

## Surveys Enclosed

By: Kathleen Nordquest, Council Member

Enclosed are two sheets of surveys from the Synod. These will be used to help the Council determine our congregations vision for the future as part of the Call process. Please take the time to complete these surveys and return them to the Church by June 10th. We look forward to compiling all of the survey results to help us move on with the Call process.

## Letters & Emails

Dear Friends at Messiah,  
There are not enough words to express my gratitude and thanks for the last 14 years and all the love and experiences we shared! You are truly a special people! The gift basket was so much fun because I got to enjoy events, too! And the flowers you presented to me were wonderful. Thank you for making that last worship service so memorable, and the "Just donuts coffee hour" so perfect. Know that I keep you all close to heart. Stay well.  
Mary Meranda

Thank you so much, Messiah Lutheran Church, for the farewell reception you provided me on 4-24-2022. Council Chairperson Mark Anderson, accompanied by spouse Beth Anderson, ably led your council members in planning the event. Your many gifts to me were so generous and the celebration was so joyous! I recall years ago when a civic leader referenced your congregation at a community event with the words, "Messiah always does the right thing." That is so true; and I am so grateful to have been a part of your congregational life those 14 years. Thank you again and God Bless!  
Michael Meranda

## Worship at Messiah

Joanna Pretz Anderson, Worship & Music Chair

PENTECOST is June 5<sup>th</sup>, the third most important festival of the church year. Wear red to help celebrate the birth of the church and hear the account read from the Acts of the Apostles. We'll have a special display of lit candles, calling to mind the Holy Spirit coming as "tongues of fire". Pentecost will be the last Sunday for the choir to sing – give them a hearty "thank you"!



June 5<sup>th</sup> is also the day that we'll welcome Pastor Steve Fisher, who will serve as our Interim Pastor. For a few weeks we may ask you to wear a name tag, helping Pastor Fisher get to know us.

TRINITY SUNDAY is when we sing "God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity." Remember what hymn that line is from? It's a hymn that some remember as the first hymn sung every Sunday at Messiah in the 1950s or 1960s!

June begins the season when we welcome "back home" people who return to Ashtabula for the summer. Look for old friends and invite them back to Messiah AND look for new visitors in your neighborhood and invite them to come *with you* to church. Show them that attending worship is not just another activity in your week, but a life-affirming connection with our Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, and a time to support each other in our witness to God's gifts and our "response" ability to care for others.

See you in church!

## Memorial Fund Contributions

In memory of Jim Lindberg by John Lekander  
In memory of Connie Cooper by Pastor David Anderson & Joanna Pretz Anderson

## June Altar Flowers

June 5-Fred and Dawn Grimm 50th Wedding Anniversary to the glory of God.  
June 19-Kathy Nordquest  
June 26- Barb Lewis, Homer & Beckey Young in memory of family.

## June Altar Candle

Jacqueline Konter in memory of family

## Welcome Pastor Fisher

By: Kathleen Nordquest

We offer a gracious welcome to Pastor Stephen Fisher. Pastor Fisher will be joining us as our Interim Pastor as we begin the search for a new permanent Pastor. Pastor Fisher retired as Pastor from Trinity Lutheran Church in Madison about 5 years ago. In the time since he retired, he has served as supply and interim pastor in the local area. Pastor Fisher will be leading our Sunday services, attending important congregational meetings, and working in the office at least one day a week. He will also be available for important Church functions such as weddings, funerals, shut-in visitations, and other pastoral care on an as needed basis. Pastor Fisher will begin his tenure on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be a meet and greet coffee hour after the service.

## Vacation Bible School Here For 2022

By: Shyanna Lindberg

Theme: Returning to the Value of Life

Dates: July 18, 19 and 20

Times: 5:30 to 8:00 pm

Ages: 3 to 18

At Zoomerang VBS, you'll marvel at the unforgettable wildlife, culture, and beauty of Australia while exploring the wonder and value of life, from the lives of preborn babies to eternal life in the kingdom of God. We will explore together: Land Down Under lessons, top Koala treats, hoppin good games, Turtley Terrific Science and Crafts as well as some awesome music. Volunteers and participants needed. If willing to volunteer (flexible dates and times) or to register all of your mates, contact Shyanna Lindberg (call or text 440-344-8274) Thank you so much!

**July Messenger Copy  
Deadline 12 Noon June 28**

## Stewardship Corner

By: Russ Jepson, Stewardship Chair

Mat Damon actor and Gary White civil and environmental engineer, co authored a book "The Worth of Water" our story of chasing solutions to the worlds greatest challenge. The book is about Mat and Gary's quest to find a solution to the water challenge people of the world face every day, by not having water available without taking hours and even Days to access water just for cooking and drinking, leaving nothing for hygiene.

Two cases: one involves a woman who took two hours walking down a rocky mountain to collect water in a jug then having to return up that mountain with the jug on her head. The point made was, the time it took away from, the time she could be using to provide a living for the family and the physical toll on the woman doing this daily.

The second case: Mat came upon a youth sitting by himself with a jug of milk and a pie of meat with a small herd of animals. When asked where were his parents? He said they went for water. When asked where? He said two days away. They were taking this journey on camels, not walking. Can you imagine taking two days from your schedule just to find water? Mat didn't say if this was for their use or for the animals also.

Mat and Gary formed the organizations Water.org dealing with water access and sanitation. Sanitation or rather the lack of goes back to the root problem, water availability. The other organization is Water Equity. This organization provides low interest loans, loans of \$100 to \$200 that surprisingly makes it possible for people to access water from a well or tap to piped water. This access provides sanitation. Loan repayment 95%.

What does this story have to do with us? It is something Mat said about giving and his mother he said repeated it often about doing, that resonated with me.

Mat: "If you've been lucky as I have been, you can give something in proportion to the good fortune you've received." Is this your thought when giving to God for his providing for you, as a good steward? Mats mother: "Whatever you do may seem insignificant to you, but it is most important that you do it." What God calls us to do isn't insignificant no matter how small. Just do it as good stewards.

## Supply Pastors In May

We welcomed three supply Pastors to Messiah in May. They were L to R Pastor, Andrew Genzler with Deacon Rick Ranta. Pastor David Anderson with deacon Kurt Nordquest and Pastor Rod Funk with Deacon Jill Carle.



## June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Nar-Anon	2	3	4
5 Day of Pentecost Holy Communion 10 Barb Ranta	6 Lend A Hand 10:30 Property 6 Finance 7 Clothing Bank	7	8 Nar-Anon	9	10	11
12 Holy Communion 10 Mary Schroeder	13 Lend A Hand 10:30 Church Council 6 Clothing Bank	14	15 Nar-Anon	16	17	18
19 HOLY TRINITY Holy Communion 10 Father's Day cookies Lanny Anderson	20 Lend-A-Hand 10:30 Clothing Bank	21	22 Nar-Anon	23	24	25
26 Holy Communion 10 Dawn Grimm	27 Lend-A-Hand 10:30 Clothing Bank	28 Messenger Deadline Noon	29 Nar-Anon	30		

### Message from Council – June 22

By: Mark Anderson, President

There is a lot going on at Messiah behind the scenes. Our dedicated Church Council has been working hard on a number of projects, most importantly the transition to our next Call Pastor. This transition process involves 5 steps:

Saying farewell to Pastor Meranda... Accomplished, excellent job by all involved.

Planning for Interim Pastor...Finalized 5/25, Pastor Stephen Fisher will start as our Interim Pastor June 5<sup>th</sup>. He is retired from Trinity Lutheran in Madison. Pastor Fisher has served previously in Interim roles. He will conduct Sunday services and be in the office 1 day/week. He has also agree to attend Committee meetings along with other duties. We are fortunate to find Pastor Fisher.

Exploring God's Call...currently in this phase. We need to determine the Mission & Vision for our Church going forward. Council is responsible for this process, working with the NEO Synod. We are including a survey in this Messenger along with other options to complete the survey. Council will review all responses and finalize our Mission & Vision. The purpose of this phase is to assist Council in selecting our Call Committee to ensure they find a Pastor that fits our Mission & Vision.

Call Process...Form Call Committee and Preparation of our Ministry Site Profile, Prep and

Perform interviews.

Call Committee recommends candidate to Council, we engage/interview candidate. If approved by Council, set up meet and greet with Congregation, followed by congregation vote.

Welcome and Celebration...no need to explain...Messiah excels at Celebration

Having explained all this, it is very important for everyone to understand that this can be a very long process. There is a big demand and a shortage of candidates for Call Pastors. Council has tremendous confidence in our Congregation to maintain and grow in everything we do at Messiah. We see evidence of this every day with Membership stepping up.

Other items:

2022 Projects: Actively working on roofing project, a new sound system, and getting the front doors stripped and stained back to original look.

Restarting our Community Garden in June, see Renee to volunteer.

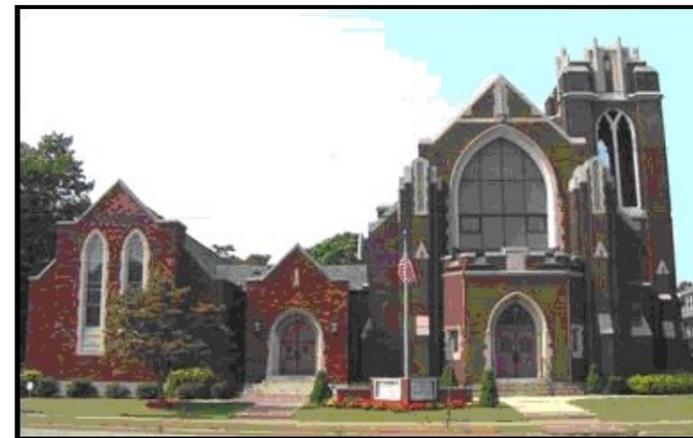
Vacation Bible School will be held again this summer.

Still looking for Hospitality Co-Chair, we want to get more things going in 2022.

There are many, many other great things ongoing, and we are thankful to everyone that dedicates their time and energy to make Messiah such a great Church. With God's blessing we will get through this transition and continue forward with God's work at Messiah Lutheran.

Messiah Lutheran Church  
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Ashtabula, OH 44004

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Welcome  
Home To  
Messiah



## Messiah Messenger

June 2022

### Worship:

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

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