

Pastor's Column

It's funny what you remember all of a sudden. My mind flashed back to late summer 1977. Mary and I were newly married. She would soon gain her first teaching job in Osseo, MN. I would begin my Middler Year at Northwestern Lutheran Seminary St. Paul, Minnesota. We gathered with others at Northwestern's chapel for a presentation of the new inter-Lutheran hymnal, the Lutheran Book of Worship. It would soon be referred to as LBW, affectionately known as the Green Book.

That evening's presentation introduced me to the notion of liturgical theology. The best in our theology – what we know about God, grace, forgiveness, new life – is often best expressed thru music and liturgy. The liturgy of the church is a powerful tool for the proclamation of the church. Consider "This is the Feast" in Settings One & Two. The presenter drew our attention to that dotted eighth note on the word Victory. You hold onto the "VIC" part of victory a tad longer. This helps underscore the victory Christ won on the cross.

That was 1977, the first regional roll outs for LBW. In the Fall of 1978, the LBW was rolling off the presses. There were many local introductions. The church where I was vicar was one such host site. I still recall the retired pastor from the LCA who led our inter-Lutheran seminar in Salem, Oregon. He wore black suit and clerical. During his afternoon session he reached into his pocket, took out a pipe, loaded it, lighted it, and smoked. How times have changed! In Ohio we can no longer smoke in bars; imagine the day when it was normal to smoke in a church auditorium.

When council re-opened Messiah for worship we decided to temporarily bring out that old LBW. We were not printing and handing out bulletins. The LBW is much easier to handle and read than the new ELW. So, for the time being, we are utilizing that green book I first saw introduced when I was a 23-year-old husband and seminary student back in the summer of '77.

What is in your random rolodex of memories? Do you find as you age you really do think of long-ago things more than you think of yesterday things? Remember when you got your first new car? Your driver's license? When your first child was born? When you lost the one you never dreamed you would lose? Remember getting your first really good job? Remember your graduation from high school, your confirmation? A lot of you have really good memories of youth group back in the day at Messiah.

Memory is a huge part of who we are. St. Augustine included memory as part of what makes us human persons. We remember stuff – often in great detail. When memories are painful, we can ask God to heal them. When memories are good, we give thanks to God for them. It's always good to decide to get up and make some new good memories. Take the trip. Finish the project. Join the committee. Start up the task. You have people who love you ready to make good memories with you.

Pr. Michael Meranda

Change In Church Email Address

Candace Rodgers, in addition to being our Church Treasurer, also serves as internet technician. She recently switched our email service from Windstream to Spectrum thru our web page. Our new email address is "office@messiahashtabula.com". She said if you click on the email address on our web page it will send your message right to the office. Spectrum says it will be a month until the switch is complete.



Three Elected

Jill Carle, top left picture, called the October 24 meeting of the Congregation to order after Worship.

We elected three persons to serve on the Church Council. Those elected were left to right Kathleen Nordquest, Emelia Lindberg and Mark Anderson.

Kathleen has served on many committees through the years including Christmas Decorating and Vacation Bible School.

Emelia is completing her first three year term on Council. She currently serves as Chair of the Property Committee.

Mark has recently served on Council and is a past Chair of the Council.

These new Council members join Fred Leitert, Russ Jepson, Renee Spencer, Jill Carle and Candace Rodgers who continue to serve.

Let us all commit to working with these elected members to make their job pleasant and satisfying.

November Altar Flowers

21—Beckey & Homer Young

Sign-up sheet for Altar Flowers is in the hallway near the elevator. There are many Sundays open.

DST 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.

**December Messenger
Copy Deadline
12 Noon November 30**

Parish Register

Baptisms: Lana Sophia Huggins, Father Andrew Huggins, Mother Kathryn Thiery. 10/3/2021

Marriage: Bride, Alyssa Turnquist McGaha, Groom, Roger Bento. 10/23/2021

Died in Christ: Rick Reinker. 10/18/2021

Letters & Emails

Dearest Friend,

I'm sending this card from Chautauqua that I made on my last visit in August. I've been very fortunate to visit several times this year. I love the Lutheran House and always think of Messiah and all the special friends from my youth.

I appreciated your letter and the minutes you sent mentioning my mom's name. She loved her Church and all her years as an active member. I'm presently visiting here with Dar for her birthday weekend. We only see each other a few times a year due to Covid.

You are always so kind to think of us and I look forward to seeing you on my next visit to Ohio.
Love, Carol Dey and Dar

Church Mouse Heard About Moses:

Nine year old Joey was asked by his Mother what he had learned in Sunday School. "Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.



Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you? His Mother asked. Well, no, Mom. But if I told it the way the teacher did you'd never believe it!"

Worship Times The Same

Worship times are the same for the Month of November, 9:30 am on Saturday and 10:00 am on Sunday.

A New Secretary

Meet Arthur Polnisch our new Church Secretary.



Arthur lives in Geneva and is an Air Force Academy graduate. He spent eight years in the Air Force and then worked for about 20 years for Marathon Electric in Wausau, Wisconsin.

His sister lives in Andover and on a visit with her he learned about a quality control position with ATC Lighting and Plastics in Geneva.

He is married and a life long Lutheran.

Arthur will be working as Church Secretary four days a week. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am to 12 noon.

A Look Back At 2008

These pictures are pre-pandemic looking back at the year 2008. Clockwise from the top left: Fred and Sue Leitert being formally welcomed to Messiah, Pastor Eaton at her "going away party" after being elected as Northeast Ohio Synod Bishop, she later was elected as the Bishop of the ELCA, Lend-A-Hand Food Pantry clients waiting to be served, and Robin Wells and Norma Eble serving as coffee hour hostesses.



This was a very good year for Messiah members. We enjoyed the coffee hours, we had fun at the "going away party" even though it was a sad occasion.

We will again return to a more normal atmosphere at Messiah.

This will happen very soon, we think. Some groups are already beginning to meet regularly.



Messiah Lutheran Church
615 West Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

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



Messiah Messenger

November 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,
615 West Prospect Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Phone 440-992-9392

Fax 440-992-1348

Email: office@messiahashtabula.com

Web: www.messiahashtabula.com

The Rev. Dr. Michael Meranda, Pastor

Phone: 440-998-7321

Cell: 440-645-2586

**Welcome
Home To
Messiah**

