

# The Messenger

March 2017 Edition

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The official monthly newsletter of Messiah Lutheran Church

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

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*Create in me a*



**clean  
heart,**

*O God,*

*and put a new &*

**right  
spirit**

*within  
me.*



*Psalm 51:10, NRSV*



### From the pastor...

“Create a clean heart in me, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10)

Sometimes, I'd rather avoid Lent, a time in the Church for reflection, confession and repentance. Let's *not* talk about the yucky, grimy feelings and actions my heart dredges up. If I pray, “Create a clean heart in me,” I'm admitting that there's a whole lot of mess in my heart right now. If I pray, “put a new and right spirit within me,” I'm confessing that there is another spirit within me, one that is not faithful or generous or right with others. Who wants to spend forty days doing *that*?

But even as I may feel the tug to avoid my confession, Lent is also one of my favorite periods of the church. What is more beautiful than exposing all my mess and having God respond with love, mercy and forgiveness? What is more beautiful than the answered prayer of a clean heart and a right spirit, again and again and again?

Because it is again and again, a daily action, a daily return to God. Through the season of Lent, we come together to help each other be reminded of this. First, with our **Ash Wednesday** service on **March 1st** where, with the cross of Christ on our forehead, we return again to knowing that we belong to God, in life *and* death. And then, each week we come to our **Lenten services** in order to pray, to sing and to confess and repent together. These beautiful services at **7:30pm on Wednesdays** give each of us a chance to be renewed by God in the middle of our week.

I hope you will join me on this journey through Lent, even if like me, you'd rather avoid confession! Because together, we will know more fully the depth of God's grace and that truly, our God will give us a clean heart and a right spirit.

Peace,

Pastor Liz



Dive into the some of the greatest stories of Jesus in the gospels of Luke and John in one of our two weekly pastor led classes at Messiah. Our **11:30 AM, Wednesday morning**, Pastor's Class at Messiah and our **6:30 AM, Thursday morning** Men's group at Marie Scramblers is beginning a series of lessons on the life of Jesus. The scripture used will be the same one read in worship a few weeks after, so you will be able to get more out of your Sunday morning experience, too. Both classes give time for prayer concerns, fellowship and laughter. Pastor Liz and

Karl share the leadership of Wednesday's class and Pastor Karl leads the men's group. Just put it on your calendar and stop by. Raise your biblical IQ, ask good questions, get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ. Come grow with us!

### Being Christ on Social Media



The good news is that our country seems fully engaged right now. Complaints of apathy in our country seem almost laughable. Everyone seems to have an opinion about our new presidential administration. These opinions flourish on

Facebook. I am reminded what my grandfather used to say, *"Opinions are like belly buttons, everyone has one and some are intent on showing you theirs whether you want to see it or not."*

I have been disappointed with the ugly words and mean spirit of some posts. Some of the most hate filled posts are from people I know as loving and kind. Their passion has overshadowed their impulse to love. Many of these posts are personally insulting and hurtful to people we share as friends. Here are the considerations I make before I post.

- Don't share articles from news sites that are unfamiliar. The reporting is not only likely false, the topic and language is almost always purposefully inflammatory and provocative.
- Don't post memes with offensive or inflammatory language.
- Don't ever comment on anyone's page anything I would not say to them in person, in public, in a crowded room, screaming at the top of my lungs.
- Don't ever use words that degrade someone.
- Don't post an oppositional comment on someone's initial comments unless their post invited a discussion. A discussion one on one with them is wonderful, but a public argument just adds to the noise.
- Delete someone as a friend who consistently engages in mean spirited posts or shares. I don't feel the need to tell them I have deleted them but I welcome the conversation if they ask.
- Don't expect people to agree with me. Don't be mad simply because they don't. Don't assume I am right. Don't forget ever that they too are made in the image of God.

I don't want to live in a world where we can only safely post cute dog pictures or quizzes to determine what kind of kitchen implement we resemble most. I appreciate hearing other people's opinions. It is how I grow and understand my world better. I appreciate people that are passionate. I just never want to see that passion uncoupled from a love of God and neighbor. There is enough hate in this world without having to encounter it on my newsfeed.

Peace,

Pastor Karl



**Lenten Midweek Worship** - Come join us Wednesday nights during Lent.

**How Do You Prefer Your Lamb: walking and talking along the way to Holy Week**

Central to our faith is the cross and resurrection. In Lent we move toward the activity of Holy Week and the power of God brought to life through Jesus, the Christ. Too often, we do not talk about the meaning of Jesus' death because there are so many opinions and images and notions and ideas about the significance or saving power of the cross that folks usually just - let it go - don't talk about it. And yet, within the church we need to be free to talk about that which we claim to hold so dear to our living faith. Just try this: What do you see when you look at the cross? What have you been taught - what is its meaning to our everyday lives? What have you always wanted to ask - but didn't? What does this image of the Lamb of God mean? Or maybe this, just what was God' purpose in this story that leads to Jesus' brutal execution and then the resurrection? On the five Wednesdays in Lent, Pastor Al Debelak will gather the adult class together to examine and discuss how Jesus' life - that comes to a climax in the events of Holy Week and Easter - simultaneously empowers, befuddles, encourages, angers, confuses, comforts, and disappoints even the followers of Jesus today.

## Lenten Midweek Worship

Keep your Lenten Promises by attending the beautiful thirty minute worship at the end of our Messiah Night activities. Join us in our sanctuary at 7:30 during the season of Lent to enjoy scripture, prayer, a short homily and special music from one of our many choirs. You will leave refreshed.



We begin taking orders for Easter Lilies on Sunday, March 12. The cost is \$6.50. Envelopes are in the pews. Please indicate on your envelope how you would like your lily dedicated.

## Girl Sunday, March 5, 2017

Messiah Lutheran Church will be recognizing all Girl Scouts from our community at the 9:30am service on March 5. The service will include a special Children's Message, Scout Blessing, Slideshow, and a reception following the service. If your child/troop/den is planning on participating come to the church by 9:15am wearing your uniform and bring with you any flags or banners for the processional. Please contact Pastor Liz Lowry, RSVP with your name, and if you're the leader, the number of boys and girls and any photos you would like to be considered for the slideshow to [pastorliz@messiahlutheran.net](mailto:pastorliz@messiahlutheran.net). We look forward to celebrating the good gift of Scouts. Invite your friends to come too!



*Worship Assistants*  
Serving in our  
worship this  
month . . .

**LECTORS**

March 1

7:30 Alisa Limbers

March 5

8:00 Carol Kokai

9:30 Howard Jones

11:00 Fred McLeod

March 12

8:00 Melissa

Davidson

9:30 Brent Yekisa

11:00 Haley Hodge

March 19

8:00 Carol Kokai

9:30 Jane

Stephenson

11:00 Jeanette Kuder

March 26

8:00 Lois Beery

9:30 Hollye Burgess

11:00 Jim Henschen

**ACOLYTES**

March 1

Ash Wednesday

7:30

March 5

11:00 Emma Carlson

March 12

11:00 Emma Carlson

March 19

8:00

11:00 Skylar Hogan

March 26

11:00 Emma Carlson

**Acolytes for Lenten Services**

**7:30 p.m.**

March 8

March 15

March 22

March 29

**COMMUNION ASST'S**

March 1

7:30 Jim Henschen, Virginia

Finney, Alisa Limbers, Mike

Cochran

March 5

8:00 Glenn and Kim Karris

9:30 Stacy Hogan, Jean

Lantis, Dan and Theresa

Newell, Laric and Patsy

O'Dell, Pat Roper, Bill

Sampson, Amy Canan

11:00 Meg and Sara Reidler

March 12

8:00 Helen Schonhardt and

Clare Soppe

9:30 Jim Diehm, Melissa

Stonerook, Bob and Carol

Kohs, Dan and Elaine

Majoy, Eric and Vicki

Morris

11:00 Linda Ickes and Sally

Long

March 19

8:00 Carol Keiber and 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 and Mike

Cochran

March 26

8:00 Mike Cochran and

Dave Long

9:30 Scott and Caryl

Barrett, Alexander and

Yogie Jeffy, Karen

McCarty, Rob and Mary

Sharrett

11:00 Alisa Limbers and

Carol Keiber

**TRADITIONAL USHERS**

8:00 The Hessler Team

11:00 The Parson Team

**SOUND SYSTEM**

**Ash Wednesday**

March 1

7:30 Gary Schmandt

**SOUND SYSTEM 8:00**

March 5 Brian McClain

March 12 Andy Moore

March 19 Bryan Kuhn

March 26 Randy Wilson

**(SOUND SYSTEM (11:00))**

March 5 Gary Schmandt

March 12 Jacob Price and  
Gary Schmandt

March 19 David Waite and  
Jeanette Kuder

March 26 David Waite and  
Jeanette Kuder

**NURSERY NANNY**

Amy Canan,

Tina and Sarah Kerr

Elizabeth Newell

**MARCH ALTAR GUILD**

Meg and Sara Reidler

**ETERNAL CANDLE**

Betty Rinehart



Date	8:00	9:30	11:00
March 5	Rochelle Morrison	Jennifer Wittler	Debra Strickling
March 12	Kathy Miller	Theresa Janks	Ethel Cochran
March 19	Rob Scheiderer	Bessie McGarvey	Nancy Becker
March 26	Joann Saffell	Marie Cochran	Amy Taylor

## GREETERS SCHEDULE

Date	8:00 Service	9:30 Service	11:00 Service
March 5	Bev Healy and Sara Crist	Michael and Jennifer Trumbull Family	Marilyn Potter
March 12	Carol Kokai and Clare Soppe	Shannon Albright Family	Nancy Becker
March 19	Biruta Buckenberger	Doug and Kay Arnold	Bonnie Doerner
March 26	Rob and Hal Scheiderer	Josh and Stacy Bergstrom Family	Sally Wallace



### Getting to Know You Party

Geoff and Donna Campbell, along with Doug and Kay Arnold are planning a “Getting to Know You Party” and you are invited! We hope you will join us! Put it on your calendar now. ☺

***What is it and who’s it for?*** It is a social gathering for adults of all ages, whether married or single. It is a way for us to connect with other Messiah members. It is a way to get to know each other in a fun light-hearted manner. Light refreshments will be served.

***When & Where?*** Sunday, March 12, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., at the home of Kay & Doug Arnold, 12485 Teal Lane, Pickerington, OH 43147. Depending on the response, we may move the party to the church to provide more space.

***Do I need to sign up to come?*** We are asking that people do sign up so that we can better plan for the gathering. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center.

***Questions?*** Call Doug & Kay Arnold at 64-866-6702, or Geoff & Donna Campbell at 614-575-1466.



**Daylight Savings Time** begins Sunday, **March 12**. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night, March 11.



It will soon be Paver Time again, starting the first Sunday in March to the last Sunday of March. The price has stayed the same at \$75.00 each. Be thinking of what you would like to have engraved on your paver. See you in March. We encourage you to check out the Memorial Garden. This may help you decide what you want engraved.



### Important Congregational Survey

Since September, thirty of our congregational leaders have been meeting often to determine the values that are most important to Messiah and the direction God is calling us to in the next few years. We need your thoughts and ideas in this important process. Please take a few minutes in the next three weeks to take an online congregational survey. Go to [www.messiahlutheran.net](http://www.messiahlutheran.net) and on the front page you will clearly see the survey. Click on it and give your best, thoughtful responses concerning our congregation. The more people in our community that take this survey, the better our leaders will be able to use this information to shape our direction. The better they do this, the stronger our light will be in the community in the years ahead. It is really important for you to participate. If you don't think you can take a survey online, there are written copies in the Welcome Center that you can fill out. Put the completed written surveys in the designated box, in the Welcome Center also.

**Pew Problems** - From time to time our pews in the Sanctuary develop problems - one starts to rock a bit or another has a loose hymnal rack. Our Property Committee wants to see that such issues are repaired quickly so that the problem doesn't get worse. We are very fortunate to have a top of the line pew repair specialist in Sam Hessler, and we want all repairs to be done by him. So if you notice a problem, please contact Sam Hessler or Geoff Campbell so that we can get it repaired quickly and correctly.



**PUB Theology** - A new monthly group is beginning Monday, February 27, 7:00-8:30 at **Prost on Main St. in Reynoldsburg**. Over beer, wine, pop, water or coffee, we will discuss the intersection of faith and living.

On every fourth Monday, Pastor Karl will prepare a short presentation then moderate a discussion on a different topic. Topics will be from current events, pop culture and religious questions. We might even get some guest experts to help us. Our hope always will be able to hear Christ as we listen to each other **and** get to know each other better while we do it. Let Pastor Karl know if you have put it on your calendar and plan to attend.



Wendy Morris	1	Al Smith	18
Jacob Price		Joe Elliott	19
Jenifer Shaw		Chip Martin	
Stacey Bergstrom	3	Alvin Smith	
Zachary Clementz		Dalton DeLaughder	21
Vince Colburn		Brittney McKenna	
Kayla Hill		Norman Vesely	22
Carol Kohs		Hannah Lindsey	23
Sara Smith		Tyler Worthington	
Pam Zwick		Tim Carlson	24
Carolyn Asar	4	Fred McLeod	
Kane Miller		Tim Eck	25
Paul Matthews	5	Eva Fogt	
Robert Thornton		Pam Taylor	
Harley Enmen	6	Yoli Dunham	26
Axel Kreimeier		Carol Kokai	
Lesha Boardman	8	Ray Olson	
Theresa Newell		Ruth Sickles	
Jameson Mosely	9	Dave Glass	27
Janet Jones	10	Aubrey Brown	28
Richard Mederer		Tracy Schuricht	
Kathleen Sackett		Trey Albert	29
Kelzey Wilson		Rodney Bluhm	
Debbie Corcoran	11	Andy Keller	
Jason Messick		Kassaundra Majoy	
Seth Nickolas		Mike Cochran	30
Joseph Armintrout	12	Harvey Thomas	
Daman Diawara	13	Danielle Bartholomew	31
Karrie Finke		Gretchen Rice	
Kelly Fullam		Stephen Schuricht	
Gail Blackburn	14	Jane Stephenson	
Norrie Colburn		Jenny Van Buren	
Julie Eckelberry			
Kiara Hennessy	15		
Jerry Herring			
Stella Eck	16		
Terri Janks			
Sandy Schnaitman			
Emily Corcoran	17		
Jennifer Miller			
Colt Weber			



- What: Plots for growing your own vegetables, herbs, etc.
- Size: 10 x 20 plots (approximately)
- Cost: Free (limited number available)
- Where: Behind our parsonage located at 1160 Waggoner Road

An informational meeting will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church on Wednesday, March 15. We invite you to join us for a free fellowship meal at 5:30 p.m. If you can't join us for dinner please come to the meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. Open to all. You do not have to be a member of Messiah to enjoy the use of the plots.

Please contact Jimmy Orr (614-286-3209 or [wineorr@yahoo.com](mailto:wineorr@yahoo.com)) if you have any questions, or call the church office at 614-866-4386.



## Joseph's Coat Needs

Imagine sleeping on a cold hard floor every night and still being thankful that you now have a place of your own! Many of our Joseph's Coat families find themselves in this situation. We do not have enough mattress sets and beds to go around. We can use any mattresses and springs, and bed frames you have, bunk beds, junior beds, trundles, plus couches, sleeping bags, blow up mattresses, folding beds, recliners, big easy chairs - anything that might get people off the floor. Other basic furniture needs are dressers, kitchen tables & chairs, coffee tables, end tables, and lamps. Large appliances for kitchen and laundry, pots and pans, eating and cooking utensils, dishes, glasses, small appliances, mixing bowls and bakeware are also needed. Microwaves, electric skillets and crock pots can help people get through until they can get a stove. Sort through your sheets, towels, blankets, and bedspreads for things that are good but you no longer use....someone else will be grateful to get them.

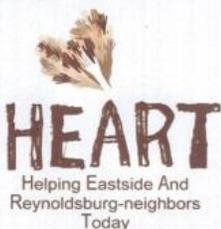
For free pickup of large items call 614-863-1371 and a volunteer will call you to set up a time. Please remember that all donations should be in good condition, working properly, and have a lot of service left in them for another family. Because we are short of furniture volunteers we may not be able to pick up the same week you call but we will get there. Please give us as much notice as you can.

**CLOTHING!** Kids' clothes, boys and girls, sizes 5 through preteens and high schoolers. In addition, plus size women's clothing of all kinds and size 10 and up women's shoes are needed. Make sure that everything is **CLEAN** and in **GOOD REPAIR**. **SHOES**, athletic type shoes for everyone!

Place smaller donations back by the Coke machine in Fritz Hall and a volunteer will take them to Joseph's Coat. Or pack your car or van full and bring the things to our back door at Joseph's Coat located at 240 Outerbelt Street on Tuesday evening, or Wednesday and Saturday until noon and we will help unload them. No drop-offs on Thursday evening please. Tax receipts are always available.

*WITHOUT YOUR DONATIONS, JOSEPH'S COAT WOULD NOT EXIST AND PEOPLE WOULD STRUGGLE EVEN MORE TO PROVIDE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.*

**BE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO HELPS IN PERSON.....the salary is non-existent, but the rewards are GREAT. Come on over and/or email Michelle Hamsher for a tour [mahamsher@gmail.com](mailto:mahamsher@gmail.com).**



**HEART FOOD PANTRY** - The pantry's needs this month are canned meat and fish (spam, ham, chicken, turkey, salmon and tuna), and as always a continuing need for personal care items; especially shampoo, conditioner, lotion and deodorant. They are also in dire need of one dozen sized egg cartons.

## Servant Camp Week at Lutheran Memorial Camp

**For Confirmation:** July 16 - July 21

Last year’s trip was such a success, we’re going back! During Servant Week, we will help out at local churches and organizations, as well enjoy the activities of camp - swimming, archery, rock climbing and so much more! The cost is \$200

**Sign up!** The earlier, the better. By letting us know you intend your youth to go, we are better able to plan. Go to [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com). For confirmation, look for the list under [jim.diehm@gmail.com](mailto:jim.diehm@gmail.com). A \$50 deposit is due March 26th.

### Parent Meeting Information Meetings:

**Feb 26 and March 12 at 5:15 PM in Fritz Hall – This is right before Confirmation begins.**

### Here are the details!

Experience the best parts of summer camp while serving others and giving back to the community. Servant projects may include food distribution, rebuilding/repairing in the community, camp service projects and evangelism. Get inspired during daily Bible study, prayer and worship with your cabin. After a day of hard work, spend time at the pool or take aim at our archery range. Every day you will serve and every day you will join in on regular camp activities. This unique opportunity provides youth, adults and families a chance to humble themselves and serve our neighbors.

Activities – Serving	Activities - Fun
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VBS – Clean and help</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climbing Wall/Zip Line</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paint</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archery</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike room</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kayaking</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move Furniture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hike</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field clean up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yards – weed and shrubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owl Watching</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power Wash</li> </ul>	

