



In the picture below, Dawn and Pastor Fred Grimm are seen visiting with Pastor Eaton at her “going away” party at Messiah. Pastor Eaton was to be installed as Bishop of the ELCA after serving one term as Bishop of the NE Ohio Synod.



In the bottom picture Jungle Terry is seen putting on a show for VBS kids and families.

He is a very popular entertainer in NE Ohio. He has many shows with his wild animals each year. He brings snakes, skunks, and several other species of wild animals to each show.

The children are allowed to pet the animals but he makes sure that they understand that these are wild animals and are not to be played with.

We always enjoy having him at Messiah and he is very popular among our children, too.



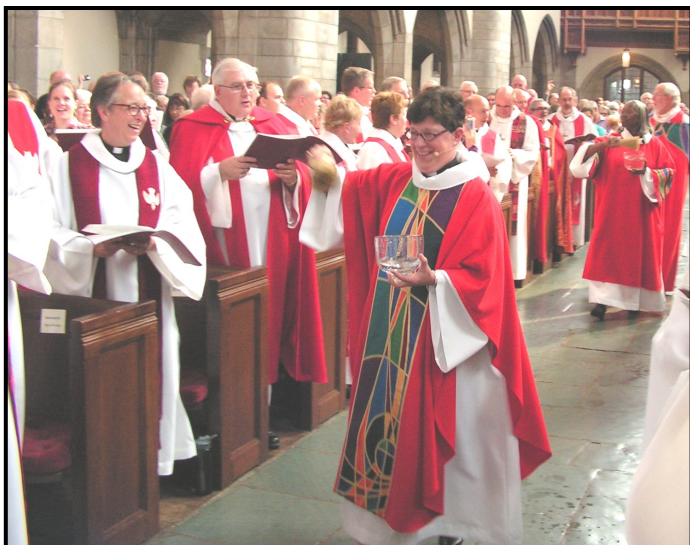
Messiah Lutheran Church
615 West Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

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About ten years ago Jim Brown made a new stand for the Gospel to rest on. It was quite an accomplishment and a fine piece of work by Jim.

Pastor Eaton at her installation as Bishop of our ELCA. We were very proud of this accomplishment by our former Pastor.

Pastor Eaton just recently completed her two terms as Bishop and has retired to her home in the Cleveland area.



February 2026

Worship:
 Sunday 10:00 am

Sunday School
 Sunday 10:00 am

*For The Members and Friends of Messiah Lutheran Church,
 615 West Prospect Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004*

*Welcome
 Home To*



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Pastor's Column

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.

Lent can sometimes get a bad reputation as being somber just to be somber. Scripture tells us that God is not interested in grand displays of repentance to impress others that lack real personal reflection. If we choose to spend our time focusing on other people's sins, how does that help us align our lives with the teachings of Christ? Are we really looking to hold ourselves and others accountable, or do we want to hear that we can take it easy because someone else is worse than we are?

Let's turn back to the Easter message we are preparing for; the message that we are all redeemed by life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The message that we are all freed from these scoreboards that determine best and worst, in order to engage in loving relationships with others. There are absolutely times to hold people accountable for the pain that they cause, there are absolutely times to hold boundaries refuse to allow more harm to be done. However, these times are not the result of our own impressive righteousness or a sense of moral superiority. We are called to act from a place of loving and being loved. Is it loving to stand by and allow our neighbors to be dehumanized, hurt, and killed? No. Is it loving to stand by and watch our neighbors turn to violence and hatred in their search for belonging and security? Also no. How can we possibly treat *all* our neighbors as beloved children of God, when we may not even like them?

We can only ask for God's help and forgiveness. We can pray that the Spirit might intervene to give us the wisdom to know when and how to act. We can look to Scripture to see how Jesus responds to the people around him. We can remind ourselves that no matter how many times we feel that we fail to love our neighbors, there is also grace for us. No matter how many times we think the world may be hopeless, Easter morning still awaits with its promise of new life.

So, my invitation to all of us this Lent is an invitation to reflection and realignment. May we not be overwhelmed by our own failings but allow them to guide us deeper into relationships with our God and each other.

Rev. Sarah Moore

Rev. Sarah Moore



**March Messenger
Copy Deadline
February 24 at noon**

February Vigil Candle

Rhana Wehn in memory of Carl Wehn—Choir Director 1977—1981.

Church Mouse Saw:

The annual Fourth of July picnic and fireworks sponsored by First Baptist is one of the highlights of the Church year.

Last year's pyrotechnic show was not to be forgotten by all those standing around Donnie Walker on his father's shoulders. When the last ball of fire streaked across the sky and the audience was cheering, little Donnie kept looking up into the sky and saying "thank you God."



Camp Luther Event

It looks like a full house at a Camp Luther Event held about 15 years ago. This was always a good place to have special Messiah events.

We should consider going there again for a special event.



February Altar Flowers

February 8—Russ Jepson in memory of loved ones.

February 15-Norma and Gary Eble in memory Carl and Neva Nelson and Ingrid Whitaker.

Due To Health ISSUES:

Your editor experienced some health issues at the time of writing of this February Messenger. So, there are not any current pictures of Messiah activities.

This issue of the Messenger contains only archival pictures from a time gone by. Please enjoy them. And remember those olden times gone by.

Community Dinner Was Popular

The Community Dinner held on January 23 was popular with our neighbors and members. It was a bitterly cold night to be out and about. But despite that about 75 neighbors and members braved the cold to come to our Community Dinner.

Let's give a big shout out to Beckers Restaurant for providing the meal and to the many volunteers who helped to wash dishes and do other clean up tasks.

Barb Lewis reported that the 75 people who participated seemed to enjoy the meal and each others company. She and Pastor have decided to try to make this an annual event.

The picture below shows L to R Barb Lewis, Mary Schroeder and Ed Schroeder at a worship service on the shores of Lake Erie.

