



The Messenger

Season After Easter and Pentecost

May 2015

Messiah Lutheran Church

2850 Guilderland Ave, Schenectady, NY 12306

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Bring a Friend
Roller skating
Saturday, May 16th
from 3pm-6pm

Bring a friend roller skating Saturday, May 16th; 3pm to 6pm invite a friend or neighbor to join our Spirit filled community for an afternoon of roller skating at Rollarama in Schenectady. Cost, including skate rentals, is \$10.50 per person (if we have 20+ the rate will be \$7.) Adult spectators can join us for free of charge! We've had an amazing program year at Messiah and what better way to celebrate that afternoon of fun and fellowship. A sign of sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Speak with Molly Karrel if you have questions.

THANK YOU BRUNCH

SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH

On Sunday June 7, Messiah welcomes summer and celebrates all that our congregation does with our annual Thank You Brunch, presented by the Church Council. A continental breakfast, including juice, coffee and a variety of treats will follow our 9:30 a.m. service. If you would like to thank someone for what they do to make Messiah special, please fill out a slip and place it in the "Thank You" box in the narthex. We will turn those thank you messages into placemats to be used at the brunch. If you have any questions about the brunch or the thank you slips, please see a Council member.

Mark your calendars
We will begin our
summer worship
Time of 9:30 am on
June 7th



Youth and Family Mission Trip

On July 5th following worship, our Spirit filled church will send off eighteen Messiah youth, their friends and chaperones to take part in our first ever mission trip to Nashville, Tennessee through a network of Lutheran congregations called "God's Work, Our Hands." Spending a week working alongside youth from two other churches in Illinois and Chicago, our group will have an amazing opportunity to form strong bonds with each other, grow in their faith and serve the people of Nashville, but they need your help! While participant families will be covering most costs of attending, **we're attempting to raise \$3000.00 to cover travel expenses**, including van rental, gas and tolls and we're doing it in three ways:

- An **online GoFundMe campaign**, which you can find at the following address: www.gofund.me/messiahschenectady. Please share this link with friends, loved ones and others who may be interested in supporting our young people, in addition to posting on whatever social media platforms you may be a part of.
- A "**Dine to Donate**" night at **Tops American Grill on Monday, June 1st from 3:00pm - 9:00pm**. If you and your family dine at Tops that evening and present the corresponding coupon when you pay your bill (coupons will be in our church narthex shortly), **Tops will graciously donate fifteen percent** toward our mission trip.
- A **Bottle & Can Drive** in our local neighborhood. Our youth will be passing out flyers to households in the immediate area around Messiah after school on **Friday, May 22nd** and then coming around to collect bottles and cans on **Saturday, May 30th** following Memorial Day celebrations. **If you'd like to help our youth pass out flyers or collect bottles and cans, please speak with Pastor Dustin.**



A Note From Pastor Dustin

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Whew! As I sit here writing this letter to you, I'm so tired I can barely keep my eyes open, but I'm so thankful for that fact, since it's only because there are so, so many incredibly amazing things happening here in our Spirit filled community. After a Easter Sunday where we nearly ran out of seating, to a powerful Healing Service where we shared the good news of God's healing love and a celebratory Eucharist and welcome to our Spring '15 New Member Class, we then spent all last weekend continuing to strengthen our congregation and neighborhood. Roughly forty folks joined us for our MASSIVE Spring Cleanup on Saturday, where we got rid of all sorts of junk that's accumulated over the years at Messiah in addition to preparing our outdoor facilities for another faith-filled summer. And on Sunday after worship, eighteen members walked in the annual Schenectady CROP Walk, bearing witness to the millions of folks who need to walk miles for food and water around the world. Due to your continued generosity, we raised nearly \$1200 to support Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) and other anti-hunger ministries, over triple the amount we've ever raised before... absolutely amazing!!!

In the next couple weeks, there's a lot going on as well... our annual Mother's Day Eucharist for instance, which is led nearly entirely by our Sunday School students and our confirmands, who've planned a short play entitled "The Mean Girls and Their Moms" that you certainly don't want to miss. The following Sunday we'll welcome in a father and his young daughter into our community through the sacrament of baptism and celebrate Gabby Nadeau's first communion! Shortly thereafter, I'll be leaving for two weeks to lead a young adult pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which Messiah member Justin Larrabee will be attending as well. While you're certainly in good hands with Deacon Jill preaching and presiding over Services of the Word while I'm away, I will say I'm incredibly bummed about missing Pentecost with you all... it's my absolutely favorite feast day of the entire liturgical year. Just check out a bit of the first reading from Acts 2 appointed for that Sunday:

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind,
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire,
appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

The reason I love Pentecost so much is because it's all about the fire of the Holy Spirit descending upon and indeed engulfing Christian community, shaking things up and making things happen. Without a doubt, my sisters and brothers, we're experiencing a Pentecost of sorts here in our community as well, and there's so, so much to be thankful for. Thanks so much, and have a blessed month!

God's peace,
Pastor Dustin

Grapevine News



Spring has finally sprung and so have things here at Messiah!

On April 26th we welcomed 7 new members into the Messiah faith community. Make sure you get to know Cam and Maryann

Jacobs, Pete, Jean and Tyler Jones, Carlie Klein and Barb Sandmeyer (no she wasn't a member already). We are thrilled to have them here at Messiah.

What a great Clean-Up Day on May 2nd! So many people, so many tasks accomplished. There are always more things to do, so read the Property article in the newsletter. Thank you to everyone for making it a huge success!

Some news about our members:

Congratulations to **Rocco DeMento** who will be inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society for achieving a 3.5 or higher GPA. Way to go Rocco.

Amy DeMento and **Gabby Kernozeck** recently had pieces of art work that were recognized at the 2015 Bethlehem Media Arts Show. They will be displayed at the District Art Show on May 19th from 4-6pm. Nice job girls.

Kiersten Becker was inducted into the Junior National Honor Society and on May 13, she will be receiving the Board of Education award for Excellence in Education.(Must maintain a 95 or better average.) Congratulations on your hard work, Kiersten.

Derek Ellis, son of Jack and Patti Ellis, grandson of **David and Lore Ellis** and nephew of **Bill Ellis**. Was one of 10 UAlbany students recently honored with the 2015 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. This is the highest award a SUNY student can receive. Congratulations!

Do you have an upcoming graduate, a son, daughter, grandchild that received an award? Let me know. We always like to hear about all the great accomplishments our members achieve.

As you go through the busyness of spring, always remember that all of this you "...heard it through the grapevine"



**FOOD DONATIONS
NEEDED FOR SICM**



The following items are our food of the month for SICM. Cereal, canned meats and packaged meals. All donations can be placed in the box by the sanctuary in the narthex. Next month we will begin collecting for the Messiah Emergency Food Pantry. Watch for more information. We will continue to partner SICM in other ways.

Thank you

I wish to thank everyone who called and/or sent cards, prayers and meals while I was recuperating. They all made my recovery much easier, knowing so many cared and supported me. God bless you all.

Judy Becker

While Pastor is Away

Long before Pastor Dustin even graduated seminary, he was honored with the opportunity to co-lead a young adult pilgrimage to the Holy Land. After well over a year of planning, the trip is finally taking place, with pastor away from Tuesday, June 19th until Wednesday, June 3rd. Pastor Dustin will be joined by one member of the Messiah community, Justin Larrabee, along with ten other young adults from around the country. Pastor will regularly post pictures and reflections on his Facebook page, which you can find at <https://www.facebook.com/dgeorgewright>. Pastor Dustin and Justin plan on hosting a presentation on their pilgrimage after they return as well.

While pastor is away, we are incredibly thankful that Jill Becker will be preaching and presiding at two Services of the Word on May 24th and May 31st. Rev. John Califano will be covering for any emergency pastoral care needs. Please contact Parish Administrator Tina Bascom at 203.530.0661 if assistance is needed, and she will put you in touch with Pastor Califano.

**SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM
SAVE THE DATES**



The sign-up sheet for the Summer Lunch Program will be up soon. Our weeks are June 29-30, July 1-3 and August 3-7. This year they are requesting less volunteers at our sites, therefore, we are asking for 6 volunteers each day, for each site. We have so many interested in helping, that if you can sign-up for one or two days, that will give everyone an opportunity to volunteer. Thank you for helping to make this such a successful community outreach for our congregation.

MESSIAH YOUTH NEWS



Sunday School News

Sunday School Children's service will be on Mother's Day May 10th. This service is prepared and run by the students with some assistance from Pastor for Communion. The last day of Sunday School will be May 17th. We will be planting flowers in large pots and a few in the front bed. Please have your children dressed to get a little dirty and bring along gloves and small garden shovels if you have them. If you would like to donate flowers (no more than 1 pack per family), please bring them with you on the 17th.

Once again a HUGE THANK YOU to Mr. Doug, Kristen Olochnowicz and Pastor for the time they spend each Sunday morning to kick off our Sunday School Hour. Their enthusiasm and energy gives us a little jumpstart to our morning and the children really enjoy this time. Also, thank you to the teaching staff and substitutes that we have had over this past year. We are actively looking for teachers for the coming year. Please contact Christine DeMento or Jody Fleming if you are interested.



Confirmation

We're in the homestretch of what's been another amazing year of confirmation class at Messiah! All six of our girls have contributed immensely to the life of our congregation this year through assisting in worship, volunteering at a wide variety of events and leading efforts to redecorate the new "Mrs. Kreischer's Youth Room," which officially opened on Easter Sunday. In recent weeks, we've spent a great deal of time preparing for what promises to be a memorable Mother's Day Eucharist play entitled "The Mean Girls and Their Moms." While our final confirmation class will be May 17th, our confirmation students will stay active throughout the summer at Messiah, with most of them attending our Youth & Family Mission Trip to Nashville this July.

Social Action

A big "thank you" to everyone who walked or donated to the Crop Walk on May 3rd. We raised \$1197! There were 18 walkers. Thanks to all who donated to make this a banner year for the Crop Walk.

The next meeting for the Food Pantry is May 31st, after church. There will be a guest speaker. We will begin collecting food for the pantry beginning in June. A list of suggested food products, will be on the bulletin board soon. In June, our pantry will take the place of SICM Food Pantry.

Food donations or monetary donations are welcome. Food donations may be put in our regular food pantry box in the Narthex. Monetary donations may be put in an envelope and placed in the offering plate marked "Food Pantry". Thanks so much for your support.



**Community Block Party
Saturday, August 1st**

In case you haven't heard, Messiah is having a Community Block Party right here on the church grounds on August 1st. While planning is still in the preliminary stages, the big day will be here before you know it. We have several areas that will be needing volunteers. Below is a list of those and who you should contact to help out. We want this to be a great event that friends and neighbors will remember for years to come so we need "all hands on deck"! We will be meeting on June 14th immediately following worship so please join us.

- Advertising** Debby Heckeler
- Food** Bill Becker, Rich Becker, Billy Olochnowicz
- Outdoor activities and games**
- Molly Karrel, Kristen Olochnowicz, Susie and Kody Schaffer
- Prizes** Jill Becker, Judy Becker
- Silent Auction** Tina Bascom

Property Update



Messiah experienced a beehive of activity this last Saturday, May 2, as we held our annual Spring Cleanup Day. Turnout was larger than for previous cleanup days with about 40 Church Members, new and old, participating. The classrooms, Nursery, kitchen and various other areas received much needed attention with cleaning and the removal of unused materials. The Property Committee carted off a total of 5 truckloads of trash of all kinds. In addition, walls were painted, the garden and outdoor grounds were spruced-up, the lawn dethatched, the old non-working drinking water fountain was removed, and even the pews in the Sanctuary started to receive some necessary repairs. Of course, there was time to enjoy a noontime cookout and even celebrate Pastor's birthday, with all enjoying good fellowship.

Overall, and by all accounts, the day was a huge success. And, we are already planning for the Fall Cleanup Day. It will be hard to top this last one, but we will try. Why not join us?

Father's Day Eucharist

For years, Mother's Day has been one of the biggest Sundays of the year at Messiah, but this year, for the first time, we want to honor the many fathers, grandfathers and other amazing men of our Spirit filled congregation as well. With that in mind, we invite you to join us for our first ever Father's Day Eucharist, taking place on **Sunday, June 21st at 9:30am**. Worship will be outside and super casual (shorts and t-shirts are welcome!!!), so please bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. Coffee and light snacks will be provided in the back throughout the service. Have you ever sat in a worship service and thought, "Wow, I've got a good idea to make this a bit more bro-tastic?" If so, we're only in the initial stages of planning this important event, so please message Pastor Dustin with your input.

Compline Round the Campfire

This summer, beginning **Monday, July 13th at 7:00pm**, we're going to be launching a new evening service called "Compline Round the Campfire." While we're still in the initial planning stages, in general this will be an informal, relatively brief liturgy around a campfire in the parish yard behind Messiah. Combining the best of ancient Christian tradition and contemporary practices, this service will be designed especially for young adults and those who may be away during our normal Sunday services in the summer. If you have any input about what this service should look like or have musical talent, please speak with Pastor Dustin.

MESSIAH MEMBER MILESTONES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Rod and Tina Bascom
Bill and Jody Fleming

May 16
May 22

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Christopher Whitman
Dustin Wright
Atticus Roether
Carol Jurewicz
Jim Ryan
Lore Ellis
Emily Snyder
Beth Waugh
Charlene Kreischer
Richard VanWormer
Hannah Borski
Lacey Miller
Cheryl Borski
Lisa Whitman
Missy DiGiovanni
Haley Miller
Tom Town
John Crowther
Austin Karrel

May 1
May 2
May 4
May 5
May 5
May 6
May 7
May 8
May 12
May 12
May 18
May 19
May 20
May 20
May 25
May 26
May 30
May 30
May 31

Prayer List



If you have a friend or loved one you would like to add to our prayer list, please complete a "prayer request card" which can be found on the Ushers' Table in the back of the Sanctuary.

PLEASE PRAY for **Members**: Dave Ellis, Lore Ellis, Maryann Jacobs, Carol Jurewicz, Carlie Klein, Marion Lewis, Bob Reisinger, Susie Schaffer, Tom Town, Theo Wegner. **Friends and family**: Kiki Axer, Jeannette Axford, Donna Biler, Tom Chilton, Terri Dufeck, Kathy Faina, Jocelyn Fairlee, Emily Fonda, Makayla Gainswith, Barb Hamlin, Kathleen LaPointe, Victoria Lindman, Joan Maybee, Syliva MacFarlane, Joe Ritzo, Alicia Rizzo, John Roberge, Hazel Rodriguez, Chris Sabatini, Nzinga Smith, Kay Snodgrass, Bonnie Spiegel. **Loved ones serving our country and others**: Jason Maione, Ken Ryan, Tim Zakriski.

Worship Assignments for May 17-June 21, 2015

	May 17	May 24	May 31	June 7	June 14	June 21
Assisting Minister	Kristen Olochnowicz	n/a	n/a	Linda Klein	Pamella Ford	Betsy Ryan
Crucifer	Kiersten Becker	Kendra Lavenia	Hanna Avery	Kiersten Becker	Kendra Lavenia	Hanna Avery
Acolyte	Olivia Tedford	Devin Hodoroski	Kyle Avery	Mark Lavenia	Olivia Tedford	Devin Hodoroski
Lector	Brian Karrel	Anthony Miller	Tammi Crowther	Susie Schaffer	Beth Waugh	Amaya DiGiovanni
Ushers	Pamella Ford Marilyn Barnett	Bill Becker John Diegel	Kendall Fleming Danielle Sefcovic	Susie Shaffer Ray Heckeler	Paul Bode Chip Crowther	John Diegel Beth Waugh
Greeters	Betty Friebel Barb Sandmeyer	Laura Underkoffler Beth Waugh	Tammi Crowther Marilyn Barnett	Cheryl Borski Hannah Borski	Allison Bode Nancy Stellrecht	Ray Heckeler Debby Heckeler
Altar Guild	Joyce Gresham Betty Friebel Barb Sandmeyer	Betsy Ryan Beth Waugh	Pamella Ford Denise Larrabee	Tina Bascom Dotty Diegel Amaya DiGiovanni	Joyce Gresham Betty Friebel Barb Sandmeyer	Betsy Ryan Beth Waugh
Bread Baker	Molly and Logan Karrel	Penny Incitti	Molly and Logan Karrel	Baker Needed	Molly and Logan Karrel	Carlie and Linda Klein
Nursery	Erica Lavenia Kendra Lavenia	Melissa DiGiovanni Amaya DiGiovanni	Vanessa Ford- Roether Hannah Borski	Diane Fisher Kendall Fleming	Pamella Ford Hanna Avery	Brian Karrel Amber Hodoroski

***Your participation in these ministries is appreciated.
If you cannot serve as scheduled, please arrange to switch with someone***

May 10-June 6, 2015

The Lord's Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sixth Sunday of Easter 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Children's Service/Holy Communion 6:30 pm Confirmation Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	12 pm Community Office Hours 6 pm GS #2260 7pm Mon Crafters 7 pm Personnel Mtg	10 am Staff Mtg. 6 pm GS #2062 7 pm Council Meeting		6:00 pm Fitness 7:00 pm Choir		3 pm Bring a Friend Roller Skating
Seventh Sunday of Easter 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 am Last Day of Sunday School 10:15 am Holy Communion, 1st Communion and Baptism Reception Immediately After Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19	6 pm GS #2431 7pm Mon Crafters	6 pm GS #2062		6:00 pm Fitness	Can/Bottle Flyer Distribution	
Pentecost Sunday 24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:15 am Worship Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	6 pm GS #2260 7 pm Mon Crafters			6:00 pm Fitness		Can and Bottle Drive
Holy Trinity 31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6
10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Social Action Meeting Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17	3-9 pm Dine and Donate @ Top's 6 pm GS #2260 7 pm Mon Crafters	7 pm Worship and Music Meeting		6:00 pm Fitness		

Messiah Lutheran Church
2850 Guilderland Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12306

Pastor
Rev. Dustin Wright

Council President
Rich Becker

Parish Administrator
Tina Bascom

Office Hours

Mon – 9-12
Monday Community
Office Hours at Top's
Dinner – 1-4
Tues-Thurs – 9-5



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Church

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MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

*To be a spirit filled church following Jesus Christ.
We will welcome all people into our fellowship
so that we may all worship, praise, sing together and learn
from one another. With Jesus as our example we will
spread the Word of God.*

*Please join us for Worship at 10:15 am with
Sunday School beginning at 9 am.*