

Pastor's Column

So, how's your summer going?

Have you gone on vacation yet or is it later in summer? Do you find yourself lingering outside just to soak up the sun after a long Ohio winter? Does summer humidity bother you so you think about moving to the Southwest because, "at least Arizona has a DRY heat." Have you attended a wedding this summer or gone to a wedding anniversary? Has there been a funeral that surprised your summer schedule? Do you like the sound of kids playing outside? Do you find it annoying when neighbors set off fireworks before the 4th of July? Do you enjoy doing exterior house maintenance you cannot do in the winter? Do you find yourself thinking, "The summer is great, but I wonder how the Buckeyes will look this fall?" Do you agree that after a day of heavy yard work, nothing cuts thru the thirst like a nice, cold beer? Have you noticed the birds grow more silent as summer progresses? Have you noticed the honey bees really are disappearing (my yard had no bees of any kind this year)? Do you have a destination you ALWAYS go to in summer, no matter what? Do you like how fresh the house feels when a summer breeze billows thru an open window? Do you recall summer vacations from your childhood and smile at the warm memories? Are you happy with your tan?



We tend to romanticize summer. Shakespeare wrote the comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in the dead of winter. He wrote it for Queen Elizabeth for the January 6th Church Festival of the Epiphany. Even in those days folk were weary of dreary winter and ready for some summer light, even if it was only a light hearted play set in summer.

The bible has only a few references to summer. A bad guy named Eglon was in his summer cooling parlor when he met his grizzly death at the hands of Ehud (Judges 3). The prophet Amos (chapter 3) was critical of those distant, cultural elites who pampered themselves in their summer homes while ignoring the plight of their community.

The bible has many references to the sun. That's because sun plays so strong a role in agriculture, time, and navigation. Sunlight is also metaphor for God's brilliant and shining light (Revelation 1:16). Interestingly, there are no stories of Jesus and the disciples enjoying the sunsets over Lake Galilee. There is a reference to Jesus awakening early in the day in order to pray (Mark 1:15). Perhaps he was a morning person, preferring sunrise over sunset.

How many summers have you lived? I was born in summer. So this June, my 63rd birthday, I noted that I have lived thru 64 summers. How many more summers remain for you and for me? God knows. God will love us thru them all. Whether it is seasons of nature or life stages, there is always calling. Grace calls us thru seasons and stages to know our true selves and to become our true selves. Every season of nature or life holds the possibility for transformation. We may become something new and different at season's end. Grow well thru the remainder of summer 2017 and on into fall, winter, and spring!

Welcome Home to Messiah,
Michael Meranda



From The Archives

By: Rhana Wehn

A choral presentation of Theodore Dubor's "The Seven Last Words of Christ" will be presented by the senior choir of Messiah Lutheran Church at 7:30 pm Friday.

The event is in the Church sanctuary. This is the second year the choir has performed this traditional sacred Easter cantata.

In the picture on the right, L to R, soloists John Hoyle, tenor; Carl Wehn, tenor and director; Rhana Wehn soprano; Marilyn Sarff, soprano; Tom Sarff, organist and Karen Johnson, pianist. Not pictured is Gerald Kujala, Baritone.

This article appeared in The Ashtabula Star Beacon about 1979. We really appreciate Rhana making it available to us for including in the Messenger.

Planting A Garden

Submitted By: Marie Blood

Plant three rows of peas:
Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:
Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be obedient
Lettuce really love one another

You will have no garden without turnips:
Turnip for meetings
Turnip for services
Turnip to help one another

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love:
There is much fruit in you're your garden
Because you reap what you sow

To conclude our garden, we must have thyme:
Thyme for God
Thyme for study
Thyme for prayer

Our Garden Tending Schedule

By: Renee Spencer

I think the potatoes and tomatoes are off to a good start. The beans, not so much. I will replant today, water and watch this week. I've finished the weeding, watering and tending schedule. As is the plan every year, please feel free to stop by and water/tend the garden whenever the feeling strikes. Just let the person who is scheduled know.

June 25—July 1	Rick
July 2 - July 8	Lanny
July 9—July 15	Sue
July 16—July 22	Robin
July 23— July 29	Gary
July 30—August 5	Renee
August 6—August 12	Rick
August 13—August 19	Sue
August 20—August 26	Lanny
August 27—September 2	Robin
September 3—September 9	Gary

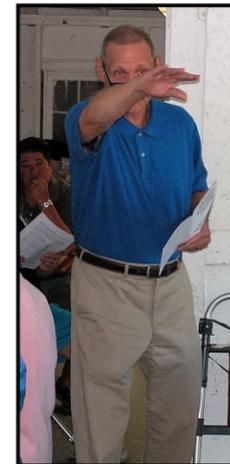
Thank you for all of your help! Looking forward to another great growing season.

Church Mouse Heard:

Rudyard Kipling say "An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy."



A Record Crowd At John The Baptist Vespers



A record breaking crowd of Messiah members and a few guests were present at the late June Vesper Service at Redbrook Boat Club.

In these pictures, clockwise from the lower left, a part of the crowd is visiting the buffet, Pastor is gesturing while conducting the service, a group of people enjoying the snacks and visiting, and Ed Schroeder playing the key board for our singing.

Our thanks to Redbrook member Tina Tallbacka for making the arrangements for us. And to Pastor and Mary Meranda for leading the Holden Evening Prayer service for us.

From the Archives

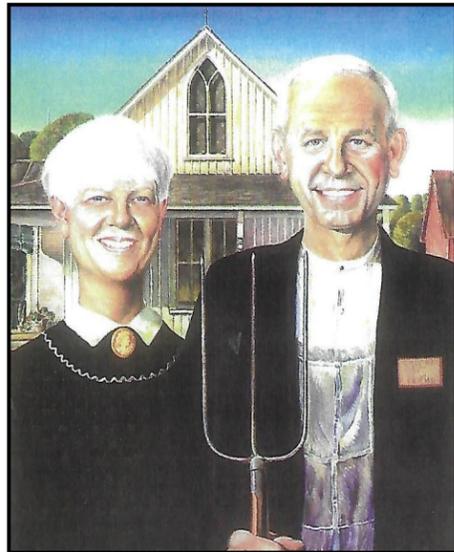
By: Hal Cooper

In 1935 Pastor C. Oscar Leonardson, assisted by his wife, launched *The Voice of Messiah*, a newsletter devoted to Messiah Church. It was, however, also a voice for the local business establishment. Placing ads in the April 1935 issue were: Weichert's Retail Store; Chas. J. Starkey; E. S. Olson Painting; The Sunnyside Florist Co.; The Lake Shore Gas Co.; Ashtabula Market House, Inc.; Truesdell Bros. Milk; Dodge Bros. Lumber Co.; Wentlings Pharmacy; Eckler Electric Co.; Gladding Motor Sales; E.S. Johnson Meats; People's Bldg. & Loan Co.; Mitchell Hardware Co.; Harbor Feed Store; Leo D. Brown Funeral Home; Cottage Service Station; Crandall Supply Co.; O'Leary's Shoe Store; E. R. Cederquist, Jeweler; Electric Laundry Co.; Geo. M. Tulin Shoe Repair; W. H. Flower & Co.; Union Central Life Ins. Co.; Vinton N. Herron Photography; Warren's Cards & Gifts; Moncrief Heating Co.; Penny Furniture Co.

George Tulin advertised that he would repair the heels on any pair of shoes for 20 cents! Can't beat that price.

Who Are These People?

By: Cathy Carle



These folks mysteriously appeared on the wall in the ladies restroom across from the Church office. Who do you think they are? Report your findings to Cathy in the Church office.

The winner will receive a free Messenger for one year!

No More Voting at Messiah

Church Council received a letter from the Board of Elections that was shared at the March 13 Council meeting that said our facility does not qualify for handicap access codes. Therefore, elections will no longer be held at Messiah.

Easter Breakfast

Mark Anderson holds his grandson, Zach, during the Easter Breakfast.

Zach is about one year old and said he really enjoyed the breakfast!

A good crowd was present for this event, too. As usual, Messiah Cooks did a wonderful job of providing egg bakes and coffee breads.

The youth helped serve and clean up. Cheri Cassady, Youth Group Leader, assisted by Norma and Gary Eble, were the organizers.



ATM Debt Updated

Church Treasurer, Beckey Young, reported at the March 13 Council meeting that our debt to the Messiah Foundation now stands at \$161,110. The Church has met all of their payment obligations on time.

At the present time, the Church is paying the Foundation about \$1,889 per month.

Church Picnic Aug. 20

Lutheran History

By: Pastor Meranda

June 25th is an important date in Lutheran History. On this day in 1530 Lutheran theologians presented the Augsburg Confession. Emperor Charles V had summoned this conference in Augsburg, Germany to end the strife brought by the reformation. Luther's protégé Philip Melanchthon wrote the Augsburg confession. Luther was not able to attend the conference as he did not have safe passage in Augsburg. Luther waited in nearby Coburg Castle while his colleagues presented this document that is honored as the primary identification of Lutheran theology.

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Ashtabula, OH 44004

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Ashtabula, Ohio 44004
Permit No. 313

Messiah Messenger

July 2017

Worship:
9:30 am - Sunday

Sunday School:
Will Resume In The Fall

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**An ELCA
Congregation
In Mission to
Ashtabula**

