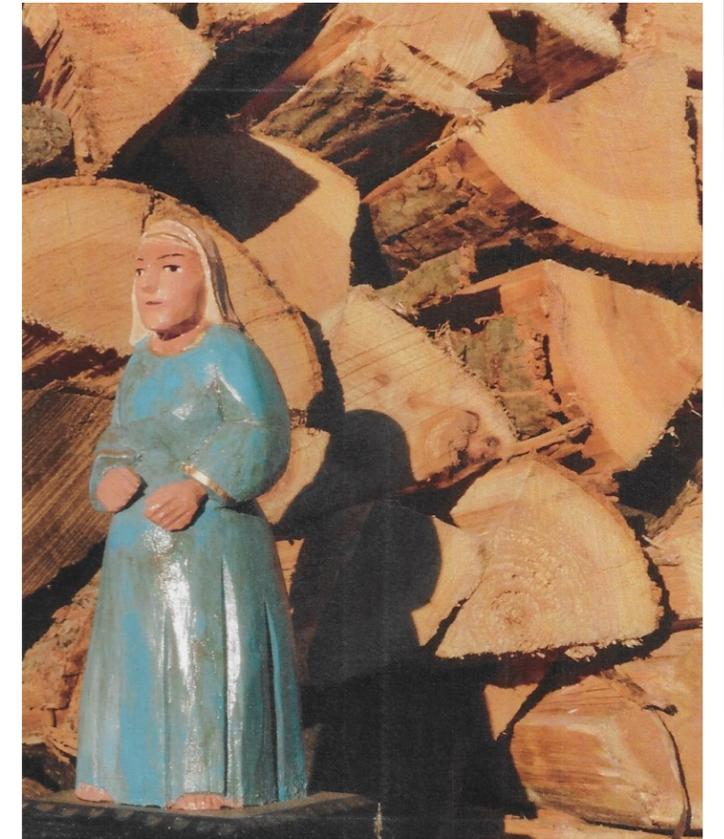
I thought and meditated on what gift I could give her that would bring happiness-Messiah Came into my thoughts. She so loves her Lutheran roots....So in her honor of her 70th birthday please accept this check. On the wings of love,

Darlene Cochrell

Photo by Conrad Selnick, 2020

Pregnant Mary Santo,
Modern, Puerto Rican

Taken Skokie, IL November 2020



In those days Caesar Augustus decreed that all the empire, would be registered for taxation. This was the first registration taken while Quirinius governed Syria.

All men went to their ancestral towns to be registered; Joseph, too, went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David, called Bethlehem; for he was descended from the house and Family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary to whom he was engaged and who was with child.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Love,
Liz and Conrad

**March Messenger Copy
Deadline, 12 noon
February 23**

A Busy Place!



Messiah is a busy place even with no in person Sunday Worship Services. These pictures illustrate that. Clockwise from the upper left, Julie Hunt is shown providing a musical selection during the filming of one of our Services. Ed Schroeder accompanies her on the piano.

Next is our Christmas display of beautiful poinsettias at Christmas time.

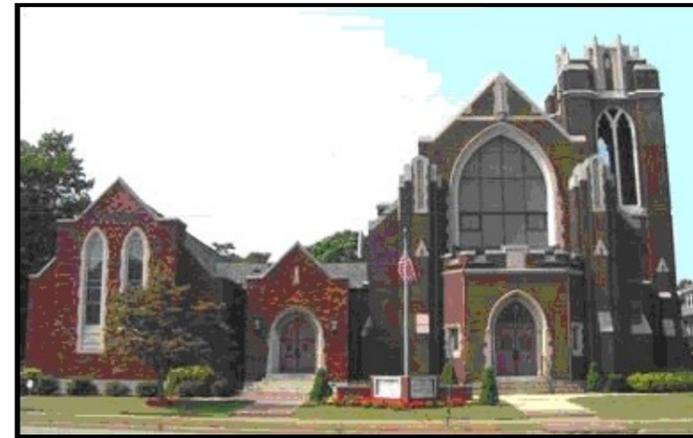
In the next photo Pastor is seen preaching from the stained glass window in the balcony while Belle Fleming records the event for later viewing on You Tube.

A mug full of goodies is featured next for visitors to Messiah.

And finally, Debbie Fleming is seen providing musical support for the service. We appreciate all of these musicians for their untiring devotion to our Church during this pandemic.

Messiah Lutheran Church
615 Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Ashtabula, Ohio 44004
Permit No. 313



Messiah Messenger

February 2021

Worship:
Saturday 9:30 am
Sunday 10:00 am
Sunday School:
Will Resume Later
Adult Forum:
Will Resume Later

*For The Members and Friends of Messiah Lutheran Church,
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**Welcome
Home To
Messiah**

