

## Pastor's Column

I write this "Messenger" anticipating doing something I never dreamed I would do – volunteering at a Theater Organ event. Lakeside's Society for the Performing Arts is hosting a three-day seminar and concert featuring the "Mighty Kimball" pipe organ. Now, the sound of a theater organ has never interested me. They do not lead congregational singing nor blend in well accompanying orchestral works. But they do have an historic role in American culture. They accompanied silent movies. They were found in roller skating rinks. They are tourist attractions in pizza parlors. Theater organs generate sounds that mimic a locomotive whistle or a man slipping on a banana peel. They are good for heightening the fear when Dracula appears on screen or expressing the relief when two lovers find one another's arms.



I'm volunteering at the Lakeside High School event because it is memorializing Bud Hill. He died a short while ago. Many of you knew him or know of him. He had been a respected community leader for a long time. He was part of that generation that made Main Ave stellar in its day. They built thriving businesses, served on civic committees, raised their kids in our public school system, and they tended to attend Church somewhere faithfully. They left legacies and endowments. Bud Hill was one of many philanthropists who left a lasting imprint on Ashtabula – one of them being the Theater Organ at Lakeside High School. (One day he actually stopped in at Messiah; he wanted to check out the architecture and, of course, our 1930s Teller Company pipe organ.)

The legacies we leave behind us may not be as significant as Bud Hill's. But we will all leave a legacy. The footsteps our lives take leave footprints. We have an affect on other people and our lives effect events and change. Sometimes all we do is stay available to offer simple help. Sometimes we are just a thread of consistency in this rapidly changing world. We are known. We are felt. We are remembered. God bless us that we may be a blessing for others.

Faithfully your pastor,  
Michael Meranda

## February Altar Flowers

February 16 - Doreen and Russell Jepson  
February 23 - Robin Wells

## Parish Register

Jim Lindberg died in Christ 1/13/2022. Funeral 2/26/2022.  
George Quay IV died in Christ 1/5/2022.

Rebecca Laakso transferred to Messiah from Faith Lutheran in Erie, PA

Alinah Bento was baptized January 16, 2022.

**March Messenger Copy  
Deadline 12 Noon  
February 22**

## Daytimers Are Back

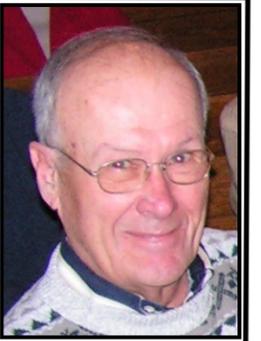


Daytimers have resumed their meetings on the first, third and fifth Wednesdays of the month.

They begin their card playing at 10:00 am, break for lunch at noon, and finish at about 3:00 pm. The current game of choice is Minnesota Canasta.

Their lunch is pot luck. Members with questions should contact Manette Nelson at 440-224-1757. You do not have to be a member of Messiah to attend. All are welcome!

## Stewardship Corner *By: Russ Jepson, Stewardship Chair*



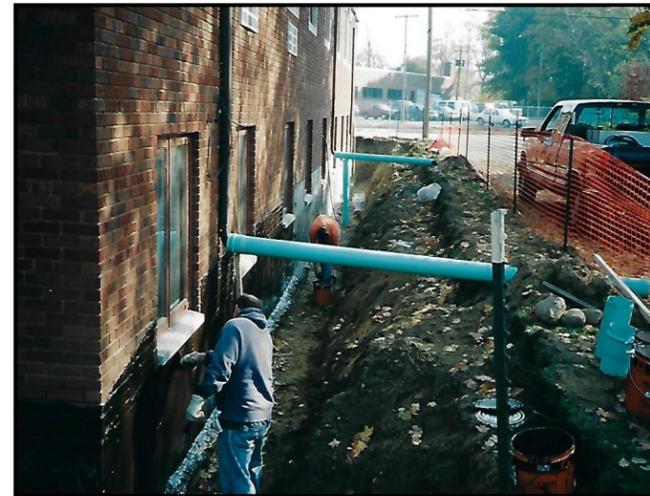
Nineteen years ago in 2003, Messiah members voted to begin a major maintenance project known as ATM(Abate The Moisture), at a cost of \$300,000. As of January 2022, this account has been paid in full. Amen!

Some of the major projects, was the bell tower that had large wood frame work, supporting screening at the openings to keep birds out, requiring constant maintenance. This was replaced with sculptured stone.

All windows with wood framework were repaired where needed and painted. The plastic covering over the Church windows to retain heat were removed as they trapped heat from the sun causing wood and lead damage that supports the stained glass.

Brick work was tuck pointed to seal out moisture and perimeter tiling around the base of the Church and education wing was installed and tied into the cities storm drain at Station Ave. Other exterior work was done under the watchful eye of Dick Reinker.

Messiah members over this period of time, have been faithful in maintaining their commitment to paying off this debt and with help from the Messiah Foundation, we were able to refinance the loan in Church, reducing the interest. There are members who are indicating on their envelopes, their contributions to the ATM account. The ATM account is now closed, this is no longer needed. Those wishing to do so, can transfer what they designated to the ATM account to the current account. Good work Messiah, you always stay the course.



The picture on the left shows workers installing perimeter drains around the entire Church. This work was necessary to stop water infiltration into the building through the foundation walls.



The picture on the right shows the work being done to the bell tower. The sculptured stone framework in the bell tower replaced the original wood framework. The wooden frame was a constant maintenance problem for the Property Committee and had rotted to the point that it needed to be replaced.

## Foundation Loan Paid Off!

Church Treasurer Candace Rodgers is shown on the right presenting the check to Marilyn Brown, Foundation Treasurer. The check was for \$66,943.27.

If we had let the loan from the Foundation go to maturity it would have been paid off in December of 2024. We paid the loan off three years early.



## Letters & Emails

Enjoy the magic of the season and celebrate the wonders of the holiday.

Thank you for your virtual Christmas service.

Tom and Silvija Lechwick

Dear Friends at Messiah Lutheran Church,

I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$250 to Adam's Angels. It is because of people like you that Adam's Angels is able to continue with our mission of "Making a difference, one blessing at a time."

Our 2021 Blessing Bag/Comfort Bags for kids campaign has come to an end. With the help of the communities we serve and businesses like yours, we were able to distribute, over 600 Blessing Bags to the homeless, 225 Comfort Bags for Kids in the foster care system, 100 Blessing Bags to the youth of Ashtabula County. We also were able to sponsor a Sub Zero Mission bus run, provide needed items to local food pantries and provide Christmas items for the Catholic Charities Halo Project.

On behalf of all of us at Adam's Angels 912, we thank you for helping us help those in need.

Happy Holidays!!  
Heather Tulino

## Budget Meeting

Our annual "Budget Meeting" was January 23 after the 10:00 am service. Mark Anderson, President of the Congregation, called the meeting to order. He also announced that we did not have a quorum present so the meeting could not be official.

Candace Rodgers, Church Treasurer, reviewed the 2021 financial reports which showed us with a year end balance of \$41,390.36. She also presented the 2022 budget which showed us receiving \$193,739 and spending \$172,309.

Members present approved both reports. Pastor and Mark will work with Council to make it legal.



## Worship Volunteers

By: Joanna Pretz-Anderson, Worship & Music Chair

Lutheran Worship is about praising God, praying to God, serving others, being strengthened in faith through feasting in Holy Communion and hearing the Word preached, and sharing community with others. Lutheran Worship encourages our full attention and participation; we are called to be *active* in our listening and responding – praying, singing, greeting, confessing, etc.



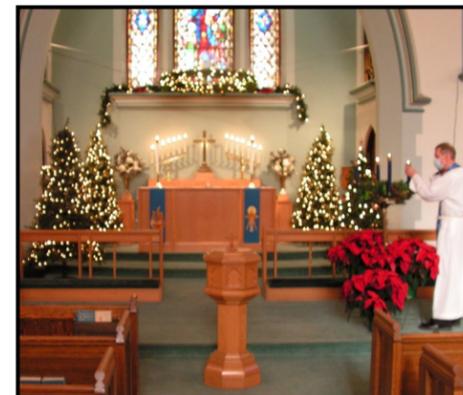
Serving as a Worship Volunteer is another way to answer God's call to be active in worship. As we carefully navigate our way back to more normal worship patterns on Sunday mornings (anticipating a post-covid era!), we at Messiah are looking to gradually reactivate volunteers: ushers, acolytes, readers, assisting ministers (at Messiah they have been called deacons), altar guild, singers, etc. If you have served in the past and feel ready to resume work as a Worship Volunteer, kindly send me an email or phone call; I'd love to talk with you. If there is an area you have not served in but would like to, please contact me and we'll discuss what fits your interests and gifts best. Phone 440-554-8352 or email danderpretz@gmail.com.

Next month I hope to have a plan to share in the Messenger with a schedule of Worship Volunteers.

See you in Church!

## Christmas At Messiah

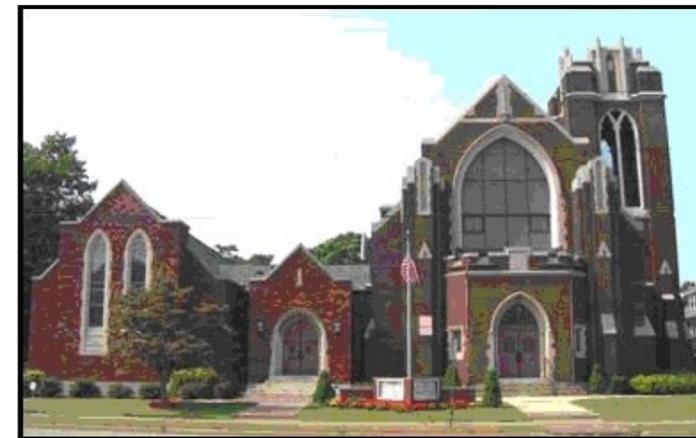
Our Christmas Eve. Service was virtual this year, but the Church was decorated beautifully for services before and after Christmas.



Our thanks to the many volunteers who worked to make this happen.

Pastor is shown here adjusting the Advent wreath.

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



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Home To  
Messiah**



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# Messiah Messenger

**February 2022**

### Worship:

Saturday 9:30 am  
Sunday 10:00 am

### Sunday School:

Will Resume Later

### Adult Forum:

Will Resume Later

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