

Messiah Messenger

June 2021

Special Edition

ABOUT THIS ISSUE Yes, this looks really different for Messiah's Messenger. No, this is not a permanent change. Our faithful editor of fifteen years is unavailable this issue to do his usual stellar job. Hence, this unusual format. The next three articles are all from me, Michael Meranda, privileged to be your pastor.

NEW PROJECT

In February 2021, Renee Spencer received endorsement from Congregational Council to gather an ad hoc mission committee. Ad Hoc means this is not a permanently structured committee. It is assigned to a "this" specific task. The task the committee gathered around was how to connect with and bring resources to nonprofit ministries that have emerged, especially since covid 19. Could we share funds with or make special gifts to local service organizations out there?

One idea emerged right away – Samaritan House. Messiah has not given Sam House a direct gift since the Foundation did several years ago. The Pastor Discretionary fund has been especially full since covid19. (Thank you, generous givers.) So, the committee allocated \$250 from Discretionary Fund to Samaritan House.

Another idea emerged. This is a little awkward to write about. Many nearby organizations serve the impoverished. Often, one of the services that falls thru the gap is feminine hygiene products. There is especially a need for feminine napkins, which can be very expensive for someone on a public assistance budget. The committee resolved to gather and disburse feminine napkin pads as our next mission specific task.

Joanna Pretz Anderson secured a grant from Thrivent to initiate this project. Another \$250 will be allocated from Pastor's Discretionary. Our goal is to have a drive for feminine hygiene products. We'll collect them here, then make them available. This is similar to what we did with the backpacks project a while ago and the more recent school supplies project. (Remember buying and collecting all those glue sticks?) We will construct a suitable, tasteful box where the products may be gathered. The committee will then find suitable places to disburse or ways to share.

So, look forward to a roll out of this project. Look forward to your participation to support this project that will help many of our neighbors. Committee members are: Renee Spencer, Dawn Grimm, Shayna Lindberg, Russ Jepson, Joanna Pretz Anderson, Pr. Meranda.

ABOUT THE CHURCH SEASONS It was a great 50-Days off Easter. It always is. The 23rd of May was the 50th Day of Easter, the Day of Pentecost. Acclamations of Christ is Risen morphed into the exclamation Come, Holy Spirit. May 30th is Festival of the Holy Trinity. Usually, Sunday themes center on an action or teaching in the life of Christ. But Trinity Sunday focuses on a doctrine. Many have used the doctrine of the Trinity as a hammer, a measure of exclusion; as in, we believe in the Trinity and you don't; we are right and you are wrong. I've grown to love the doctrine of the Trinity as common denominator for dialogue and inclusion. Think of it. The first person of the Trinity, God the Father / Creator, expresses the monotheistic religions in the world: Judaism and Islam. The third person of the Trinity, Holy Spirit, expresses many of the Eastern and indigenous religions that focus on breath and a pervasive outpouring of the divine. The second person of the Trinity is unique to Christianity. Christ gives a human face to the infinite Creator and expresses the Creator's intention to love and redeem fallen humanity. Christ directs Holy Spirit in healing, regenerating directions. I will be a Trinitarian Christian until I take my last breath. More and more I find the Triune God bringing me closer to others different from me. More and more I find the Triune God making me more appreciative of creation and more at home in this expanding universe.

EVENTS NORMAL SLOWLY Events are slowly beginning to return.

- On May 9th we baptized David Toth. On July 31st we will baptize Margot Ennis.
- Two weddings are on the horizon: Jordan Eble on September 27th and Alyssa McGaha on October 23rd.
- The book review "Prayers for Owen" is on June 23rd.
- Red Brook Vespers as cancelled this year as is VBS.
- There is a possibility the church picnic may happen in August.

Of course, the food bank has been operating safely thru out. And worship has continued Saturday and Sunday. Worship may take a big step. We are talking about possibly having an outdoor service on Sunday. Distanced and outside, there is the possibility we would be able to sing. These are good signs. America needs groups like Messiah to intelligently lead the way in resuming activities after the Pandemic.