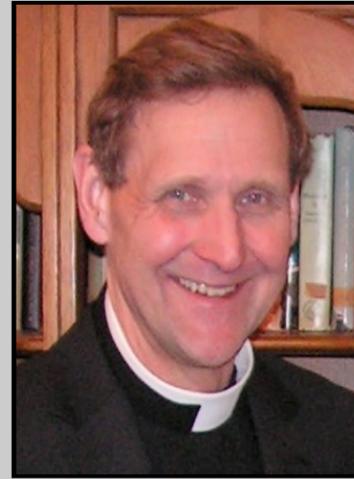


Pastor's Column

This is my final article I will write for the "Messenger." Many thanks are in order.

First of all, thank you for your "Messenger". I recall having read issues on line way back in 2007 when I was among the candidates for your next Call. I recall appreciating the inviting lay out. The photographs did a nice job of telling the story of what your diverse congregational life was like that particular month. A HUGE shout out goes to Lanny Anderson. He came up with this format when Pastor Eaton was still here. For over 20 years now he has been editing what I consider to be an award-winning church newsletter.



Thank you for your personality as a congregation. I have a phrase that summarizes my experience of you the last 14 years. "Messiah will try any good idea once." You do not shy from creativity; you confidently explore doing new things. If a sound idea and seems to be God pleasing, you are willing to try it. Few pastors enjoy that good natured ease.

Thank you for your intelligence. I've never known a community of faith to be filled with so many interesting and capable people. You are all different personalities. You are all gifted in different ways. You have really interesting experiences and stories. You were never a burden for the pastor; you were always a delight.

Thank you for your historic moorings. You are rooted in the Augustana Synod, the blessed Swedes. Your charming building, built in 1929, had an original chancel configuration that reflected that Swedish heritage. Your building holds the best stained glass in Ashtabula County. Your 1968 office wing provided for me the first corner office I have ever had the privilege to occupy.

Thank you for your laughter. Individual members with great senses of humor combined to give the congregation as a whole a great sense of humor. No matter what the activity or place in the building, I could always hear peels of laughter. I had a phrase about you I always shared, "Messiah is a unique combination of being very serious about ministry, yet at the same time having so much fun doing it." Thank you for your dedicated work and upbeat laughter.

Thank you for calling me to preside at your altar, to welcome newly baptized to your font, to preach the Word from your pulpit. You organized around the Word and Sacraments in 1921. Word and Sacraments carried you thru many challenges. Word and Sacrament ministry will bring you to many more opportunities in years to come. I've so privileged to have been part of your heritage in this good place.

Thank you for calling me to be faithfully your pastor,
Michael Meranda

Pastor's Retirement

By: Kathleen Nordquest

Concerning Pastor's retirement celebration we are following his wishes. It will be in the Church basement after his last service on Sunday, April 24th. He has expressed that he wants a simple coffee hour in his honor, no dinner or cake. We will be serving coffee and donuts along with fruit and cheese. Council is also taking charge of his retirement gift. We will not be collecting from the congregation as there is enough to cover the costs involved. Of course if anyone wishes to give a personal gift that is your choice.

Memorial Fund Donations

In memory of Connie Cooper by Pat and Andy Fang

Men of Messiah to Meet

By: Rick Ranta

Our first post Covid meeting will be Wednesday, April 13 at 8:00 am at Becker's Restaurant. (Formerly Perkins)

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Holy Communion 10 Mary Schroeder	4 Lend A Hand 10:30 Committee night	5 Tapestry 10-11:30	6 Day Timers	7 Choir Practice 7:00	8	9
10 Palm Sunday Holy Communion 10 Joanna Prezi-Anderson, Hal Cooper, Rick Reinker	11 Lend A Hand 10:30 Council 7:00	12 Tapestry 10-11:30	13 Men of Messiah 8:00	14 Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 7:00 Choir Practice 8:00 Sue Riley	15 Good Friday Service 7:00	16
17 Easter Holy Communion 10 Ed Spencer	18 Lend A Hand 10:30	19 No Tapestry	20	21 Choir Practice 7:00	22	23
24 Holy Communion 10 Coffee Hour 11 For Pastor's Retirement	25 Lend A Hand 10:30	26 Messenger Deadline Noon Tapestry 10-11:30	27	28 Choir Practice 7:00	29	30 Pastor hands in keys to the church and retires.

2 Years Later:

By: Rhana Wehn, For Thrift Shop Committee

We are so happy to announce the clothing bank will open again. We do not have a definite date for re-opening, but donations are being accepted **now!**



We accept just about anything: clothes, toys, blankets, towels, washcloths, sheets, pillowcases, knickknacks, dishes, cookware etc.

We welcome volunteers! Come join us.
Sue, Joyce, Rhana, Michelle

Letters & Emails

Messiah Congregation,

Thank you for the two beautiful flower arrangements.

Ruth Jepson (For her 106th birthday)

Altar Guild Meets

Altar Guild members met with Chair Joan Malkie recently. Those meeting were L to R, Kathy Nordquest, Rhana Wehn, Joan and Marilyn Brown.



Synod Meeting

The Rev. Mitch Philips, L, Assistant to the NEO Synod Bishop, met with Council recently to outline the call process and help Council understand their role in the process.



Worship and Music at Messiah

By: Joanna Pretz-Anderson, Worship & Music

Coming in April is the holiest of all weeks in the church year, beginning with Palm Sunday (also called Sunday of the Passion) on April 10th. We begin the service singing "Hosanna to the Son of David" and close the service with communion and laying our palm branches at the altar, after hearing Luke's account of the details of the last days of Jesus' life on earth.



Maundy Thursday on April 14 begins with Confession and Absolution, followed by the theme of service to others, and the Lord's Supper. At the end of the service the chancel is stripped of all appointments, preparing for the starkness of Good Friday on April 15. Both of these evening services begin at 7:00 pm.

We celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday on April 17 at 10:00 am with our "alleluias" and singing familiar Easter carols, declaring "This is the Feast of Victory for our God". We'll enjoy the beauty of the Easter Flower Garden in our chancel. If you'd like to participate, bring flowers to church on Saturday, April 16th between 10:00 and 11:30 am and they will be added to the display. (Fasten a slip of paper with your name on it, and then take your plant home after worship.) Complete the enclosed form and return it to the office by April 10th to have your dedication printed in the bulletin.

By now you've undoubtedly heard about Pastor Meranda's retirement. Pastor's final Sunday to be with us at Messiah is April 24th. A send-off is planned by the council; plan to attend and wish him well as Michael and Mary begin this new journey called retirement.

Hospitality Chair Needed!

By: Mark Anderson, Council President

Ruth Hlinovsky has decided to retire from Hospitality Chair after years of outstanding leadership, she will be greatly missed. We are actively looking for her replacement, Ruth has offered to help train. If interested please contact Mark Anderson at mark726golf@gmail.com or phone 440-786-3799.



Stewardship Corner *By: Russell Jepson, Stewardship Chairperson*

In 1995 Dorene and I along with the Anderson's (Lanny and Joyce) and the Heiser's (Dick and Sandy) went on an RV trip to Alaska. At one of the many points of interest we stopped at, an observation was made by one of our group with these beginning words "Here We Are At The Matanuska Valley" as we had stopped at the overlook to the Matanuska Valley, a location where large oversized vegetables were grown on truck farms and dairy farms tried their luck without success due to the harsh weather and the location of the Matanuska Glacier.

Another observation, "Here WE Are At Messiah" a point of new beginnings, with pastor Maranda announcing his retirement from the ministry at the end of April 2022. A well deserved change of pace, especially having lead the congregation through the past 14 years, not to mention the last 2 years of the deadly viruses. A time for honing acting skills, becoming a head liner at the arts center, extending his cycling range from Ashtabula to Canfield Oh. "Lots of possibilities."

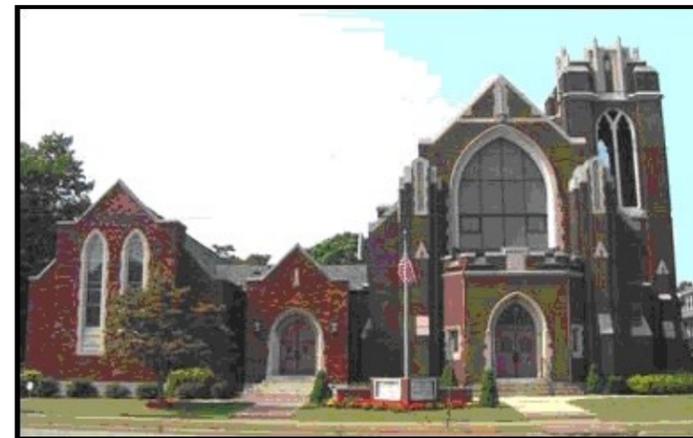
A new beginning as we slowly but steadily return to normal worship services, committee meetings, choir, fellowship and opening the church to outside groups.

As we have been good stewards supporting the ministry and our gathering place operation and maintenance financially, the protocol required to protect ourselves and each other from the viruses has taken it's toll on member attendance these past 2 years. Money helps and is necessary in full filling our mission." It takes people to accomplish our mission."

There are God given talents in the congregation, to be used as an extension of his grace internally and externally. Interested in showing yours?

**May Messenger Copy
Deadline 12 Noon
April 26**

**Messiah Lutheran Church
615 West Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004**



**Welcome
Home To
Messiah**



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Messiah Messenger

April 2022

Worship:

Sunday 10:00 am

Sunday School:

Will Resume Later

Adult Forum:

Will Resume Later

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