

Pastor's Column

I stopped taking piano lessons in 4th Grade. In high school band, I only advanced as far as 2nd chair of the Second Trumpets. We held a lot of middle C whole notes. In musicals, it takes me forever to learn simple accompaniment songs for the ensemble. I'm a very inadequate musician. Yet I've always loved musicology. One of my favorite electives in college was Music Theory.

Our text book was the 271 Chorales of JS Bach. We learned Bach's roman numeral short hand for churning out all those compositions. There were no photocopiers or "apps" in Bach's day. We learned that in the chorale style method, chords "like" transition and resolution. In the key of C-Major, the tonic chord (CEG) progresses nicely into the sub-dominant (FAC), which flows naturally into the dominant (GBD), which in turn likes to return home to the tonic (CEG). Chords make transition, they modulate. When chord progressions resolve, they make the listener feel at home.

Our culture has been modulating thru this pandemic. The Covid19 Virus seems to have landed initially in Seattle. We watched it relentlessly spread. State health departments warned us to mask and frequently wash hands. Administrators closed schools. Governors shut down economies. Vaccines finally arrived. We went to distribution sites and rolled up sleeves. Gradually and cautiously, we began re-opening. Tentatively, we're tracking news about the emerging Delta Strain. We progressed thru those stages like musical notes racing thru an arpeggio.

How will this thing resolve? In Bach's chorales, chords modulated homeward to find resolution. But, will our culture be smart enough to make it home? Will we know where to land as we ought? Will small businesses that took such a hit regain their influence in our economy? Will a whole generation get used to the idea of not receiving federal stimulus dollars? We were so politically divided before Covid19, will we remain similarly divided after? Is there a chance we would ever grow as a culture into ways of justice with responsibility and equality with maturity? What sort of transitions await culturally, medically, economically?

Whatever the future holds, body of Christ will be there. We are present in and for this world as Christ became present in and for humanity. Because we are Christ's, we will be hopeful, not cynical. We will not be afraid to wade in and pick up the pieces, and bind up wounded souls. We will see the next round of suffering as opportunity for ministry. We will be creative in finding ways to love this hurting creation. The pandemic may not resolve as well and neatly as a Bach chordal progression. But the caring community of faith will progress consistently. The Holy Spirit has always seen to this thru whatever the ages have brought. Thanks be to God.

Faithfully your pastor
Michael Meranda

Frank Maenpa receives Honorary Degree from Thiel College

Frank is the retired vice president of operations of the USB Products Division of Affymetrix.

Frank worked in the life science and clinical diagnostics industries from the same Cleveland facility for more than 30 years.

He was graduated from Thiel College with a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry, earned his MSc degree in chemistry from Seton Hall University, and his PhD from the University of Miami in 1969. For 15 years he managed the world wide raw material supply chain for USB branded reagents under four different corporate ownerships. His company's work played a pivotal role in the Human Genome Project.

Frank and his wife Dee Dee live in Ashtabula and have a son Ryan who with his wife Lesa reside in Dayton with their son Grady.

Our congratulations to Frank for this achievement.



Stewardship Corner

By: Russell Jepson, Stewardship Chair



This past June 9th Dorene and I celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary. Reflecting back on our journey through those 65 years, one thing was constant besides our love for each other. It was our commitment to the church in attendance and financial support.

Just as we dedicated ourselves to meeting our expenses as they came due, we placed our financial commitment to the church operation and ministry at the top regardless of the financial pinch we might find ourselves in. Having faith that God will provide, which he always did and continues to do. Monies came unexpectedly to meet the need.

The Covid 19 virus has put a real damper on every ones daily life including the church. Attendance is forth of normal, no choir, no 100th anniversary celebration of Messiah, no celebration of Pastor's birthday and years of ministry, no Day Timers, bible study, Thanks for Giving dinner in appreciation to members for the financial commitment for the following year, et etc.

Not having a fully open church with full service in my opinion is beginning to affect the financial support of Messiah. I feel when there is a long term physical disconnect to an organization we become lax in our support and funds are used elsewhere making it hard to catch up on the commitment made.

The church is now fully open with a full service. Now is the time to get back in the groove.

All Christians are but Gods stewards. Everything we have is on loan from the Lord entrusted to us for a while to use in serving him. "John Macarthur"

**August Messenger
Copy Deadline Noon
Tuesday, July 27**

Athena Pantoja at Baccalaureate

On June 7th of 2021, Ashtabula's Baccalaureate was held at Lakeside High School. Athena Pantoja was a participant and speaker at the ceremony, Along with other students representing Lakeside High School. Many of the student speakers spoke about their journey with God throughout their life and/or high school. Here is an excerpt from Athena's speech at the Baccalaureate.

"I struggled to comprehend the meaning of patience and putting effort into what I desired in life. However, God was my friend then, and he guided me, held me close in his arms like how some of you do with your children or grandchildren....During my road to Emmaus, I questioned God every step of the way. I was perturbed, depressed, different than who I was in the past.... The sun caressed the trees, a golden-ball of fire, spreading it's wings out in pink, purple and blue hues. A wave calm warmth rushed over me"



Athena speaking at Baccalaureate.

Church Mouse Heard:

Little Tony was in his uncle's wedding. As he came down the aisle during the ceremony, he carefully took two steps, then stopped and turned to the crowd. When facing the congregation, he put his hands up like claws and roared loudly. So it went, step, step, turn, roar all the way down the aisle. When he got to the altar he was asked what he was doing, "I was being the Ring Bearer"



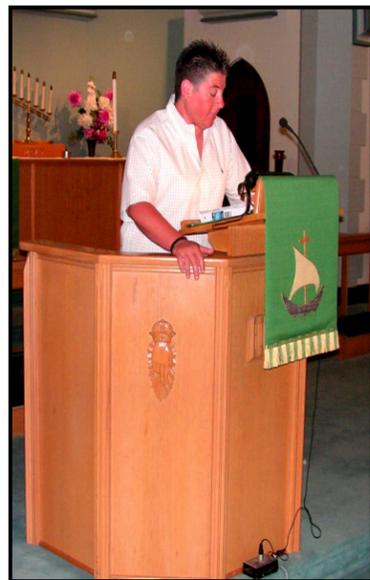
Feminine Hygiene Products

By: Joanna Pretz-Anderson

Many generous folks at Messiah are helping to fill a need that few charities provide people in need: feminine hygiene products. Last month you read about our project in Pastor's article; this month we officially "kick off" the project and hope you'll join our efforts. We already have received 60 donations, including a generous grant from Thrivent. As you shop at the grocery or drug store this month, pick up a package or two of pads, tampons, or panty liners and bring them to, church. Place your donations at the displays outside Pastor's office or in the front pew. Thank you for your generosity! Committee members: Renee Spencer, chair, Russ Jepson, Nancy Krajec, Dawn Grimm,, Shyanna Lindberg, Joanna Pretz-Anderson and Pastor Meranda.



We worshipped outside under the shade of the trees in the vacant lot one Sunday in June. It was very pleasant.



We had a meeting one recent Sunday after the 10:00 am service. The purpose of the meeting was to authorize the expenditure of \$11,000 for bell tower repairs.

Emelia Lindberg gave the report for the Property Committee.

The congregation passed the motion to authorize the expenditure unanimously.

July Altar Flowers

July 4 - Candy Rodgers & Rebecca Robinson
- Carol & Bill Lovas

July 25 - Julie Quay to celebrate Grayson and Melissa's Anniversary

Letters & Emails

Dear Pastor Meranda,

We are so very happy and blessed to have had all three of our children baptized by you at Messiah Lutheran. Thank you for taking the time and energy to have such a lovely baptism for all our children. It has truly been a pleasure being a small part of the Messiah Family.

God bless, Laura, Matt, John, Genevieve & David Toth

Ron and I have enjoyed staying in touch with the dear friends of Messiah by receiving the Messenger through these years.

Please accept this donation as a thank you for the mailings we receive. Best wishes and blessings.

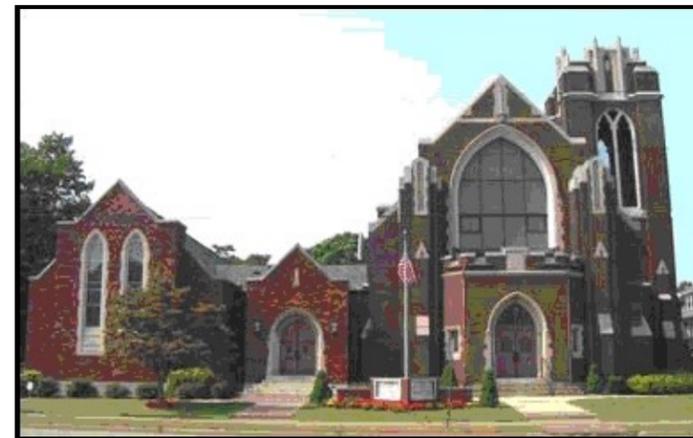
Ron and Esther Philabaum



Pastor serves communion to a couple of parishioners in their car one recent Sunday. He leaves the Sanctuary immediately after completing the distribution of communion and promises that he will be right back! So far, he has always returned promptly!

Messiah Lutheran Church
615 West Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

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Ashtabula, Ohio 44004
Permit No. 313



**Welcome
Home To
Messiah**



Messiah Messenger

July 2021

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

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