

Pastor's Column

Recently, there were three deaths in the Lutheran family. This summer Walt Wangerin, Philip Pfatteicher, and L. Dean Hempelmann died.

Many have read best-selling author Walt Wangerin. At Messiah, for a Lenten Midweek series, we watched his DVD on the four steps of prayer. After seminary and pastorates, he taught at Valparaiso University. (Mary and her dad are both Valpo grads.) I actually never read one of his novels. But did follow his lectures on preaching & putting the gospel in story form. A third-generation Lutheran pastor, he especially shined in the pulpit. I met him only once when he was a key note speaker at Holden Village back in 1982.

Some have heard of Philip Pfatteicher. He wrote the two volumed manual on the liturgy for Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW, the "green book"). I still recall the excitement at the roll out of the LBW in 1978. I was still a seminary student, not ordained until 1980. Soon after I bought Pfatteicher's manuals on the LBW and in later years read his works on Daily Prayer and Liturgical Spirituality. I know he was ordained a pastor in the LCA and taught English in a college in Pennsylvania. I never met Pfatteicher. But because of my interest in the liturgy, he was very influential in my vocation.

L. Dean Hempelmann was the pastor of the church where I was sent to vicar; but he left there before I arrived. He left St John Lutheran Church in Salem, Oregon to teach at Concordia Seminary in St Louis. The renewal work he did at St John was well known and still remembered. He was a popular parish pastor, excellent teacher, and remarkable administrator. His STM Thesis was on the High Priestly Prayer in the Gospel of John, his PhD Dissertation was on the pastoral theology of Gregory the Great. He was one of those extroverted, instant rapport personalities. When you met him, you felt as though you had been best friends forever. Thru the decades, people and institutions benefited from his genius.

A dear person once told me, "It seems all I do any more is go to funerals." That is statistically true. We age. Friends age with us. People who meant something to us but are older die ahead of us. We spend much more time reflecting on deceased, impactful lives than we did before. Who are you missing? Whose obit caused you to pause and say, "oh, no." Whose funeral did you tell yourself, "I need to go to that." Whose death did you write a special card to their loved one, explaining how that person impacted your life?

I love Hebrews 12:1. We are not alone. We live in constant community. "We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses." Interestingly, Hebrews 12:1 does not say they are up in heaven and we are below them down here. It says we are surrounded by them. Without specifying geographic coordinates for heaven, Hebrews assures us we are still somehow among the saints and they are among us. Their impact, their values, their voices, their warnings, their teachings still speak. Perhaps the common denominator is God. God is with us; God is with them. If we and they are both with God, then they and we must also be somehow together. So, all the good people, all the blessed people, all the giving people all the amazing people, all the inspiring people, all the nurturing people – yes, they are "gone" but, yes, they are so very present. We're never alone in this. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Michael Meranda



Feminine Hygiene Project

By: Joanna Pretz Anderson, for the committee

Our summer project of collecting feminine hygiene products has had huge success! THANK YOU one and all who contributed items or money to this effort to address real need for girls and women in our community. Our project kicked off with a Thrivent Action Team Grant of \$250, which was used to purchase items for several displays. Beginning July 1st announcements were made at worship and items have been coming in weekly. As of late August the number of packages that been donated are: 48 pads, 14 tampons, and 9 panty liners. In addition to the Thrivent Grant, the Food Pantry made a large donation, and other gifts have been received for an additional \$840 to purchase items. THANK YOU!!!



Beginning in September items have been distributed through Messiah's weekly Lend-a-Hand Food Pantry and contacts are being made to offer items to other charitable organizations in Ashtabula County. Watch for more details as the project continues into the fall. And remember, your donations are always appreciated. THANK YOU!

Dawn Grimm, Russ Jepson, Nancy Krajec, Shyan-na Linberg, Pastor Michael Meranda, Joanna Pretz Anderson, Renee Spencer, Chair.



Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight Savings Time (DST) ends on Sunday, November 7. That Sunday we all set our clocks back one hour at 2:00 am. Forget to do it, and you'll be one hour early for Church!



Memorial Contributions

In memory of Richard Blood

Ron & Jill Valentic	Stewart & Rebecca Gray
Gary & Catherine Wludga	Gerry & Mariel Kujala
Sue Riley	Robert Sawyer
Frank & Dee Dee Maenpa	Norma Wheeler
William & Betty Blood	Ruth Hlinovsky
Austinburg Machine Inc.	Fred & Susan Mongenel
Jeffery & Cathy Carle	Norma Williams
Sharlene Hurst	Wilma, Jim & Marty Sawyer
Robert & Debra Sawyer	Greg Sweet Auto Group
Scott, Lauri, Ben & Matt Allens	Kathleen & Kurt Nordquest
Joyce & Lanny Anderson	Manette Nelson
Loretta Tratar	Ronald & Gail Deemer
Penny Vaughn	Lisa Nida
Pat & Ralph Pankowski	

Thank You Messiah

By: Russ Jepson, Stewardship Chairperson

Here we are approaching the end of another year, and still dealing with the viruses, only two strains this time, Covid 19 and Delta variant.

Through it all, Messiah members have been good stewards by maintaining their financial support for all that it takes to preach the gospel in this place we find ourselves and the circumstances that are limiting attendance for worship and service.

We have just finished the third quarter for 2021 and I'm happy to report we are financially in the black. Thank you again.



Three Worship Opportunities At Messiah

1. You Tube on your computer or smart phone
2. Stay in your car in the parking lot and tune to 92.1 FM for the service in real time.
3. Traditional service in the Sanctuary.

**November Messenger
Copy Deadline
12 Noon October 26**

Letters & Emails

Pastor,

Just a quick note on our move. We have successfully moved in. We are slowly settling in and miss all of you. We are watching the Messiah services on you tube and soon we will be searching for a fit for us around here, but we will still watch your sermons.

Take care,
Bill and Carol Lovas

Altar Guild Is Busy!

Altar Guild is one of the “unsung heroes” in our Church. The ladies of the Guild perform a variety of services every Sunday morning.



Here in the top picture Marilyn Brown fills the communion cups with wine.

In the bottom picture she fills the candles in the candelabra with oil and adjusts the wicks.



Martha Pallutch was chairman of the Altar Guild but for personal reasons resigned her position in April. A new chairman has not yet been appointed. We thank Martha for her years of service and look forward to hearing who the new chairman is.

Worship Times The Same

Church Council took action keeping worship times the same for the month of October, 9:30 am on Saturday and 10:00 am on Sunday.

Church Mouse Heard:

During a children’s sermon, Reverend Larry asked the boys and girls what the word “amen” means. Little Chucky’s hand shot up, “I know,” he chirped. “It means tha-tha-tha-that’s all folks.”



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Ashtabula, OH 44004

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Semi Annual Meeting Of The Congregation

Sunday, October 24
After 10:00 Service

October Altar Flowers

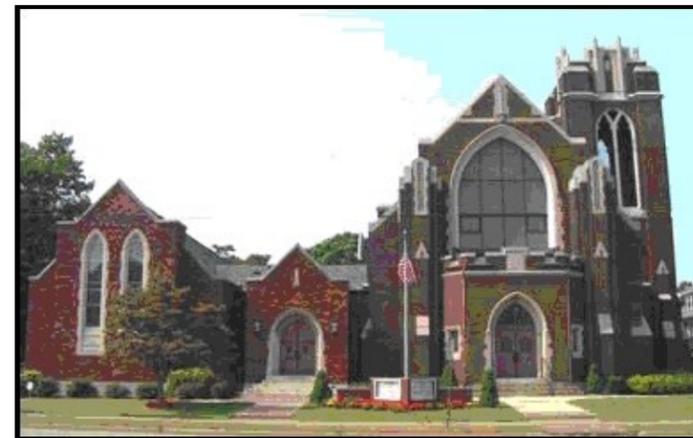
October 3 Manette Nelson for John Nelson
October 17 Carl and Joan Malkie for wedding Anniversary
October 24 Maggie Anderson for Carl Anderson

In A Long Ago Era *By: Lanny Anderson*

About 70 years ago when I was just a young lad, I remember my Father and other trustees talking after Church on Sunday morning and the big topic was “Do you think we should light the fire in the boiler?” The discussions always took place about this time of year.

A lot of their decision making was based on how many people were complaining about how cold it was in Church.

This was in the era of coal fired hot water boilers. I don’t remember hand fired coal, only stoker fired coal. The advent of the stoker was a huge step forward for most Churches and other large buildings.



Messiah Messenger

October 2021

Worship:

Saturday 9:30 am
Sunday 10:00 am

Sunday School:

Will Resume Later

Adult Forum:

Will Resume Later

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Welcome
Home To
Messiah

