

Pastor's Column

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:3-6 NIV

To God's faithful, gathered and sent in Ashtabula, grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

There is much to be excited about this season! Together we are rushing headlong into some of the busiest months in the life of the Church. Various events and holidays and dinners – the Church is livelier than ever.

We are not without our challenges and anticipation for our future, but God's promise to be faithful endures, and God shows us this in so many ways. We pray for our Call Committee, as conversations begin to shape goals and plans. We pray for eyes to see and ears to hear, that we might effectively bear witness to the work of God in our lives and in our communities.

The Fall season has always held deep spiritual meaning, across generations, cultures, and faiths. It is a time of renewal, of death and rebirth. As we watch the trees change colors we know this means things are dying. And yet, we see beauty in this death, and in the dying of nature all around us we see the nourishment for new life to emerge.

So it is for God's Church. I often hear murmurs of longing for the days of the past, when our pews and Sunday School classrooms were fuller; murmurs of anxiety for our future, as it becomes abundantly clear that the way things used to be aren't coming back anytime soon. We see that some things in the life of the Church are dying, and we fear what that means for our future. It is easy to fall into fear, but we must remember that every generation of God's faithful has enduring a similar kind of death, looking back with longing and looking forward in fear. And yet, God's Church persists, and God's promise continues to ring true that the gates of hell will never prevail over it. In every age God blesses us with new challenges and new opportunities; that same God will see us through all of our fears this time as well.

So, it is fitting that this is, for us, a time of excitement and activity; of enjoying fellowship and doing the work of ministry. For in doing ministry we die to ourselves, and in dying we become life for the world. Even our holidays set in this time are these to reflect this reality – All Hallows Eve, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day are here for us to remember and rejoice in those who have gone before us; Thanksgiving is here to celebrate the many blessings God gives to us; and Reformation Day is here to remind us that God continually renews the Church in every age, breathing new life into our lives and into our frail and fallible institutions. We do well to observe these days with joy and reverence, as they shape us into the image of Christ, who died and rose again to renew the face of the earth and bring resurrection life into our hearts. For once again the world is about to turn, and so are our lives in Christ. So I pray your joy will abound this season as we move forward together as Christ's Church with holy anticipation, enduring together every new death and resurrection which takes us into ever brighter and more blessed futures. God will accomplish all of this and more for us who love him.

Blessings! Pastor Steve Fisher



Church Mouse Heard:

Pastor says as several Church ladies got up to prepare for a buffet: "the ladies leaving the sanctuary will have some hot buns for us after the service."



**December
Messenger Copy
Deadline Noon
Tuesday, Nov. 29**

Memorial Fund Contributions

Margaret Huggins in memory of Ruth Reinker.
Hal Cooper in memory of Ruth Reinker.

Joyce & Lanny Anderson in memory of Patricia Greenawalt.

Staff Christmas Gift

Church Treasurer Candace Rodgers announces that we will again be providing our seven hard working staff members with a Christmas gift.

Members who would like to participate in this should place their offerings in a plain envelope, mark the envelope "Staff Gift" and place it in the offering on Sunday morning. Another option is to just mark "Staff Gift" on the empty line on your Sunday envelope and place it in the Sunday offering.

All donations will be added together and given to the staff members as a Christmas gift.

Tapestry of Faith

Tapestry meets at our Church every Tuesday morning from 10:00 to 11:30 am. This women's non-denominational Bible study group is led by Renee Peet. Call Renee (440-789-9293) for more information. The picture below shows them at a recent meeting.



Thanks, Marie!

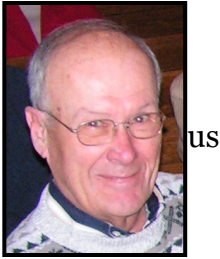
Marie Blood provided your editor with a copy of a book entitled "Church Chuckles". It will be new fodder for Church Mouse!

This month's "mouse" uses the first of what will be many "Chuckles".

Stewardship Corner

By: Russell Jepson, Stewardship Chair

Here we are into the month of Thanksgiving, where we offer up to God in prayer, our thank you for all the blessings God has bestowed on us this past year, good times and bad.



It is also the month we offer to God, our financial gift to his service thru Messiah for the new year 2023. I pray Messiah is doing the ministry that continues to receive your financial support.

Enclosed is a pledge sheet for those who do so, with a list of various ways of contributing besides in the offering plate on Sunday.

The bottom pledge record marked (Church copy) is to be cut and mailed to the Church or put in the offering plate on Sunday. Pledging provides the finance committee an early picture of our funding direction.

However you choose to show your financial support for God's mission thru Messiah to Preach-Teach-Baptize-Serve is always greatly appreciated.

Church envelopes will be available for pick up at the Church at the hallway table by the Luther Room. Those not picked up will be mailed.

November Altar Flowers

November 6-Joanna Pretz-Anderson & David Anderson in memory of all saints living and deceased.

November 6-Emelia & Shyanna Lindberg to the glory of God.

Auditor Appointed

Church Treasurer Candace Rodgers reports that Regina Haight has joined the Audit Committee as a third member of this group. She joins Barb Lewis and Mike Shaffer to meet with Candy and review the Church's financial position and make certain that our income and expenses are properly accounted for.

We thank Regina for agreeing to do this for us.

Outreach Committee Report

By: Kathy Nordquest, For Church Council

School, Supply Drive-The School Supply Drive is finished. We collected 262 boxes of crayons, 100 cans of playDoh, and 126 dry erase markers. A big thank you to Thrivent for the \$250 grant and to everyone who donated.

The Giving Tree-We have a name and contact with the family will be made this week. Gift tags will be available on Sunday, November 20. Keep checking the bulletin for updates.

Christmas Tree Decorating- we signed up to decorate a tree. It will be decorated with bags for the needy. Donations of hats, socks, and gloves are needed ASAP. We can start decorating on November 6.

Christmas Parade Nov. 18-Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer is the theme. We will have a decorated truck to walk behind. Volunteers are needed. Sign up sheet in the back of the Church.

Thanksgiving Dinner-is after worship on Nov. 20. Sign up in the love, care and concern folders or call the Church office. We can still use more helpers. If you can cook a turkey or make a corn casserole or help out in any way, contact the Church office.

Worship at Messiah

By: Joanna Pretz-Anderson, Worship & Music Chair

Things are happening in worship at Messiah this month!

The first Sunday is **All Saints Sunday**, when we observe, give thanks and recognize the saints who have died within the past 12 months. Names will be spoken and candles lit for each.

On the 20th we'll celebrate **Harvest Sunday** with a collection for our own Lend-a-Hand Food Pantry; bring in your donations of cranberry sauce, stuffing, pumpkin filling, and French's onion rings that Sunday.

Advent begins on the 27th when we'll light the first candle on the Advent wreath and sing selected stanzas of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", marking our time of preparation for the birth of our Savior.

Welcome to our new Ushers who have said "Yes! I'll help!": Kathy Schaffer, Robin & Brian Wells, and Dan Nemitz.



Messiah Lutheran Church
615 West Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004
Permit No. 313



Messiah Messenger

November 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



November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Tapestry 10-11:30	2 Daytimers 10:30 AI Anon 7:30 Nar Anon 7:00	3 Choir 7	4	5
6 All Saints	7 Lend A Hand 10:30 Finance 7 Holy Communion 10 Kathy Nordquest Usher team # 1	* 8 Tapestry 10-11:30	9 AI Anon 7:30 Men's Breakfast 8 Nar Anon 7:00	10 Choir 7	11	12 Fellowship Hall Ruth Hlinovsky
13 Pentecost 26	14 Lend A Hand 10:30 Church Council 7 Clothing Bank 10:30	* 15 Tapestry 10-11:30	16 Daytimers 10:30 AI Anon 7:30 Nar Anon 7:00	17 Choir 7	18	19
20 Christ the King Harvest Sunday Usher team # 3 Holy Communion 10 Thanksgiving Lanny Anderson Dinner 11	21 Lend A Hand 10:30 Clothing Bank 10:30	* 22 Tapestry 10-11:30	23 AI Anon 7:30 Nar Anon 7:00	24 THANKSGIVING DAY	25	26
27 Advent 1	28 Lend A Hand 10:30 Clothing Bank 10:30	* 29 Messenger Deadline 12 Tapestry 10-11:30	30 Nar Anon 7:00 AI Anon 7:30 Daytimers 10:30			
Holy Communion 10 Nancy Krajec Usher team # 4						

• Pastor Steve in office.