

Pastor's Column

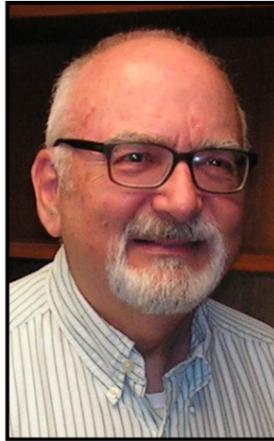
"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." *John 3:16 (TLB)*

These past months... well, this past year- has been a year of reconstruction. We have had the challenge of reconstructing from Covid. Reporters talk about how we had developed a "den" mentality and we were content with hiding in a den... our homes. Businesses that do not have a web presence for sales are suffering, for delivery trucks are dropping off those items we used to go out and buy. Food delivery and take out has blossomed as people have avoided crowds. But in the midst of this, we have lost so much in the terms of personal contact. We don't have others to share with, to laugh with, and to lean upon in times of trouble. Isolation still hurts.

God loves you so much that he sent Jesus on a mission of love with a message of love. The Bible doesn't say God has love; it says God is love. Love is his nature—God is love. God created the entire universe. He created this planet; he created the human race. And he created YOU because he LOVES you. God made you so he could love you and so that you could love him back. God's love for you is the reason your heart's beating right now; it's the reason you're breathing. God's amazing news is that he loves you on your good days as much as he loves you on your bad days. He loves you when you can feel his love, and he loves you when you can't seem to feel his love. He loves you whether or not you think you deserve his love. There is nothing you can do that will make God stop loving you. That's because his love for you is based upon his character, not on anything you do, say or feel. God loves you so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, into this world, "so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 TLB). When Jesus stretched his arms out as wide as the cross, he was saying, "I love you this much! I love you so much it hurts. I love you so much I'll die for you so that I won't have to live without you." As we get braver and visit our local stores and restaurants, remember the fellowship and support that comes through the church. We want you to feel safe... and we want to see you in worship!

God's love surpasses all human knowledge—and as Ephesians 3:17-19 tells us, it is impossible for any of us to fully grasp the width and length and height and depth of God's love for each one of us. That's how much God loves you!

Pastor Steve



Jill Carle Report

Call Process—The council has been working with the synod through Phase 2, exploring God's call. We have to determine the Mission & Vision for our Church going forward. This includes input from the congregation, Pastor survey and the "SWOT" activity. The council has a meeting with the synod on October 1 to discuss the Ministry Site Profile. Following this meeting, we will be able to form the call committee. We appreciate everyone's patience as we work with the synod to get our new Pastor. And thank you to the congregation for stepping up and continuing God's work at Messiah.



Open Council Seats—The congregational council is looking for a minimum of two people to run for open council seats to serve a three year term starting in 2023. Interested persons will need to attend the monthly meeting on the second Monday of each month. If anyone is interested, please see Jill Carle or contact the Church Office.

Thanksgiving Dinner—The Thanksgiving Dinner will be held after worship at 11:00am on Sunday, November 20th in the Fellowship Hall. Please look for the sign up sheets in the Love, Care and Concern folders, and indicate whether you will be bringing a dessert to share. Also if you are interested in volunteering, contact Homer Young, Kathy Nordquest or Tina Tallbacka.

Women's Hygiene Products—This is an ongoing project. There is a constant need for liners, pads, and tampons. These items are distributed through several community organizations including our own Food Pantry. When out shopping, grab a pack or two and bring them to church on Sunday. There is a collection box near the entrance door.

Food Pantry Donations—Client numbers are increasing at our church Food Pantry. Although it receives many items through Country Neighbor and the Cleveland Food Bank, there are needed items that aren't always provided from those sources. If you would like to make donations, the following items are requested: bar soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, all-purpose cleaner, and sun tan lotion.

Ashtabula Christmas Parade—We are making plans to participate in the parade with a float this year. We will keep you updated as plans develop. We hope to have a large number of members participate.

North Park Christmas Tree Decorating Event—We hope to do this again this year. In the past we have decorated our tree with small items for the needy to take as needed. If you have suggestions please contact the church office.

Memorial Fund Contributions

In memory of Patricia Greenawalt:

Gerald & Mariel Kujala
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth McCool
Luanna M. Serpico
Tricia A. Grosskopf
Rosemary Bernato
Jake & Amy Rose
Judith Park
Bill & Marilyn (Imhoff Burgess) Essig

In memory of Ruth Reinker:

Frank & Diane Maenpa

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Saturday, November 5 is the last day for this year's Daylight Savings Time. Turn your clocks back one hour at 2:30 am on November 6.

What will the new year bring? Who knows. Some say DST will become permanent.

**November
Messenger Copy
Deadline Noon
Tuesday, Oct. 25**

VBS Was Amazing!

VBS was amazing! We happily welcomed over 20 children throughout the three days.

I personally want to thank all the volunteers who helped. Without them I couldn't do this event.

With so many thanks,
Shyanna.



Grandma

Presiding ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and formerly our Pastor Eaton, is enjoying getting to know her new Grandson, Declan. Declan is about two weeks old in this picture and is the son of Pastor's oldest Daughter Beckah and her husband Michael Ray.



Our congratulations to the entire family!

Worship At Messiah

By: Joanna Pretz-Anderson, Worship & Music Chair

By now you've settled into fall routines, and I hope part of your routine is weekly worship attendance. I was reading an article stating that God seeks each of us throughout our lives. Perhaps you've heard church pundits talk about "seekers", people who are looking for meaning in their lives. What I was reminded of in this article was that it is God who is always seeking a relationship with us. The author went on to say "as we continue on our journey of seeking and finding (and being found)... it is vital to have companions to share the journey with us. We experience great comfort and strength when others seek along with us." I was reminded how important it is to be with other faith-seekers, and worship is one important activity to witness, encourage, and support each other.



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Ashtabula, OH 44004

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We've made a few changes at Messiah that you may be interested in. 1) The cost of candles has gone up, so we've increased the sponsorship of the Sanctuary Light to \$25 a month. This takes effect in 2023 and a new calendar is ready for signing up as a donor. 2) We switched to using Setting 1 of the liturgy in September. Judging from how well the singing is going, I think it's not so long ago that we used it! Kudos to all. 3) John Higgins resigned as Usher Coordinator. I am looking for more volunteers to serve as ushers; the main role of the usher right now is to greet people and hand them a bulletin. (We are hoping to resume passing the offering plates, but obviously we need at least 2 ushers on each team to achieve that.) Please call or text me (440-554-8352) if you can serve as an usher.

The last Sunday this month is Reformation Sunday. The paraments are changed to red for the festival and we sing "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," which proclaims "The kingdom's ours forever!" I used to think of Reformation Sunday as a birthday celebration of the Lutheran church, but the emphasis is really on reform and how the Church changes and transitions in response to needs and culture, remaining ever faithful to our calling to be the Body of Christ.

See you in church!

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Pentecost Holy Communion 10 Joanna Pretz-Anderson	3 Property 6 Finance 7 Lend A Hand 10:30 Clothing Bank 10:30	*4 Tapestry 10-11:30	5 Daytimers 10:30 Health Fair Committee 6 AI Anon 7:30	6 Choir 7	7	1/8 Kathy Nordquest
9 Pentecost Holy Communion 10 Sue Riley	10 Lend A Hand 10:30 Church Council 7 Clothing Bank 10:30	*11 Tapestry 10-11:30	12 AAMA @ Messiah 12 AI Anon 7:30 Men's Breakfast 8	13 Choir 7	14	15
16 Pentecost Holy Communion 10 Mary Schroeder	17 Lend A Hand 10:30 Hospitality Comm. 6 Clothing Bank 10:30	*18 Tapestry 10-11:30	19 Daytimers 10:30 AI Anon 7:30	20 Choir 7	21	22
23 Pentecost Holy Communion 10 Kathleen Shaffer	24 Lend A Hand 10:30 Clothing Bank 10:30	*25 Messenger Deadline 12 Tapestry 10-11:30	26 AI Anon 7:30	27 Choir 7	28	29
30 Pentecost Reformation Holy Communion 10 Keith Reinker	31 Lend A Hand 10:30 Clothing Bank 10:30					

• Pastor Steve in office.

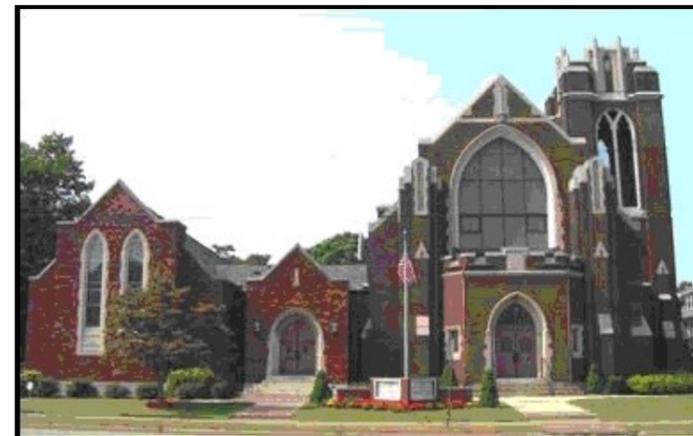
Parish Register

We celebrated in September the baptism of Violet Akira Ozbolt.

Daughter of Joshua and Aristi Ennis-Ozbolt.

Julie Was Deacon

Julie Quay was Deacon at the Church picnic in late August.



Welcome Home To Messiah



Messiah Messenger

October 2022

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

Adult Forum:
Will Resume Later

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