

## Pastor's Column

***“Love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also.”*** Luke 6:27-29 (NLT)

When you are persecuted, harassed, or face opposition, you need to respond with a blessing. Jesus says in Luke 6:27-29, *“Love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also”* (NLT).

Now, you might say, Gee, Pastor, when does that happen?

Well, probably more than we consider. You are undoubtedly familiar with “Road Rage”. A driver becomes very aggressive and anyone nearby is a target for that person’s rage. If that driver thought you drove too slowly, or drove too fast... or didn’t let them in.. or didn’t let them out.. I think you get the picture. The aggressive driver becomes a very dangerous driver. And maybe the next time that happens, you should apply one of the Jesus principals. Get to the side to let them pass. Don’t follow them or take pictures. Yes, do good to those who hate you.

Who does that? Not many people, actually. But it is what sets Christians apart, because it’s not a natural or popular or easy response. It takes a lot of courage to do those things! Anyone can retaliate or say something mean back. God wants you to love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who hurt you, and turn the other cheek. Is that easy? No. It’s the most powerful form of witness, but you can only do it by being filled with God’s love.

When you refuse to retaliate and instead respond in love to a critic in your church or in your community, God will be pleased. And you’re going to be blessed.

Matthew 5:10-12 reminds us of God’s goodness: *“God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven”* (NLT).

Jesus paid a price for you. He says there’s a price to be paid for following him. Popularity on Earth is not part of the guarantee of being a Christian, but your reward in heaven is a guarantee

Blessings! Pastor Steve

### Garden Maintenance

Sept. 4 to 10, Lanny Anderson  
Sept. 11 to 17, Dawn Grimm  
Sept. 18 to 24, Rick Ranta  
Sept. 25 to Oct. 1, Robin Wells  
Oct. 2 to 8, Sue Leitert

### Thrivent Dinner Sept. 20

Church Council member Emelia Lindberg has announced that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be making a presentation on September 20 at 6:00 pm. Dinner will also be provided.



## Stewardship Corner

By: Russ Jepson, Stewardship Chairperson



Opportunity is knocking Messiah. In last months Messenger was a list of opportunities for members to support or be involved in.

Church sponsored Lend A Hand food pantry, always welcome food items purchased or garden raised and cash. A list of requested items are listed in the insert. The clothing bank is accepting clean used clothing that is offered free. The clothing bank is open Mondays at the same time as the food pantry. Samaritan House is another option. They are located in former parsonage. They solicited in the paper their need for funds a month or so ago.

As stated in the news letter insert, Messiah is again collecting school supplies for Huron Primary AACs. A list of items needed are listed in the insert.

The Outreach Committee is continuing it’s collection of women’s hygiene products and also has made a monetary donation to the food pantry. Suggestions for other areas of outreach the committee can serve welcomed.

Another opportunity to be physically involved in outreach is by helping with the Christmas parade float. What an opportunity to witness and put Messiah’s name in front of the public telling them we are here.

Lastly, plans are to again be part of the Christmas tree decorating event located in North Park. Our previous display wasn’t about colored lights and tinsel, but provided small items those in need could take, again serving as good stewards to a need.

Suggestions for a theme and help putting it together are welcome.

As you look at the opportunities to serve, you can see we are involved in the community in various ways. Is there a place for you? I’m sure there is.

### Sunday School Is Starting

Shyanna Lindberg has announced that Sunday School will be starting on September 11. It will start at the same time that our Worship Service begins—10:00 am. At about 10:40 am the children will join the adults for communion. We really appreciate all of the work that Shyanna and Emelia have put into getting our Sunday School going again.

## Roof Repairs Are Completed



Roof Repairs to the east side of the 1967 building were completed in August. Walker Roofing from Warren, Ohio did the work. They had quite a large crew of what was mostly Spanish speaking workers on site.

We appreciate the Property Committee leading this effort.

**October  
Messenger Copy  
Deadline Noon  
Tuesday, Sept. 27**

### Parish Register

Barb & Rick Ranta phone change:  
Barb: 440-344-2318  
Rick: 440-855-5109

# September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Choir 7:00	2	3
4 Holy Communion 10  Jill Carle Sue Reilly	5 LABOR DAY Lend A Hand closed Clothing Bank closed	6 Health Fair Mtg. 6 Finance 7 Tapestry 10-11:30	7 Al Anon 7:30 Day Timers 10:00	8 Choir 7:00	9	10
11 Holy Communion 10  Nancy Krajec	12 * Lend A Hand 10:30 Property 6 Church Council 7 Clothing Bank 10:30	13 Tapestry 10-11:30	14 Men's Breakfast Day Timers 10:00  Al Anon 7:30	15 Choir 7:00	16	17
18 Holy Communion 10  Rick Ranta Mary Schroeder	19 * Lend A Hand 10:30 Clothing Bank 10:30	20 Tapestry 10-11:30 Thrivent Dinner/Presentation 6:00 PM	21 Al Anon 7:30 Day Timers 10:00	22 Choir 7:00	23	24
25 Holy Communion 10 Kurt Nordquest Keith Reinker	26 * Lend A Hand 10:30 Clothing Bank 10:30	27 Messenger Deadline 12 Tapestry 10-11:30	28 Al Anon 7:30 Day Timers 10:00	29 Choir 7:00	30	

• Pastor Steve in office-AM

## Memorial Fund Contributions

In memory of Ruth Reinker:

Joanna Pretz-Anderson and David Anderson  
Rick and Barb Ranta  
Joyce and Lanny Anderson  
Maggie Anderson  
Sharlene Hurst  
Russ and Doreen Jepson  
Carol Dey  
Jerry and Mariel Kujala

Russ & Doreen Jepson in memory of Connie Cooper

Russ & Doreen Jepson in memory of Jim Lindberg

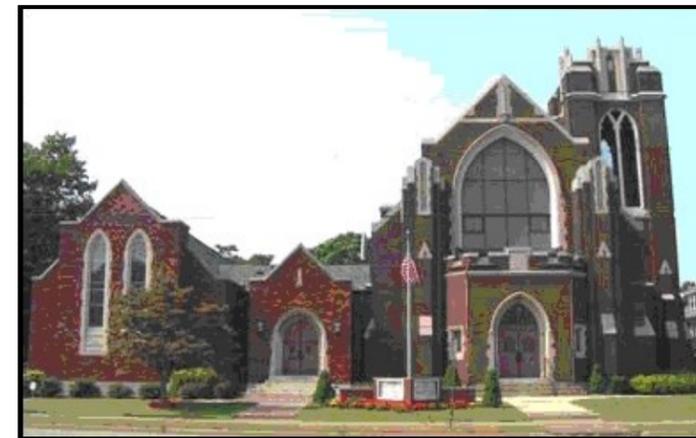
## Church Picnic



Our Annual Church Picnic was held August 21 at Saybrook township Park. A good crowd was present. Kathy Nordquest was the reader and Julie Quay was the Deacon.

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

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Ashtabula, Ohio 44004  
Permit No. 313



# Messiah Messenger

September 2022

**Worship:**  
Sunday 10:00 am  
**Sunday School:**  
Sunday 10:00 am

**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**

