

Pastor's Column

Blessings and Peace to all!

In a recent sermon, I told a brief story about a man found dying in New York. The year was 1864. A Bowery bum with a slashed throat was brought into Bellevue Hospital in New York city. The man was unable to recover from his injury because of a body weakened by excessive alcoholism. He had a fever. He lost a great deal of blood. He was suffering from malnutrition. He survived for several days until finally he died at the age of thirty-eight. He died with only thirty-eight cents in his pocket. As the story unfolded, however, they discovered that this was not just another Bowery bum. He had been well known all over America, famous for his songs. He had charmed America into singing "De Camptown Races," "Oh! Susanna," "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair," "My Old Kentucky Home," and hundreds more.

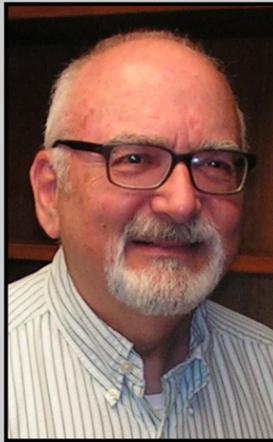
His name was Stephen C. Foster. But on that cold wintry night in New York City, in 1864, he died, leaving behind the legacy of a wasted life. Stephen Foster never intended to have his life end like that. Nobody ever does. But somehow for Stephen Foster, he began to slip from the creative genius that he was to one dependent upon the next drink, even to the point of malnutrition.

We hear of terrible events like this today, in various forms. People who lust for wealth, and soon clients are cheated. A student gets angry over the way bullying took place, and a gun appears in the school building. We get angry about someone cutting us off on the highway and there is road rage. Or, we might have less dangerous but also destructive pattern. We might fall into a "let George (fill in the name) do it"- and we stop doing acts of charity or kindness, figuring someone else will do it.

Messiah is at an important stage in this church's life! A successful Bible School outreach was just held for the community with some 20 youth participating! What a great display of being God's hands in this place! The clothing and food ministry continues to show support for others- what a tremendous show of compassion! We are "post Covid" - or at least in a lull from the fears we faced the past 2 years. Things are relatively safe in Ashtabula. But it has been hard to move from our homes where we were told to shelter out into the world again- but that is where we are called! Can we increase our worship attendance and participation? It is so easy to let bad habits in- as did Stephen Foster. It is a big challenge to move "out of neutral" and into our paths of service for our Lord!

Blessings!

Pastor Steve



Worship and Music Report

By: Joanna Pretz-Anderson

August 21 take a drive to Saybrook Township Park on Lake Rd instead of Messiah Lutheran Church; there we'll have our annual Outdoor Worship and Picnic, beginning at 10:00 am. (Watch for details in the bulletin about what to bring for the Potluck following worship.)



When you take a trip and vacation out of town, plan to find a Lutheran Church in that area and worship in a new place - easy to find with a smart phone! We have made a regular habit of that and I actually look forward to walking into a new church, looking around, and seeing how they do things. I especially take notice of how their worship space is different, what music choices they make and whether they enjoy singing, use a lot of lay leaders during worship or not, what banners or artwork they have in the chancel, etc. And I'm always delighted to find things that are common to how we do them at Messiah.

In just a few short weeks Messiah Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday evenings, at the end of August. Why not join the choir this fall? Director Julie Hunt is always eager for new singers.

Coffee Hours Are Back!

The much beloved coffee hours are back! After about a two year absence due the pandemic, we appreciated this coffee hour hosted by Jill Carle and Shyanna Lindberg. In the picture below, Fred Leitert, L, and Russ Jepson get caught up on each others lives while enjoying their coffee.



Parish Register

Baptism: Zander Lowe, 7/10/2022

Funeral: Ruth Reinker, 7/28/2022

New Members Received:

Dana Cleversy

Rebecca Laakso

Mary Rebecca Greenawalt Banfield

Memorial Fund Contributions

Marion Hatton in memory of Connie Cooper

**September
Messenger Copy
Deadline Noon
Tuesday, Aug. 30**

Property Update

By: Emelia Lindberg, Property Chair

Walker Construction & Roofing will have completed the last phase of the educational wing roof by the time you read this. We are hopeful that this will stop the leaks in two areas of the church.

The next project is the stained glass: being restored by Whitney Stained-Glass in Cleveland, they have not provided a start date. We will keep everyone updated as to the timeline and progress on this project.

The church is running low on keys to the building and requests that any person who may have a key not being used because of changes on committees or the council please return the keys to the office. We would like to not have to spend unnecessary money on making additional keys.

We are adding two new committees to the church, which will fall under the Property Committee umbrella and are looking for interested parties to assist: The first is a temporary Sound System Committee to assess the needs of the sanctuary sound system whether it be upgrades, replacement, or any other suggestions that this committee deems is needed. Once the committees' suggestions are brought to the Property Committee, this committee can be dissolved, so it would be a short-term commitment. We are looking for five people to be a part of this group.

The second committee will be an Emergency Protocol/Security Committee that will evaluate the church's present protocols and make recommendations to adhere to the present changing climate in safety of all and the church. This committee will meet on Sundays after church service. Once the protocols have been established, this committee will meet quarterly. We are looking for as many people that would like to be involved.

Thank you.

Church Mouse Heard Pastor Say:

television has a bad influence on Christians. He exhorted everyone to do what he did in his own home. "Put the television in a closet and leave it there." Just then his wife turned around and said to the friend behind her "yes, but its getting pretty crowded in there."



August Calendar

August 1- Property 6:00
1 - Finance 7:00
3-Al Anon 7:30
7-Holy Communion 10:00
8-Lend-A-Hand 10:30
8-Clothing bank 10:30
8-Church Council 7:00
10-Men's Breakfast 8:00
10- Al Anon 7:30
14-Holy Communion 10:00
15-Lend-A-Hand 10:30
15-Clothing Bank 10:30
17-Al Anon 7:30
21-Church Picnic 10:00
22-Lend-A-Hand 10:30
22-Clothing bank 10:30
24-Al Anon 7:30
28-Holy Communion 10:00
29-Lend-A-Hand 10:30
29-Clothing Bank 10:30
30-Messenger Deadline 12:00
31-Al Anon 7:30

Garden Maintenance

August 7-13-Lanny Anderson
August 14-20-Robin Wells
August 21-27- Sue Leitert
August 25-September 3-Renee Spencer

Vacation Bible School A Hit!

Vacation Bible School this year organized by Emelia and Shyanna Lindberg was a resounding hit with the students who attended! In the pictures below L to R, students were greeted by this monster upon entering the Church, Men of Messiah served dinner to the students, here the littlest students are getting their goulash that had been prepared by Rick Ranta, and finally one of the classes held at VBS is shown.

As a congregation we really appreciate all of the time and effort that Emelia and Shyanna put into VBS.



Church Picnic

Our annual Church Picnic is Sunday, August 21 beginning with Worship at 10:00 am. This year's version is again at Saybrook Township Park. A pot luck dinner will immediately follow Worship. Everyone attending is asked to bring a dish to share.

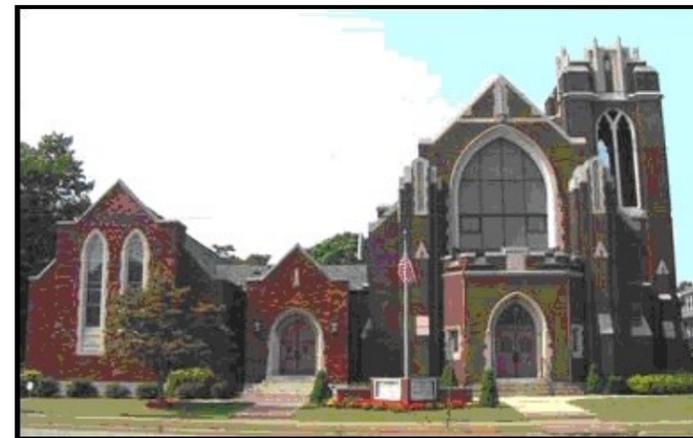
Hot dogs, buns, condiments and coffee will be provided. This is always a very memorable event with many people in attendance.

Emelia and Shyanna Lindberg are again hosting the picnic and we owe them a great big "thank you".

The picture below shows folks in the buffet line at last year's picnic.

Messiah Lutheran Church
615 West Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

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Ashtabula, Ohio 44004
Permit No. 313



Messiah Messenger

August 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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**Welcome
Home To
Messiah**

