

Pastor's Column

This happens too many times. We can't fall asleep. Thoughts race thru our minds like freight trains crossing Columbus Blvd. Rail car after rail car / Thought after thought. Sometimes thoughts are not random. When they fly in a theme, it can be interesting. Recently I lay awake remembering the Robinsons I have known.

Jerry Robinson played guard for our 5th Grade Adams Grade School basketball team. I played forward. I managed to steal the ball from an opponent. I'm dribbling down the court, anticipating the easy lay-up. Jerry Robinson races alongside of me and shouts, "Meranda!," holding his hands open for the ball. It did not occur to me that forwards could make lay-ups as easily as guards. I passed the ball off to Jerry Robinson. He choked. I think Adams lost the game 13 to 9.

In Middle School years my brother and I watched a late afternoon TV show hosted by Kennan Wynn, "The Westerners". A local sponsor was the Wonder Bread Bakery. Their commercials starred a young actor, "Little Jimmy Robinson". Wonder Bakery commercials featured Little Jimmy Robinson enjoying Wonder white enriched bread at breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

There was Robinson Crusoe. I remember the black and white movie version had a nice scene with Robinson attempting to Christianize his side kick named Friday. The island native asks Robinson, "If God is powerful and if Devil is God's enemy, then why not God kill devil?" Robinson had to answer. Pirates would soon to step ashore.

I loved cheering for Packer linebacker Dave Robinson. He was part of the Ray Nitschke, Leroy Cafey trio. The Packer secondary did not have to worry much about run stopping because Packer linebackers were so menacing. Dave Robinson intercepted a Don Meredith pass in the end zone to seal the 1966 championship over Dallas and propel The Pack to win Superbowl One.

I remember a Peter Robinson from early Grade School. I considered him to be annoying. That problem was mine. Dualistic thinking always evaluates, separates, distinguishes, & dismisses. What did Pete Robinson do to me? Nothing. For some reason (original sin) I just decided to not like him.

Some have described our "soul" as the core of our personality. Our "soul" is the inter-working of our thinking, feeling, and deciding; who we are is how our intellect, emotion, and volition act in concert. St. Augustine said that memory is a crucial component of our "soul". In our memory we retain experiences of God. To remain in God, remember. Remember God's life, God's ways, & God's promises. For a better life, forgive bad memories. For a better life, make better memories.

Welcome Home to Messiah,
Michael Meranda

Ashtabula Brass Band A Hit!

The Ashtabula Brass Band performed a concert at Messiah in early April that was a real hit! About 60 people were in attendance to hear the Band play their "The British Are Coming" concert.

The concert featured many melodies that were familiar to the audience. Included were: Londonderry Air, Ding Dong the Witch is Dead, Scarborough Fair and Death or Glory.

There were about 30 musicians in the Band. Our own Ed Schroeder was playing his cornet.

The Band has a new conductor. His name is Robert Bo Violette. He is an undergraduate student at Youngstown State University and has plans that call for expanding the Brass Bands concert series. The Band has traditionally had four concerts a year. Two in the spring and two at Christmas. He'd like to add two more summer concerts and may expand the spring and Christmas offerings.

We would highly recommend this Band. Our thanks to Ruth Hlinovsky for making these arrangements and for coordinating the coffee and cookies social hour.



Lenten Services Were Great

Mid-week Lenten services were well attended and a real inspiration to all who attended. Pastors from five area Lutheran Churches rotated through the congregations and led the service.

Pictured below is Pastor Brandi Hacker from Trinity, Madison, leading one of our Luther Room services.



Letters & Emails

Hello Messiah!

Life is winning!

Baby Charlotte is enjoying warm spring days, happy yellow daffodils, and her very first Easter...because we were here for her Mom when Charlotte's life was in the balance. Today as we celebrate Easter together, please know that we are praying for you and thanking God for your friendship. He is risen indeed.

Mya's Womens' Center

Bev Ekensten, Jacquie Konter, Faythe Jerome, Martha Pallutch and Cathy Carle helped Ruth Jepson celebrate her 102nd birthday. Ruth was lovely and always the hostess, offering us candy from her candy dish. There were delicious cupcakes (made by Martha) for us to eat, lots of lively conversation, and even a visit from a puppy! Genealogy note: Jacquie and Bev are cousins to Ruth. May Konter (Jacquie's mother) and Alice Boggs (Bev's Mother) are nieces of Ruth's father, Edwin Jepson. May's and Alice's father is Peter Jepson.

For the visiting group, Cathy Carle

Thank you to all the people in the church that signed my birthday card. It was such a surprise, I really appreciated it.

Ruth Jepson

Altar Window Project

The property Committee has worked to brighten up our lovely altar window. Jim Gyure, Ashtabula Area electrician, is seen here installing new LED lights in back of the altar window. The window was officially lit for the first time on Easter Sunday and was very impressive.

The Committee will be working to get the relit window cleaned in the very near future.



Our thanks to the entire Property Committee for their work on this project. It was a pretty time consuming project and one that took considerable effort.

With the new lighting the bright lines in the old window are gone and a much more evenly lit window is the result.

Nation Fest Workers

Pictured here are four of the people who helped set up for Nation Fest. L to R they are Sherri Hurst, Joanie Malkie, Shyan-na Lindberg and Emelia Lindberg.

Our thanks to Carl Malkie for providing this photo.



Church Mouse Read A Letter

A Sunday School teacher asked her class to write a letter to God and bring it back the next Sunday. Church Mouse read the letter Benny wrote. "Dear God, We had a good time at church today. Wish you could have been there."



Officers Elected For 2017

Church Council elected officers recently to lead our congregation for this new year. They are pictured here, clockwise from the lower left; Gail Burlingham, Secretary; Mike Shaffer, President; Pastor Meranda; and Frank Maenpa, Vice president. Not pictured is Beckey Young, Treasurer.

We thank these members for their willingness to work the extra hours it takes to be a council officer. We appreciate their efforts and we promise to "help out" whenever we can.



Next time you see one of them, tell them "thank you" and good luck!

It is an important and a very much needed voluntary position.

Let's make certain it's not also "thankless"!

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP

Origin:

Messiah Lutheran Church established this scholarship from funds given to Messiah in memory of Robert Bjerstedt and Rosella Lewis. The money was combined with permission of Church Council and the families of Robert Bjerstedt and Rosella Lewis to form the Messiah Scholarship. The money is invested and the interest from which would be awarded.

General Facts:

Each June up to \$500 may be awarded to a high school graduate who attends Messiah Lutheran Church and plans to attend a college, university, or trade/tech. school. Applicants and recipients may reapply each year.

Application forms can be picked up and returned at the church office. Applications must be returned by June 30th. The scholarship will be awarded on Aug. 1st of each year. Scholarship money is for one year only. The check will be made out to the student and the school the student will be attending.

Messiah Lutheran Church
615 Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

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VBS To Begin

It is that time of year to begin planning for Vacation Bible School, to be held evenings, July 25–27. Please contact Gary Eble (440-265-2285) or Emelia Lindberg (440-855-5415) with any ideas or thoughts. Thank you.

Craft Fair

Messiah's Craft Fair is Saturday, May 20, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to help. Volunteers are needed to work in the food booth, registration and to set up and clean up, See Barb Lewis if you are able to help.

Coffee Hours Continue



Coffee Hours are continuing at Messiah. On the first Sunday of each month we gather in the Luther Room for fellowship and "treats". Seen here, left, L to R, are George Quay, Julie Quay and Keith Reiniker. Right, L to R, Jim Lindberg, Pam Lindberg and John Lovas.

Thanks to the Hospitality Committee for hosting these events each month.



We Had Easter

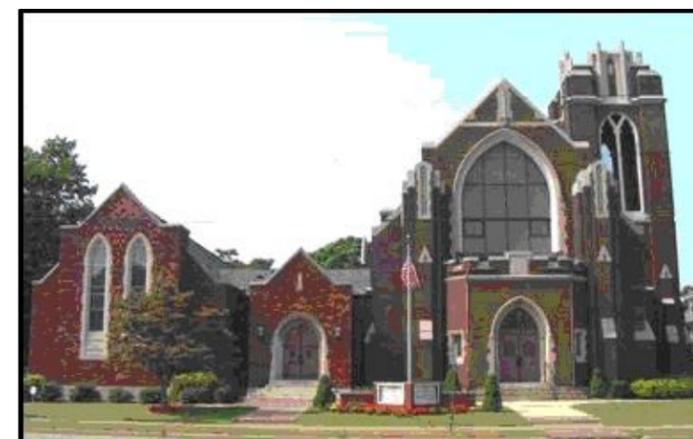
Easter was observed this year on April 16. Messiah had it's traditional Easter breakfast and Easter Garden. Pictured here on the left is Kristine Toth giving her plant to Altar Guild member Martha Pallutch.



Pictured on the right are members going through the buffet line at the Easter Breakfast.

Many thanks to Gary and Norma Eble for leading this activity and to the many youth who helped out.

We enjoyed Easter at Messiah. Many thanks to all who helped to make it a success!



**An ELCA
Congregation
In Mission to
Ashtabula**



Messiah Messenger

May 2017

Worship:

11:00 am - Sunday

Sunday School:

Adult Forum - 9:45 am Sunday

Produced For The Members and Friends of Messiah
Lutheran Church, 615 Prospect Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004
Phone 440-992-9392
Fax 440-992-1348

Email: messiahlutheranbula06@windstream.net

The Rev. Dr. Michael Meranda, Pastor
Phone: 440-998-7321