

The

MESSENGER

January 2017 Edition

The official monthly newsletter of Messiah Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Southern Ohio Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran church in America.



A NEW
YEAR
&
NEW
OPPORTUNITIES



From the
Pastor's
Desk

From the pastor...

The old gospel song begins like this: "Time is filled with swift transition." How true that feels as we ring in 2017. So often we feel a sense of disbelief at the coming of a new year - how is it *already*....? Sometimes we feel relief at turning the corner and leaving behind the trials of a year. Sometimes we feel dread - what will this new year

bring?

Time is filled with swift transition. There is always something dying and something new being born. There is always a situation we are adapting to, struggling with, or letting go. There is always a transition. For us. For our family. For our church. For our community.

What will the new year bring? How do we respond to the swift transitions of our lives?

The old gospel song also goes like this: "Hold to God's unchanging hand; build your hopes on things eternal." We will hold to a lot of things in our lives, putting our hope in them, but we always quickly find how unsettling and changing they truly are. While everything is moving around us, while even our own feelings or attitudes or relationships are changing, while we are grieving or rejoicing from day to day, one thing will always remain unchanged. God our Creator. God who loves us.

Hold to God's unchanging hand. Feeling afraid that 2017 is here? Feeling excitement in what this year will bring? Wherever you are, I hope that you will know the steady, solid hand of God. Whatever swift transitions this new year will bring, let's hope in God and be led by God's hand together.

God's peace be with you,
Pastor Liz

A Chance to Reflect on Giving

In January at Messiah, we reflect on the offering we share to support the ministry that Messiah is called to in this community. This discussion can take all sorts of wrong turns and can even end up with hurt feelings. There is a reason that some pastors choose never to bring this subject up.

However, not talking about giving ever isn't faithful, either. Our whole reason for gathering as church is to worship God who saves us and to love like God loves. Sacrificing our time and our money in order to love like God loves is key. We can't just ignore this part of our faith lives, no matter how difficult the conversation.

So, this January let's talk, openly, honestly, about what we give, when we give, how our giving affects God's world, what our responsibility is to each other in our giving, even what amount is "enough" for us to give. At the end of that conversation, on Sunday, January 29, we will celebrate in worship as we faithfully make a commitment to share this part of our lives with God, too. I am thankful to be a part of our community that can have good, honest discussion over even difficult topics like giving. Peace, Pastor Karl

Those Old Familiar Stories

Remember those Old Testament stories that fascinated us when we were young. My Sunday school teacher would get out the felt board and move the colorful characters around as she retold the story of Moses and the burning bush, David and Goliath, and Joseph's with his many colored coat. We know these stories by heart from our childhood. As adults, let's look at them again, asking different questions of the characters and of God than a ten year old would. We might not be smarter than a ten year old, but we definitely have different concerns.

The Wednesdays of Messiah Night in January, beginning January 4 at 6:30, Pastor Karl and Pastor Liz will be retelling five of those stories, encouraging us to hear them with fresh ears and asking new questions. A great discussion will move all of us closer to God, who speaks to us not through perfect people-there are none of those-but in the very human and broken characters of scripture. Come, listen, share and grow with us this year in adult education at Messiah.

High School Mission Trip

We are excited to announce that this summer the High School Youth Group will be going to Washington, DC! We will be learning from our hosts, The Steinbruck Center. We are leaving on Sunday, July 9th and returning on Saturday, July 15th.

The Steinbruck Center describes its mission as "a ministry of Luther Place Memorial Church that provides transformative urban immersion experiences for groups through a combination of education, direct service, experiential learning, critical analysis, and reflection."

The cost of the trip is expected to be \$275. Youth should sign up by March 1st. Please talk to Pastor Liz if you are interested.



- 1 Rebecca House
Carol Keiber
Lindsay Kohs
- 2 Taylor Kreimeier
Florence Mbekem
Ron Nass
Logan Snedegar
- 4 Andrew Lyons
- 5 John Helmkee
Lindsey Maass
Nathaniel Mattocks
Mary Messick
Scott Wittler
- 6 Sam Hessler
- 7 Ted Morrison
- 8 Karen McCarty
Jovi Prater
Lukas Schmandt
- 9 Dave Buckenberger
Jeremy Hargest
- 10 Lucy Rubel
Bethann West
- 11 Geoffrey Campbell
Jennifer Eck DeBlais
Megan Hargest
Haley Hodge
Mac Van Buren
- 13 Joseph DeLaughder
Tyler Harmacek
Avery Lehky
- 13 Tom Braden
Ryan Huskey
Park Stonerook
- 14 Keith Marshall
Jason Woltja
- 15 Arlea Braden
- 16 Crystal Lindahl

- Amy Lovins
Dean Scheiderer
Sarah Schuricht
Dianna Van Buren
Eden Weber
- 17 Kaleb Chittenden
Roberta Hammond
Max Reed
- 18 Jennifer Eck
Levi Minshall
- 19 Barbara Rayback
Elizabeth Wallace
- 20 Cynthia Boring
Jean Lantis
- 21 Ryan Schmidt
Robert Smith
- 22 Debbie McCloy
Paula Tandy
- 23 Megan Evenson
- 24 Nathan Moore
Lane Sampson
Ryan Wittler
- 25 Adam Lehky
Andrew Smith
Ed Todd
- 26 Johnny Morrison
Brian Prater
- 27 Christopher Huskey
- 28 Salamawit (Sela) Clarke
- 29 Cassandra Epperly
Hayden Epperly
Debbie Glass
Nathan Hanf
Cassandra Linihan
- 30 David Burke, III
Avril Moyer
- 31 Becky Kirkwood
Ted McKenna
Gina Scheiderer
Barbara Teague
Makayla Wissinger



Serving in our worship this month



Worship Assistants

LECTORS

Jan. 1

- 8:00 Lois Beery
- 9:30 Laric O'Dell
- 11:00 Virginia Finney

Jan. 8

- 8:00 Carol Kokai
- 9:30 Hollye Burgess
- 11:00 Fred McLeod

Jan. 15

- 8:00 Cheryl Kelly
- 9:30 Howard Jones
- 11:00 Sara Reidler

Jan. 22

- 8:00 David Long
- 9:30 Jane Stephenson
- 11:00 Jeanette Kuder

Jan. 29

- 8:00 Melissa Davidson
- 9:30 Howard Jones

11:00 Sally Long

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Jan. 1

- 8:00 David Long, Sally Cochran
- 9:30 Mike and Terri Janks, Matt and Cathy Satterwhite, Barb McClain, Ross, Vickie and Leighlyn McClain, Don and Dee Gabe

11:00 Virginia Finney, Carol Keiber

Jan. 8

- 8:00 Glenn and Kim Harris
- 9:30 Stacy Hogan, Jean Lantis, Dan and Theresa Newell, Laric and Patsy O'Dell, Pat Roper, Bill Sampson, Amy Canan

11:00 Jim Henschen, Carol Keiber

Jan. 15

- 8:00 Caryl Barrett, Barb Formentelli
- 9:30 Jim Diehm, Melissa Stonerook, Bob and Carol Kohs, Elaine and Dan Majoy, Eric and Vicki Morris

11:00 Meg and Sara Reidler

Jan. 22

- 8:00 Cheryl Kelly, Linda Sauter
- 9:30 Chuck and Marie Cochran, Jim and Linda Cochran, Lori Gulling, Susan and Todd Mountain, Howard Jones, Pat Kurz

11:00 Mike Grimm, Linda Ickes

Jan. 29

8:00 Linda Ickes, Dave Long

- 9:30 Scott and Caryl Barrett, Alexander and Yogie Jeffy, Karen McCarty, Mary and Rob Sharrett
- 11:00 Richard Hansgen, Sally Long

TRADITIONAL USHERS

- 8:00 The Scheiderer Team
- 11:00 The Woltja Team

SOUND SYSTEM (8:00) TBA

Jan. 1 Randy Wilson

Jan. 8 Brian McClain

Jan. 15 Andy Moore

Jan. 22 Bryan Kuhn

Jan. 29 Randy Wilson

SOUND SYSTEM (11:00)

Jan. 1 Gary Schmandt

Jan. 8 Gary Schmandt

Jan. 15 David Waite

Jan. 22 Gary Schmandt

Jan. 29 Gary Schmandt

NURSERY NANNIES

Amy Canan, Tina Kerr, Liz Newell

JANUARY ALTAR GUILD

Carol Keiber and Peg Rabe

ETERNAL CANDLE

Biruta Buckenberger

Acolytes

January 8 at 11:00

Emma Carlson

January 15 at 11:00

Kenslee Eckelberry

January 22 at 11:00

Emma Carlson

January 29 at 11:00

Kenslee Eckelberry

Coffee Hour Refreshment



Refreshments

Date	8:00	9:30	11:00
January 1	Cindy Owens	Nancy Becker	Alisa Limbers
January 8	Joann Saffell	Theresa Janks	Linda Sauter
January 15	Michelle Gaulke	Jean Lantis	Marilyn Potter
January 22	Marge Seymour	Pat Kurz	Phyllis Sneed
January 29	Rochelle Morrison	Beth Carmean	Pat Speakman

GREETERS SCHEDULE

Date	8:00	9:30	11:00
January 1	Biruta Buckenberger	Lori Keller, Lori Gulling	Elvin and Jean Fisher
January 8	Robin and Reggie Howorka	Bob and Carol Kohs	Tom Braden
January 15	Barb Formentelli	Joe and Shontaya Phinisee	
January 22	Sally Cochran	Jean Lantis, Marcie Schlater	Phyllis Triona
January 29	Norma and Karl Schweikert	Karen McCarty, Julie Strohm	Sandy Keeny



You are invited to the next gathering for our stay-at-home moms (or any moms available during the day) with children under the age of 5. It is planned for **Friday, January 13, 2017 at 10:30am.**

We meet in the nursery here at church. Please let Betsy Shea know if you plan to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with other moms and support, encourage, share ideas and pray for one another.

You can contact Betsy at 970-456-2743 or noordy1126@hotmail.com and let her know if you plan to attend.

Baptism of Our Lord Sunday



One of the worship services that many of our members look forward to every year is coming January 8 this year, Baptism of our Lord. In this service, we all consider and celebrate our own baptism that calls us into faith, gifts us with the Holy Spirit, and washes us clean for God. In the service, special music and a ritual of repentance and recommitment are moving reminders of God's promise to love us no matter what. There is no better way to start the new year in worship. Invite friends to this service, too, so they can experience the power of renewal offered in Christ.



Spaghetti Dinner

The Reynoldsburg Community Association will hold their annual **All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner** on Saturday January 28th, 2017 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of Messiah Lutheran Church 1200 S. Waggoner Road. Reynoldsburg, Ohio. 43068. Great Food, Live Entertainment, Fun and Fellowship will be provided.

The Spaghetti Dinner is a major fundraising event for the Reynoldsburg Community Association with monies raised from the event going towards the Fourth of July Parade, Community Halloween Party, Christmas on the Towne and other free community events that benefit the citizens of our community.

Tickets can be purchased presale by contacting Chuck Cochran at 580-7218 or at the door on the evening of the event. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults \$5.00 and Children 3-12 and Free for Children under the age of 3.



Electronic Recycling Event to benefit non-profit organizations

On Sunday, January 15th from 9:00am – 1:00pm, Community Computer Alliance will be holding an electronics recycling drive here at Messiah.

Anyone wishing to donate computer equipment can drop items off at the Messiah Lutheran Church parking lot during this event. Volunteers will be on hand to unload the donated items. There is no fee for turning in equipment and all electronic data and personal information from computers is professionally erased by a secured 3 pass scrub of the hard drives.

Acceptable items for donation include: Most anything with a cord including household appliances, computers, laptops, I-pads, I-Pods and PDAs, cell phones, gaming systems, home stereos, VCR's & DVD players, wires and cables, LCD monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, scanners, copiers, ink and toner cartridges and computer parts and accessories. A fee is charged for CRT monitors and Televisions. The recycling benefits Autism Awareness.

Paper Shredding will also be available this year.

Messiah, Cookies, and Joseph's Coat - A Winning Trio

A special thank you to all of the Messiah bakers and customers who made the December Cookie Sale such a success! Thanks also to Jude who hauled supply boxes and set up tables for the sale, and to Dee Gabe who recruited bakers. \$1500 profit from the project was given to Joseph's Coat to help with the ministry to the needy to come there for help.

Just as an example of how Joseph's Coat helps people in the community who suddenly have a need: In mid-December multiple families lost their homes in an apartment fire across from the high school. The Red Cross provided emergency housing but they were left with no clothing, shoes, personal care items; things that they, like us, had taken for granted before that moment. At Joseph's Coat we were able to provide those things, free of charge, to help them get through this catastrophe. As they can access their needs for more clothing, household supplies and furniture, we will be here for them.



VISION HEALTH INTERNATIONAL - 1292 pairs of glasses sent from Messiah in 10 years. Our most recent box of 309 pairs of glasses which you donated has been shipped.

Our cast-off glasses have helped improve or restore vision to hundreds of people through Vision Health International, a volunteer organization of American professionals who at their own expense go in teams to places where eye care is very scarce or non-existent. This year they will do week-long clinics in Honduras, Ecuador, and Peru and have their first trip of 2018 scheduled for Tanzania. They go to many remote locations, but only where the government welcomes them and ensures that their supplies and equipment will get through. On each trip the team performs many sight restoring surgeries, and fits people with appropriate glasses to improve their vision and lives. Some recent information from VHI...

In many villages 2-3 family members are required to care for a blind relative. With vision restored for that one single person, an entire family is liberated. The notion that hundreds of individuals and families will travel many miles or days and then wait without complaint for up to 24 hours just to be examined by an ophthalmologist is well, eye opening.

One man after cataract surgery told his wife, as they both cried for joy, that she was just as beautiful to him as she was when he lost his vision 20 years before.

From a volunteer: I can't recall being any more exhausted than after a day working in the VHI eyeglasses clinic. At the same time, I can't ever being more gratified by the work I did. You may get more information at www.visionhealthinternational.org

One new item to note: Please no longer donate bi-focals...These are much more difficult to classify as to prescription and will meet the vision requirements of a smaller group of people. Continue to bring other intact prescription glasses to our collection bin in Fellowship Hall. (The Lions Club collection bins in the community will still accept bifocals)



Joseph's Coat - You answered the call to replenish our stock. - Thank you.

In late fall we placed a huge bin in the Welcome Center accompanied by a list of items we desperately needed for our clients at Joseph's Coat. You responded with children's clothing, coats, larger sized women's clothing, athletic shoes, household goods, and so much more. In addition, at our request you brought 177 new men's deodorants to help restock our personal care department. We will continue to collect the deodorant hopefully to have a 6 month supply. Kid's clothes, sizes 5 thru teens, are also always needed, as are pots and pans, pillows, and bedding. Kudos to all of you with the generous hearts and to Tim Houghton and Dan Newell who transport donations to Joseph's Coat from our Messiah collection point in Fritz Hall.