

Pastor's Column

When Messiah's faithful volunteers are assembling this issue of "The Messenger", I am far away. I'm in New York, with Mary. We're on Keuka Lake. We're celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary. (My son Jacob once teased me, "Wedding Anniversary? Oh, you mean what mom refers to as Black Saturday?")

Mary and I were married at her home church, Resurrection Lutheran in Portland, Oregon. They were a congregation well known for their moderation in a time when their denomination had grown severe and unyielding. Resurrection helped form another group that became instrumental in urging the 1988 merger that would become our ELCA.

Weather was perfect that wedding date, June 4th in 1977. It was Oregon. Summer weather is always perfect in Oregon. Temps rarely exceed 76 degrees and humidity is unnoticeable. There are no sweaty bridesmaids at Oregon weddings, no heat exhaustion among the grooms-men.

The wedding service went well. We used the new format suggest by ILCW – Inter Lutheran Commission on Worship. That group edited the LBW, what we fondly remember as the Green Book. So our wedding liturgy was the prototype of what would be published in LBW.

The buffet dinner, at Resurrection's easily accessed fellowship hall, was awesome. I'm sure I avoided any chicken dishes that may have been offered. After the church dinner, families and friends gathered at Mary's parents' house. Then it was off to the honeymoon. Mary and I toured Eastern Oregon, the Oregon Coast, and Olympic National Forest in Washington. Our honeymoon vehicle was a 1976 Ford Pinto Station Wagon. Mary learned how to drive a stick shift on that trip. She did quite well.

I'll always relate our wedding week to a major sports event. On June 5th the Portland Trailblazers won the NBA Finals. In Oregon, the Blazers are the only game in town. There is no NFL there, no major league baseball. Oregon has nothing that compares with Ohio State football. When the Trailblazers won game six, as NBC Sports played Queen's "We Are the Champions", the whole state went into celebration.

On June 4th in 1977 we had no idea where future would take us. We never would have guessed inner city ministry in Seattle, campus ministry in Portland, urban ministry in Minnesota, small town ministry in Wisconsin, and now Messiah in Ashtabula (we saved the best for last). In 1977 we never would have imagined spending our 40th Anniversary in New York State. There are fewer years ahead of us in terms of quantity, but the quality of good surprises ahead of us makes us excited to launch the next day together. Thanks, Mary! I love you. You formed me so deeply. You always help me do the right thing.

Welcome Home to Messiah,
Michael Meranda



Craft Fair A Success!

By: Barb Lewis

The 3rd annual Craft/Vendor event was a success due to the quality crafters and vendors that participated, many of them return due in part to the welcoming they receive when they arrive. Many thanks to everyone who works this event. There is a core group that is there for me and I am more than appreciative! The profits from this, \$509, will be used to adopt a family along with our kiddos to attend Waldameer Park. Cheri Cassidy and I will be getting together soon to start planning. Hope to see many attend this fun filled day. Thanks.



These attractive signs were found throughout the community in very visible spots. In the picture on the right, Marlayna Adamic and her daughter Jena, work their display called "Thirty One".



In the left picture, Sofia Granados, works the bake sale. In the right picture, vendors are seen visiting with customers.

Ruth Jepson Has A Birthday!



Ruth is fortunate to have had lots of birthdays. This was her 102 celebration. Several Messiah members joined her at the Ashtabula County Nursing Home to celebrate with her.

L to R, Martha Pallutch, Cathy Carle, Faythe Jerome, Jacquie Konter and Bev Ekensten. Ruth is sitting in front of the group.

We thank Faythe Jerome for this picture.

Cathy Carle reports that Ruth was lovely and always the hostess, offering us candy from her candy dish. There were delicious cupcakes provided for us to enjoy by Martha, lots of lively conversation and even a visit from a puppy!

Cathy provides this genealogy note: Jacquie and Bev are cousins to Ruth. May Konter (Jacquies mother) and Alice Boggs (Bev's mother) are nieces of Ruth's father, Edwin Jepson. May's and Alice's father is Peter Jepson.

The Messiah Messenger sends it's congratulations to Ruth.

Easter Special Offerings Provide \$2,345

Candy Rodgers reported at the last Finance Committee meeting that our special Easter offerings resulted in \$2,345 donations to the Church. The Lenten Challenge Fund envelopes yielded \$975 and the special Easter Offering Envelopes yielded \$1,370. This was a great response and the Finance Committee was pleased to hear this report.

Scholarships Available

Messiah Scholarship forms are available in the Church office. The deadline for turning in the forms is June 30, 2017. As was reported in the May Messenger, students may reapply each year for a scholarship.

Book Review 6/6

The next Messiah book review is Tuesday evening, June 6 at 7:00 pm. Stolen Prey by John Sandford will be reviewed.

These nights are for anyone who has read the book, who has read a part of the book or who has not read the book at all!

Just come and enjoy the conversation and learn about the book.

String Orchestra Performs

The Ashtabula Arts Center "Children's String Orchestra" and the "Adult String Orchestra" performed at Messiah on May 21. The orchestra is shown here with our own Athena Pantoja right behind the music stand.

Dr. Carol Linsenmeier is the conductor and John Hoyle was guest artist. Our sincere thanks to Faythe Jerome for providing this photo. Our thanks also to Kathleen Shaffer for coordinating this musical appearance at Messiah.



Three High School Graduates

By: Cathy Carle

Zoey Sand and Mitchell Strong are graduating from Lakeside High School this spring. Lauren Hagerman, granddaughter of Faythe and Rollin Jerome, will graduate from Painesville Riverside High School.

We have no record of any College graduates this spring.

We apologize if we have missed anyone. Please contact me at the Church office if we have erred.



Garden Planted

Gary Eble and Renee Spencer are seen here planting the Church's garden. They were assisted by Robin Wells and Rick Ranta.

This community garden has been very successful. This is the fourth year for the garden.

This year the crew planted potatoes, green beans, tomatoes and onions. Ripe produce is distributed to members of the neighborhood and through the Lend-A-Hand Pantry.

Letters & Emails

Dear Pastor Meranda,

Thank you for allowing our Nar Anon group to meet at your Church.

This note was signed by 15 members of the group.

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

Ruth Jepson

John The Baptist Vespers

By: Tina Tallbacka

John The Baptist Vespers are June 21 at Redbrook Boat Club. A Vesper service will begin at 7:00 pm followed by appetizers and drinks and watching the sunset.

Hospitality Committee members will be providing appetizers. Anyone else attending is welcome to bring a "goody" to share.

The club gate will be open starting at 6:30 pm and will close at 7:15 pm. Anyone who will be arriving later should contact me to make arrangements.

Members with questions should call me at 812-1947.

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Messiah Messenger

June 2017

Worship:

9:30 am - Sunday

Sunday School:

Will Resume In The Fall



**An ELCA
 Congregation
 In Mission to
 Ashtabula**



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